



India

KERALA BACKWATERS & THE HOOGHLY RIVER

KOCHI - MUMBAI - KOLKATA - 18 NIGHTS

UPSTREAM

Two rivers, two regions, and two very different adventures through India come together on this Kerala Backwaters & Hooghly River combo expedition. One part of the journey explores the winding waterways of the Kerala backwaters around Kochi. Spanning more than 900 kilometers of interconnected rivers, canals, and lakes, the backwaters lead through landscapes lined with coconut palms. Along the way, guests step ashore to visit historic churches and temples, walk through local communities, and experience traditional Kathakali and Mohiniattam performances that have long been part of Kerala's cultural life.

Connecting the two cruises is a two-night stay in Mumbai to make the journey between India's west and east coasts more relaxed. Rather than a long travel day between the cruises, guests have time to explore the city, including the famous Gateway of India.

The expedition also travels along the Hooghly River in Bengal. For centuries this river served as the gateway for traders and empires entering India, with Kolkata standing as the capital of the British Raj until 1911. Sailing past former European trading settlements established by the Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, and French, guests ride rickshaws through the terracotta temple complex at Kalna, meet brass craftsmen in the riverside village of Matiari, and explore the palaces, mosques, and gardens of Murshidabad, once the seat of power in Bengal.



[VIEW ONLINE](#)

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ROUTE MAP



ITINERARY UPSTREAM



DAY 1 **ARRIVE KOCHI**

We cordially invite our guests to board the RV Kochi Pandaw at the Arookutty Boat Jetty, a historic region once famous for its role in the spice trade between the coast and the hinterland. Following embarkation and lunch on board, we proceed on an afternoon excursion to the Kerala Folklore Museum. This unique architectural venture is constructed using salvage from historic traditional houses across Kerala, preserving the region's rich heritage. We then explore Fort Kochi, a water-bound region reflecting the colonial influences of the Portuguese, Dutch, and British. Highlights include St. Francis Church (Vasco da Gama Church)—the oldest European church in India—and a walk through Jew Town to view the historic Paradesi Synagogue and the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets, introduced by traders from the court of Kublai Khan in the 14th century. We return to the ship for a Welcome Cocktail and dinner.

DAY 2 **VAIKOM - KUMARAKOM**

We cast off early toward the Vaikom Terminal. Our morning excursion takes us to the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple, a site of immense archaeological and historical importance known as the "Kashi of the South." Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this temple is a classic example of traditional Kerala architecture and is believed in legend to have been built by Parasurama, the sixth avatar of Vishnu. We then sail toward Kumarakom, a cluster of scenic islands located on the backdrop of Vembanad Lake. In the late afternoon, we invite you to witness a performance of Kathakali, a classical Indian dance-drama noted for its elaborate make-up, costumes, and detailed gestures that narrate stories from Indian epics.

DAY 3 **NATTAKAM**

We sail this morning to Nattakam, a serene village known for its lush greenery. We board a traditional country boat (Shikara) for a relaxed sail to the Munroe Lighthouse. Built in 1885, this historic structure guides ships with its striking beacon and offers panoramic views of the Kerala coastline,

ITINERARY UPSTREAM



the Arabian Sea, and the rich maritime history of the region. In the afternoon, we explore Kumarakom, a renowned bird sanctuary and village on Vembanad Lake. Famous for its mangrove forests and paddy fields, this excursion offers an intimate look at village life in the backwaters.

DAY 4 **KAINAKARY - KAVALAM**



We cast off toward Kainakary, a picturesque village within the Kuttanad region, often called the "Rice Bowl of Kerala." Our morning visit is to the ancestral home of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a 19th-century saint and social reformer who played a pivotal role in the education and social upliftment of the state. Following lunch, we embark on a village walk through Kavalam. The tour includes a visit to St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, an architectural testament to the ancient Christian traditions that have flourished in Kerala since the 1st century AD. The day concludes with a performance of Mohiniattam, the "Dance of the Enchantress," a classical dance form characterised by graceful, swaying movements traditionally performed by women.



DAY 5 **ALAPPUZHA - THOTTAPALLY**



We sail toward Alleppey (Alappuzha), colloquially known as the "Venice of the East" due to its vast network of canals. Our morning excursion visits the Revi Karunakaran Memorial Museum. Established by Betty Karan in honour of her husband, a leading coir industrialist, this private museum houses a magnificent collection of Swarovski crystals, ivory, Tanjore paintings, and porcelain. In the afternoon, we take a scenic drive to Thottapally Beach. Here, guests will witness a thrilling demonstration of Kalaripayattu, considered the oldest surviving martial art in the world. We then visit a local fishing community temple to observe evening rituals and take a walk through the unique pine forest that borders the beach.



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DAY 6 ALLEPPEY BACKWATERS

We set sail to explore the scenic Alleppey Backwaters. Our morning excursion visits the Mannarasala Sree Nagaraja Temple, an ancient centre of serpent worship nestled in a forest glade. This temple is unique in Hindu culture for having a woman as its chief priestess, a tradition upheld for centuries. In the afternoon, we disembark for a walk through Kuppapuram Village. This offers a genuine opportunity to interact with locals and observe the daily rhythm of life in the Kuttanad region, where farming and fishing are the primary livelihoods.



DAY 7 PALLIPPURAM

We cast off toward Pallippuram, a serene area situated on the shores of Vembanad Lake. We visit the historic St. Mary's Forane Church in Pallippuram. Founded in AD 427, this is one of the most significant Marian shrines in the state, renowned for its ancient origins and beautiful Portuguese-style architectural influences. The afternoon is dedicated to relaxation as we enjoy a peaceful sailing experience through the backwaters, complemented by a soothing massage service available onboard. In the evening, join us for a Farewell Dinner.



DAY 8 DISEMBARK KOCHI - MUMBAI

After a final breakfast on board, we disembark at the Arookutty Boat Jetty and transfer to Kochi airport for your flight to Mumbai.

On arrival you will be met our representative who will show you to your car and transfer you to your hotel. The rest of the day is for you to enjoy at your leisure.



ITINERARY UPSTREAM



DAY 9 **DISCOVER MUMBAI**

Today you will explore Mumbai's streets filled with the aroma of street food, in the shadow of glittering skyscrapers towering over architectural gems from the colonial past. Today's tour also includes lunch at a local restaurant.



Your tour begins at the unmissable Gateway of India, a stunning 26-meter Indo-Saracenic monument bustling with local visitors—perfect for people-watching. Nearby, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalay (formerly the Prince of Wales Museum) showcases art and archaeology in another architectural gem.



A visit to Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1887, is one of India's busiest railway station and captures the frenetic energy of the city. You will also visit Mani Bhavan, the house where Gandhi lived for almost 20 years of his remarkable life. Malabar Hill offers contrasting views offering a glimpse of the city's affluent side. A drive along Marine Drive to Dhobi Ghat, an open-air laundry established in 1890, where thousands of colourful garments are washed daily, brings you back to a more common reality.



Returning to your hotel, the rest of the day is free for you to enjoy at your leisure.

DAY 10 **MUMBAI - EMBARK KOLKATA**

After breakfast transfer to Mumbai airport to your flight to Kolkata. On arrival transfer to your Pandaw for lunch on board followed by a city orientation tour with a walk round Dalhousie Square, the prominent Writers' Building the former HQ of the East India Company, and step inside St John's Church with its painting of The Last Supper. Experience the serenity of the Victoria Memorial with a stroll through the splendid gardens. Admire the domed white marble hall built in memory of Queen Victoria and discover Victorian memorabilia and British Raj-era paintings. On return to ship enjoy welcome cocktails and briefing followed by dinner.



[More about Kolkata](#)

ITINERARY UPSTREAM



DAY 11 **KOLKATA IMMERSION**

Early morning visit to the vibrant flower market, one of Asia's largest. Wind through the mountains of marigolds and jasmine and watch as people buy flowers for temple offerings and prayers. Stroll down to the river to witness a traditional Akhara. Step inside and watch men of all ages practice a traditional form of wrestling known as kushti. We return to ship for breakfast.



Afternoon visit to the Indian Museum and then free time in the nearby New Market before returning to ship for dinner.

DAY 12 **KOLKATA - SEREMPORE**

Morning visit to the market and sail at noon to cross the Hooghly to the old Danish colony of Serampore, founded in 1676, and visit the tavern, church, and museum. After, cruise past the iconic landmarks of Kolkata: the Tower, Government House, the Temple of Fame, and Flagstaff House.



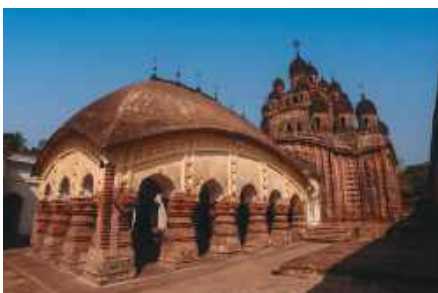
DAY 13 **KALNA**

After breakfast, embark on a scenic cruise upstream, arriving at the charming country town of Kalna. Take a rickshaw ride to explore a group of Bengal's most impressive terracotta temples, culminating in a visit to the unique 18th-century Shiva Temple. This remarkable temple is adorned with concentric rings of 108 smaller shrines, creating a truly awe-inspiring sight.



Sail on through the night, mooring near Maitari.

[More about Kalna](#)



ITINERARY UPSTREAM



DAY 14 **MATIARI**

Step ashore in Matuari, a charming riverside village renowned for its brass-working traditions. Engage with the local artisans and witness the fascinating process of crafting intricate brass water pots and other vessels. Time permitting, venture to the historic battlefield of Plassey. Here, in the pivotal year of 1757, Robert Clive, the Commander-in-Chief of the British East India Company, decisively defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, marking a turning point in Indian history.

Moor close to Murshidabad for the night.



DAY 15 **MURSHIDABAD**

Embark on a walk to the Khushbagh, a peaceful Mughal-style Garden that encloses the tombs of Siraj-ud-Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, and his family. Continue upstream to witness the grandeur of Hazarduari Palace, an architectural masterpiece built by an English architect in 1837. Explore its opulent interiors, showcasing a fascinating collection of paintings, china, weapons, and other artifacts. Next, visit the magnificent Katra Mosque and the impressive Nashipara Palace, a testament to the wealth and influence of the local merchants during the "White Mughal" era – a period of cultural exchange between English and Indian influences. Finally, we visit Katgola Palace, an exquisite example of Georgian architecture built by wealthy local merchants, further highlighting the unique blend of cultures that flourished during this era.

Moor overnight on the riverbank across from town.

[More about Murshidabad](#)



DAY 16 **BARANAGAR - AJIMGANJ**

Sail upstream along the Hoogly River, a picturesque waterway winding through a landscape of lush mustard fields and vibrant mango orchards. Disembark in Baranagar, a charming village, and enjoy a leisurely walk through its

ITINERARY UPSTREAM



serene countryside. Visit three exquisite miniature terracotta temples, dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries, a testament to the region's rich artistic heritage. Continue sailing downstream, stopping at Azimganj to explore the intricately carved Jain temples. This itinerary offers a glimpse into the idyllic rural life of Bengal and its fascinating cultural and architectural heritage.



DAY 17 **MAYAPUR**

Immerse yourself in the spiritual heart of the Hare Krishna movement at Mayapur, its global headquarters. Explore the magnificent ISKCON temple complex, a modern marvel comparable in size to the Vatican and generously funded by Alfred B. Ford, the great-grandson of automotive pioneer Henry Ford. Interact with devotees and wander through the vibrant pilgrims' bazaar.

[More about Mayapur](#)



DAY 18 **CHANDERNAGORE - HOOGHLY**

Continue sailing downstream before landing to visit the imposing Imambara at Hooghly. With verses from the Quran written on its walls, the Imambara is an opportunity to step back in time and relive a slice of Islamic history in Bengal. Sail past the old Dutch settlement of Chinsura to Chandernagore, a French possession until 1950. Visit the 18th-century church and Dupleix's House, erstwhile Governor-General of French India. Enjoy a TukTuk ride to the Hangseshwari Temple before sailing into the night to a mooring near Kolkata.

[More about Chandernagore](#)



DAY 19 **DISEMBARKATION KOLKATA**

Early morning moor in Kolkata Port and transfer to hotels or airport. Passengers with night flights may stay in their cabins and are at leisure during the day with a lunch served on board and a light supper prior to departure.

WHATS INCLUDED

Cruise Price Includes: Transfer between ships, entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes plus our India complimentary drinks package.

Mumbai Includes: Two nights accommodation at advertised hotel including breakfast and meals as advertised, transfers, excursions, entrance fees as per itinerary, flight transfers including check-in luggage of 20kg, taxes. Transportation by Toyota Innova Crysta or equivalent.

Cruise Price Excludes: International flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

Mumbai Excludes: Flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

TRANSFERS & JOINING

DAY 1 ARRIVE KOCHI

Transfer from the airport or hotels in the city to the ship. Flight arrivals should be before 11am. Pickup time from hotels near the airport is 9:30am. Pickup time for hotels near Fort Kochi is 10:00am.

DAY 19 DISEMBARKATION KOLKATA

Disembarkation begins at 9:00am after breakfast, and passengers have free time onboard until midday. Passengers with afternoon flights (departing after 4pm) will be provided with a light lunch onboard, while those with late evening flights (departing after 8pm) will be served a light supper. Extended check-out until midday is available upon request for passengers with afternoon/late flights. Please note that organised tours and guide services conclude at 9:00am, and due to licensing regulations in Kolkata, alcoholic beverages are not available for purchase after this time; we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

PANDAW STATEROOMS

The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships, combining splendid colonial-era character with exquisite contemporary comfort.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are a spacious 168 square feet (15.6 sqm), with the exception of the RV Kindat Pandaw which is 150 square feet (14 sqm). As the space is much loved by all our passengers, we have ensured that with each ship we build, the stateroom remains essentially the same. Be advised: our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet access or telephones. Passengers tend to choose Pandaw in order to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit and flowers on arrival • Kimonos and slippers • Spa-branded amenities • Unlimited mineral water 	<table> <tr> <td>Bedroom</td> <td>12' x 10'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bathroom</td> <td>6' x 4'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Showeroom</td> <td>2' 8" x 3' 4"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Single Bed</td> <td>6' 7" x 3' 3"</td> </tr> </table>	Bedroom	12' x 10'	Bathroom	6' x 4'	Showeroom	2' 8" x 3' 4"	Single Bed	6' 7" x 3' 3"
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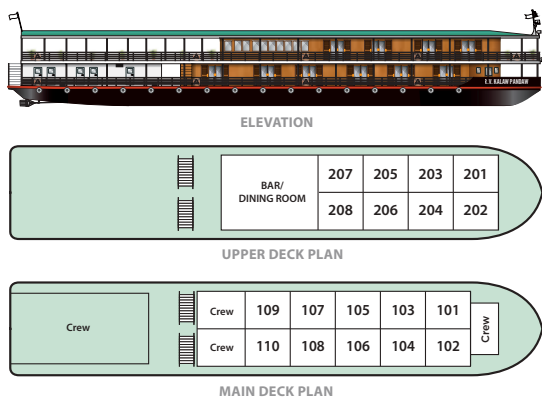


PANDAW SHIPS

RV Kalaw Pandaw

Sister to the Kindat and identical in design the Kalaw was launched with her in 2014 Kalaw is named after the PS Kalaw launched in 1917 and sunk in 1942 in the War. Paul Strachan witnessed the salvaging of the Kalaw in 1998 and managed to acquire her name plate and bell, the former of which has been reused on her namesake. Again this ultra light ship combines one of the shallowest drafts on the river with one of the highest passenger space ratios afloat.

[view images of RV Kalaw PANDAW](#)



- **Build:** Built in 2014 in Yangoon
- **Length:** 187ft / 57m
- **Beam:** 29ft / 8.8m
- **Draft:** 3ft / 90
- **Berths:** 48 pax

ACCOMMODATION

- 8 upper deck staterooms and 10 main deck staterooms
- 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic French window, leading to personal deck space
- New bathrooms with natural stone shower and branded quality fittings
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- Central AC with individual control
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Convertible bed configuration
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- 24h laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés
- Yoga mats in all cabins

WINING & DINING

- Bistro style dining room with outside seating and air-conditioning inside
- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Semi-buffet breakfast, Semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment
- Sundeck bar
- Pool table on sundeck
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

ON EXCURSIONS

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- We give away aluminium water bottles
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions
- Full-size motor coach on all excursions
- Deluxe sampans with cold towel service, fresh fruit, and tea/coffee
- Comfortable "Pandaw Explorer" excursion boat
- 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions

SAFETY & SECURITY

- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards (VRES)
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendant
- 24 hrs watch on duty

ONBOARD STAFF

- Captain
- First Officer
- River Pilot
- Chief Engineer
- 1st Engineer
- Electrician
- Bosun & nautical crew
- Ship manager
- Housekeeping
- Dining
- Bar keeper
- Chefs
- Local tour guides

PUBLIC SPACES

- Guest relation desk
- Library with contemporary and classic literature

PANDAW SHIPS

RV Katha Pandaw

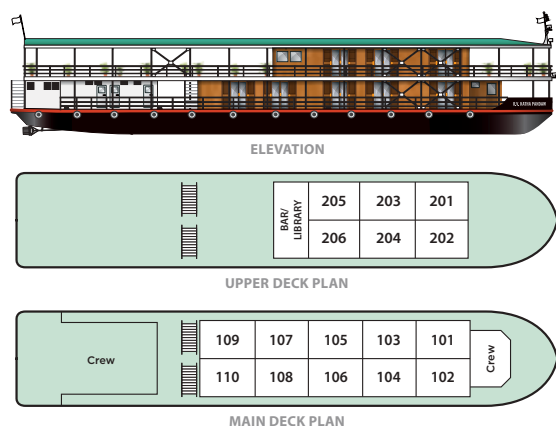
This was a radical new design, based on the old K class used in Burma from the 1880s on. This ship is the third Katha to run on the Irrawaddy. The first was built at Dalla in 1887 but lost on the Chindwin in 1889. The second was built by Denny of Dumbarton in 1904 and decommissioned in 1937 and the third was built by us in Vietnam in 2012.

We ran her a year on the Mekong before sending to Burma. With only two decks these smaller K class ships have lower air draft so can get under bridges and supposedly a shallower draft, though in fact the Vietnam ship yards were not as successful in achieving this as the Burmese yards and later Burmese-built K class ships achieved remarkable reductions in draft.

The Katha general arrangement was radical in that we eliminated the formal indoor dining room. This led to great protests from regular passengers and indeed our staff. In the end all agree it is far more pleasant to eat outside than in a stuffy, noisy enclosed dining room and the bugs are really not that bad. Up river in Burma it can be a little cold in winter but currently we deploy this ship in Middle Burma where the cold is less of an issue.

Refitted for expedition sailings in India from September 2019, we have reduced the number of staterooms from sixteen to twelve to create an enlarged indoor saloon / dining area as winter cruising in India can be chilly first thing.

[view images of RV Katha PANDAW](#)



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PANDAW SHIPS

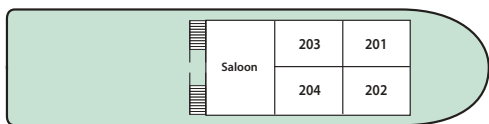
RV Kochi Pandaw

Pandaw are excited to announce a new build vessel for the Kerala backwaters in South India. Launching in October 2025, the ten cabin Kochi Pandaw has been specially designed for this routing whilst maintaining the much loved classic Pandaw cabin and wrap round promenade decks. This will be Pandaw's fourth ship in India and reflects the increasing demand for river cruises in India. It is anticipated that many Pandaw regulars will combine this cruise with a cruise on the Ganges or Brahmaputra, where Pandaw is well established as the premier operator. The Kerala backwaters offer an incredible diversity of culture in addition to breathtaking scenery, beaches and its own cuisine.

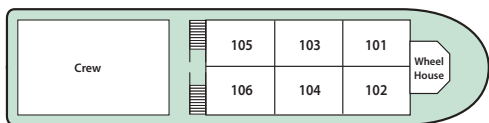
[view images of RV Kochi PANDAW](#)



ELEVATION



UPPER DECK PLAN



MAIN DECK PLAN

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PRE EXTENSIONS

Pre Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Pre Tour

MARARIKULAM FISHING VILLAGE BEACH BREAK POST TOUR



Located just 40 km from the city of Cochin, Mararikulam is a charming little coastal village that has managed to avoid mass development. It is known for its pristine sand beaches, swinging coconut palms, and quiet, laidback atmosphere. The star attraction here is the exquisite Marari beach where you will find fishermen heading out daily to work the Malabar coast, much as their ancestors have done for generations.

DAY 1 DISEMBARK - MARARIKULAM'S MARARI BEACH

After disembarkation you will be driven 40 kms south to Mararikulam's Marari Beach. On arrival, check in, make yourself at home, and enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

Relax and enjoy your time at this wonderful corner of the world. Stroll through the village to meet the welcoming locals. Mingle with the fishermen as they bring in their daily catch. Or simply relax at the resort - explore the lush tropical grounds, relax by the pool, or experience an authentic Ayurvedic treatment or massage. There is also the option to join a cooking class at the Farm Kitchen.

DAY 2 MARARIKULAM'S MARARI BEACH

Enjoy time at your leisure.

DAY 3 MARARIKULAM'S MARARI BEACH

Enjoy time at your leisure.

DAY 4 DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to Kochi airport for travel to your next destination.

CONT'D

PRE EXTENSIONS

Pre Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Marari Beach

A part of the trusted CGH Group, this property offers an authentic Kerala experience in a serene coconut grove by the sandy shore. Sustainably built with natural materials, the resort embraces ecological practices. Guests can immerse themselves in local culture through festivals hosted by nearby communities. The Ayurveda Centre provides traditional Kerala massages by trained therapists, while yoga classes and cooking classes at the Farm Kitchen enhance the experience.



Your Garden Villa

A part of the trusted CGH Group, this property offers an authentic Kerala experience in a serene coconut grove by the sandy shore. Sustainably built with natural materials, the resort embraces ecological practices. Guests can immerse themselves in local culture through festivals hosted by nearby communities. The Ayurveda Centre provides traditional Kerala massages by trained therapists, while yoga classes and cooking classes at the Farm Kitchen enhance the experience.

Satsam Chorten, Paro, Kingdom of Bhutan

Tel: +975 2 336486

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Rates include

Three nights accommodation at advertised hotels (or similar based on availability), including breakfast and meals as advertised, transfers, excursion and entrance fees as per itinerary, Transportation by Toyota Innova Crysta or equivalent.

Meals included

Land tour includes meals as follows; Day 2: Breakfast, Day 3: Breakfast, Day 4: Breakfast.

Rates exclude

International flights, visa, travel insurance, not mentioned beverages and meal.

CONT'D

PRE EXTENSIONS

Pre Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Pre Tour

KOCHI 1 NIGHT POST TOUR

Kochi is renowned for its picturesque landscapes, vibrant history, and diverse culture and is often referred to as the "Queen of the Arabian Sea." The city features a unique blend of influences from Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonial eras, evident in its stunning architecture, atmospheric spice markets, and a lively seaside promenade. The perfect place to prepare for your cruise.



DAY 1 ARRIVE IN KOCHI

Once finished with airport formalities please head to arrivals exit where you will be greeted by our representative holding a board with your name who will show you to your car and transfer you to your hotel. The rest of the day is for you to enjoy at your leisure.

DAY 2 DEPARTURE

After breakfast you will be transferred to the ship for embarkation for your Pandaw cruise.

HOTEL OPTION 1

The Brunton Boatyard

Oozing with character, this property was resurrected from a Victorian ship building yard, based on the historic Cochin's harbour. The hotel's interiors are an eclectic blend of English, Portuguese and Dutch influence. It has 22 rooms with en-suite bathrooms. Each room opens up to views of the sea. Perfectly located to explore the heart of Cochin with the harbour, the spice market, and the Chinese fishing nets all within easy walking distance.

1/498, Calvetty Road, Fort Kochi, Kochi, Kerala 682001, India

Tel: +91 75940 12555

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



HOTEL OPTION 2

Fragrant Nature Hotel

A tranquil retreat nestled in the heart of the city. Known for its serene ambience, this comfortable property offers modern amenities with a touch of traditional Kerala charm. Rooms are spacious, there is a central courtyard, a rooftop restaurant serving delectable local and international cuisines, and a rejuvenating spa experience. The hotel's peaceful setting, combined with its impeccable service, makes it a perfect heritage hotel choice in Kochi.

Near SBI, Calvathy, Calvathy Bazaar Road, Kochi - 682001

Tel: +91 48 4221 3600

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D

PRE EXTENSIONS

Pre Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

HOTEL OPTION 3

Fort Kochi Hotel

Fort Kochi Hotel, located in the heart of the historical area of town, offers a blend of modern amenities and colonial charm. Its central location makes it the perfect base for personal exploration. The hotel features 26 heritage rooms, each restored to reflect Portuguese, Dutch, and British influences, with colorful tiled floors, wooden accents, and colonial-style furniture.

1/373, Princess Street, Fort Kochi, Kochi, Kerala, India 682001

Tel: +91 484 270 4800

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Rates include

Transfer to the airport, 1 night accommodation with breakfast included.

Meals included

Land tour includes meals as follows; Day 2: Breakfast.

Rates exclude

International flights, visa, travel insurance, not mentioned beverages and meal.

CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Post Tour

KOLKATA & ANCIENT KINGDOM OF BHUTAN 6 NIGHTS POST TOUR



Combine a Pandaw river expedition with a visit to the ancient Kingdom of Bhutan, one of the world's most intriguing countries. Discover Bhutan's famous cliff-top monasteries, soaring mountain peaks and unique way of life.

This is a private tour.

Note: medium fitness is required for a soft hike on day 6.

DAY 1 ARRIVE KOLKATA

Disembark from your Pandaw ship and transfer to the hotel for the last overnight in India. Rest of the day free to relax.

DAY 2 KOLKATA - PARO - THIMPHU

The journey begins with a breathtaking flight into Paro, offering spectacular Himalayan vistas before a warm welcome with a tashi khaddar (white scarf). We then embark on a scenic drive to Thimphu (55km, approx. 1.5 hours), the unique capital city (2,320m) where modern development coexists with ancient traditions and a complete absence of traffic lights. The evening features a visit to the National Memorial Chorten, a prominent white structure with a golden spire where locals gather to circumambulate and spin prayer wheels in daily worship, followed by a stroll through the vibrant main street and market area to soak in the local atmosphere.

DAY 3 THIMPHU

Our exploration starts at the colossal bronze Buddha Dordenma statue, which stands 51.5 metres tall and fulfils an 8th-century prophecy. We then hike through pristine pine forests to Changangkha Lhakhang (approx. 1.5 hours), a 12th-century temple where parents traditionally seek blessings for their newborns. The day continues with deep dives into Bhutanese culture at the Textile Museum and the bustling Centenary Farmers Market, concluding at the majestic Trashichhoedzong, the 'Fortress of the Glorious Religion', which houses the monarch's throne room and serves as the summer residence of the Chief Abbot.

DAY 4 THIMPHU - PUNAKHA

We drive to the picturesque Dochu-la Pass (3,088m) to view the 108 chortens and witness a traditional prayer flag hoisting ceremony against a backdrop of Himalayan peaks. Continuing to Punakha (75km, approx. 2.5 hours), the country's former capital situated in a fertile valley (1,300m), we explore the majestic Punakha Dzong, the 'Palace of Great Happiness', built in 1637 at the confluence of the Pho and Mo rivers. The day includes a short excursion across rice fields to Chimi Lhakhang, the famous 'Temple of Fertility' associated with the 'Divine Madman', where couples have sought blessings for centuries.

CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

DAY 5 PHUNAKA - PARO

Returning to the enchanting valley of Paro (125km, approx. 4 hours; 2,280m), we visit the National Museum housed in the ancient Ta Dzong watchtower and the impressive Rinpung Dzong, or 'Fortress of the Heap of Jewels', renowned for the exquisite Buddhist wall paintings lining its inner courtyards. We then immerse ourselves in rural life with a visit to a traditional farmhouse. Here, amidst vibrant decorations and timber construction built without nails, guests can enjoy local snacks and try their hand at archery, Bhutan's beloved national sport.

DAY 6 PARO

The highlight of the journey is a hike to the legendary Taktshang Monastery, or 'Tiger's Nest' (approx. 5 hours round trip), which clings precariously to a cliffside 900 metres above the valley floor where Guru Rinpoche is said to have arrived on a tigress. En route back, we visit the 7th-century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest temples in the Himalayas marking the dawn of Buddhism in Bhutan. In the evening, we participate in a sacred butter lamp ceremony at a village monastery, a spiritual ritual using yak butter lamps to symbolise the illumination of wisdom and the dispelling of darkness.

DAY 7 DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer Paro International Airport.

Hotel Near Departure Point

Depending on the embarkation point of your Pandaw expedition, you will stay in a 5 star hotel located close to your Pandaw ship for an easy embarkation the following day.



Le Meridien, Thimphu

Located in the heart of the capital city, Thimphu, the Le Méridien Thimphu invites the discerning guest to engage and discover the legendary 'Land of the Thunder Dragon', Bhutan. The 78 spaciously appointed guest rooms & suites are culturally inspired, yet decidedly chic and contemporary. With cosmopolitan surroundings amidst the bustling commercial streets of the city-centre, and a convenient location to many of the city's myriad attractions, the Le Méridien Thimphu is the perfect jumpstart to that long awaited leisurely holiday.

Classic Room

Chorten Lam, P.O. Box 01286, Thimphu, Kingdom of Bhutan

Tel: +975 2 337788

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Dhensa Resort, Punakha

Dhensa Boutique Resorts sits in the heart of the verdant and lush Punakha Valley. Flanked by thick pine forests, it overlooks the Punakha river and hundreds of paddy fields that stair-step down to the valley floor. It is surrounded by plentiful walking and trekking trails. From Dhensa Punakha, it is just a five-minute trek up the mountain to the magnificent Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang Nunnery, which houses one of the biggest bronze statues of Chenrigzig (Avalokiteshvara) in the country. Dhensa Punakha marries contemporary design with this Himalayan Kingdom's ancient and alluring ways. At the core of the Dhensa Punakha philosophy lies the sense of innocence and peace that permeates everything about Bhutan.

Suite Room

Wolakha, Punakha, Bhutan

Tel: +975 2 584434

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Zhiwaling Heritage, Paro

Escape the ordinary and immerse yourself in the genuine warmth and comfort of Zhiwaling Heritage, a 5-star hotel seamlessly integrated with nature, culture, and tradition. Nestled in the charming valley of Paro, Zhiwaling Heritage offers a truly exceptional experience, enhancing every aspect of your trip.

Satsam Chorten, Paro, Kingdom of Bhutan

Tel: +975 2 336486

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Rates include

Bhutan tourism visa, Bhutan Sustainable Development Tax, Six nights accommodation at advertised hotels (or similar based on availability), including breakfast and meals as advertised, excursion and entrance fees as per itinerary, one flight Kolkata – Paro including check-in luggage of 20kg, entrance fees and taxes. Transportation by 7 seat Hyundai Sante Fe or similar.

Meals included

Land tour includes meals as follows; Day 1: Breakfast on ship, Day 2: Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel, Day 3: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 4: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 5: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 6: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 7: Breakfast at hotel.

CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Post Tour

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE 6 NIGHT PRE TOUR



Explore India's 'Golden Triangle,' three of the most iconic cities in India on this curated 6-night extension tour to your Pandaw Expedition. Taking in the delights of India's capital, New Delhi, the unmissable Taj Mahal at Agra, and the pink city of Jaipur, this is the perfect tour to complement a Ganges or Brahmaputra river expedition and complete your grand tour of India.

DAY 1 ARRIVE DELHI

Transfer from the ship to the airport for your domestic flight to Delhi. Upon arrival, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel for check in. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.

DAY 2 CITY TOUR OF DELHI

We start our exploration in India with a Heritage Walk around Delhi with a twist. The tour will be guided by former street children who have overcome adversity thanks to the work of Salaam Baalak Trust. We visit India's largest Mosque 'Jama Masjid' built in 1644 AD showcasing finest Islamic style of architecture and explore real life of Old Delhi through maze like streets of the iconic Ancient Bazaar 'Chandni Chowk' and Asia's largest Spice Market before saying goodbye to our morning guides from the Salaam Baalak Trust.

In the afternoon, we experience colonial-era Delhi at Lutyens Delhi including the Mahatma Gandhi Museum - Birla House and the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara temple. At the temple we also volunteer inside its Holy Community Kitchen that daily feeds over 10,000 devotees, pilgrims and homeless. We then visit the ceremonial boulevard Raj Path to witness Sir Edwin Lutyens' finest works from 1920's British Raj Era including colonial government buildings, India Gate, President House and Parliament House. We end the day at Connaught Place named after the Duke of Connaught and surrounds the central park of Delhi.

DAY 3 AGRA

Drive to Agra, the Mughal Era city that is home to the wonder of the world Taj Mahal! After check-in at the hotel, continue with a Heritage Walk inside India's finest Mughal fortress The Red Fort of Agra, an acclaimed UNESCO heritage site and the imperial residence of 16th century rulers of the Mughal Dynasty. In late afternoon we visit Mehtab Bagh or moonlit garden where some of the best views of the Taj Mahal can be found without the crowds. Built in the traditional Charbagh style of Mughal gardens by Emperor Babur, the first emperor of the Mughal dynasty.

DAY 4 TAJ MAHAL - JAIPUR

Start the day with a Sunrise Grand Tour of the Taj Mahal, which was built in 1630 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal who died giving birth to their 14th child. Combining Islamic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Indian design elements, it's an awe-inspiring structure of elegant domes and white marble, which changes colour along with the light – pink at sunrise, pearly white in the afternoon and silver-gold in the full moon. Return to the hotel for breakfast before checking out.

Continue the jewel of India's crown, the royal heritage state of Rajasthan, and arrive in its pink coloured capital city Jaipur. Enroute visit spectacular Underground Step-wells Chand Baori that lie hidden deep in the village of Abhaneri. This 10th century built zigzagged stepwell is a geometric wonder where Royals used to picnic, and today a popular spot thanks to the film Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. Check-in at your hotel in Jaipur.

CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

DAY 5 JAIPUR

We begin the day early with a visit to the flower market before breakfast. Travel by electric tuk tuk operated by another local NGO The Pink City Rickshaw Company who provide employment and training to women from low-income households in Jaipur.

After breakfast at the hotel we visit some of the most famous sport in Jaipur, including Jaipur City Palace, Palace of Winds, Jantar Mantar Observatory, Amer fort plus spend some time roaming the local bazar. Following a full day of adventure, return to your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

DAY 6 JAIPUR - DELHI

Check out of your hotel and transfer back to Delhi for your final overnight in India. Check in and enjoy the evening at leisure.

DAY 7 DELHI DEPARTURE

Transfer to Delhi airport for your onward travels.

5 STAR SELECTION

The Imperial Delhi

Chosen as India's best 'Luxury Historical Hotel' by World Luxury Hotel Awards 2015, The Imperial is an iconic property in Delhi in the heart of the capital, reminiscent of the halcyon days of the Raj. A luxury hotel with an iconic and awe-inspiring heritage interwoven in colonial elegance, it dwells in its modern delivery of old-style class and magnificence. Built in 1931 by Blomfield, one of Sir Edwin Lutyen's associates and inaugurated by Lord Willingdon in 1936, it is New Delhi's landmark Hotel. The Hotel is steps away from Connaught Place, the renowned shopping district and is very close to the city's major attractions.

Heritage Room

Janpath Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001, India

Tel: +91 11 23341234

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Tajview, Agra-IHCL SeleQtions

Experience the famed splendor of The Taj Mahal at Tajview, Agra. Spread over six acres of manicured gardens and equipped with smart rooms, our hotel near Taj Mahal Agra offers the finest amenities alongside hassle-free services. With friendly staff that are ready to offer impeccable service and hospitality, our 5 star hotel in Agra blurs the lines between business and pleasure.

Taj Ganj, Fatehabad Road, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, 282001

Tel: +91 562-6602000

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Raj Palace

The Raj Palace is an extremely convenient place to stay during your visit to Jaipur. Being in the middle of four main palace complexes of Jaipur (Amer, Jaigarh Fort, Nahar Garh Fort and the City Palace complex), it is located at a short distance from all sightseeing and shopping places. Moreover, the fact that it is situated on the main Jaipur-Delhi Road and is only about half a kilometre away from Jaipur-Agra Highway also makes The Raj Palace an ideally located tourist stopover.

Jorawer Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur (302002)

Tel: + 91-141-2634077 / 2634078/ 2634011

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Novotel New Delhi Aerocity

Novotel New Delhi Aerocity is spacious and contemporary in design. The 400 rooms available are truly a place for living and perfect for all your needs. The hotel offers services for both business and leisure guests - multiple dining options, luxury spa and a 24/7 fitness center. The hotel is adjacent to both international & domestic airport terminals and is connected through the Airport Express Line which is just 5 min away.

Asset No 2, Aerocity Hospitality District, IGI Airport Delhi

Tel: +91 11 4608 0808

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



OBEROI SELECTION

Oberoi New Delhi

The Oberoi, New Delhi is an iconic luxury 5 star hotel, located in the centre of India's cosmopolitan capital city. The hotel has 220 rooms and suites inspired by Lutyens' New Delhi design, with authentic furnishings and handpicked artwork. All feature large picture windows which frame unmatched views of Delhi Golf Course on one side and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Humayun's Tomb on the other.

Deluxe Room

Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi - 110 003, India

Tel: +91 11 2436 3030

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

[Watch Hotel Video on YouTube](#)



CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Oberoi Amarvilas Agra

The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra enjoys an unrivalled position amongst luxury hotels in Agra, being located just 600 metres from the iconic Taj Mahal. Each of the rooms have uninterrupted views of this ancient monument to love, while elements of the layout and design pay homage to its Mughal splendour. The hotel is approached along a sweeping driveway, verdant with native trees and lit by flaming torches. Just inside, a Mughal style quadrant is ornamented with cascading fountains and framed by an arched passageway and gold leaf frescoes.

Premier Taj View Room

Taj East Gate Road, Agra – 282001, India

Tel: +91 562 2231515

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

[Watch Hotel Video on YouTube](#)



Oberoi Rajvilas Jaipur

The Oberoi Rajvilas is unique amongst hotels in Jaipur; a royal resort set in a breathtaking thirty two acre oasis of beautiful landscaped gardens, filled with beautiful trees and exotic birdlife. Built around an 18th century Shiva temple where guests can experience chanting with a Hindu priest, meditation and morning yoga, The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur is a haven of mystical peace and natural serenity.

Premier Room

Babaji Ka Modh, Goner Road, Jaipur - 302 031, Rajasthan, India

Tel: +91 141 268 0101

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

[Watch Hotel Video on YouTube](#)



Oberoi Gurgaon

The award winning The Oberoi, Gurgaon is conveniently located just fifteen minutes from Delhi's international and domestic airports, and thirty minutes from Central Delhi, in Gurgaon; the business and commercial centre of Delhi's National Capital Region.

Spread over nine acres, The Oberoi, Gurgaon is unlike any of the other luxury hotels in Gurgaon. An urban sanctuary defined by bespoke design features, its high ceilings and open spaces are filled with natural light, and afford refreshing views of the hotel's vast, azure reflection pool and verdant green wall.

Deluxe Room

443 Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon - 122 016, Haryana, India

Tel: +91 124 245 1234

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

[Watch Hotel Video on YouTube](#)



CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Rates include

Six nights accommodation at advertised hotels (or similar), including breakfast, excursion and entrance fees as per itinerary, one domestic flight from either Kolkata, Varanasi or Guwahati to Delhi including 20kg check-in luggage.

Meals included

Land tour includes meals as follows; Day 1: None, Day 2: Breakfast at your hotel, Day 3: Breakfast at your hotel, Day 4: Breakfast at your hotel, Day 5: Breakfast at your hotel, Day 6: Breakfast at your hotel, Day 7: Breakfast at your hotel.

CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Post Tour

3 NIGHT DARJEELING POST TOUR

Nestled high in the Himalayas in the north of West Bengal, Darjeeling, the crown jewel of British colonial hill stations is rightly known as the "Queen of Hills". Spend time soaking in the views and learn the secrets to producing that famous cup of tea.

Please note: There is limited availability at this hotel.



DAY 1 ARRIVAL BAGDOGRA

Following breakfast transfer privately for your flight to Bagdogra. Receive a warm Pandaw welcome on arrival into Bagdogra Airport, and journey by road to your accommodation. Spend the rest of the day easing into your magical surroundings or step outside and stroll the main square and mingle with Nepalese, Bhutanese, Tibetan people and domestic Indian tourists.

DAY 2 DARJEELING

Darjeeling's rich tapestry of cultures is yours to explore today. Hop aboard the UNESCO World Heritage-listed small-gauge Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, or "Toy Train", for a breathtaking ride to Ghoom, the world's second highest railway station. The toy train is a marvel of engineering passing through many small towns and is India's oldest mountain railway route. Explore Ghoom Monastery, with its colourful prayer flags fluttering in the wind before returning to town.

Continue to the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, founded in 1954, just after Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first scaled Everest. Visit the Darjeeling Zoo, home of the Snow Leopard Breeding Centre. Then see locals making handicrafts and carpets at the Tibetan Refugee Centre.

DAY 3 AT LEISURE

Today unwind at your hotel and enjoy the breath-taking scenery on offer or partake in the variety of experiences available from your accommodation.

DAY 4 DEPART BAGDOGRA

Following a leisurely breakfast, leave the snow-tipped peaks and terraced tea plantations of Darjeeling behind and transfer privately to Bagdogra Airport for your onward journey.

CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Glenburn Tea Estate

Stunning scenery, old fashioned elegance and the opportunity to see the rituals of tea production make Glenburn Tea Estate a compelling blend.

Tel: +91 98 300 70213

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Rates include

Accommodation option as selected, meals as specified in the itinerary, airport transfer and one way flight to Bagdogra with 20kgs of checked luggage, arrival and departure transfers from Bagdogra Airport and local sightseeing as per itinerary by exclusive Innova / Scorpio / Xylo, English speaking escort, mineral water throughout tour, all entry fees as per itinerary, Toy Train ride tickets (subject to availability at the time of booking), all parking & porter charges.

Meals included

Land tour includes meals as follows; Day 1: Dinner, Day 2: Breakfast & Dinner, Day 3: Breakfast & Dinner, Day 4: Breakfast.

CONT'D

OPTIONAL PACKAGE ADDONS & OTHER INFORMATION

Free Drinks On Board

Pandaw is happy to announce that our India expeditions are now all inclusive experiences, including local soft drinks, mixers, spirits and beers free of charge. Also included free of charge is our onboard house wine during lunch and dinner only. Onboard purchases of alcoholic beverages will not be possible.

River Conditions Warning!

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

Useful Links

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS [CLICK HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

GENERAL INFORMATION & LIFE ON BOARD [CLICK HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

VISA INFORMATION [CLICK HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

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