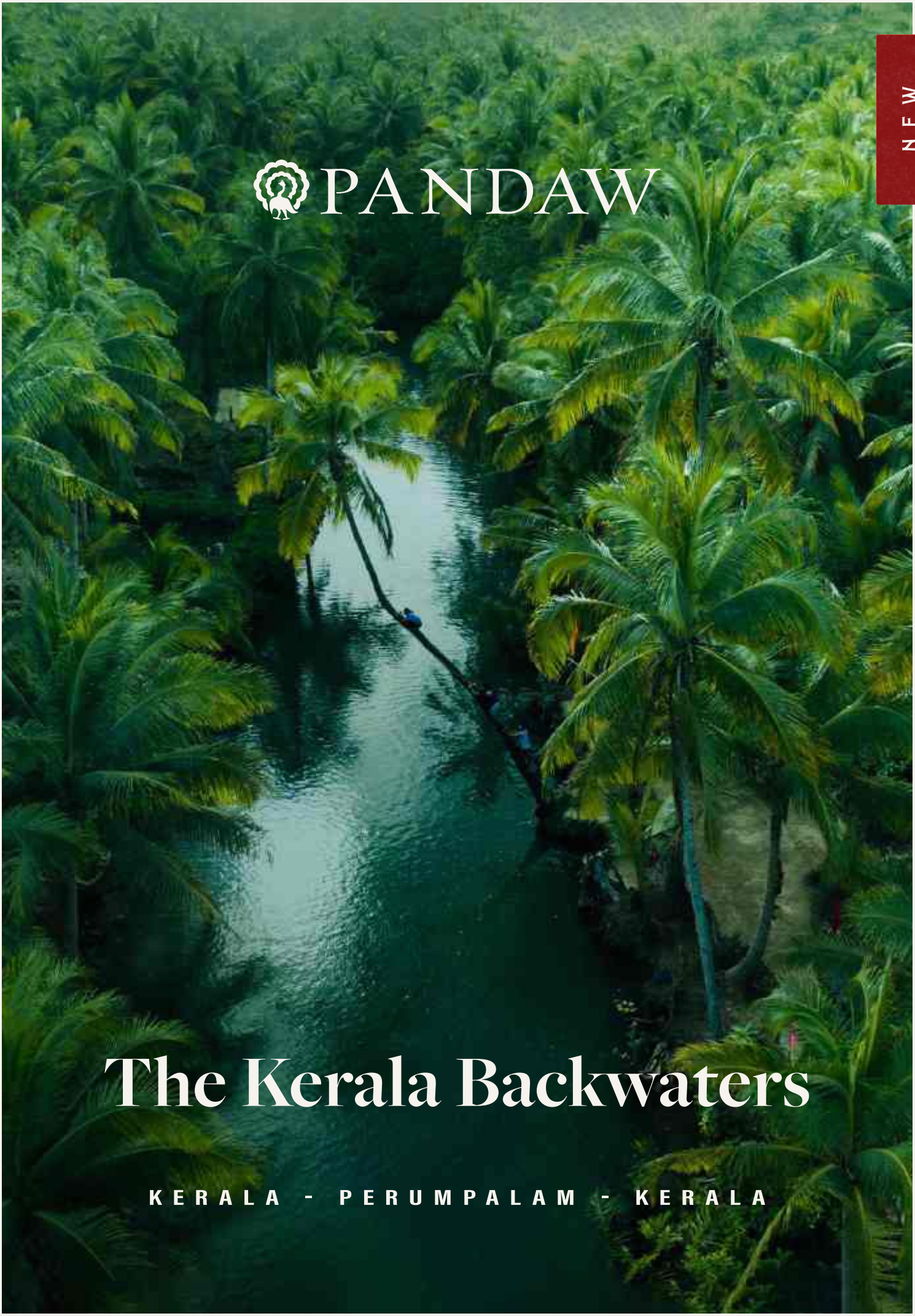
NEW
PANDAW
The Kerala Backwaters
KERALA - PERUMPALAM - KERALA

Why Pandaw

For over twenty nine years Pandaw has specialised in exploring the remote and off the beaten track rivers of Asia. Places that few, if any, can navigate with our specially designed ships, offering travellers a truly exclusive and unique experience.

Essentially an outdoor experience, travellers meditate on the unfolding panorama of human and wildlife thriv-ing on these great rivers from the spacious promenade and observation decks. All on board enjoy an informal and friendly atmosphere - the 'Pandaw Spirit' - for which we are renowned. We also have the highest passenger to-deck space ratio of any cruise ships afloat, offering plenty of spots to relax and take in the panorama or chat with fellow travellers.

Learning about the culture and history first hand, both on board and ashore is a key part of a Pandaw journey. There are active walks and bike rides through the countryside and local villages, speedboat explorations penetrating deeper into the jungle and visits to heritage sites. Passengers have many opportunities to interact with welcoming local communities, including visits to Pandaw Charity projects along the way.

Finished in brass and teak by skilled local craftsmen and in the tradition of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company. All seventeen of Pandaw's unique fleet are finished to exacting first-class standards with all modern conveniences. Objects of great beauty, these vessels have an ultra shallow draft and can venture where other ships can not.

We are also family friendly, our expeditions are perfectly suited to kids who gain unforgettable life experience from their interactions in the villages along the way.

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The Kerala Backwaters

EIGHT DAYS ON THE KERALA BACKWATERS ON THE NEW KOCHI PANDAW.

The Kerala Backwaters

7 NIGHTS

Departs November to June

RV Kochi Pandaw, RV Kerala Pandaw

Kerala Backwaters

Pandaw is the only river cruise operator offering multi night expeditions through the Kerala Backwaters, with a purpose-built fleet designed for these narrow inland waterways, featuring classic brass and teak styling and full wrap-around promenade decks. The ship operates a weekly seven-day circular itinerary from Kochi, navigating deep into the backwaters' 900 kilometres of interconnected rivers and lakes. Along the way, guests visit historic churches, Hindu temples, artisan communities, traditional villages, and stretches of the Malabar Coast, combining cultural discovery with scenic cruising through palm-lined canals and lagoons.

Cochin International Airport offers strong connectivity, with Middle East hub links to Europe, direct flights to many Southeast Asian cities, and domestic routes across India, making access straightforward for international and regional travellers.

Please note: specific stops may vary based on river conditions and local guidance.

Provisional Itinerary

DAY 1 — ARRIVAL & KOCHI EXPLORATION

From the meeting point, we will enjoy lunch at the Old Harbor restaurant. Afterwards in the afternoon, take a short drive to the Kerala Folklore Museum, a cultural hub preserving the diverse heritage of South India. Continue to Fort Kochi to explore the Vasco da Gama church, Jewish Street and the iconic Chinese fishing nets. Embark onboard our Ship as we cast off from the Panangad Jetty and enjoy an evening cocktail followed by dinner.

DAY 2 — VAIKOM & KATHAKALI

After breakfast, embark on a morning excursion to the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple, one of the supreme shrines devoted to Lord Shiva. Popularly known as the "Kashi of the South," this temple is a classic example of traditional Kerala architecture and is believed to have been built by Parasurama, an incarnation of Vishnu. Return to the ship and cast off for Kumarakom while enjoying lunch. In the afternoon, experience Kathakali, a traditional Indian dance-drama from Kerala that combines dance, music, acting, and elaborate costumes to tell stories from Indian epics.

DAY 3 — NATTAKAM & KUMARAKOM

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, offering great bird and wildlife spotting along the way. From here, we take a walk to the Munroe Lighthouse, providing the perfect opportunity to see even more wildlife among the surrounding rice fields. Built in 1885, this historic structure guides ships with its striking beacon and serves as a testament to the region's rich maritime history. In the afternoon, we explore Kumarakom, a beautiful village situated on Vembanad Lake. Famous for its mangrove forests and paddy fields, this excursion offers an intimate look at traditional village life in the backwaters.

DAY 4 — KAINAKARY & KAVALAM

We cast off for Kainakary and enjoy breakfast. Our morning excursion takes us to the ancestral home of Kuriakose Elias Chavara. Gain insights into the life and contributions of this revered saint and social reformer, as well as Kerala's Christian heritage. After lunch on board, step ashore for a walk through

Pandaw is the leading cruise company in Asia

Kavalam village. Visit St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, a testament to ancient Christian traditions. This evening, enjoy a mesmerising Mohiniattam performance, a classical dance of Kerala showcasing elegance and storytelling through graceful movements.

DAY 5 — ALLEPPEY & THOTTAPALLY BEACH

We sail towards Alleppey. This morning, visit the Revi Karunakaran Memorial Museum, established in 2006 to showcase a unique collection of artistic pieces gathered by his family over three generations from across the world. Following lunch, take a one-hour drive to Thottapally Beach for a thrilling Kalari Payattu performance, highlighting Kerala's traditional martial art. Afterwards, visit a fishing community temple to observe evening rituals, followed by a scenic walk through a nearby pine forest toward the beach.

DAY 6 — MANNARASHALA & KUPPAPURAM

Enjoy a morning of sailing through the beautiful Alleppey backwaters. Our morning excursion takes us to the Mannarashala Snake Temple. This notable temple is renowned for its unique practice of having female priests and its deep devotion to snakes, offering a chance to view local merit-making practices. In the afternoon, take a walk through Kuppapuram village. Interact with locals and traditional communities to see day-to-day subsistence living still being practised.

DAY 7 — VADAYAR RURAL POTTERY HUB

A local initiative by the Kerala govt to support local villagers and the handicrafts at Vadayar village. We join a Local Shikara for a scenic journey in a backwater canal to the pottery hub. Local artisans will display local pottery techniques and guests will have the opportunity to actively learn handmade pottery techniques with the local artisans. Enjoy an approximately 30 mins backwater canal journey onboard and return to RV Pandaw vessel -birdwatching and local village life can be observed along the canal backwater.

DAY 8 — DISEMBARKATION

Enjoy your final breakfast on board. Prepare your luggage and disembark the RV Kochi Pandaw for your onward journey. (Please check with the crew for your specific cabin's disembarkation time).

NEW

The RV Kochi Pandaw

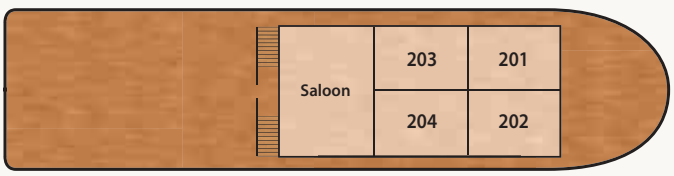
Pandaw are excited to announce a new build vessel for the Kerala backwaters in South India. Launching in October 2025, the ten cabin Kochi Pandaw has been specially designed for this routing whilst maintaining the much loved classic Pandaw cabin and wrap round promenade decks. This will be Pandaw's fourth 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 Brahamputra, 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.

RV KOCHI PANDAW

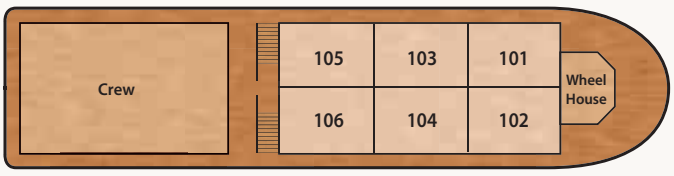
- 10 deluxe staterooms
- Outside dining
- Cultural performances
- 24hr hospitality bar

Built:	2025
Length:	30m
Beam:	8.5m
Draft:	0.8cm
Berths:	20 guests

ELEVATION



UPPER DECK PLAN



MAIN DECK PLAN

The Pandaw Stateroom

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 Zawgyi 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 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.

- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

Bedroom	12' x 10'
Bathroom	6' x 4'
Showeroom	2' 8" x 3' 4"
Single Bed	6' 7" x 3' 3"

DOUBLE CONFIGURATION

TWIN CONFIGURATION

What's Included

- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Electric mini safe
- Mini bar
- Central AC with individual control
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- Complimentary evening cocktail hour
- Complimentary evening canapés
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Admissions on all excursions
- In-cabin tea and coffee making facilities
- Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes
- Welcome drink on arrival and farewell reception
- Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads & rolls
- Trek mountain bikes on board, most ships
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Cold towel service after excursions
- First aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions

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