



R.V. BENGAL GANGA

KOLKATA

Land is made for ships to find







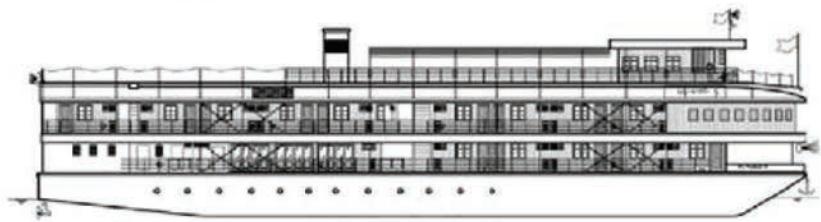
ABOUT BENGAL GANGA

HISTORY

The Bengal Ganga was built in the year 2004 and designed as a replica of the colonial style 'Clyde' steamers that at the height of the British Empire trudged through swamps and far flung deltas; such ships were used by a succession of important officials and celebrities of the day, most notably recorded as being used by Viceroys of India and the Prince of Wales.

ON BOARD

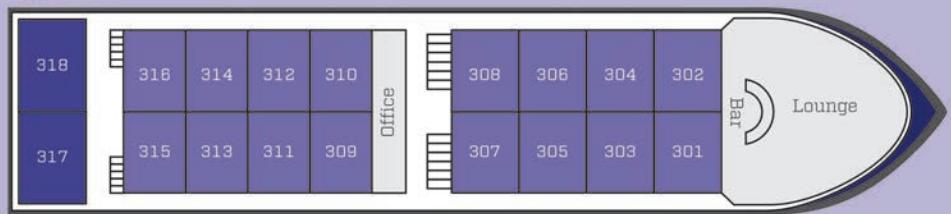
Shining teak and brass lined state rooms open onto sitting areas in front of each room. The 28 state rooms ensure relaxed luxury and comfort while traveling on the Ganges. The Saloon with luxurious, specially designed furniture, the Dining Room with artful decor and sumptuous cuisine, and the spacious Sun Deck with a beverage and snack counter, boutique and Spa ensure that your cruise adventure is well-appointed and luxurious.



Sun Deck

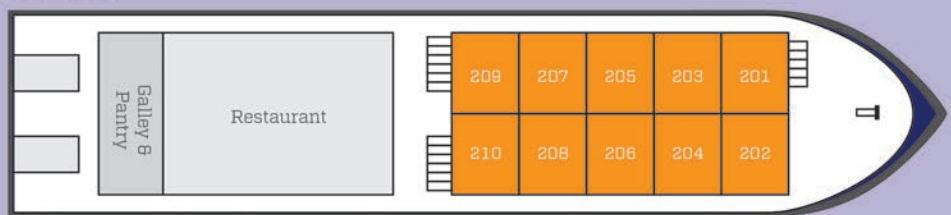


Upper Deck



All suites on this deck have french balconies. Suite 301 & 302 have juliette balconies.

Main Deck



All suites on this deck have french balconies.

● Premium Suite UD

● Upper Deck Suite

● Main Deck Suites





SPECIFICATIONS

Built in	2004
Ship registry	IRS approved and registered in India under Indian flag
Length	200 ft [60 mt]
Beam	36 ft [11.00 mt]
Draft	4.9 ft [1.5 mt]
Decks	4
Diesel engines	2 x 400 hp cummins
Propulsion	Inboard system
Navigation	gps, navigation lights, ships horn, searchlight
Comms	gsm phone, internal phone system, tannoy for navigation
Fire protection	Smoke detectors, heat detectors, manual alarms stations, fire extinguishers, fire hose Cabinets, fire pumps
Safety	Emergency lights, emergency genset, life jackets, life rafts
Crew	30
Hotel	
Passengers	56
Cabins	28 with private bathroom and shower – a/c
Upper deck	18 deluxe twins
Main deck	10 superior twins
Lower deck	4 single for guides
Lounge & bar	on the upper deck
Dining room	on the main deck
Sun deck	open with solarium (capacity: 52 seats)



2 PREMIER ROOMS

The newly renovated R. V. Bengal Ganga has two Premier corner rooms with large window balconies on the Upper Deck. A full view of the flowing water and the surrounding landscape enters the room, bringing the passenger closer to the experience of India's most sacred river. The room is furnished with Burma teak floors and walls, double beds, fine regional textiles, original works of art, coffee and tea service, a full bathroom with shower and all the amenities fitting of one of the finest cruise ships to sail the Ganges.





26 DELUXE ROOMS

The sixteen rooms on the Upper Deck and ten rooms on the Main Deck of the R. V. Bengal Ganga are in the Deluxe category. They have twin beds, Burma teak floors and walls, original art, fine local textiles, closet and storage cupboards and a complete bathroom with shower. Each room has an outdoor sitting area facing the river.





THE SHIP

Dining Room, Saloon, Sun Deck, Boutique & Spa

The Dining Room is lined with large windows on either side that allow diners to view both banks of the river at mealtimes. It has lovely teak tables and chairs, a Streamline Moderne buffet counter and elegant textiles. The curved Saloon is a cozy space for drinks, conversation, lectures and film screenings. The spacious lounge area on the Sun Deck is a special place for morning yoga and all day relaxation with a beverage counter and the new Jackfruit on the Ganga boutique which stocks exclusive garments, local handicrafts and organic bath products, all made in India. Adjacent is the air conditioned Spa in trained therapists offer Ayurvedic massage and beauty treatments.





THE SHIP'S CREW

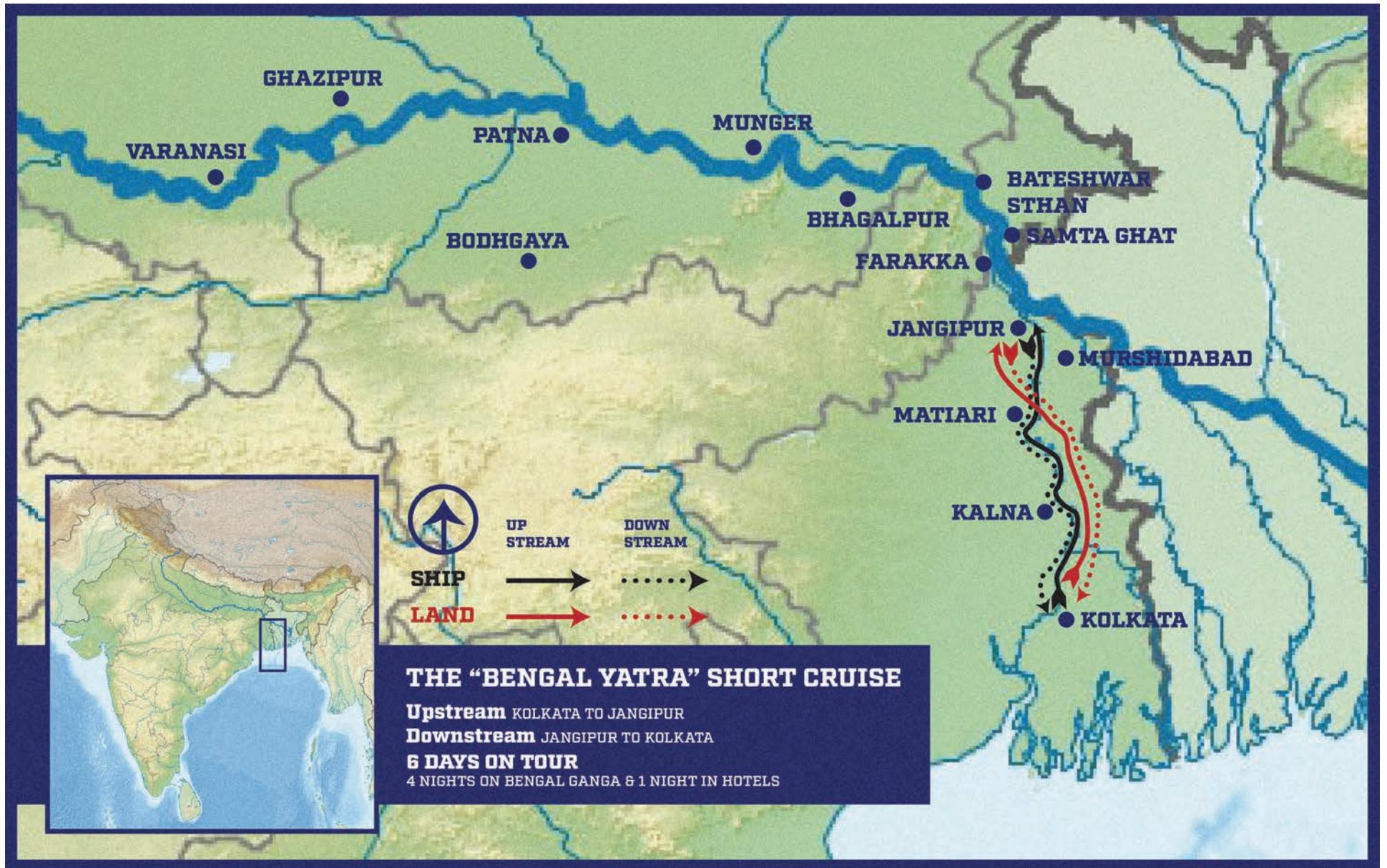
32 Staff

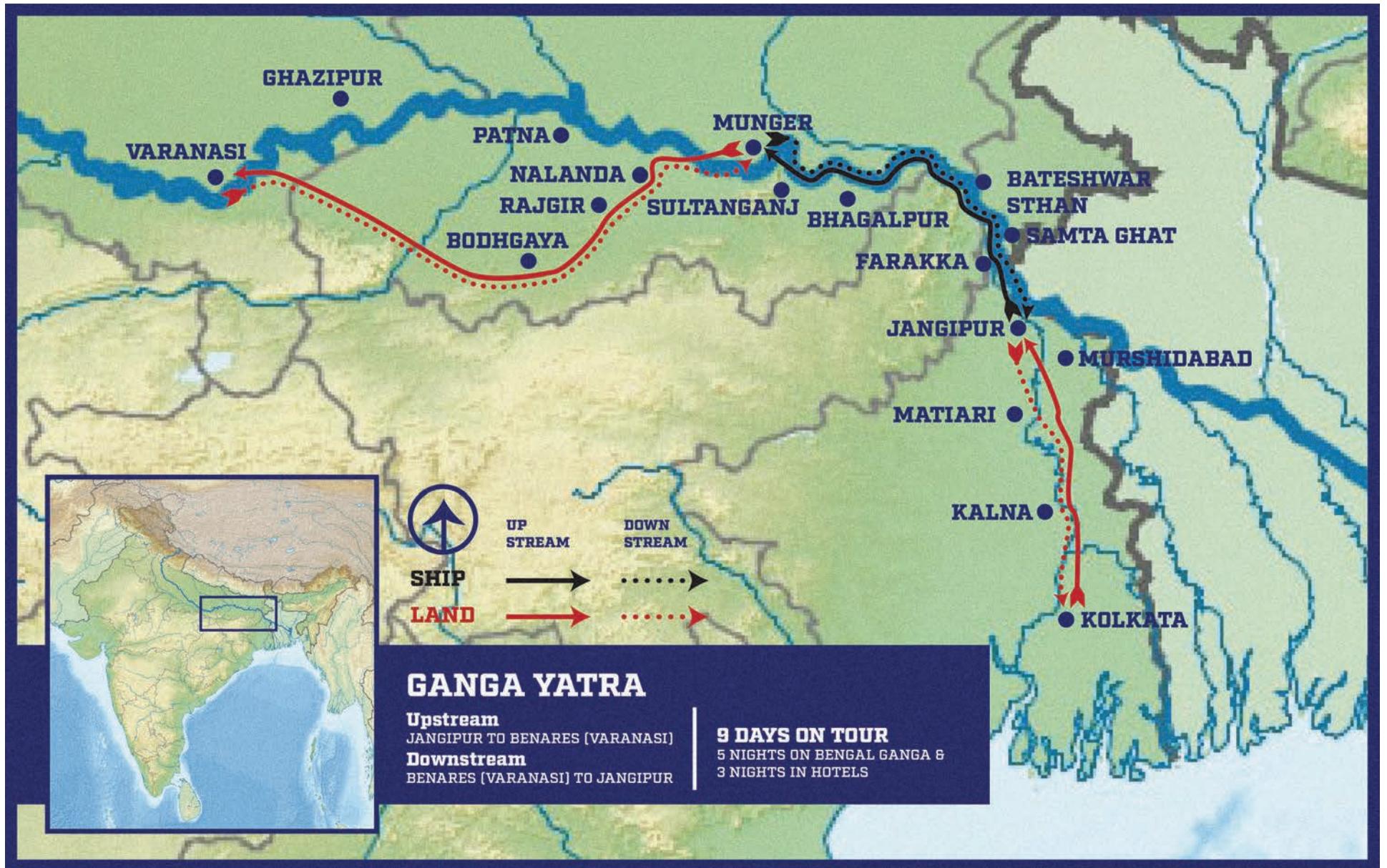
The R. V. Bengal Ganga is staffed with a crew of 32, including two masters, a ship manager, a team in the kitchen and the restaurant, a complete housekeeping group and marine staff. Additionally, the crew is trained in first aid, personal and social responsibility on the river and emergency procedures by a government-approved marine institute.

The ship's crew has received many accolades over the years for its dedicated, thoughtful and personalized service. Each member brings their own talents to make the cruise experience more pleasurable and caring, providing the best of Indian hospitality.











Sample Itinerary



INCREDIBLY ON THE GANGES - UPSTREAM

12 Days on Tour: 8 Nights on Bengal Ganga & 3 Nights in Hotels

The cruise schedule includes the latest information regarding your program, but last minute adjustments may occur. The schedule may shift due to the weather or to take advantage of unexpected opportunities. The exact time for each activity will be announced or posted by the onboard tour staff.

Note: The letters B, L and D indicate breakfast, lunch and dinner.



DAY 1

ARRIVE AT KOLKATA – EMBARK AND SAIL TO KALNA

L, D

Arrival at Kolkata by morning flight and transfer to jetty to board the cruise ship RV Bengal Ganga. Lunch onboard.

Post lunch embark on an Orientation Tour of Kolkata, which will take us to the Dalhousie Square that houses several Colonial and Heritage monuments like the Writer's Building, General Post Office, High Court, Raj Bhawan (Governor's Palace), Town Hall, Council House, Treasury Building and the Reserve Bank of India.

We then visit St. John's Church and the Victoria Memorial for a photo stop and walk in the gardens. St. John's Church, originally a cathedral, was among the first public buildings erected by the East India Company after Kolkata became the effective capital of British India. It was modeled according to the St. Martin-in-the-Fields of London. The Victoria Memorial is a grand marble building built during 1906-1921 in the memory of Queen Victoria (1819-1901). The Memorial lies on the Maidan or grounds by the bank of the Hooghly River.

Return to the ship and cast off to Kalna. Our upstream journey towards Kalna sails through the areas where the different European settlers had established their respective East Indian Companies leaving back reminiscence of their settlements during the period of 17th to 19th century.

Overnight on board RV Bengal Ganga





DAY 2

KALNA – MATIARI

B, L, D

Morning we ride cycle rickshaws to visit the enchanting Rajbari Temple Complex in Kalna. The temples of Kalna take elements from mosques and temple architecture to create a new congregational space of worship. On one side of the road lies the Nabakailas Temples. Built in 1809 by the Bardhaman Maharaja, it contains 108 ‘aat-chala’ or “eight slope-roofed” Shiva temples arranged in two concentric circles. The outer circle consists of 74 temples of alternate black and white lingams; while the 34 temples of the inner circle have only white lingams. On the other side of the road lies a walled complex, containing the most diverse form of Bengal’s temple architecture including the Pratapeshwar temple, contains terracotta plaques depicting themes of Hindu epics and mythical life of saints, gods & goddesses and various aspects of day-to-day life. The other notable temples here are the Lalji temple, Krishnachandra temple and the flat roofed temple of Giri Govardhan.

Return to the ship and cruise towards Matiari, arriving by the evening and moor for the night.

Overnight on board RV Bengal Ganga



DAY 3

SAIL MATIARI - MURSHIDABAD

B, L, D

Early in the morning we will visit the village of Matiari, which is famous for its work in brass and copper. Here copper is still processed manually. The unique character of the area is that as we start walking towards the village, we can hear loud noises of beating metal coming from all the houses. Stroll in the village and visit some homes to see and experience the different process of the brass making with a chance of buying artifacts and souvenirs.

Return to the ship, cast off and cruise towards Murshidabad sailing past Plassey, which is well known for the battle that took place in 1757 that turned the history of India. The battlefield of Plassey is where Robert Clive of British East India Company defeated the Mughal Nawab, the ruler of Bengal and his French allies, establishing the Company's rule in India which expanded over much of South Asia for the next 190 years.

Arrive at Murshidabad and moor for the night.

Overnight on board RV Bengal Ganga



DAY 4

SAIL MURSHIDABAD - JANGIPUR

B, L, D

Morning excursion of the historic town of MURSHIDABAD. We ride the local Tonga (horse cart) to visit the oldest mosque of this town the Katra Mosque built by the first Nawab of Murshidabad, Nawab Murshid Quli Khan in the year 1724-25. From there we ride the Tonga to the Hazarduari Palace Museum. Built during the reign of Nawab Nazim Humayun Jah (1824-1838 AD) by an English architect, Duncan McLeod following the Greek "Doric" style. The palace has more than a thousand real and false doors in the vast corridors. Inside the palace museum one can observe a wide collection of antiquities including various kinds of weapons, oil paintings of Dutch, French and Italian artists, marble, porcelain & stucco statues, are manuscripts and palanquins mostly belonging to the 18th-19th centuries. Opposite to the Palace is the vast Imambara open only during the religious ceremony time.

Return to the ship and sail onwards to Jangipur and moor for the night.

Overnight on board RV Bengal Ganga



DAY 5

SAIL JANGIPUR - FARAKKA - SAMTAGHAT

B, L, D

We cast off in the morning to reach the historic Farakka Lock Gate, which was built during the years 1963-75. The travel through the Feeder Canal will give us a chance to see the different birds of the region. After crossing the lock we cruise through the connecting canal to the Ganges revealing vast panoramas. We can also see the Farakka barrage at a distance, which regulates the Ganges water into Bangladesh and India.

We continue our sail upstream and moor for the night at Samtaghat.

Overnight on board RV Bengal Ganga



DAY 6

SAIL BATESHWARSTHAN

B, L, D

This morning we sail towards Bateshwarsthan. Afternoon, we ride in jeeps/cars [about 15 minutes] to the excavation site of the Vikramshila University and walk around the ruins. Established by King Dharampala in late 8th or early 9th Century A.D. Vikramshila University was one of the two most important centers of Buddhist learning in India during the reign of the Pala dynasty along with Nalanda University. Vikramshila was one of the largest Buddhist universities having more than one hundred teachers and about one thousand students. Subjects like theology, philosophy, grammar, meta-physics and logic were taught here.

We moor for the night at Bateshwarsthan.

Overnight on board RV Bengal Ganga



DAY 7

SAIL BATESHWARSTHAN – SULTANGANJ

B, L, D

Today we sail towards Sultanganj, which is noted for two great rocks of granite, one of which on the river bank is crowned by a mosque. The second and larger one is occupied by the 16th century temple of Ajgaibinath Shiva. The folklore of river Ganga being seized here by a curse of the sage Jahnu and later getting released by the penance performed by king Bhagirath makes this place an important pilgrimage. The rocky island is known as Jahngira meaning ‘the hill of Jahnu’ derives the name from this myth. There is a long causeway that connects the mainland with the island rock on which the cluster of shrines is entwined along with the seemingly floating rock.

We sail further upstream and moor for the night.

Overnight on board RV Bengal Ganga



DAY 8

SAIL TO MUNGER

B, L, D

Today we sail towards MUNGER, one of the largest city and most industrialized cities in the state of Bihar. It is a hub for railway, gun, tobacco and dairy product manufacturing. Its history can be traced back to the mythological era of Ramayana and Mahabharata. In modern times Munger came into prominence in 1762 when the Nawab of Bengal Mir Qasim made Munger his capital instead of Murshidabad in Bengal. The new ruler established arsenal for the manufacture of firearms. Subsequently Munger came in to the hands of the British Empire after Mir Qasim lost the Battle of Buxar. The tradition of manufacturing of arms is continued till now. Arrive Munger by the afternoon and moor for the night.

Post lunch visit the Bihar School of Yoga, a modern school of Yoga founded in 1964 by Satyananda Saraswati and his spiritual successor Niranjanananda Saraswati. In addition to providing spiritual instruction to aspirants, the school also guides yoga projects and medical research in association with various corporations, state government and public works.

Overnight on board RV Bengal Ganga



DAY 9

DISEMBARK AT MUNGER & DRIVE TO NALANDA AND BODHGAYA

B, L, D

We disembark the ship at 0700 hrs and drive to visit Nalanda, perhaps the oldest seat of learning in India. It treasures a glorious past, rich spiritual heritage and some extraordinary architectural ruins believed to be established in 5th century BC by the Gupta Kings.

Thereafter we drive to Rajgir, the first capital of the Magadha Empire. Buddha not only spent many years in Rajgir, but also delivered important sermons here. Lunch halt at a local restaurant in Rajgir, thereafter continue the journey to Bodhgaya - one of the most important and sacred Buddhist pilgrimage center for the Buddhists.

Late afternoon visit the Mahabodhi temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a Buddhist temple that marks the location where Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, is said to have attained enlightenment under a banyan or the "Bodhi Tree". Buddhist chanting and prayers can be witnessed in the temple premises.

Overnight at A Hotel.



DAY 10

DRIVE TO BODHGAYA AND VARANASI

B, L, D

After early breakfast we drive to Varanasi – the holiest town for Hindus. Upon arrival, check in at the hotel and have our lunch.

Late afternoon we experience the enchanting and the incredible life on the Streets of Varanasi riding Cycle Rickshaws. We continue to visit the ghats (or the steps on the banks of the river) by walk and witness the evening lamp ritual on the Ganges from a boat.

Overnight at Hotel



DAY 11

VARANASI CITY TOUR

B, L, D

Sunrise Boat Tour to witness the incredible scenes along the Holy River.

Return to hotel for breakfast, rest and lunch.

Post lunch visit Sarnath. The city is famous as the seat where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment in Bodhgaya. The Archeological Museum at Sarnath contains a large collection of sculptures that stand testimony to the fervent artistic and religious activity for more than a thousand years.

Overnight at Hotel Gateway Ganges / Radisson Hotel / Clarks Varanasi



DAY 12

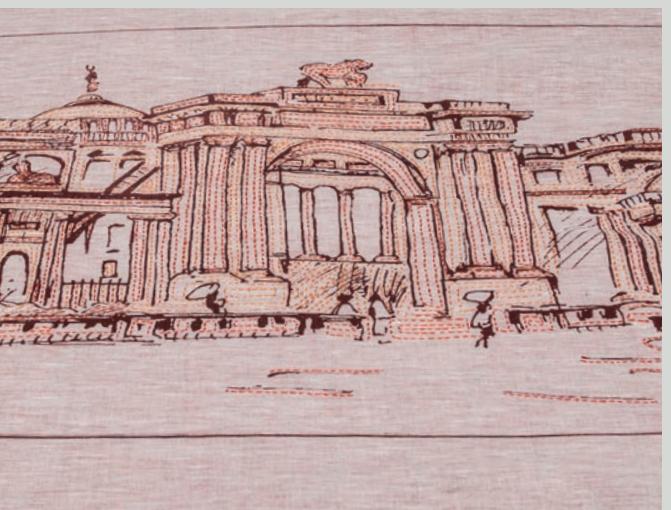
DEPARTURE FROM VARANASI

B

Transfer to airport for your flight or depart to your onward destination.







A SHIPFUL OF CRAFT AND ART





TERMS & CONDITIONS

CRUISE RATES

The Cruises Retail Rates published in our company literature including internet and other media are commissionable to travel agents. The Rates are per person in USD - US dollars based on two persons sharing a cabin. The Published Retail Rates are based on known costs including fuel costs and government taxes and fees as June 2016. The cruises published retail rates are guaranteed within the validity of the same but the company reserves the right to apply a surcharge (up to 30 days before the departure) in the sole case of an increase in government taxes, fees and/or fuel costs. Such a surcharge is applicable to any bookings where the full balance has not been paid yet. If the cruise fare alone (not included in a package tour) is published in any media (including brochures, internet but not limited to) this must be no less than the MSP (Minimum Selling Price) i.e. 5% less than the published retail Rates.

CHILDREN POLICY

Up to 2 years: Complimentary in the parent/guardian's cabin.

3 to 12 Years: if the child stays in the bed with one of the parents/guardians 40% of the twin-sharing rate. If the child stays alone in Single Room, it is 75% of the Single Use Rate (subject to availability)

ON BOARD GUIDE POLICY

We normally provide an English and German Speaking Guide. An additional non-English speaking guide is provided if more than 18 persons are booked by parties speaking the same language (subject to availability).



HERITAGE RIVER CRUISES PVT. LTD. (India)

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