



GANGES VOYAGER

# Threads and Makers

## *Textiles on the Riverbank*

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

DEPARTURE: 22 – 29 NOVEMBER 2023

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## *Textiles on the Riverbank*



**DURATION: 7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS**

Kolkata – Fulia – Kalna – Jiaganj – Murshidabad –  
Nabadwip – Chandernagore – Kolkata

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Antara's new textile cruise itinerary celebrates the fruit of the river's fertile embrace. Silk and fine cotton grown and spun on its banks and woven to a softness from its moisture-soaked air – as a living, but also as artistry inspired by its currents and hues. Highly refined textiles like baluchari, garid, muslin and common ones like gamccha have been produced and shipped along the river's course, to be consumed by local people and delighted foreigners. We Sailing on this fabled waterway, we take you to mulberry farms in Murshidabad producing the finest silks and meet the people who create unique textiles. You can buy directly from them, and thereby become part of their stories, inextricably entwined with and nourished by the Ganges.





**DAY 1** WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2023

### **Kolkata Embarkation** (L/D)

EMBARKATION TIME — 12:00 HRS

Embark the ship at the jetty in Kolkata and enjoy lunch on board. The afternoon excursion includes a visit to the **Weavers Studio**, a textile study and resource centre for an introduction to some of the fabulous fabrics and weaves we will encounter on our travels. Weavers Studio's creations are inspired by historical textiles, Indian trade cloths, seasons, ethnic tribes, across the border cultures and contemporary techniques. Their collection comprises of specialized fabrics, stoles, scarves, shawls, patch scrolls, art textiles, sarees and garments.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

**DAY 2** THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2023

### **Kolkata – Fulia** (B/L/D)

Morning visit to the Flower Market, located under the east end of Howrah Bridge. **Mullick Ghat Kolkata Flower Market** is eastern India's largest flower market with hundreds of stalls and people sitting on the ground. Around 2,000 flower growers from the surrounding areas come to sell their flowers and garlands, and during the wedding/festive season, it's probably double that number!

We then have a **panoramic tour** of the Heritage Buildings in **Dalhousie Square**. The Square was named in memory of Lord Dalhousie who was the Governor General of India from 1847 to 1856. Dalhousie Square is surrounded by some of Kolkata's most enduring Raj-era monuments like the magnificent GPO (General Post Office), the regal Raj Bhawan, St. John's Church and the Gothic style Writer's Building.

Return to the ship for lunch and begin sail upstream to Fulia passing below the cantilevered Howrah Bridge and seeing various colonial buildings along the Ganges River.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

**DAY 3** FRIDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2023

### **Fulia – Kalna** (B/L/D)

Morning excursion of **Fulia**, a textile town located beside the river Ganges. After the partition of India and the division of Bengal into West Bengal (in India) and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), many skilled weavers from Bangladesh, came and settled here and the region become a renowned centre for hand-woven fabrics. With government encouragement and support, the talented weavers soon revived their ancestral occupation and the art of exquisite weaving once again flourished.





**DAY 4** SATURDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2023

#### **Kalna – Jiaganj (B/L/D)**

We sail all morning viewing the serene countryside to arrive at **Jiaganj**. Baluchar is the original ancestral name of Jiaganj. The name was changed to Jiaganj after the Mughals conquered Bengal.

Post lunch, ride the electric rickshaws to see **Baluchari sari weaving**, famous for their elaborate *palloo* (border or *anchal*). It has been eulogized as the “*loveliest and most charming of all silks of India*”. It is a highly decorative silk fabric, known for its pictorial themes showcasing both social life and traditions. They are not just beautiful pieces of art, they are also canvases through which various themes are reflected. Normally plain in the body, the *palloo* is resplendent with elaborate woven motifs that often depict stories from mythology, folk tales, social and religious customs, animals, and lifestyles of people. For instance, *lady with flower*, *man riding horse*, *chariots*, *marriage procession*, *vignettes from the epic Ramayana* are some of the motifs generally used and organized in a narrative style. And the important feature of the technique is the white outlining of the motifs.

Time permitting, we visit the **Jain Temples** and a **heritage mansion** in **Azimganj** town located on the opposite bank of the river.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

**DAY 5** SUNDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2023

#### **Jiaganj – Murshidabad (B/L/D)**

In the morning, after breakfast, visit the **Hazarduari Palace Museum**, built in the Greek Doric style. The palace has more than a thousand real and false doors in its vast corridors, and is filled with colonial era antiques, artwork and manuscripts.

Ride the *Toto* (electric-rickshaw) to the **Katra Mosque** passing through turmeric plantations. Built by the first Nawab of Murshidabad, this mosque has distinctive minarets but the dome was damaged during an earthquake. En route we stopover to see the **process of making raw silk** – the drying, peeling and making of threads from silkworm cocoons, which are done in the cottages where these skilled workers live.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

**DAY 6** MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2023

#### **Murshidabad – Nabadwip (B/L/D)**

After a restful morning observing the local life along the riverbanks, we arrive at **Nabadwip**. Literally meaning

Fulia specializes in a combination of **jacquard and Jamdani sari weaving**. Jamdani is typically handloom woven fabric using a mixture of cotton and gold thread. It is one of the most time and labor-intensive forms of handloom weaving, and the most artistic textile rich in motifs.

Return to the ship and sail to Kalna. In the late afternoon, visit a local **weaver's home** to see the traditional weaving of **muslin cloth**. Muslin or *malma* is a cotton fabric of plain weave made in a wide range of weights from delicate sheers to coarse sheeting. Early muslin was handwoven of uncommonly delicate handspun yarn.

Also visit the **Nabakailas temple**, built in 1809 by the Bardhaman Maharaja, which contains 108 *aat chala* (eight slope-roofed) shrines arranged in two concentric circles separated by a well-maintained lawn with beautiful flowerbeds. The outer circle consists of 74 shrines consisting of alternate black and white *shivalingas* while the 34 temples of the inner circle have only white *shivalingas*.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.



New (*Nab*) Island (*Dwip*), it is the birthplace and abode of Saint Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the founder of the Hindu Vaishnav religion and a great social reformer. Once the capital of the Sena Dynasty under King Lakshman Sena who ruled during the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the town was an important centre of education, religion and culture. Nabadwip can be easily referred as a temple town as it is blessed with numerous old and new temples belonging to different Hindu sects.

Explore the riverbank village by walk to see the local people engaged in **handloom weaving** of cotton fabric, mainly saris and stoles/scarves, and other activities.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

#### DAY 7 TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2023

##### Nabadwip – Chandernagore – Kolkata (B/L/D)

Today we sail towards **Chandernagore**, established as a French colony in 1673 and emerged as a trading post on the bank of the Hooghly River. It still retains a Francophone flavour.

Explore the **French colonial buildings** along the promenade, including the former French governor's residence, now converted into the **Dupleix Museum** (closed on Thursdays & Saturdays) that features an exhibition of items that depict life during this period.

Also visit the **Sacred Heart Church**, designed by French Architect Jacques Duchatz. The church was inaugurated in 1884 and stands for over two centuries to mark the beauty of the architecture during the French period.

Return to the ship and sail back to **Kolkata**.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

#### DAY 8 WEDNESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2023

##### Kolkata Disembarkation (B)

DISEMBARKATION TIME — 09:00 HRS

Following breakfast disembark the ship and transfer for your onward journey.

#### IMPORTANT NOTE

The itinerary may be readjusted due to local conditions and days of the week, in order to avoid closure of monuments/museums. Last minute sailing adjustments may also 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.

The letters in parentheses denote the meals provided that day.

**B = Breakfast**

**L = Lunch**

**D = Dinner**

Special offers for agents are available.



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