

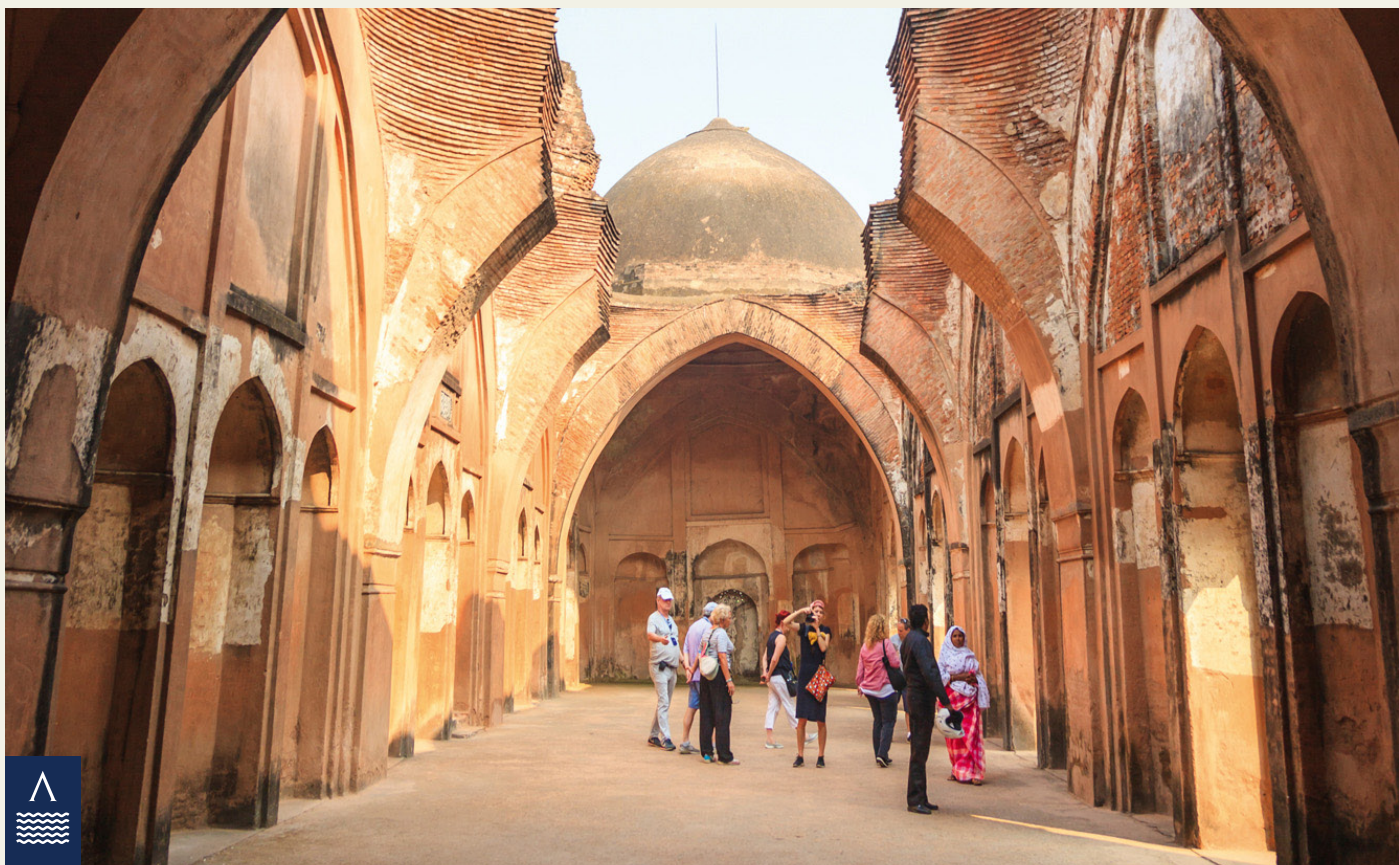


GANGES VOYAGER

Princely Murshidabad
& Secrets of Sundarbans
Special Vegan Cruise

10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS

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Special Vegan Cruise



DURATION: 10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS

Kolkata – Bandel – Kalna – Matiari – Khushbagh –
Baranagar – Murshidabad – Mayapur –
Chandernagore – Sundarbans – Kolkata

A boutique vegan adventure that is mindfully customised to your choices. A fully vegan kitchen, wines, personal products, and even housekeeping products aboard the Ganga Vilas caters to guests' every need. And looking out, it's the finest way to see the historic temples, battlefields, mango orchards and colonial palaces that line the banks of the sacred river. To experience the lives of the rural folk and admire their handicrafts, and revel in the wonders of the Sunderbans, which include sailing through mangroves to spotting alligators, and if you're fortune is your friend, the Royal Bengal tiger. Also includes and exploration the architectural curiosities of Kolkata's older streets.



DAY 1

Kolkata Embarkation – Kalna (L/D)

EMBARKATION TIME: 12:00 HRS

Embark the ship at the Jetty in Kolkata and enjoy lunch on board and begin our journey upstream. The river ship sails through areas where various European settlers had established East Indian Companies, leaving many remnants of their settlements from the 17th through 19th Centuries.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

DAY 2

Kalna – Matiari (B/L/D)

This morning we enjoy an electric rickshaw ride through the city center of Kalna en route to the enchanting Rajbari complex, with the highest concentration of temples in the region. Bengal's mixture of temple architecture includes the Nabakailas Temples. Another complex features diverse architecture, including the Pratapeshwar Temple, built in 1849. Other temples on the site include Lalji Temple, the oldest in the complex (1739), and Krishnachandra Temple (1751).

Sail onward to Matiari.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

DAY 3

Matiari – Khushbagh (B/L/D)

Enjoy an early morning walk to the shore-side village of Matiari, which is known for manufacturing beautiful handcrafted brass items.

We then continue our journey upstream, sailing past the battlefield of Plassey. Early evening visit to the charming village of Khushbagh, passing through scenic fields to arrive at the peaceful Moghul-style garden built by Nawab Ali-Wardi-Khan, housing his family's private mosque.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

DAY 4

Khushbagh – Baranagar – Murshidabad (B/L/D)

Post breakfast, cruise to the sleepy village of Baranagar where you'll take a walk to experience rural India at its most idyllic.

Once you're back onboard, enjoy the afternoon to unwind as the ship glides along the Lower Ganges, twisting and turning between banks lined with mustard fields and mango orchards to arrive at Murshidabad, a hidden

architectural gem with dramatic whitewashed colonial era structures. We visit the Hazarduari Palace (closed on Fridays). We travel by electric rickshaws to the Katra mosque, built by the first Nawab of Murshidabad – Murshid Quli Khan in 1724–25.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

DAY 5

Murshidabad – Mayapur (B/L/D)

After a restful morning, observing the local life along the riverbanks, we stop in the village of Mayapur, the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Meet Krishna followers and walk through the pilgrim's bazaar.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

DAY 6

Mayapur – Chandernagore – Kolkata (B/L/D)

Morning sail to Chandernagore, established as a French colony in 1673. In the afternoon, walking along the promenade we will explore the French colonial buildings, including the former French Governor's residence now converted to a museum (closed on Thursdays & Saturdays). We will then visit the Sacred Heart Church of Chandernagore.

Return to the ship and continue our journey downstream to Kolkata.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

DAY 7

Sailing to Sundarbans (B/L/D)

Sail to Namkhana, the gateway of the Sundarbans National Park, a World Heritage Site, and the world's largest delta mangrove forest.

Post breakfast enjoy a talk and interaction with the Naturalist on the unique ecosystem of the Sundarbans.

Overnight onboard Ganga Voyager.

DAY 8

Namkhana – Bony Camp – Bali Island (B/L/D)

Scale the Bony Camp Watchtower on an excursion to sight endangered crocodiles, terrapins and many species of Migratory Birds. Sailing along the Matla River, keep a keen eye out for Irrawaddy Dolphins and other marine life. Disembark in a country boat after lunch to visit the serene Nethidopani Watchtower and experience the spectacular nature of the surroundings.

Sail onward to Bali Island, a typical village whose inhabitants are engaged in farming, paddy husking, honey packing and fishing. Enjoy a village walk and interact with the villagers engaged in creating handicrafts, visit a local home, and witness a tribal dance.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

DAY 9

Bali – Sudhanyakhali – Do Banki – Namkhana (B/L/D)

You'll scale the Sudhanyakhali Watchtower, the most popular locale to spot the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger; this vast habitat endows invigorating possibilities of crocodiles, wild boars, axis deer and a wide range of migratory and local birds.

Thereafter take a small country boat through the narrow creeks to climb the Dobanki Watchtower and enjoy a canopy walk at an elevation of 20 feet from the ground and about half a kilometer in length, to reveal the riveting flora and fauna.

Return to the ship for late lunch and sail to Namkhana.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

DAY 10

Namkhana – Kolkata (B/L)

Early this morning we sail back to Kolkata enjoying breakfast and lunch on board, arriving late in the afternoon.

Enjoy a Tea Tasting session while reminiscing the wondrous experience of the Sundarbans.

Overnight onboard Ganges Voyager.

DAY 11

Kolkata Sightseeing & Disembark (B/L)

Embark on an early-morning city tour, featuring a Panoramic Tour of the well-preserved British colonial buildings in Kolkata: Writer's Building, General Post Office, High Court, Raj Bhawan (Governor's House), Town Hall, Council House, Treasury Building, Reserve Bank of India and Dalhousie Square. The day continues with a visit to St. John's Church, and the Victoria Memorial Museum, which houses the largest collection of British colonial historical artifacts in India.

Depart after lunch for onward journey.

DISEMBARKATION TIME: 15:00 HRS

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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