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Antara Cruises Unveils Newly Renovated MV Bengal Ganga

Set to begin its journey in October 2024 from Kolkata, MV Bengal Ganga promises a unique and luxurious experience along the Ganga River

Delhi, 1st October 2024: Antara Cruises, a pioneer in the river cruising industry, is excited to announce the upcoming launch of its newly renovated MV Bengal Ganga, set to embark on its journey from the vibrant City of Joy, Kolkata, in October 2024. This is an upgraded version will bring new energy to Antara's impressive fleet, which also includes MV Ganges Voyager, MV Ganges Voyager 2, MV Ganga Vilas, and four catamarans.

Inspired by the elegance of colonial Clyde steamships made with Burmese red teakwood, the upgraded Bengal Ganga features 20 beautifully appointed suites that seamlessly blend boutique design with modern amenities. The recent refurbishment balconies, a chic 1970s décor, incorporating wood, metal, and leather elements alongside repurposed teak. Large windows, original artwork, curved motifs, and vibrant colours create a fresh and tranquil atmosphere for guests.

Features of MV Bengal Ganga

The MV Bengal Ganga accommodates travellers with a choice of 20 suites, available in three categories to cater to solo adventurers and families alike. Each suite ranges from 145 sq. ft to 290 sq. ft and features panelled Burma red teak floors and walls, modern amenities, and en-suite bathrooms with showers.

Dining aboard the MV Bengal Ganga is a remarkable experience. The Dining Room, located on the main deck, serves a delectable selection of Indian *satvik* (vegetarian) dishes alongside international cuisine. With large windows offering panoramic riverbank views, the space is furnished with elegant teakwood tables and local textiles.

Guests can unwind at the Lounge Bar on the upper deck, a cozy setting perfect for drinks and conversations, while the Sun Deck features an observation area ideal for morning yoga sessions and breathtaking views.

A Unique Journey from Kolkata to Varanasi

The MV Bengal Ganga will embark on a remarkable 19-nights, 20-days journey, relocating itself from Kolkata to Varanasi. The itinerary includes stops at key destinations such as Kalna, Matiari, Murshidabad, Bateshwarsthan, Sultanganj, Munger, Simaria, Patna, Buxar, and Ghazipur. Passengers will have the opportunity to explore iconic sites, including Kolkata's flower market, the terracotta temples of Kalna, and the Katra Mosque of Murshidabad. Throughout the journey, guests will engage with local traditions, arts, and spirituality, witnessing the vibrant crafts and culture of the region.

Heritage River Journeys Pvt. Ltd.
CIN U63000DL2000PTC103344

Head Office: No.7, 2nd Floor, L.S.C., Vasant Arcade, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110 070, INDIA

Email: sales@antaracruises.com | Website: <https://www.antaracruises.com>

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Upon arrival in Varanasi, the ship will remain stationed in heart of the Ganga and offer immersive river cruising there. Two cruise programs are available: a 2-nights/3-day journey departing every Mondays and Wednesdays and a 3-nights/4-day journey departing every Friday, 21st October 2024 onwards. Travelers will have the unique chance to experience the awe-inspiring Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat, offer prayers at the iconic Kashi Vishwanath Temple and visit the Buddhist centre of Sarnath.

Dr. Annapurna Garimella, Director, Antara Cruises - Heritage River Journeys Pvt Ltd, shared her vision for the MV Bengal Ganga, stating, *“We envisioned MV Bengal Ganga as a vessel that harmonizes the traditional essence of river boats with the modernity of river cruising. Our goal is to elevate the Ganga cruise journey, providing an experience that is both elegant and comfortable, while remaining true to the ship's heritage.”*

With the re-introduction of the newly renovated MV Bengal Ganga, Antara Cruises reaffirms its commitment to delivering immersive river cruising experiences steeped in India's rich culture, history, and luxury. This initiative further solidifies Antara's position as a leader in the river cruise tourism industry, allowing travellers to explore the timeless beauty of the Ganga in unmatched elegance and comfort.

About Antara Cruises

Antara Cruises believes that the best way to experience South Asia is from its rivers. Founded in 2003 by travel industry pioneer and naturalist Raj Singh, Antara has developed a thoughtfully designed fleet of nine ships that navigate South Asia's most iconic rivers. Offering guests a unique vantage point to enjoy stunning landscapes, local crafts, and wildlife, Antara is dedicated to showcasing the region's indigenous environments and cultures sustainably and with exceptional hospitality.

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