

INDIA

Kolkata and the Ganges River

aboard the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager*

October 7–16, 2025



From its source high in the mighty Himalayas, the holiest of rivers, *Mother Ganga*, flows 1,500 miles south and east through areas rarely seen by westerners, and connects to the Hooghly River through Kolkata before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.

A tapestry of varied religious beliefs, devoted faith, awe-inspiring history, rich architecture, and cultural heritage spreads along the sacred riverbanks. Infused with influences of past rulers and European settlers, rich in diverse flora and fauna, and boasting incredible scenery, the Ganges and Hooghly Rivers represent the heart and soul of Indian civilization.

The journey begins in Kolkata (old Calcutta), the former capital of India during British rule, with one night at the luxurious Taj Bengal Hotel. Learn about the fascinating history of Colonial Kolkata on a panoramic tour before embarking on a seven-night cruise aboard the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager*. Visit Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, then continue to Bandel, the site of the renowned Hooghly Imambara. Ride rickshaws through Kalna and admire the magnificent temples at the Rajbari Complex. Next, visit the brass-making village of Matiari, and cruise past the Battlefield of Plassey en route to the Mughul Gardens in Khush Bagh. Leisurely investigate the breathtaking temples in the quaint village of Baranagar before venturing to Hazarduari Palace and the Katra Masjid in Murshidabad. In Mayapur tour the temple headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness and the Pilgrim's Bazaar before calling at Chandernagore, a 17th-century French colony brimming with history and heritage. Conclude the voyage with a celebratory dinner and a delightful cultural program.

For those interested, there will also be a pre-tour extension in the Golden Triangle and a post-tour extension to Varanasi, Agra, and Delhi.





Highlights

- ◆ **Cruise aboard the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager*** – Built in the style of the historic Clyde steamers, this luxury vessel promises a relaxing and comfortable environment to encounter remote areas and enjoy spectacular views along the river.
- ◆ **Explore Mother Theresa's Kolkata** (Calcutta), capital of India for 200 years during the British Raj.
- ◆ **Take rickshaws through Kalna to the Rajbari Complex**, home Bengal's highest number of Hindu temples.
- ◆ Call at former French colony, Chandernagore, and **tour the Institut de Chandernagore Museum** to study rare antiquities and to learn about daily life during the French period.
- ◆ Relax and enjoy observing village life, rural landscapes, extraordinary craftsmanship, and evening cultural performances while cruising through **a part of India rarely seen by Western visitors**.



Itinerary

**TUESDAY–WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 7–8**

Home / Kolkata, India

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Kolkata, India. Upon arrival, transfer to the luxurious Taj Bengal Hotel.

TAJ BENGAL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Kolkata

This morning, take a panoramic tour of Dalhousie Square's heritage buildings, including the Town Hall, the Governor's House, the Writers' building, the General Post Office, and the Reserve Bank of India. Next, visit St. John's Anglican Church and the Victoria Memorial Museum, housing India's largest collection of British historical artifacts. Continue to the Kumartuli potters' quarter and observe as talented potters sculpt idols using clay from the nearby Hooghly River. Embark the *Ganges Voyager* and enjoy a welcome dinner this evening.

GANGES VOYAGER (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

Kolkata / Bandel

Start the day in Kolkata with a visit to the lively and colorful Mullick Ghat Flower Market. Next visit the Missionaries of Charity, a community

dedicated to serving marginalized members of society that was founded by Mother Teresa in 1950. In the afternoon, cruise past settlements started by the British East India Company between the 17th and 19th centuries. Arrive in Bandel and visit the Hooghly Imambara, a famous Shia pilgrimage center whose sundial gives accurate time even to this day. Return to the ship and cruise onward to Kalna.

GANGES VOYAGER (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Kalna

Ride rickshaws through Kalna's city center en route to the Rajbari Complex, which contains the highest concentration of Hindu temples in Bengal. Later stroll through a local market and visit the home of a traditional muslin cloth weaver. Return to *Ganges Voyager* and cruise to the shore-side village of Matuari.

GANGES VOYAGER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Matuari / Khush Bagh

In the morning, take a walk through Matuari, famous for its brass craftsmanship. Continue upstream and pass the

Battlefield of Plassey, where the British East India Company defeated the Mogul Nawabs in 1757. This evening visit Khushbagh, a charming riverside village. Meander through farmland to the peaceful, Moghul-style Garden built by Nawab Ali-Wardi-Khan. Later, enjoy a cultural music and dance performance.

GANGES VOYAGER (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Baranagar / Murshidabad

Experience rural India at its most idyllic on a walk through Baranagar, a quaint village home to several temples dating from the 18th century. Unwind this afternoon as the ship glides along the Lower Ganges, passing banks lined with mustard fields and mango orchards. Arrive at Murshidabad, a hidden architectural gem with dramatic whitewashed colonial era structures. Visit the Hazarduari Palace constructed in the Greek Doric style. Inside marvel at colonial era antiques, artwork, and manuscripts before riding the *toto* (electric rickshaw) to the Katra mosque.

GANGES VOYAGER (B,L,D)



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Mayapur

After a restful morning, stop in the village of Mayapur, the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Here find a temple comparable in size to the Vatican, largely funded by Alfred B. Ford, the great grandson of Henry Ford. Engage with Krishna followers and walk through the pilgrim's bazaar before returning to the ship.

GANGES VOYAGER (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Chandernagore

Cruise to Chandernagore, a French colony established in 1673 as a trading post. Take a heritage walk and explore the French colonial buildings along the promenade, including Dupleix Palace, which now houses the Institut de Chandernagore Museum. At the museum find a collection of rare French antiques, personal belongings of French governor generals, and historical relics of Chandernagore. Continue to the Sacred Heart

Church, which showcases the architectural beauty of the French period. Return to *Ganges Voyager* in the evening and enjoy a cultural program and farewell dinner en route to Kolkata.

GANGES VOYAGER (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Kolkata / Home

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home or join the post-tour extension in Varanasi, Delhi, and Agra.

(B)

Pre-Tour Extension

OCTOBER 2–8

The Golden Triangle

Begin in Delhi, the capital of modern India. Continue to Agra to see the incomparable Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. Marvel at the stunning architecture of the Jaipur Palace and Jantar Mantar, an 18th-century astronomical observatory. Enjoy a free afternoon to explore Jaipur or join an optional tour of the Amber Fort.

Post-Tour Extension

OCTOBER 16–20

Varanasi, Delhi, and Agra





See Varanasi, a pilgrimage site for Hindus and an important center for learning on the banks of the Ganges. Visit Sarnath, a sacred site where Gautam Buddha achieved enlightenment and delivered his first sermon. Fly to Delhi and drive to Agra to visit the Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal. Return to Delhi and take a driving tour of the capital city and relax at the Taj Mahal Hotel.

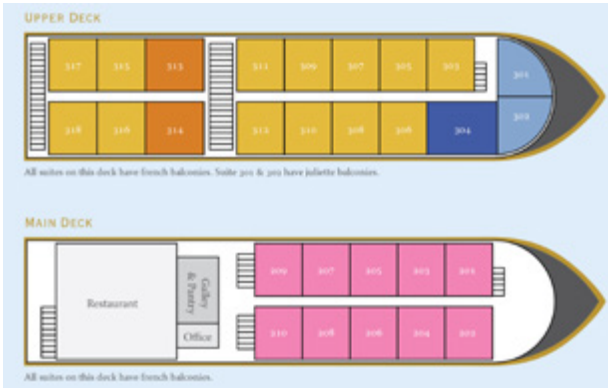
Ganges Voyager



The elegant all-suite *Ganges Voyager*, launched in 2015, embodies the grace and style of India's colonial era and adds modern conveniences and luxuries. Spacious, well-appointed suites provide individual climate control, panoramic French doors, on-demand movies, electronic safe, en suite bathroom with spa quality amenities, generous storage, daily housekeeping, fine bed linens, and daily international news. The ship's culinary team prepares sumptuous meals incorporating both the incredibly flavorful cuisine of India as well as the diverse cuisines of Europe, served in the beautifully appointed dining room. Public spaces include an inviting lounge, a sun deck with chaise lounges and shaded seating areas, and a spa, and a fitness center.

Program Rates (per person)

CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
 Main Deck Signature Suite	\$8,990	\$10,990
 Upper Deck Colonial Suite	\$9,990	\$11,990
 Heritage Suite	\$10,570	\$13,150
 Viceroy Suite	\$11,090	\$14,190
 Maharaja Suite	\$11,620	\$15,250



To book, visit: dub.sh/GAN_CT_2025

General Information

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • One night at the Taj Bengal Hotel in Kolkata • Seven nights aboard the *Ganges Voyager* • All excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Scheduled coach transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine and beer receptions • soft drinks, coffees, teas and mineral water on the *Ganges Voyager* • Bottled water on motorcoaches and with all meals • Criterion Tour Manager and an Indian Escort

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The pace of this tour is moderately active with considerable walking each day, often over very uneven terrain, and extended periods of standing. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. All participants will be required to follow safety protocols set forth by Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final.

GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate up to 50 participants.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.



GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

PROGRAM RATES

DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, or testing if required at the time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information about optional trip cancellation insurance will be provided by Criterion Travel upon confirmation of your booking.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, we reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation will be the responsibility of the participant.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. To register, please visit www.dub.sh/GAN_CT_2025. For questions, please email Criterion Travel at res@criteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is June 9, 2025. For those who register after June 9, 2025, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, wire transfer, or credit card (credit card payments will incur a 2% fee).

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation

provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound.

Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the June 9, 2025 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. We highly recommend a travel insurance policy with "Cancel for Any Reason" (CFAR) coverage. NOTE: Neither the President and Trustees of Williams College, as sponsor, nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

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