

# **INDIA –KOLKATA & THE GANGES RIVER WITH EXTENSIONS TO GOLDEN TRIANGLE & VARANASI**

## **Aboard the *Ganges Voyager***

**October 7 – 16, 2025**

**(10 days)**

The journey begins in Kolkata (old Calcutta), the capital of India during British rule from 1772 to 1911, with one night at the luxurious Taj Bengal Hotel before boarding the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager*. From its source high in the mighty Himalayas, this holiest of rivers, *Mother Ganga* to Indians, flows 1,500 miles south and east through areas Western visitors rarely see, connecting to the Hooghly River through Kolkata before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. A tapestry of varied religious beliefs, faith, awe-inspiring history, rich architecture and cultural heritage spreads along the river banks. Infused with influences of past rulers and European settlers, rich in diverse flora and fauna and boasting incredible landscapes, the Ganges and Hooghly Rivers represents the heart and soul of Indian civilization.

For those who are interested there is a pre-tour extension to the Golden Triangle beginning with Delhi, the capital of modern India as well as Muslim India between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Continue to Agra to see the incomparable Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World heritage site. End with the Jaipur Palace and Amber fort before flying from Jaipur to Kolkata to start then main tour. A post tour extension includes Varanasi a pilgrimage site for Hindus and a center for learning situated on the banks of the Ganges River. Visit Sarnath, where Gautam Buddha achieved enlightenment and delivered his first sermon. Then fly to Delhi to visit the capital and the Taj Mahal in Agra.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Cruise aboard the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager*, operating since 2015 on the Ganges-Hoogli Waterway from Kolkata. Built in the style of the historic Clyde steamers, this luxury cruise is a relaxing and comfortable way to explore remote areas and enjoy breathtaking views along the river.
- Explore Mother Theresa's Kolkata (Calcutta), capital of India for 200 years during the British Raj.
- Relax and enjoy village life, the rural scene, and evening cultural performances as you cruise through a part of India rarely seen by Western visitors.
- On the extensions visit the incomparable Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World heritage site and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, it is regarded as the most spectacular monument ever built for love.
- On the post tour extension experience the rituals and prayers along the banks of the sacred Ganges during a sunrise boat trip and evening Ganga Aarti in Varanasi.

# INDIA –KOLKATA & GANGES RIVER

## Aboard the *Ganges Voyager*

### ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Tuesday - Wednesday, Oct. 7 & 8	Depart U.S./ Kolkata, India	Taj Bengal Hotel	Overnight flight to Kolkata, India. Arrive Kolkata the following day and transfer to the hotel. Meals aloft
Thursday, October 9	Kolkata	<i>Ganges Voyager</i>	A panoramic tour of Colonial Kolkata includes the Town Hall, Governor's House, the Writers building, the General Post Office, the Reserve Bank of India and Dalhouse Square. Visit St. John's Anglican church, built in 1756, and the Victoria Memorial Museum with the largest collection of British historical artifacts in India. Also visit the Kumartuli potters quarter renowned for its sculpting prowess. This afternoon <b>embark the <i>Ganges Voyager</i></b> and enjoy a welcome dinner. BLD
Friday, October 10	Kolkata/Bandel	<i>Ganges Voyager</i>	Start the day in Kolkata with a visit to the lively and colorful Flower Market before visiting the Missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresas in 1950. This afternoon cruise past settlements started by the British East India Company between the 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century. In Bandel visit the Hooghly Imambara, a famous Shiya pilgrimage center. BLD
Saturday, October 11	Kalna	<i>Ganges Voyager</i>	Ride rickshaws through Kalna's city center and view the highest concentration of Hindu temples in Bengal at the Rajbari Complex. Walk in in a local market and visit the home of a Muslin cloth weaver. BLD
Sunday, October 12	Matiari	<i>Ganges Voyager</i>	Visit brass making village of Matiari. Sail past the battlefield of Plassey, where the British East India Company defeated the Mogul Nawabs in 1757. This evening walk through scenic farm fields and visit Mughul gardens in Khush Bagh. Enjoy a cultural music and dance performance in the evening. BLD
Monday, October 13	Baranagar/ Murshidabad	<i>Ganges Voyager</i>	Experience rural India on a walk through the quaint village and temples of Baranagar. In Murshidabad visit the Hazarduari Palace built in the early 19 <sup>th</sup> century in Greek Doric style and filled with colonial era antiques; take local buggy to Katra Mosque dating back to the early 18 <sup>th</sup> century. BLD
Tuesday, October 14	Mayapur	<i>Ganges Voyager</i>	Mayapur is the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness where a temple comparable in size to the Vatican was funded by Alfred B. Ford. Visit the temple and bazar. BLD

Wednesday, October 15	Chandernagore	<i>Ganges Voyager</i>	This morning cruise to Chandernagore a French colony established in 1673 as a trading post. A heritage walk includes a museum with French antiques, and memorabilia depicting life from this period. Also visit the Sacred Heart Church built by a French architect in 1884. This evening, celebrate with a farewell dinner and cultural program. BLD
Thursday, October 16	Kolkata / Return to USA		Disembark and transfer to the airport for your onward journey or return flight. B, meals in flight

# INDIA –KOLKATA & GANGES RIVER

## Aboard the *Ganges Voyager*

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **Retail Program Fees:**

Main Deck Signature suite, per person, sharing accommodations .....\$8,990  
Upper Deck Colonial suite, per person, sharing accommodations .....\$9,990

Main Deck Signature suite, single occupancy .....\$10,990  
Upper Deck Colonial suite, single occupancy .....\$11,990

Supplemental costs for a cabin upgrade to a Maharaja suite (2 suites) .....\$1,160  
Supplemental costs for a cabin upgrade to a Viceroy suite (2 suites) .....\$2,200  
Supplemental costs for a cabin upgrade to a Heritage Suite (1 suite) .....\$3,260

Fees and services are based on exchange rates of April, 2024 and are subject to change.

#### **Program Length, Capacity:**

10 days roundtrip from the U.S.

Minimum capacity: 20 passengers; Maximum capacity: 50 based on a full charter of 28 cabins for guests and staff.

#### **Fees Include:**

All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • One nights at the Taj Bengal Hotel in Kolkata • Seven nights aboard the *Ganges Voyager 1* • 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

#### **Fees Do Not Include:**

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, and Covid-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • 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

## **GOLDEN TRIANGLE PRE-TOUR EXTENSION**

### **PRE-TOUR ITINERARY OUTLINE**

<b>DAY</b>	<b>OVERNIGHT</b>	<b>HOTEL</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>
Thursday - Friday Oct. 2 & 3	Depart U.S./ Delhi, India	Taj Mahal Hotel	Overnight flight to Delhi, India. Arrive Delhi the following day and transfer to the hotel. Meals aloft
Saturday, October 4	Delhi	Taj Mahal Hotel	Old Delhi: Drive by the Red Fort and Jama Mosque, take a rickshaw through Chandi Chowk. New Delhi: Parliament, India Gate, Gandhi Smriti Museum and Humayun's Tomb. Welcome reception this evening. BLD
Sunday, October 5	Agra	ITC Mughal	Drive from Delhi to Agra and visit the Agra Fort. At Sunset marvel at the Taj Mahal. A master piece built by Emperor Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz. BLD
Monday, October 6	Agra/Jaipur	Jai Mahal Palace	Return to the Taj Mahal to visit it when it sparkles at dawns light. This afternoon drive approximately 5 hours to Jaipur. BLD
Tuesday, October 7	Jaipur	Jai Mahal Palace	Visit Jaipur's City Palace, Jantar Mantar (18 <sup>th</sup> century astronomical observatory), and photograph Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds). Free afternoon in Jaipur or optional visit to the Amber Fort. This evening is free to dine on your own. BL
Wednesday, October 8	Jaipur/Kolkata	Taj Bengal Hotel	This morning fly direct from Jaipur to Kolkata and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Travelers booked on the main tour will arrive in Kolkata this evening. B

# GOLDEN TRIANGLE PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Retail Program Fees:**

Double room, per person, sharing accommodations .....\$2,960

Single room occupancy ..... \$4,000

On tour flights from Jaipur to Kolkata .....\$150  
(Current airfare, subject to change until tickets are issued)

Fees and services are based on exchange rates of April, 2024 and are subject to change.

### **Program Length, Capacity:**

5 days in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur before the main tour

Minimum capacity: 6 passengers; Maximum capacity: 20 passengers

### **Fees Include:**

All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • Two nights at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Delhi • One night at the ITC Mughal in Agra • Two nights at the Jai Mahal Palace in Jaipur • All excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings and presentations • Scheduled coach transfers on group arrival • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Entrance fees • Welcome and wine and beer receptions • Bottled water on motorcoaches and with all meals • Criterion Tour Manager and an Indian Escort

### **Fees Do Not Include:**

U.S. domestic and international airfare • **Airfare from Jaipur to Kolkata** • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, and Covid-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • The optional visit to Amber Fort in Jaipur on Oct. 7 • 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

## VARANASI, DELHI & AGRA POST EXTENSION

### POST-TOUR ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Thursday, October 16	Kolkata/Varanasi	Taj Ganges	This morning fly from Kolkata to Varanasi. After lunch visit Sarnath, where Gautam Buddha achieved enlightenment and delivered his first sermon in Deer Park. At Sarnath Museum, see the Ashoka Pillar, whose lion capital is the national emblem of India. This evening, witness the evening Aarti on the banks of the river. BLD
Friday, October 17	Varanasi	Taj Ganges	At sunrise take a boat ride on the Ganges to observe morning rituals and prayers. In the afternoon tour the ancient temples in this sacred city and Banaras Hindu University, established in 1916. BLD
Saturday, October 18	Agra	ITC Mughal	This morning fly from Varanasi to Delhi and on arrival drive to Agra and visit the Agra Fort. The evening is free to dine on your own. BL
Sunday, October 19	Delhi	Taj Mahal Hotel	At Sunrise marvel at the Taj Mahal as it sparkles at dawns light. A master piece built by Emperor Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz. Return to Delhi for a city tour that includes the Parliament and India Gate. Enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel this evening. BLD
Monday, October 20	Delhi/return flight		Transfer from the Taj mahal hotel to the Delhi airport. Most international flight depart late at night. Some will transfer late the night of October 19 or in the very early hours of the morning on October 20.

# VARANASI, DELHI & AGRA POST EXTENSION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Retail Program Fees:**

Double room, per person, sharing accommodations ..... \$2,565

Single room occupancy ..... \$3,465

On tour flights from Kolkata to Varanasi and Varanasi to Delhi ..... \$300  
(Current airfare, subject to change until tickets are

issued)

Fees and services are based on exchange rates of April, 2024 and are subject to change.

### **Program Length, Capacity:**

4 days in Varanasi, Delhi, and Agra after the main tour

Minimum capacity: 6 passengers; Maximum capacity: 20 passengers

### **Fees Include:**

All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • Two nights at the Taj Ganges hotel in Varanasi • One night at the ITC Mughal in Agra • One night at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Delhi • All excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings and presentations • Scheduled coach transfers on group departure • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Entrance fees • Farewell dinner with wine and beer • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Bottled water and soft drinks with all meals • Criterion Tour Manager and an Indian Escort

### **Fees Do Not Include:**

U.S. domestic and international airfare • **Airfare from Kolkata to Varanasi and Varanasi to Delhi** • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, and Covid-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • 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