



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

INDIA

Kolkata & The Ganges River

Aboard the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager*
Featuring Architectural Historian Grace Gary

October 7 – 16, 2025



DEAR NATIONAL TRUST TRAVELER

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.

With limited space, we encourage you to reserve your cabin today!

Sincerely,

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours

The NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities.

For more information, visit the Trust's website at www.savingplaces.org or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

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 to 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.**

STUDY LEADER



GRACE GARY

Grace Gary’s relationship with the National Trust began when, while in graduate school, she was chosen as a National Trust Maritime Intern. She’s hard to pin down on how many years ago that was, but she admits to having served as a lecturer on more-than fifty Trust tours over a span of more-than thirty years. She is also the author of two titles in the Trust’s “Information” series and served as director of the Trust’s Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. She also served as executive director of Preservation Pennsylvania, Longue Vue House and Gardens, Colonial Williamsburg’s Tourism Leadership Program, and Nemours Mansion and Gardens. While at Nemours she oversaw an \$80 million restoration

program, which received the highest award from the AIA ever bestowed on a restoration project. She and fellow National Trust Tours lecturer Dwight Young also co-authored “Nemours: A Portrait of Alfred I. DuPont’s Home,” which was published by Rizzoli. She is a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College and has a Master’s in architectural history from the University of Virginia, where she had the privilege of living on the Range in one of the original, Thomas Jefferson-designed rooms.



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.

(Meals aloft)

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. Later embark the *Ganges Voyager* and enjoy a welcome dinner.

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

Today ride rickshaws through the Kalna 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. Embark *Ganges Voyager* and cruise to the shore-side village of Matuari.

Ganges Voyager (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

MATIARI/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



FLOWER MARKET

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. Here 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. Embark *Ganges Voyager* in the evening and enjoy a cultural program and farewell dinner en route to Kolkata.

Ganges Voyager (B,L,D)



MAYAPUR TEMPLE

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:

THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

OCTOBER 2 – 8, 2025

This pre-tour extension to the Golden Triangle begins in Delhi, the capital of modern India as well as Muslim India between the 13th and 19th centuries. 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. Fly from Jaipur to Kolkata, where the main tour will commence.

Taj Mahal Hotel; ITC Mughal; Jai Mahal Palace; Taj Bengal Hotel (5B, 4L, 3D)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION:

VARANASI, DELHI, AND AGRA

OCTOBER 16 – 20, 2025

Upon conclusion of the main program, begin the post-tour extension in Varanasi. Situated on the banks of the Ganges River, Varanasi serves as a pilgrimage site for Hindus and an important center for learning. Travel to Sarnath, a sacred site where Gautam Buddha achieved enlightenment and delivered his first sermon. Take a flight to Delhi and drive to Agra to visit the Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal. Constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, it is regarded as the most spectacular monument to love ever built. Upon returning to Delhi, take a driving tour of the capital city and relax at the Taj Mahal Hotel before transferring to the Delhi airport for flights home.

Taj Ganges; ITC Mughal; Taj Mahal Hotel (4B, 4L, 3D)

FURTHER INFORMATION AND PRICING WILL BE SENT TO CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS.

SHIP

The elegant all-suite *Ganges Voyager*, launched in 2015, transports guests in style, comfort, and luxury along the Ganges River, an ideal way to observe the ever-changing tapestry of life unfolding along the riverbanks. Accommodations embody the grace and style of India's colonial era, with modern conveniences and luxuries that rival the finest hotels. Spacious, well-appointed suites provide individual climate control, panoramic floor-to-ceiling French doors, flat-screen television with on-demand movies, electronic safe, en suite bathroom with spa quality robes, slippers, hair dryer, and bath amenities, generous storage, daily housekeeping with turndown service, fine bed linens, premium mattresses, duvets, your choice of pillows, and daily international news. The friendly staff provides the level of attentive service that makes for a memorable river cruise, and 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 fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment.



SIGNATURE SUITE



COLONIAL SUITE



HERITAGE SUITE



VICEROYLE SUITE

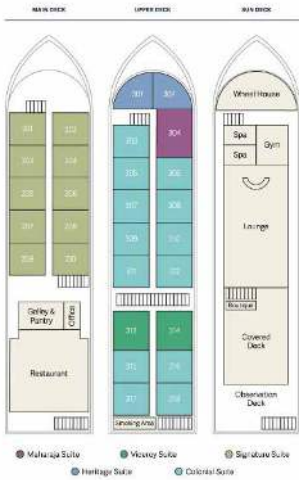


MAHARAJA SUITE



SUNDECK INDOOR LOUNGE

MV Ganges Voyager



PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON):

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 cost for a cabin upgrade to a Heritage suite	\$1,160 per cabin
Supplemental cost for a cabin upgrade to a Viceroyle suite	\$2,200 per cabin
Supplemental costs for a cabin upgrade to a Maharaja Suite	\$3,260 per cabin

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

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 National Trust Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator; 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. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply.

GROUP SIZE:

This program is limited to 50 participants.

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.

**GENERAL INFORMATION
CONT.**

**PROGRAM RATES 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

TRAVEL INSURANCE

National Trust Tours strongly
recommends the purchase of trip
cancellation insurance, which is
available for coverage of expenses
in conjunction with cancellation
due to covered illness or accident.
In the event that you must
cancel your participation in a
travel program, trip cancellation
insurance may be the only source
of reimbursement. USI Travel
Insurance Services offers a plan
designed specifically for National
Trust Tours travelers, providing
coverage for Trip Cancellation,
Trip Interruption, Emergency
Medical, and more. Plus, you can
upgrade your plan with Cancel
For Any Reason (CFAR) coverage
for the utmost flexibility. CFAR
allows you to cancel your trip
for ANY reason at all and be
reimbursed up to 75% of your
pre-paid, non-refundable trip
costs (Conditions apply, see plan
for details). To purchase travel
insurance today, call: (800) 937-
1387. For additional information,
please contact National Trust
Tours at (888) 484-8785.

Complete Terms and Conditions
including a Statement of
Responsibility will be made
available 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.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS
A deposit of \$1,000 per person is
required to reserve space on this
program. If you have questions,
or to register using a credit card
(preferred method), please call
(888) 484-8785 or email info@
nationaltrusttours.com. Final
payment deadline is June 9, 2025.
For those who register on or after
June 9, 2025, full payment is due
upon registration. Final payment
must be made by check or bank
transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per
person deposit, all res-ervations
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. For cancellations
after the June 9, 2025 final
pay-ment deadline: All payments
are 100% nonrefundable,
regardless of booking date. Trip
cancellation insurance is strongly
recommended. NOTE: Neither
the National Trust for Historic
Preservation nor Criterion
Travel, the tour operator, accepts
liability for any airline cancellation
penalties incurred with the
purchase of non-refundable
tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this
tour is subject to modification
and change by the National
Trust for Historic Preservation
and 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,
the National Trust for Historic
Preservation and the tour
operator reserve the right to do
so for the safety and best interest
of the group. Any extra expenses
incurred in this situation are the
responsibility of the participant.

ELIGIBILITY

National Trust for Historic
Preservation tours are open
to members only. Membership
dues for 2024/2025 are \$30 for
family and \$20 for individual
membership. The minimum
age limit for the program is
14. Children must pay the full
price, and those under 18 must
be accompanied by a parent or
guardian. There is no maximum
age limit. PLEASE NOTE:
Participants must be in excellent
health and able to participate
in tour activities. Any physical
condition that may require
special medical attention must
be reported at the time of your
reservation. If you have any doubt
about your ability to participate
fully due to health conditions or
disabilities, contact the National
Trust at (888) 484- 8785 or (202)
588-6300. The National Trust
for Historic Preservation and
Criterion Travel reserve the right
to decline to accept or retain
any person as a member of this
tour at any time. In such case,
the refund will be limited to the
recoverable cost of unused tour
services.

*California Seller of Travel
Program CST #2088800-40*



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INDIA

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October 7 – 16, 2025

For more information or to register by phone (preferred method of
registration), please call **National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785**.
Or, return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person,
payable to Criterion Travel. Mail to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall
Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

NAME #1 BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL(S)

PAYMENT

Please charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):

VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person,
payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve _____ place(s) on

India Kolkata & The Ganges River.

NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERSHIP

I am/We are National Trust Members. My/Our membership # is _____

I am/We are not National Trust members. Please enroll me/us
as members. (\$20 individual; \$30 family)

SINGLE TRAVELERS

I prefer to have single accommodations.
or I plan to share accommodations with:

or I'd like to know about roommates

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment
deadline of June 9, 2025, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): One bed Two beds

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and
understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

INDIA Kolkata & The Ganges River

Aboard the 28-cabin Ganges Voyager
Featuring Architectural Historian Grace Gary

October 7 – 16, 2025



National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

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