

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£300
PER PERSON

ALONG THE MIGHTY BRAHMAPUTRA

A river journey through Northern India's Assam region
aboard the RV Charaideo II

13th to 31st January 2027
& 19th January to 6th February 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Think of Assam and your first thoughts probably involve tea and maybe temples. Certainly it is not noted for its tourism, mostly because of the lack of acceptable accommodation and transportation. This is a great pity, as this state that lies south of Tibet and Bhutan and north of Bangladesh has so much to offer the naturalist, bird watcher or cultural traveller. One of the world's great rivers, the Brahmaputra runs for some 1800 miles from its source in the Tibetan Himalaya to its delta in the Bay of Bengal. Nothing can prepare the traveller for the vastness and emptiness of this great water highway, as myriad channels ply through seemingly endless archipelagos of sand islands. Within striking distance of the river are a number of significant national parks. Among these is the World Heritage Site at Kaziranga, where the world's largest population of one-horned rhino resides.



This unusual journey will appeal to those who wish to witness this extraordinary area, its diverse cultures and marvellous wildlife but who are weary of the more well-trodden paths around the world. The roads may be poor and the tourist infrastructure very much in its infancy, but that is precisely why we find this region so exciting. Now is the time to visit before big business moves in with the resort hotel chains and all other paraphernalia that 21st century tourism entails. For these voyages along the Brahmaputra River we are working with our associates, Assam Bengal Navigation, an Indian/British joint venture based in Guwahati whose directors have a wealth of experience in operating river vessels in India. We have chartered the RV Charaidew II from them and the vessel is specially designed for the navigational conditions on the Brahmaputra.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London or Manchester to Kolkata, India. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Kolkata. Arrive in the morning and transfer to the JW Marriott Kolkata for a three night stay. After lunch at the hotel, enjoy an afternoon tour of India's second largest city which is regarded as the intellectual, artistic and cultural capital. See the Victoria Memorial and St Paul's Cathedral Church before we meet for dinner at our hotel this evening.

Day 3 Kolkata. After breakfast we will take an exclusive ride on India's only operating tram network and the oldest electric tram in Asia that has been running since 1902. We will then make a visit to the South Park Cemetery, the last resting place of many of Kolkata's early British settlers. After lunch in a local restaurant we will take in what is arguably the best view of Kolkata whilst sailing along the River Hooghly by local boat. Return to the hotel before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 4 Kolkata. This morning we visit the vibrant and colourful flower market and Howrah Bridge before a panoramic drive around Dalhousie Square seeing the Governor's House and St Andrew's Church. Return to the hotel for lunch before spending the afternoon at the Mother House, the former home and last resting place of Mother Theresa. After some free time to relax we meet tonight for dinner in the hotel.

Day 5 Kolkata to Guwahati. Return to the airport this morning for our flight to Guwahati. On arrival we transfer to the RV Charaidew II moored at Pandu port. Enjoy lunch while cruising downstream to Sualkuchi. An afternoon walk will take us through Sualkuchi, a bustling little town that is the centre of Assamese silk production and offers a chance to visit weaving workshops. Witness the whole process of silk manufacture, from cocoon and spinning, then dyeing to hand-weaving into exquisite mekhela chadars (a two-piece sari, the traditional attire of an Assamese woman). We then sail up to dock close to the great Saraighat bridge.

Day 6 Guwahati. This morning we drive up to Nilachal Hill to see the holy Kamakhya temple. With its tantric rites and animal sacrifice, the more squeamish may prefer to content themselves with the exterior. Also visit the poignant Commonwealth War Graves. Return to the ship and continue sailing before we moor for the night in Kurua on the north bank.

Day 7 Cruising. During our morning of cruising we will stop at a bankside village where we have a chance to meet the villagers. The rest of the day is

spent on board as we watch life unfold on the riverbanks and jungle covered hills that rise on either side. This evening we will be treated to a cooking demonstration on board.

Day 8 Tezpur. We cruise on to Tezpur, where after lunch we visit the 6th century Da Parbatia temple ruins, with a beautifully carved portal, and explore the town by cycle rickshaw. We will stop at Cole Park with Medieval stone carvings saved from sites all over the region, and aim to pass by the bungalow once lived in by Alexander Bruce, pioneer of the tea industry. Our ship will be waiting at the town's waterfront for us to re-board.

Day 9 Nameri National Park. After an early breakfast we drive for some two hours to the Nameri National Park at the foot of the blue hills of Arunachal Pradesh, the old North East Frontier Agency. Here we take a float trip of around two hours duration down the Jia Bhoreli River through the park, with excellent birdwatching (look out for the great hornbills) and perhaps the chance of sighting wild elephant. After lunch we take a village walk before returning to the ship. Continue upstream, passing below a seemingly endless new bridge across the vast width of the river bed, to moor at Silghat, a lovely beach backed by jungle-covered hills.

Day 10 Silghat & Kaziranga. This morning we will visit a nearby tea garden and the local weekly market before returning to the ship for lunch. In the afternoon we will drive to Kaziranga's Western Range for a jeep safari and to scan the wilderness from an observation tower. Kaziranga is a World Heritage Site and, with a population of over 2500 one-horned rhinoceros, it is the best place in the world to see these beasts.

Day 11 Kaziranga. After early breakfast we will drive to Kaziranga's Central Range for a jeep safari. We hope to encounter many of Kaziranga's endemic wildlife which includes good populations of wild elephant, sambar, swamp and hog deer, wild pig, plus hundreds of types of birds, flora, fauna and of course, the elusive Bengal Tiger. Lunch will be served at the Diphlu River Lodge before we enjoy an afternoon safari in the Western range of Kaziranga National Park.

Day 12 Kaziranga. This morning we will land ashore and take a jeep safari in Kaziranga's little-visited Eastern Range, with grasslands much favoured by rhino, where you might spot the rare Bengal florican. Returning to the vessel, we continue our cruise upstream with Kaziranga National Park on the right bank before arriving this evening at Biswanath where we moor overnight.



Victoria Memorial, Kolkata



Elephant family, Kaziranga National Park



Colourful Indian Roller, Kaziranga National Park



Village, Majuli Island



Tea garden, Assam

Day 13 Bishwanath. Spend the morning in Bishwanath Village with its Ahom-period Shiva temple. There are other later temples too, and we will walk through the town before re-boarding and setting off again, with Kaziranga still on the far bank.

Day 14 Cruising. Another leisurely day spent cruising upstream. We will take time to pause and walk through a bank-side village, gaining an insight into the life of rural India.

Day 15 Majuli Island. Around breakfast time, we should reach Majuli Island, supposedly the world's largest river island, and possessing unique Hindu monasteries famed for their dance-drama performances - the whole island is now shortlisted for future UNESCO World Heritage status. We will visit a monastery at Auniati with an eclectic museum and attend a dance performance at Kamalbari Monastery, before cruising across to Neamati Ghat on the opposite bank.

Day 16 Majuli Island & Dikhomukh. This morning we will visit a riverside village of Majuli Island and Samaguri Satra, where the art of mask making has been practiced for about 500 years. Later we will cruise upstream to Dikhomukh and enjoy a Mishing cooking demonstration by the onboard chef.



Single Horned Rhino, Kaziranga National Park

Day 17 Sibsagar. Drive this morning to Sibsagar, the one-time capital of the kings of Assam. Shan by origin (Assam and Siam share the same derivation) but converted to Hinduism they ruled Assam for some 700 years until the 1820s, and their culture and architecture is a strange and delightful amalgam of Indian and Southeast Asian. We will see temples with stupa like profiles, and palaces of distinctive form - note the crocodiles and rather erotic caryatids that adorn the roof of the Rang Mahal. For the record book, the temple tank here is believed to be the world's largest hand-excavated reservoir. We return to our vessel and sail to Niamati Ghat where we can visit the village as we moor overnight.

Day 18 Assam to Kolkata. Disembark after breakfast for our flight to Kolkata. On arrival we will transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 19 Kolkata to London or Manchester. Depart this morning by scheduled indirect flight, arriving into London or Manchester this evening.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

		2027		2028	
		Brochure Price	Special Offer Price	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
1	Queen Stateroom - Main Deck	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	£7495	£7195
2	Double Stateroom - Upper Deck	£7695	£7395	£7895	£7595
3	Luxury Suite - Upper Deck	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	£8895	£8595
4	Single Stateroom - Main Deck	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	£9995	£9695

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Four nights hotel accommodation in Kolkata on full board basis • 13 nights aboard the RV Charaidev II on full board basis • Local wine, beer & soft drinks with meals • Shore excursions • Tour Manager • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • UK airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Indian visa, camera fees in national parks.

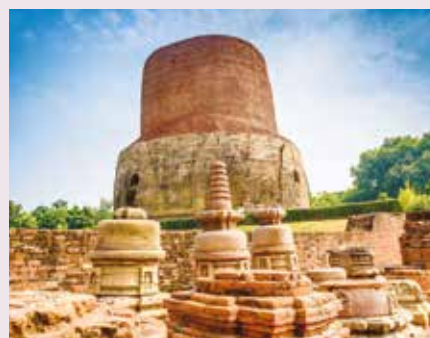
NB. Excursions, events ashore and ports are subject to change depending on entrance time allocations and river conditions. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed.

POST-CRUISE VARANASI EXTENSION

31st January to 4th February 2027 & 6th to 10th February 2028



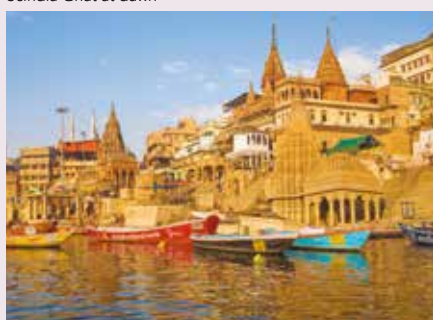
Scindia Ghat at dawn



Dhamek Stupa, Sarnath



Aarti ceremony



Scindia Ghat



Saris drying on the banks of the River Ganges



Bharat Mata Temple

Join us after your cruise for a three night stay in India's holiest city, Varanasi, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. From the comfort of our hotel we will explore this colourful and sacred city with opportunities to watch the riverside worshippers along the ghats, enjoy a cruise along the Ganges and to visit Sarnath, an important Buddhist pilgrimage site.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Kolkata to Varanasi, India. After breakfast transfer to Kolkata Airport for our short flight to Varanasi, one of India's most ancient cities and a major pilgrimage site. Its beauty lies in its centuries-old traditions, spectacular ghats, and narrow winding streets. It is a city full of beauty and history, known for its vibrant culture, colourful temples and old buildings. The River Ganges is the lifeblood of the city, and all along its banks we will see millions of devotees visiting temples and offering prayers. Tonight, we see the Aarti ceremony where prayers are offered to the goddess Ganga on the banks of the river. Afterwards we return to the hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 2 Varanasi. Early risers will have the option to join a cruise on the Ganges as we see the city come to life at dawn. Return to the hotel for breakfast and a free morning to explore at your own pace. This afternoon we take sightseeing tour of the city including the Bharat Mata Temple, Banaras Hindu University and the Sankat Mochan Temple before dinner in the hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 3 Varanasi & Sarnath. This morning we drive to Sarnath where Buddha gave his first sermon to his first five disciples. We see the Dhamek Stupa, the extensive ruins of an ancient monastery and the Archaeological Museum. Return to Varanasi for a free afternoon before we meet this evening for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4 Varanasi to Delhi. After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to Delhi. On arrival transfer to our hotel for some time at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (B, D)

Day 5 Delhi to London. After breakfast transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London. Arrive this afternoon. (B)

Prices per person Based on double occupancy

	2027	2028
Twin:	£1595	£1695
Single:	£1895	£2095

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel from Kolkata to Varanasi and Varanasi to Delhi, three nights hotel accommodation in Varanasi, overnight hotel accommodation in Delhi, meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, D – Dinner), Indian wine, beer and soft drinks included with dinner, Tour Manager, excursions, gratuities.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Indian visa.

NB. Minimum numbers are required for this extension to operate.



RV CHARAIDEW II

We are delighted to have chartered the RV Charaidew II for our scenic cruises along the Brahmaputra River. Launched in January 2019, this charming vessel features a range of comfortable cabins, all with French balconies. Accommodating a maximum of just 34 passengers and with an equal number of crew, the vessel will be sure to provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere on board. With its expansive Sun Deck there is ample opportunity to watch the world gently pass by as you relax on board your floating hotel.

Your Cabin/Suite

The ship has four grades of cabin categories. The two suites, being the largest cabins on board, are situated at the bow of the Upper Deck and measure a spacious 350 square feet. The 12 Upper Deck twin/double cabins take up the remainder of the Upper Deck and measure 240 square feet. There are two Main Deck double cabins (with fixed queen size bed) that measure 170 square feet, the same size as the two Main Deck single cabins that occupy the same deck. All cabins have sliding glass door windows that lead on to a French balcony and include stylish en-suite bathrooms with bathrobes and slippers. The cabin amenities also include a safe, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities, a hairdryer and boutique toiletries.

Your Space

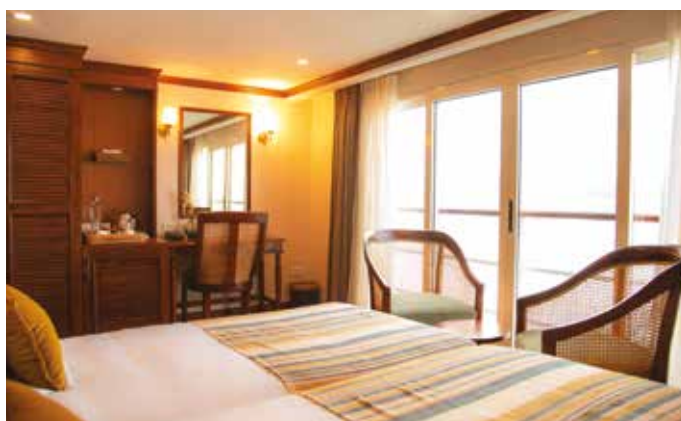
Spread over three decks, the onboard facilities include the Main Deck dining room where delicious regional and international cuisine will be served in a single seating. On the same deck you will find a gym with a good range of facilities and a spa that offers a wide range of treatments. The ship's large Sun Deck is a perfect place to observe everyday life and to be on the lookout for the many species of birds and animals that congregate along the banks of the river. On the Sun Deck itself is the ship's saloon and bar, so refreshments, respite and shade will never be too far out of reach even when busy observing the comings and goings of this most magnificent river.

Your Dining

Meals are always taken in an open seating arrangement to allow you to meet and mingle with your fellow travellers. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style and feature hot and cold dishes whereas dinner is served to your table. The cuisine is a selection of regional specialties and international dishes; Assamese cuisine generally being much milder than other regional cuisines of India. Tea, coffee and mineral water are available without charge and complimentary bottled water can always be found in your cabin and will be replenished each day.

Life On Board

The vessel offers comfortable surroundings and provides a welcoming and informal atmosphere on board. The friendly crew of 34 will do their utmost to ensure your stay is enjoyable, informative and agreeable throughout. A daily briefing by the Cruise Director will give you information on the next day's activities and English-speaking local naturalist guides provide insider knowledge into the local culture, horticulture and history of the region.



Category 2 Cabin



Saloon



Category 3 Cabin



Category 4 Cabin



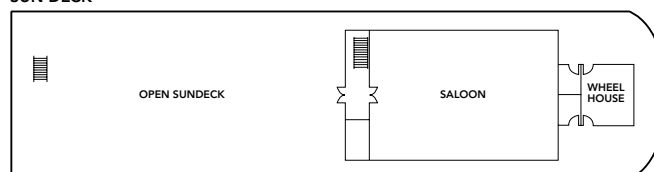
Sun Deck



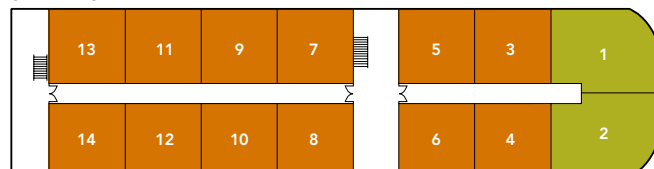
Dining Room

DECK PLAN

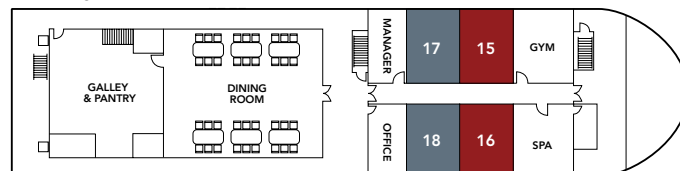
SUN DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



■ CATEGORY 1
 ■ CATEGORY 2
 ■ CATEGORY 3
 ■ CATEGORY 4



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Ports and itinerary subject to change.
 Cover image: One-horned Rhino, Kaziranga National Park.