



12 Nights Exploring the Charms of India
3-nights in Delhi, 7-nights Ganges Cruise
and 2-nights in Kolkata

Arrive in Delhi for
3-night stay

Hill Fort-Kesroli
14th century
resort.

Cruising
The River Ganges

Embark around
10.30 am

2 Night stay in
Kolkata

The Glasshouse
on The Ganges

Where the Voyage never ends



Delhi



ABN Rajmahal



Kolkata



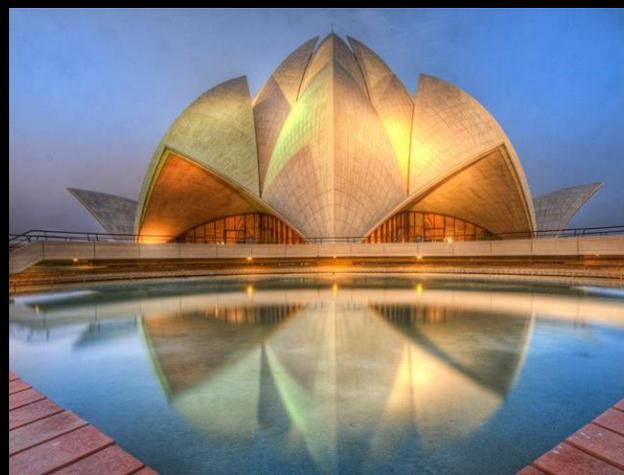
Hill Fort Kesroli Resort

The Culturally Rich Delhi

India's capital is divided into two sections, Old and New Delhi. The best period to visit this majestic city is in the pleasant weather months between mid-October to mid-March. Old Delhi is known for its ancient culture, monuments, and its crowded gastronomical lanes. The old city section was founded by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in 1639, who built forts, mosques, mansions, and beautiful gardens. Old Delhi had the first wholesale market selling fruits, herbs, and spices and the first hardware market in 1840.

After the fall of the Mughal Empire (1857), the capital was moved to Calcutta and remained so until 1911. Delhi was developed after change was declared; this is where New Delhi came into existence in 1931. This beautiful Indian capital was designed by and named after the British architect Edwin Lutyens.

The city is enriched by impressive avenues, imperial buildings, and is the home of Gandhi Ji. There is a wide variety of shopping malls, entertainment outlets, cafes and restaurants serving up incredible first-class Indian cuisine. The Metro Rail system allows you to navigate the city and if you opt for taxi's, do remember to negate your fare before jumping in, it's just the way of life here.



Hill Fort-Kesroli 14th Century Retreat

Your first vacation on your voyage of India will be in Delhi, staying at magical Hill Fort-Kesroli 14th century resort. The fort was built by the Yaduvanshi Rajputs, said to be the descendants of Lord Krishna. You will have the pleasure of living in history in sheer comfort and luxury allowing you to unwind, relax and enjoy this charming, beautiful resort for the next 4-days as you look out to mustard fields and camels from where the guns once shot the enemy. Located in the heart of the 'golden triangle', Kesroli is almost equidistant from the tourist cities of Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur.

It's an ideal base for you to visit the Sariska tiger sanctuary, Kankwadi fort, Neelkanth Temples, Pandupol, the Fort-Palace and monuments of Tijara, Jaisamand Lake, the hot springs in Talvriksh, Rajgarh, Machari, Viratnagar, Deeg, and the ancient city of Mathura and its renowned museum. Each room has been individually and artistically designed with every comfort ensuring your retreat for the next 4-days is bliss. The rooms come equipped with en-suite bathroom, minibar, coffee, and tea making facilities, safe, and balcony.

Restaurant on the resort.

North-Indian cuisine with a few Continental or Oriental dishes at random to suit a range of tastes and palates is available on the resort. South Indian, French, Italian, Chinese and Thai dishes are also often added to enrich the range of buffet spreads. All meats are mainly procured from the French Farm managed by a Frenchman to impeccable standards.

Of course, when any tourist thinks of Delhi, the Taj Mahal comes to mind, so after you visit to see one of the wonders of the world, you can begin to explore Delhi's long and very interesting history. Do keep in mind that the journey to the Taj Mahal is around 4-hours by car one way, so it's going to be a long day but certainly one to remember long after you return home.



The ABN Rajmahal

Your home for the next week will be the luxurious, uniquely constructed ship to cruise further upstream than any other river ship on the Ganges. The ship's traditional Indian inspired décor is stylish and fresh with touches of colonial elegance, brought to life on hand-blocked cotton fabrics.

There is a comfortable saloon, bar, restaurant, library, and a canopied sundeck onboard. You can also indulge yourself in one of the wide range of treatments passed down from generation to generation, leaving feeling completely refreshed. An acclaimed mixture of Assamese cuisine, milder than most Indian dishes, as well as continental fare, expertly prepared by the ship's culinary team complimented with a wide selection of wines and beers ensures your journey will be remembered long after you return home.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are included in your fare as well as all shore excursions including admissions. The friendly and professional crew will welcome you back aboard the ship with a complimentary drink and cold towel after every onshore tour. Complimentary shoe cleaning service following each excursion is provided. To keep you well entertained throughout your trip the ship has its very own dancers, singers, and a naturalist.

Your cabin retreat comes equipped with generous cupboard space and under-bed storage, en-suite shower with toilet, boutique toiletries, bathrobes, slippers and hairdryer, individual climate-control air-conditioning, minibar, safe, complimentary mineral water, tea, and coffee making facilities, French-balcony and turndown service.

Ganges River Cruise (7-Nights)

Assam Bengal Navigation presents its guests with a range of comfortable and functional accommodation; among the 22 spacious cabins on board, 18 can be configured as twins or doubles, while four are suitable for solo travellers.

SINGLE CABINS

The Raj Mahal's light, airy single cabins are ideal for guests in search of a little privacy and are fitted with all the mod-cons, including air conditioning and en-suite facilities. They are decorated with stylish colonial accents and Indian fabrics and feature private balconies.

TWIN/DOUBLE CABINS

The spacious double cabins are perfect for couples, or friends travelling together and feature bright, elegant décor with en-suite bathrooms. Each cabin has French doors leading out to private balconies.



ONBOARD FEATURES

Spacious cabins with individual climate control

En suite shower/WC with toiletries

Generous cupboard space and under-bed storage

Hair drier in each cabin

Minibar in each cabin

In-room electronic safe

Tea/coffee making facilities in cabins

Intercommunication telephone in cabins

High quality bathrobes and slippers in cabins

Large sliding glass windows offering panoramic views of the river

Vast sundeck both open and shaded, with sunlounges or steamer chairs

Spacious air-conditioned saloon with library and recorded entertainment

Spa with choice of treatments.



Your Cruise itinerary

Day 1 Kolkata and Barrackpore

After a hearty breakfast at your hotel, you will be collected to embark your ship by midday. Sail past the old Danish colony of Serampore to Barrackpore. Serampore used to be hub for Danish traders from 1755 to 1855 in honor of the Danish King Frederick V who ruled Denmark from 1746-1766. Your shore excursion will take you on a walk through the cantonment, past the Semaphore Tower, Government House, the Temple of Fame, and Flagstaff House a reminiscent passage through Indian history.

Day 2 Chandernagore

After a wonderful breakfast onboard, you meander your way to Chandernagore (also spelt Chandan Nagar), known as the "City of Liberty" has an indescribable beauty with a unique blend of culture and heritage. Chandernagore was once, one of the first outposts of India's colonial past up until 1950. Your shore excursion today takes you to the French 18th century Sacred Heart Church (l'Eglise du Sacré Cœur), an architectural masterpiece and Dupleix's House, the erstwhile Governor-General of French India.

Day 3 Kalna

After an early breakfast you sail upstream to the town of Kalna, known as the "City of Temples" and named after the Goddess Kali. Although texts found, date the town to the 6th century, it attained glory under the Maharajas of Bardhaman in the 18th century. Your shore excursion today will be a calycle rickshaw to see a group of 18th century terracotta temples. The shrine complex is an example of architectural excellence and splendour.

Day 4 Matiara and Plassey

After breakfast your first shore excursion will be a visit to the charming riverside village of Matiara, renowned for its brass-works. You get to see firsthand how locals using primitive methods, beating out brass water pots and other vessels. After a great lunch, you are recharged and ready for your next excursion as you cruise on and visit the battlefield of Plassey, where the Commander-in-Chief of British India, Robert Clive defeated the last independent Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah in 1757, changing the course of Indian history.

Day 5 Khushbagh

After a delicious breakfast your shore excursion will take you to a peaceful Mughal-style Garden that encloses the tombs of Siraj-ud-Daulah and his family. Continuing upstream you arrive at the Hazarduari Palace, roughly translating to "Palace of a Thousand Doors", built by the architect British architect, McLeod Duncan. There are exhibits ranging from Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah's prized possessions, swords and weapons used during the Battle of Plassey (1757), paintings and rare marble, porcelain, and stucco statues. Next you will visit Katra Mosque, built between 1723 and 1724, and Nashipara Palace before driving out to see the Katgola Palace. At the palaces you will see statues of lions, the symbol of British maritime imperialistic power.

Day 6 Barabagar

After a hearty breakfast you are off on your first shore excursion to the sleepy village of Baranagar visiting three beautiful terracotta temples. The "Char Bangla" temple was dedicated to Shiva by a Hindu queen more than 250 years ago. Rani Bhabani, the queen of Nator, built exquisite terracotta temples. The district incidentally was the capital of undivided Bengal, Bihar and Orissa till the British East India Company defeated Siraj ud-Daula. The Char Bangla Mandir was the most unique among the temples the queen had built. Historians believe that Rani Bhabani ruled over an enormous area that she used to be addressed as 'Ardha Bangeshwar' (Lord of half of Bengal).

Day 7 Farakka Lock

During a delicious breakfast, you cruise to a mooring by the Farakka lock. You disembark and go on a full-day excursion by road to Gaur, near the town of Malda, or English Bazar. This quiet, deserted place was once the medieval capital of Bengal, first under the Hindus in 12th century, then as the Muslim capital of Eastern India from the 14th to the 16th century.

Day 8 Disembark

After a wonderful breakfast you will transfer to Farakka station in the morning for a 4-hour (approx.) train journey to Kolkata. Our representatives will meet you on arrival and transfer you to your central Kolkata resort, the Glasshouse on the Ganges.



The Glasshouse on The Ganges

You will be checking into your luxury resort on the most auspicious spot on the Ganges with beautiful views of the mountains and the serene waters. The resort sits on an extraordinary geographical site where the Ganga turns around and flows north towards its source. Set in a lychee and mango orchard of the Maharajas of Tehri Garhwal, with a garden of tropical plants, full of rare birds and butterflies, it has a sandy beach of its own, unlike the other hotels.

This resort offers the unique opportunity to indulge yourself in the spiritual and calm atmosphere. You can easily commute between the Glasshouse and the crowded pilgrimage spots without feeling the strain of its fascinating but continuous oppression of numbers. Helping you immerse yourself in spiritual bliss is the Amrit Kashi Spa which mirrors the aesthetic of timeless charm. Once the summer retreat of the Maharajas of Tehri Garhwal is situated on the first bend of the river where it turns to the east. This has always been venerated in Vedic texts as being exceptionally auspicious. You can feel the vibrations of legendary calm, peace and serenity that are present here even today. This has been the inspiration for Amrit Kashi, the Spa.

All rooms are individually designed with the utmost attention to detail and comfort, ensuring a memorable stay for your 3-day stay at the resort. Rooms come equipped with balcony, giving fantastic views over the Ganges, en-suite bathroom, coffee and tea making facilities, TV, air-conditioning, heater, and safe. Your stay in Kolkata is free and easy, giving you a chance to take a traditional Indian Spa and sample some of the great food the city has to offer before embarking on your journey home.

Kolkata

Kolkata, formerly known as Calcutta, was founded by the British on the banks of the Hooghly River, Bengal in 1690. A couple of centuries later, the city flourished into the most important trading centre east of the Suez and until 1911, the world's second most important economic hub after London when Britain moved its capital to Delhi. Bengal, renowned for its silk, spices and opium attracted other maritime powers of the time, establishing their outposts along the river.

The River Ganges



The River Ganges (2 people)

**3-nights Staying at The Hillfort
(Delhi)
(Room with Breakfast)**

**7-night luxury Ganges Cruise
(ABN Rajmahal)
(All Inclusive)**

**2-night stay at Glasshouse on The Ganges
(Rishikesh)
(Room with Breakfast)**

Fares are in points for 2 persons travelling, based on double occupancy. Fares shown in this view may not be current. Changing the dates may change fares. Fares include Taxes, Fees & Port Expenses. Pricing and availability subject to change without notice. Stateroom availability varies by ship and category. Images shown are representative of a stateroom in that category. Room measurements are approximated, and rooms in the same category may vary in size and/or have different furniture placement, windows or fixtures from those pictured. Please be aware flights are not included. Properties on land are subject to availability*(GVC have the right to change properties to fit in with sailing dates).

**GVC Points
From 14,400**

The Taj Mahal

