



The Small Cruise Ship Collection

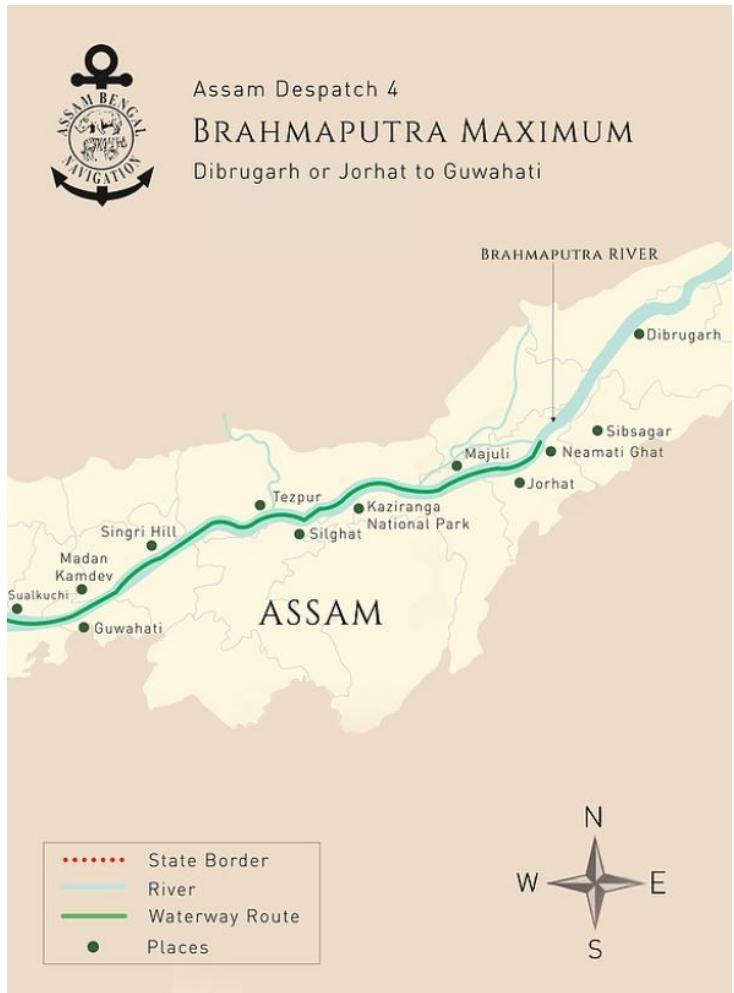
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BRAHMAPUTRA MAXIMUM - 11 DAY INDIA RIVER CRUISE

This 10-night cruise starts at a river ghat between Jorhat and Dibrugarh, and terminates at Guwahati. Highlights are the old capital of the Ahom kings at Sibsagar, Majuli Island with its Hindu monasteries, Kaziranga National Park, temples at Tezpur and Madan Kamdev, and the silk weaving village of Sualkuchi.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 Dibrugarh

Arrive at Dibrugarh, a typical colonial town and major American base in WWII, then drive for 4 ½ hrs to embark on our ship at



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Neamati Ghat. Alternatively, arrive at Jorhat airport and drive for 1 ½ hrs to the embarkation point of Neamati Ghat.

DAY 2 Sibsagar

Your first excursion and experience of the rich variety of life along the Brahmaputra is Sibsagar, the one-time capital of the Ahom kings of Assam. Shan by origin but converts to Hinduism, the Ahoms ruled Assam for some 700 years until the 1820s. Their culture and architecture is a unique and intriguing amalgam of India and Southeast Asia. You'll see temples with stupa-like profiles and palaces of distinctive form. The temple tank here is believed to be the world's largest hand-excavated reservoir and quite the feat of engineering, as you'll see. Lunch is taken at Horu Charai, a quintessential Assamese tea estate. Return to the ship and cruise downstream for three hours to Majuli island, one of the world's largest river islands.

DAY 3 Majuli

A microcosm of Assamese culture, Majuli is much-photographed but little-visited. It is a stronghold of the peaceful religion of neo-Vaishnavism and the elegant island satras -- some for celibate monks, some for families -- showcase a unique way of life where the faithful live simply, offering worship through gayan-bayan (songs and musical instruments) and readings. You'll visit a monastery at Auniati with its eclectic museum, then expect a dance performance at Kamalabari monastery. Later, return to the ship and cruise downstream for one or two hours.

DAY 4 Kaziranga National Park

A day spent mostly sailing languidly along the Brahmaputra, though you'll stop for a short visit to a tribal river village. By afternoon, Kaziranga National Park will be on your left - wild elephants are sometimes visible from the boat and once,

memorably, a tiger, so keep an eye out for movement on the banks.

DAY 5 Vishnath

This morning, you'll arrive at the delightful temple town of Vishnath, known for its fine Ahom-period temple. Take a walk ashore to explore the architecture and village life before continuing the voyage down to a quaint mooring at Silghat, where butterflies abound in the surrounding jungle. Go on your first safari in Kaziranga National Park, a jeep ride through the woodlands, grasslands and wetlands of the Western Range.

DAY 6 Kaziranga National Park

Today, drive to Kaziranga's Central Range for a morning jeep safari. Covering an area of approximately 430 sq kms, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kaziranga National Park is home to the world's largest population of the Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros as well as the Indian Wild Water Buffalo. It has also earned the distinction of having the highest density of Royal Bengal Tigers (one every five sq. km.) making this park an incredibly rich biodiversity hotspot. With its marshy swamps and thickets of elephant grass, this park supports large populations of Indian elephants, Indian bison, swamp deer, and Capped Langurs. Besides wildlife, Kaziranga National Park is also a birding paradise. A few of the bird species found here are the Oriental Honey Buzzard, Black-shouldered Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Himalayan Griffon and so on. Kaziranga National Park also frequently draws comparisons to the Serengeti in Africa due to the park's abundance of wildlife and birds. In the afternoon, go inside the Kaziranga National Park for another jeep safari.

DAY 7 Assam Tea Plantation



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Today, we will visit a picturesque Assam Tea plantation before cruising downstream under the seemingly endless bridge at Tezpur.

After lunch on board, we will be exploring on local battery - operated rickshaws to thrill you through the bustling bazaars of this riverside Assamese town as we make our way to a well-manicured Cole Park garden for an afternoon stroll to marvel at a beautiful collection of medieval stone carvings and visit the remnants of a 6th century Da Parbatia temple with its exquisitely carved portal.

DAY 8 Ganesh Pahar

After an early breakfast, we will embark on a drive of approximately one hour to Nameri National Park, nestled at the foothills of the Eastern Hiumalayas. This remarkable destination serves as a national park, tiger reserve, elephant reserve, and an important bird area. Nameri is contiguous with the Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh, forming a vast expanse of semi-evergreen and evergreen forests in Northeast India.

Once we arrive, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy a two hour float trip down the Jia-Bhoreli River, meandering through the park's stunning landscapes. This tranquil journey offers excellent bird-watching opportunities, where you might spot the magnificent Great Hornbills, and possibly even encounter wild elephants in their natural habitat.

We will return to the ship in time for lunch before continuing our cruise downstream, enriched by the beauty and biodiversity of Nameri National Park.

DAY 9 Guwahati

The day is spent on the river, crossing a lunar landscape of sand islands then closing in on the range of hills beyond which lies Guwahati. Moor for the night not far from Ganesh Pahar.

DAY 10 Sualkuchi

Take a walk through Sualkuchi, a bustling little town and the center of Assamese silk production. Your visit to the weaving workshops is a rare opportunity to witness the whole process of silk manufacturing, from cocoon and spinning to dyeing and hand-weaving into exquisite mekhela chadars (a two-piece sari, the traditional allure of an Assamese woman). You then sail up to dock close to the great Saraihat bridge and take a tour of Guwahati, driving up Nilachal Hill to the Kamakhya temple. With its tantric rites and animal sacrifices, the more squeamish may prefer to content themselves with its exteriors. Visit the poignant Commonwealth War Graves, the museum and the colorful bazaars.

DAY 11 Guwahati

Disembark this morning and transfer to Guwahati airport for final departure.

Please Note:

This itinerary, including the cruise and approximate driving durations, is subject to river and weather conditions. Kaziranga National Park includes low-lying grassland, which may not be visitable when the river is at or near flood level.



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YOUR SHIP: ABN CHARAIDEW II

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

bathrobes and slippers in cabins Large sliding glass windows offering panoramic views of the river Vast sundeck both open and shaded, with sofas and sun loungers Spacious air-conditioned saloon Mini library Spa with choice of treatments In-house gym SERVICES Shore excursion program including all admissions Services of in-house guide and naturalist during excursions and onboard Cold towel service after excursions Welcome drink after excursions Shoe-cleaning after excursions Turndown service in all cabins Expertly trained culinary staff Single seating for buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner Acclaimed combination of Indian and Western cuisines Wide choice of wines, spirits and beer Complimentary tea, coffee and packaged water throughout Welcome reception Farewell reception Local on-board dance & song performances 24/7 power backup Wi-Fi internet in the saloon, sundeck; dining hall (subject to network availability) during



the day time.



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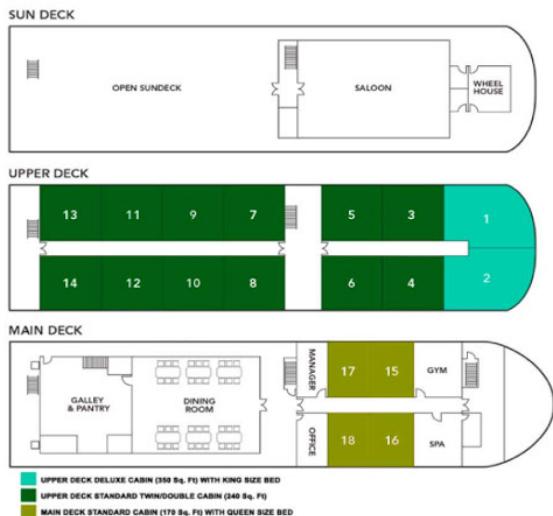
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