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BRAHMAPUTRA MAXIMUM

This cruise covers most of the highlights of Assam: Jeep safaris tracking rhinos and tigers in Kaziranga National Park, visits to the old capital of the Ahom kings and to the Hindu monasteries on Majuli Island, and walks in tea gardens and through tribal villages. Some of the great places we visit DIBRUGARH The upper limit of navigation on the Brahmaputra, Dibrugarh is an army town that was the end of the Stilwell Road built to link India to China in World War II. From airfields in this area also operated the great supply operation over The Hump to China. SIVASAGAR The old capital of the Kingdom of Assam, The Kings, of Thai stock, were converts to Hinduism, and their substantial remaining places and temples are an amalgam of Indian and S.E. Asian styles. The tank besides which the main temple stands is said to be the world's largest man-excavated reservoir. MAJULI ISLAND A vast river island in the Brahmaputra, on which are a number of unique Vaishnavite Hindu monasteries, famous for performances of religious dance-drama. JORHAT One of the two centres of the Assam tea industry, surrounded by tea estates. Close to here, the Tea Research Institute makes a fascinating visit. KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK A UNESCO World Heritage site and right on the river, Kaziranga National park holds the world's largest population of the Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros as well as the world's highest density of the Royal Bengal Tiger. Large populations of elephant, wild buffalo, sambar, swamp deer, hog deer and many other species also call this park home. Kaziranga is often referred to as the Serengeti of Asia. TEZPUR Another tea centre, and the access point to Nameri National Park in the foothills. Orang National Park is on the river banks downstream from here. GUWAHATI The

state capital of Assam, Guwahati is a bustling city that's built along the Brahmaputra river. Offshore lies Peacock Island with its temple, while on a hill above the town, Tantric rites are practised at the Kamakhya Temple. There's a good museum and a poignant War cemetery. SUALKUCHI A delightful riverside village, where Assamese silk is produced and handwoven. HAJO A pilgrimage centre sacred to Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists, with a sacred tank full of

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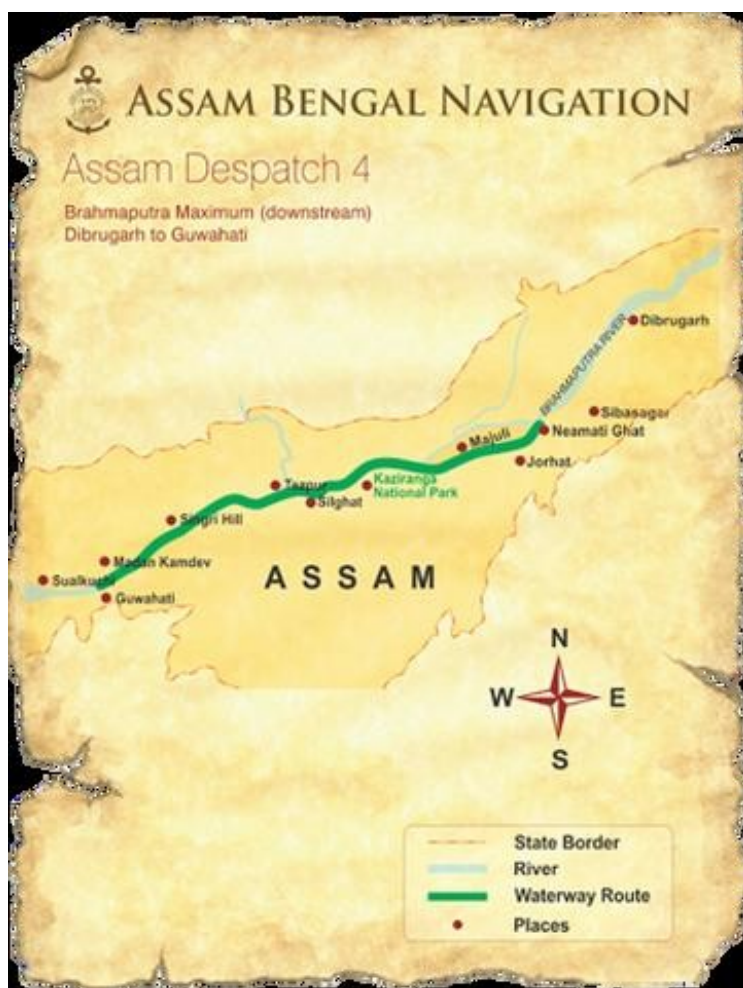
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base in WWII, then drive for 2 ½ hrs to Dikhou Mukh and embark on our ship. Alternatively, arrive at Jorhat airport and drive for 1 ½ hrs to Dikhou Mukh. (Dependent on river conditions, it may be necessary to board at Neamati, closer to Jorhat.)

DAY 2 Sibsagar - Majuli island

Go on an excursion by road to 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, and their culture and architecture is a strange and delightful amalgam of India and Southeast Asia. We shall see temples with stupa-like profiles and palaces of distinctive form. For the record book, the temple tank here is claimed to be the world's largest hand-excavated reservoir. Lunch is taken at Horu Charai, a 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 island

A microcosm of Assamese culture, Majuli represents rural idyll in Assam. A stronghold of the peaceful religion of neo-Vaishnavism, 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. Visit Auniati monastery and its eclectic museum and, in the afternoon, attend a dance performance at Kamalabari monastery. Later, return to the ship and cruise downstream for one or two hours.

turtle and carp.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Dibrugarh

Arrive at Dibrugarh, a typical colonial town and major American

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DAY 4 Kaziranga National Park

A day spent mostly on the river, though we shall stop and make a short visit to a tribal village by the river. By afternoon, Kaziranga National Park will be on our left - wild elephants are sometimes visible from the boat and once, memorably, a tiger.

DAY 5 Kaziranga National Park

This morning, you will arrive at the little temple town of Vishnath, known for its fine Ahom-period temple. Take a walk ashore before continuing the voyage down to a delightful mooring at Silghat, with butterflies abounding in the surrounding jungle. Go on your first safari through Kaziranga National Park, a jeep ride through its Western Range, with good woodland as well as grassland and wetlands.

DAY 6 Kaziranga National Park

Disembark pre-dawn and drive to Kaziranga's Central Range for an early 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. After breakfast, walk through terraced tea gardens and visit a village of the Mising tribe. In the afternoon, drive to Kaziranga's little-visited Eastern Range or Burapahar Range for another jeep safari before returning to the boat.

DAY 7 Tezpur

Cruise downstream under the seemingly endless new bridge to dock at Tezpur. After lunch on board, we visit the remains of the 6th century Da Parbatia temple with its exquisitely carved portal. Board cycle rickshaws to take us through the bazaars to Cole Park with its collection of medieval stone carvings. Later, reboard our ship and cruise downstream to moor for the night near the isolated Singri Hill.

DAY 8 On the River

The day is spent on the river, traversing 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 9 Guwahati

This morning's voyage is particularly pretty, with jungle-covered hills in the south bank. Reaching Guwahati by midday, we moor

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opposite the city and climb up to the pretty Aswaklanta temple before driving out to the temple ruins of Madan Kamdev, their erotic carvings being an indicator of the strong tantric traditions of the area. Return to the ship and cruise downstream to Sualkuchi either this very evening or the following morning.

this itinerary are approximate.

DAY 10 Sualkuchi - Guwahati

Walk through Sualkuchi, a bustling little town that is the centre of Assamese silk production, to visit weaving workshops. Witness the whole process of silk manufacture, from cocoon and spinning to dyeing and 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 and take a tour of Guwahati, driving up Nilachal Hill to the Kamakhya temple. With its tantric rites and animal sacrifices, the more squeamish among us may prefer to content themselves with its exteriors. Visit the poignant Commonwealth War Graves, the museum and the bazaars.

DAY 11 Guwahati

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

Please Note:

Cruising is subject to river conditions. Kaziranga National Park comprises low-lying grassland, which may not be visitable when the river is at or near flood level. All driving times mentioned in

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YOUR SHIP: ABN CHARAIDEW II

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

ABN Charaidew II, entered service on the Brahmaputra in January 2019. Built in Kolkata, her length is 44.50 m and breadth is 11.00 m and is powered by 2 engines. Her extra-shallow draught and a lower profile than conventional designs allow her to cruise faster. ABN Charaidew II has 18 cabins in total: 2 spacious deluxe cabins (350 sq. feet) and 12 spacious twin/double cabins (240 sq. feet.) are on the upper deck while 4 cabins with queen size bed (170 sq. feet) are on the main deck for which we charge no supplement. The decor reflects a sense of homecoming to Assam, with touches of colonial elegance, brought to life by traditional Assamese designs on hand-woven cotton fabrics. All standard cabins on ABN Charaidew II have French balconies, while the two deluxe cabins have a private balcony. There is a comfortable saloon and bar, dining room, a big open sundeck, gym, and a small spa onboard which offers a wide range of treatments. **ONBOARD FEATURES** Spacious cabins with individual climate control En suite shower/WC with Biotique 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 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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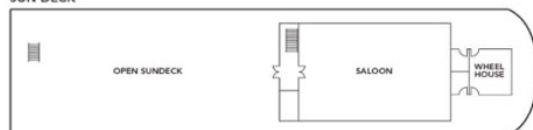
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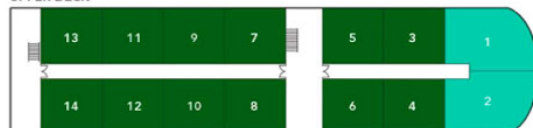
INSIDE YOUR SHIP

ABN CHARAIDEW II

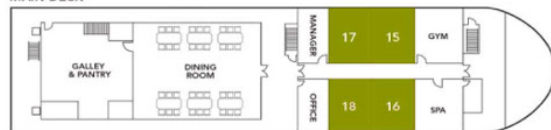
SUN DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



■ UPPER DECK DELUXE CABIN (399 Sq. Ft) WITH KING SIZE BED
■ UPPER DECK STANDARD TWIN/DOUBLE CABIN (340 Sq. Ft)
■ MAIN DECK STANDARD CABIN (179 Sq. Ft) WITH QUEEN SIZE BED



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ADDITIONAL CHARGES:

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