

INDIA BY LAND AND RIVER: TAJ MAHAL, SAFARIS AND THE BRAHMAPUTRA

Experience a diverse swath of India on a grand journey that pairs the country's most renowned attractions--Taj Mahal and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve--with lesser-known treasures in Kolkata and the Brahmaputra River region. Venture out on jeep safaris to spot a parade of wildlife in two exceptional national parks. Visit ancient temples and monasteries, connect with welcoming Assamese people in remote riverside villages and learn what it takes to cultivate world-famous teas. As you explore by land, air and river aboard the intimate Charaidew II, you'll develop a richer understanding of this vast nation in its bustling cities and in seldom-visited regions where the natural world is on full display.



ITINERARY

Day 1-2 New Delhi, India / Bandhavgarh National Park

Arrive in New Delhi, the capital of India, and transfer to the Taj Mahal Hotel. The next morning, fly to Jabalpur on the recommended flight; transfers to the airport and luggage assistance will be provided. Upon arrival, drive to Bandhavgarh National Park to your luxury tented accommodations at the Oberoi Vindhyavilas Wildlife Resort. Gather with your fellow travelers this evening for a welcome reception and dinner at the resort.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served on Day 2.

Arrival Time: Arrive before 3:00p.m. local time.



Arrival City: New Delhi, India** **

Day 3-4 Bandhavgarh National Park

Enjoy morning and afternoon jeep safaris through Bandhavgarh National Park, which offer chances of spotting tigers, leopards, wild boar and more than 250 species of birds, including the vibrant green bee-eater. Though sightings are not guaranteed, the park boasts a high density of Royal Bengal tigers. Its varying topography and relatively small size create the perfect habitat for these majestic cats to hide, prowl and hunt. Each evening, you'll dine on sumptuous meals and review your adventures with daily Recaps at the resort.

Day 5 New Delhi

Transfer to Jabalpur and fly back to New Delhi on the recommended flight; transfers to the airport and luggage assistance will be provided. Stay overnight at the Taj Mahal Hotel.

Day 6-7 Agra

This morning, drive to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal. En route, you'll have a guided visit to the Agra Bear Rescue Facility, the largest sloth bear rescue facility in the world. Established in 1999, it currently houses 110 sloth bears as well as many other species of wildlife. Learn how the facility undertakes advanced research and provides specialized veterinary care for the bears before you enjoy lunch and check in at ITC Mughal or Taj Hotel and Convention Centre. On an evening visit to Mehtab Bagh, one of 11 Mughal gardens along the Yamuna River, you'll have spectacular sunset views and opportunities to photograph the Taj Mahal.

The following morning, you'll again enjoy wonderful light for photography during a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal. Later in the day, explore Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as your guide illuminates its storied history dating back to the 16th century as both a fortress and home to many royal families.

Day 8-9 New Delhi / Kolkata

Drive to New Delhi and fly to Kolkata on the recommended flight; transfers to the airport and luggage assistance will be provided. Formerly known as Calcutta, it was founded in 1690 by the East India Trading Company and served as India's capital under the British Raj for over 125 years. Enjoy two nights at The Oberoi Grand Hotel or ITC Royal Bengal Hotel.

Venture out early into Kolkata to beat the heat and legendary Indian traffic. As the city wakes up, take in its bustling streets as people commute to work or head to the River Hooghly where they cleanse and purify themselves. You'll witness this cleansing ritual amongst the colorful riverside flower market where all the city's religious flowers originate.

Explore the roots of the British Raj in India alongside Armenian and Portuguese churches, as well as Jewish synagogues, in and around Dalhousie Square. See the famous Writers' Building--the former HQ of the infamous East India Company, the magnificent Governor's House and the almost forgotten Charnock Mausoleum. Break for a cup of tea and a snack during the walk.

Next, visit North Kolkata, "The Black Town," where a parallel culture influenced by the Europeans flourished among the pioneering families of Bengal. Explore the four ornate temples of



the Jain Temple Complex, with its shimmering mirrors, ceramic tiles and chandeliers brought to India by rich merchants from Persia, Japan and Europe.

After, you'll go to the Bengali Quarter, the bastion of Bengali culture, featuring the home of multi-talented Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. The house, now a museum, showcases the life of his family in 19th century Bengal and their involvement in the Bengali Renaissance, the Brahmo Samaj movement and the Freedom Struggle of India.

Following lunch, visit Kumartuli, where giant, lifelike religious idols are beautifully created out of river clay and adorned with intricate accoutrements for the city's numerous festivals. End this jam-packed day with a visit to the Motherhouse, Mother Teresa's home and the center of her Missionaries of Charity, where you'll witness her modest tomb and the spartan room where she lived and died.

Dinner is served on Day 8; breakfast, lunch and dinner are served on Day 9.

Day 10 Kolkata / Jorhat / Embark Ship / Brahmaputra River

Travel by air from Kolkata to Jorhat on our recommended flight; transfers to the airport and luggage assistance will be provided. Jorhat is a major city in the remote Indian state of Assam, home to unique cultures, world-famous tea, rich biodiversity and the mighty Brahmaputra River. Drive a short distance this afternoon to Neamati Ghat to embark the charming _Charaidew II_. With many places almost inaccessible on foot, your river voyage is a perfect way to experience the 'real India' in this often-overlooked corner of the country. Settle into your cabin before getting to know the ship and her crew during a welcome briefing, reception and dinner.

Day 11 Majuli Island

Greet the day with morning yoga on the top deck before a visit to Majuli Island, one of the world's largest river islands and home to the Mising, Deori and Sonowal Kachari people--a microcosm of Assamese cultures.

Seldom visited, Majuli is a stronghold of the peaceful neo-Vaishnavism religion and their elegant _satras _(monasteries), dating back to the 15th century, have played a crucial role in preserving Assamese art, culture and tradition. Visit a monastery at Auniati with its eclectic museum, then attend a dance performance at Kamalabari monastery before returning to the ship for an afternoon of sailing and onboard presentations.

Charaidew II will tie up on a sandy riverbank this evening, and you'll go ashore for stargazing, cocktails and chef-prepared treats such as tikkas and kebabs around a roaring beach campfire.

Day 12 Village Visit / Biswanath Ghat

This morning, explore another Assamese village. Friendly locals will greet you with smiles as you stroll their riverside community, learn about their day-to-day life and share stories from your home with them. Spend the rest of the day sailing along the Brahmaputra. Attend naturalist presentations or enjoy some time in the spa. This afternoon, approach Kaziranga National Park. Scan the banks and fields from the ship's deck for colorful birdlife, wild buffalo, elephants or, if you're lucky, a rare sighting of tigers or endangered Gangetic dolphins. Anchor for the night



at Biswanath Ghat.

Day 13-14 Biswanath / Kaziranga National Park / Silghat

Visit Biswanath, known for its friendly people and Ahom-period Shiva temples, before sailing to Silghat. From there you'll drive to Kaziranga National Park for jeep safaris. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the park is home to the world's largest population of Indian one-horned rhinoceros, as well as the Indian wild water buffalo. It also has the highest density of Royal Bengal tigers in the country--one every five square kilometers! With its marshy swamps and thickets of elephant grass, the park supports large populations of Indian elephants, Indian bison, swamp deer and capped langurs. The park is also an Important Bird Area, and you'll have a chance to spot an array of birdlife including the oriental honey buzzard, black-shouldered kite, white-tailed eagle, hornbills and bee-eaters.

Day 15 Kaliabor Tea Estate / Singri Pahar

This morning, visit the Kaliabor Tea Estate in Silghat, where you'll learn more about the history of growing and processing of Assam tea. Engage with expert tea tasters who will hold a tasting session to help you discover the nuanced flavors and aromas of the different types grown in Assam. After lunch, attend informative presentations and a cooking demonstration, or relax and reflect aboard the ship as you sail to Singri Pahar for the night.

Day 16 Pandu

This morning, sail past jungle-covered hills on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River. Enjoy a presentation on Mekhla Chador, a traditional style of Assamese women's attire. In Pandu, drive up to Nilachal Hill to visit the ancient Kamakhya temple which is dedicated to the Mother Goddess and known for its unique architecture and cultural significance. Stroll around the temple's exteriors, soaking in the rich history and spirituality that define this sacred place. Spend your final night aboard _Charaidew II_ sharing memories at the farewell reception with a guest photo slide show before dinner. Dock at Guwahati for the night.

Day 17 Guwahati / Disembark Ship / Kolkata

Disembark in Guwahati after breakfast and transfer to the airport to fly to Kolkata on our recommended flight; transfers to the airport and luggage assistance will be provided. Check in at Taj Taal Kutir (or similar) for an overnight stay. The next morning, transfer to the airport for flights home.

**Departure Time: **Depart anytime on Day 18.
Departure City: Kolkata, India** **

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included on Day 17; breakfast is included on Day 18.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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

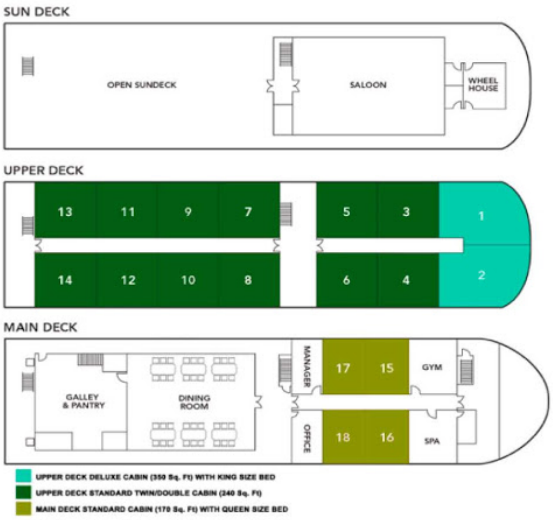


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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

ABN CHARAIDEW II



Category 01



Category 02



Category 03





PRICING

18-Feb-2027 to 07-Mar-2027

Category 01	£18475 GBP pp
Category 02	£21705 GBP pp
Category 03	£27189 GBP pp

25-Feb-2027 to 14-Mar-2027

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Category 03	£26335 GBP pp
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