

NAGALAND'S HORNBILL FESTIVAL AND BRAHMAPUTRA EXPEDITION - EXPLORE NORTHERN INDIA

Nagaland is known as the land of festivals and each December, the Hornbill Festival takes place in Kohima uniting the various Naga tribes for a yearly celebration of the culture and traditions of the region. Famed for its fierce and distinct Naga Warriors, Nagaland is a must-see for travellers in India's North East and for the first time Pandaw is offering a guided tour of this unique annual celebration, combined with a 7 night expedition along the mighty Brahmaputra River. This is a group tour exploring the Hornbill Festival across multiple days after a 10-night Brahmaputra expedition. Transportation to and from the festival site and excursions each day are provided as a group by coach or car but our local guides and vehicles will be on hand to support those who wish to return early. This is a flexible tour which may change depending on specific festival activities at time of visit or group consensus.





ITINERARY

DAY 1 KOLKATA

Upon arrival in Kolkata, guests are transferred to their hotel for a day at leisure to relax or explore the city before the journey to the hills of Nagaland.Overnight: Kolkata
Meals: Lunch & Dinner

DAY 2 KOLKATA - KOHIMA

An early morning flight leads to Guwahati, followed by a train journey on the Jansatabdi Express to Dimapur and a coach transfer to Kohima. After settling in, the evening features an engaging talk on the historic WWII Battles of Kohima and Imphal, setting the scene for the days ahead.

Overnight in Kohima
Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 3 KOHIMA

We explore the historic Kohima Ridge, visiting key sites of the 'Stalingrad of the East' battle and the poignant War Cemetery dedicated to the soldiers who fought there. The afternoon includes a visit to the stunning Kohima Cathedral, a prominent landmark and enduring symbol of peace.

Overnight in Kohima
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 KOHIMA - KHONOMA

The day begins at the Nagaland State Museum, showcasing intricate Naga tribal artefacts and costumes. We then proceed to Khonoma, India's first 'Green Village' and home to the Angami tribe, for a guided walk through ceremonial gates, ancient forts, and traditional morungs (age-group houses).

Overnight in Kohima
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 HORNBILL FESTIVAL, KISAMA

We immerse ourselves in the vibrant Hornbill Festival, known as the 'Festival of Festivals', at Kisama Heritage Village. The day is filled with mesmerising tribal performances, traditional games, indigenous brews, and the exploration of traditional Naga houses displaying rich heritage.

Overnight in Kohima
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 6 HORNBILL FESTIVAL, KISAMA

Continuing the festival experience, we delve deeper into the kaleidoscope of tribal life, witnessing rhythmic traditional dances, vibrant attire, and discovering hidden gems within the lively market stalls.

Overnight in Kohima
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7 MOUNT PULIEBADZE

A hike to the summit of Mount Puliebadze (2,300 m) offers breathtaking views of Kohima, with an alternative option available to visit the festival venue. After a local lunch at the mountain base, the rest of the day is free to soak in the atmosphere of Kohima.

Overnight in Kohima
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 GUWAHATI

After breakfast, we transfer to Dimapur to board the train to Guwahati to join your river expedition.

Meals: Breakfast

Arrive in Guwahati and transfer to the RV Kindat Pandaw. At 2pm, we cast off from Pandu Port and begin our journey upstream. Learn about the Brahmaputra River with a talk from our knowledgeable guide. Enjoy a cocktail hour with canapes. We anchor near Mayong for the night.

DAY 9 SAILING

Spend the day sailing against the strong currents of the Brahmaputra River, making your way through the lush Assam countryside. Take advantage of the onboard activities and lectures to learn more about the region's fascinating culture and history.

DAY 10 SILGHAT & VILLAGE WALK

Arrive in Silghat and disembark for a leisurely walk through a typical Assamese village, experiencing the daily life and traditions of the friendly locals. In the evening, enjoy a captivating performance of traditional Assamese folk dances like the Jhumur and Bihu.

DAY 11 KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Embark on a thrilling jeep safari through the renowned Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This wildlife haven boasts the world's largest population of the Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros and a high density of Royal Bengal Tigers, though sightings of these elusive creatures are rare. Keep an eye out for other fascinating wildlife like Indian elephants, bison, swamp deer, and a variety of bird species as you traverse the park's diverse landscape.

DAY 12 NAMERI NATIONAL PARK & BAMUNI HILLS

After an early breakfast, embark on an exciting adventure to Nameri National Park, nestled at the foot of the blue hills of Arunachal Pradesh. Take a relaxing float trip down the Jia-Bhoreli River, spotting diverse birdlife and soaking in the breathtaking scenery. Later, journey to Bamuni Hills to marvel at the ancient rock carvings dating back to the 8th century, offering a glimpse into the artistic heritage of the region.

DAY 13 MAYONG VILLAGE



Step ashore in Mayong Village, shrouded in mystique and known for its long-standing association with magic and sorcery. Delve into the intriguing history of this unique village, learning about ancient mantras and their uses in everything from healing to identifying thieves. You might even witness a captivating magic demonstration by a local resident. Later, continue sailing downstream, enjoying the ever-changing scenery and onboard activities.

DAY 14 SUALKUCHI

Rise early for a visit to Sualkuchi, a major center for silk production in Assam. Discover the intricate art of silk-making, from the delicate silkworms spinning their cocoons to the skilled weavers creating exquisite sarees worn by local women.

DAY 15 GUWAHATI

Disembark in Guwahati and bid farewell to the majestic Brahmaputra River as you transfer to the airport or hotel for your onward journey.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: KINDAT PANDAW

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Kindat Pandaw is a very shallow draft vessel that can go just about anywhere anytime, it is big enough to carry 30-40 passengers with lots of outdoor deck space. The ship has quality mountain bikes for your independent exploration. ACCOMMODATION 8 upper deck, 10 main deck, 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass, AC with individual control, Premium mattresses, Multi-configuration plugs, 24h laundry service WINING & DINING Bistro style dining room with outside seating and air-conditioning inside, Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team, Semi-buffet breakfast, semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners, Daily lean & light menu options, Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes, Extensive wine list with premium wines, Welcome drink on arrival, Welcome cocktail, Farewell reception, Theme dinners, 24hrs hospitality bar, Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls ON EXCURSIONS Admissions, Shoe cleaning after excursions, Bottled drinking water, We give away aluminium water bottles, Cold towel service after excursions, Refreshing drink following excursions, 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions, Quality mountain bikes available for independent exploration SAFETY & SECURITY All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards, Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas, Fire fighting system in all ship areas, Expert marine superintendant, 24 hrs watch on duty ONBOARD STAFF Captain, River Pilot, First Officer, Chief Engineer, 1st Engineer, Electrician, Bosun & nautical crew, Ship manager, Housekeeping, Dining, Bar keeper, Chefs, Local tour guides PUBLIC SPACES Guest relation desk, Library with contemporary and classic



literature



PRICING

03-Dec-2026 to 17-Dec-2026

Upper deck single	**£9449 GBP pp**