



INDO ASIA TOURS

KOLKATA, PURI & BHUBANESWAR WITH BRAHMAPUTRA CRUISE (Upstream)

Kolkata - Guwahati - M.V Mahabaahu - Jorhat - Kolkata - Bhubaneswar - Puri - Bhubaneswar - Kolkata
13 Nights / 14 Days

Travel Proposal

Ref No. 32319



Program Details

Day 01:

Arrive at Kolkata

Arrive in Kolkata. On arrival, you will be greeted and assisted by our representative and transferred to the hotel.
(Rooms will be available from 14:00 hrs only)

KOLKATA - The word Kolkata derives from the Bengali term Kolikata, the name of one of three villages that predated the arrival of the British, in the area where the city eventually was to be established.

Located on the east bank of River Hooghly, Kolkata is the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal. It is also the commercial, cultural, and educational centre of East India, while the Port of Kolkata is India's oldest port as well as its sole major riverine port. The city's documented history begins with the arrival of the English East India Company in 1690, when the Company was consolidating its trade business in Bengal. Under the East India Company and later under the British Raj, Kolkata served as the capital of India until 1911, when its perceived geographical disadvantages, combined with growing nationalism in Bengal, led to a shift of the capital to New Delhi.

On arrival in Kolkata, transfer to hotel. After breakfast, enjoy sightseeing of Kolkata including the following.

Victoria Memorial

A splendid architectural structure was built in the early 20th Century in memory of Queen Victoria by Lord Curzon between 1906 and 1921 and was formally inaugurated by the Prince of Wales. The Victoria Memorial blends the best of the British and Mughal architecture. It is interesting to note that the Victoria Memorial was built without British government funds. Today it is a museum having an assortment of Victoria memorabilia, British Raj paintings and other displays. At present it has notable collection of weapons, sculptors, paintings, maps, coins, stamps, artifacts, textiles etc. It is closed on Mondays.

Kumartuli

Kumartuli is India's only potter's town. Every lane and by lane of Kumartuli will have houses which have been converted into platforms where artists work round the clock to develop clay idols of the deities of the Hindu pantheon like Durga, Kali, Saraswati, Ganesha etc.

Mother Teresa House

Nirmal Hriday is the first institution established in 1950 by Mother Teresa under her own Organization Missionaries

of Charity. This is the home for dying people. Later she established many other homes in Kolkata like Orphanage, old age people etc. Kolkata is the worldwide Head Quarter of Missionaries of Charity

St. Paul Cathedral Church

St.Paul's Cathedral is built on the Indo-Gothic style of architecture. Major W.N Forbes of East India Company built it in the year 1847. The height of the Cathedral is 201 feet. This Cathedral has the rare distinction of being the 1st Episcopal Church of the East.

Separate Optional Sightseeing for 02 pax

Botanical Garden: These are situated on the west bank of the Ganga, covering an area of about 273 acres. Laid out in the year 1787, it is one of the oldest and largest botanical gardens of India. It contains about 12,000 living perennial plants and millions of dried out plants gathered from world over. The main attraction of the botanical gardens is the giant size banyan tree that is said to have the second largest canopy in the world.

Enjoy a short ride in **local tram** to the experience of this Heritage ride. Started in 1902, tram system runs only in Kolkata in the whole country. It's one of those distinct features that offer a very special look to Kolkata unlike other metros.

Floating Market

There's a touch of Bangkok in south Kolkata now, as 114 boats on Patuli Lake host 280 shops selling everything from essentials such as fruits, vegetables, fish and meat to household items. There are even two salons. The floating market is India's first and is part of a beautification drive undertaken by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The state government, along with the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority, launched this initiative to rehabilitate the shopkeepers of the Baishnabghata-Patuli market, which is being demolished for the widening of a bypass.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

Day 02:

Kolkata / Guwahati (Flight) / MV Mahabaahu

After early breakfast enjoy visit of Howrah Bridge and flower market

Howrah Bridge (Drive past)

Howrah Bridge, located over the Hoogli River is said to be the busiest bridge of the world. It got its name owing to

the fact that it connects the city of Howrah to Calcutta and is the lifeline of the city. Howrah Bridge is a cantilever truss bridge that was constructed in 1939 with 26,500 tons of steel without using any nuts and bolts and was opened to traffic in 1943. It stands on two 270 feet high pillars and acts as an important symbol of Kolkata. Popularly known as the Rabindra Setu, after Rabindranath Tagore- a great poet and the first Indian Nobel laureate, the eight-lane cantilevered bridge carries a steady flow of more than lakh vehicles and 2 million commuters every day. It is an engineering marvel.

Flower Market

Flower market underneath Howrah Bridge is one of the Asia's largest wholesale flower markets. Thousands of people gather here daily to buy and sell flowers and plants. The vivid orange and yellow garlands make for a spectacular splash of color.

Later transfer to the Airport to connect flight to Guwahati.

Arrive at Guwahati International Airport and with packed lunch we drive towards Pandu Port where an Assamese welcome aboard the MV Mahabaahu awaits us. After the essential safety briefing and a short presentation on the Peacock Island that is famous for its highly endangered Golden Langur, we check into our cabins.

All gather on the open deck to enjoy the first sail and scan the river for a fleeting sight of the Gangetic Dolphins. We visit the Peacock Island and return to MV Mahabaahu where we enjoy a talk on 'Kamakhya and the Occult in Assam. An evening in the Soma Lounge followed by the 'Kamrup Swaagat Bhoj'—a sit down welcome dinner completes the day.

Overnight onboard M.V Mahabaahu.

Day 03:

M.V Mahabaahu - A Village Visit/ Full Day Sail

MV Mahabaahu lifts anchor early. We enjoy Yoga on the deck for an hour and move on to breakfast, while MV Mahabaahu heads on through the hills towards an island that is occupied predominantly by a Bangla speaking Muslim community who are involved in extensive farming.

After breakfast we enjoy a talk on 'Assam, its geographical location in the national and international context and how it is acclaiming recognition'

After the visit to this village we return to the ship for lunch and sail towards Orang Point.

We enjoy A talk on 'The River Brahmaputra and the tribal life' over a cup of tea and some snacks. We anchor at a deserted island for the evening and enjoy sitting around a bonfire to indulge in barbequed snacks.

Overnight onboard M.V Mahabaahu.

Day 04:

M.V Mahabaahu - Sail To Silghat / Visit Tea Estate And / Or Jute Mill

MV Mahabaahu sails early and we enjoy Yoga on the deck and move on for breakfast and for a talk on 'Wild life in Kaziranga and wild life in India'

We sail on for the next couple of hours and enjoy a relaxed lunch and reach Silghat. After a talk on 'Tea and Jute in Assam', we take a short drive to Kaliabore Tea Estate which is a vast expanse of undulating estate with tea bushes, watching the tribal women pick tea leaves. We proceed to the tea factory to see the process of finally producing Assam Tea and coming to terms with 'all that goes into preparing a cup-of-tea. **(The tea factory is not operational from mid- December to mid -February as the tea is at its dormant stage during this time of the year)**

We return to where the ship is anchored. Close by a co-operative Jute Mill is an interesting place to understand how the Jute fibre takes the form of very eco friendly gunny bags.

By sunset, we enjoy a cultural evening on the ship. We have an early dinner and retire for the evening.

Overnight onboard M.V Mahabaahu.

Day 05:

M.V Mahabaahu - Kaziranga National Park / Weaver's Village at Bishwanath Ghat

We rise very early today and after a warm cup of tea and some snacks; drive out towards the Kaziranga National Park. The most prized inhabitant of Kaziranga is the Greater One-Horned Indian Rhinoceros, but the Park is home to as many as 180 different mammals including wild elephants, tiger, deer, Asiatic wild buffalo and a rich variety of birds.

We reach the Kohora Mihimukh range of the National Park and are ready to start our morning adventure; once-in-a-lifetime elephant-backed safari where we search for the elusive rhinoceros, tigers, swamp deer and hog deer and more and a large number of very interesting birds. The park never ceases to surprise us.

After breakfast at a resort in Kaziranga, we drive on to Bagori, the Western Range of Kaziranga and get into the open jeeps for some more wild life adventure and an extensive coverage of this magnificent park.

We return to MV Mahabaahu for a leisurely lunch and a relaxed afternoon.

(In October and May when Kaziranga National Park is closed we do a short Jeep Safari in the outer area of the Kaziranga National Park. Elephant safari is not possible but one can opt for elephant joy ride on the outskirts of the park. During these two months we have an additional Boat Safari in a very picturesque area at the confluence of Diphlu and Brahmaputra River)

After the leisurely pace of the day and having recovered the lost sleep, we once again get together for A talk on 'Silk in Assam'. We get into the tenders to reach the shores of Bishwanath Ghat. We visit the Shiva Dol in reverence of Lord Shiva and there is no way that we can avoid the women with their weaves. We enjoy a walk through the village and see how this suburban village thrives.

We return to the ship to enjoy an evening on a deserted island and then proceed to a scrumptious dinner.

Overnight onboard M.V Mahabaahu.

Day 06:

M.V Mahabaahu - Dhansiri Boat Safari

This morning MV Mahabaahu sails early towards the Eastern Range of Kaziranga for boat Safari. We enjoy breakfast and a talk on 'The River Brahmaputra and the life that exists alongside'.

We proceed for the safari in our tenders for about two hours. The shores are high but one can see roof turtles on protruding drift wood, water lizards, otters, elephants, wild buffaloes, rhinos, darters, herons, pied kingfishers, white throated kingfishers, serpent eagles and many more. The sightings are always determined by the weather conditions.

We return for lunch. This evening we enjoy the **Chef's Cooking Demonstration and sample the snacks** followed

by a leisurely evening on a deserted island with bonfire is always unusual. We enjoy dinner on MV Mahabaahu.

(Bonfire may be avoided if a suitable sandbank cannot be found or if we experience inclement weather conditions)

Overnight onboard M.V Mahabaahu.

Day 07:

M.V Mahabaahu - Mishng Village Visit

After Yoga and breakfast we enjoy a talk on '**Majuli** the seat of Neo –Vaishnav Culture' and then enjoy the sail towards the Mishng Village

The Mishngs live on the bank of river in '**Chang ghars**', houses with raised platform. All Mishng women are expert weavers. Carrying some cash would be a good idea.

The indoor life of a Mishng person revolves around the kitchen area where the family can get together. We buy the ethnic colourful cotton weaves, vegetables and move on.

We indulge in a Dhoti Tying and Mekhela Chaadar wearing demonstration at this village.

We return to enjoy A talk on 'Sibsagar and the Ahom civilization' and proceed to prepare for a Traditional Assamese evening.

Overnight onboard M.V Mahabaahu.

Day 08:

M.V Mahabaahu - Majuli Visit / Sibsagar/ Neemati Ghat

After breakfast, we enjoy a talk on '**Majuli**' the seat of Vaishnava culture and proceed in our tenders to the mainland where a drive takes us to a scenic corner of a Satra for an interesting cultural performance by Satriya singers and dancers.



Next we drive to **Kamalabari Satra to witness the Vaishnavite priests dancing** to the rhythm of cymbals, drums and chanting in the temple premise. The humble dwellings of the monks are a revelation of utmost simplicity. We enjoy hot lunch on MV Mahabaahu as we sail towards Neemati Ghat.

Carry binoculars as the fields alongside the road will showcase purple swamp hens, adjutant storks, egrets, kingfishers, Indian rollers, bulbuls and open billed storks.

We drive through the countryside to reach **Sibsagar**, the ancient city of the Ahom Kings; a town that literally means 'the ocean of Lord Shiva'. We notice as we drive that the district is strewn with the tell-tale ruins of a powerful empire of the Ahoms. Sibsagar was the capital of the Tai-speaking Ahoms who came in the 13th Century AD to the area from the north-east and were essentially of Tibeto-Burman origin.

The Sibsagar town is built around a huge man made water tank ordered by the Ahom queen. The Shiva Dol, constructed in the year 1734 is believed to be the highest Shiva temple in India.

Then we visit **Talatal or Kareng Ghar** which was the palace of the Ahom Kings and after a leisurely stroll in and around the monument we go on to Rang Ghar which was a place for hosting wrestling bouts and buffalo fights and other entertainment or important meetings of the Royals and their guests.

We return to MV Mahabaahu by sunset and enjoy the farewell dinner.

Overnight onboard M.V Mahabaahu.

Day 09:

M.V Mahabaahu / Jorhat / Kolkata (Flight)

We start the day with Yoga and/or go for a nature walk along the swamps to catch a sight of owls, aureoles, yellow footed green pigeons, changeable eagles, adjutant storks, quails, sea gulls hunting with the dolphins and pied kingfishers, swallows and martins diving to fish.

We have a relaxed breakfast. The luggage is brought out of the cabins according to the flight schedule. En route the airport we visit a Tea Estate (If time permits)

We arrive at the Rowriah Airport in Jorhat a couple of hours before the flight schedule and bid adieu to the land of Ahoms and fly back to Kolkata.

On arrival in Kolkata, transfer to the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

Day 10:

Kolkata / Bhubaneswar (*Flight*)

After early breakfast, enjoy a 02 hours walking tour at Dalhousie Square.

Dalhousie Square

Dalhousie Square, renamed Binoy Badal Dinesh Bagh (also BBD Bagh) is the hub of West Bengal's administration and commerce. This is the site of all the important government institutions of the state. On the north side of the square stands the huge Writers' Building, which dates from 1880. The East India Company's writers have now been replaced by modern-day ones employed by the West Bengal state government, and this is where all the quintuplicate forms, carbon copies and red ink come from. Also on BBD Bagh is a rather more useful place, the Kolkata GPO, and on the eastern side of the square is the West Bengal tourist office.

Later transfer to the airport to board the flight for Bhubaneshwar.

Bhubaneswar – A thriving centre of art and culture, once the heart land of erstwhile Kalinga Kingdom, Bhubaneswar is presently renowned as the capital city of State of Orissa in India. Bhubaneswar, literally means the Lord (eswar) of the Universe (bhuban), is a hub of historic temples and the city is webbed with many concrete lanes. The present modern city of Bhubaneswar was established in 1946 which is designed by the world renowned German architect Otto Königsberger. The capital city, once known for its architecture and grand temples, is presently a thriving centre for commerce and business. Having blended very nicely its formidable past with its modern aspirations and facilities, it forms a part of the Golden Triangle of holy temple cities Puri and Konark.

On arrival in Bhubaneswar, transfer to hotel.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

Day 11:

Bhubaneswar / Konark / Puri (*Approx 115 Kms / 02 ½ hrs drive*)

After breakfast enjoy the sightseeing of Bhubaneshwar.

Lingaraja Temple (From Outside)

From a distance see the Lingaraja Temple (**Non-Hindus are allowed inside the Temple**) - It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and the Lingam here is unique which a hari hara lingam - half Shiva is and half Vishnu, The temple is named after the "Linga" or phallic symbol enshrines in it. Built in 617-657 A.D., it soars up to a height of about 54 meters, dominating the skyline of Bhubaneswar from as far as 15 kms. Away and exhibits the skill of the Orissan temple architects. The temple consists of curvilinear walls, a pillared hall, a dancing hall and a hall for serving the offerings. There are more than 150 other shrines around the main temple. The Lingaraja temple is one of the most famous temples in Orissa and is also known as the Bhubaneswar temple.

Mukteswara Temple

Mukteswara temple is often called the 'Gem of Orissa Architecture'. This 10th century temple of lord Shiva is known for its brilliant work in Kalingan style architecture with a combination of Hindu, Buddhist and Jain features. Mukteswara temple is also important because it was built during the transition phase of early and late school of Kalingan architecture.

After sightseeing drive to Puri, on the way enjoy visit to Konark Sun temple

Konark Sun Temple

An Architecture Marvel of Eastern India and A symbol of India's heritage, Konark Sun Temple, commonly known as Konark is situated in the eastern state of Odisha (earlier known as Orissa), India and is one of the eminent tourist attractions. Konark houses a massive temple dedicated to the Sun God. The word 'Konark' is a combination of two words 'Kona' and 'Arka'. 'Kona' means 'Corner' and 'Arka' means 'Sun', so when combines it becomes 'Sun of the Corner'. Konark Sun Temple is situated on the north eastern corner of Puri and is dedicated to Sun God. Konark is also known as Arka khetra. There are three images of the Sun God at three different sides of the temple, positioned in proper direction to catch the rays of the sun at morning, noon and evening.

After visit continue drive to Puri

Puri – Puri is considered to be an abode of Lord Jagannath (The Lord of Universe). It is considered to be one of the four cardinal institutions or “Dhams”. Being positioned on the coast of the Bay of Bengal, the town of Puri is blessed with some of the most gorgeous sun-kissed beaches in India.

On arrival in Puri, transfer to hotel.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.



INDO ASIA TOURS

Day 12:

Puri

After breakfast the day is at leisure at the beach

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

Day 13:

Puri / Bhubaneswar (Approx 70 Kms / 01 ½ hrs drive) / **Kolkata** (Flight)

After breakfast, spent some leisure time at the beach.

In the Afternoon drive to Bhubaneswar. On arrival in Bhubaneswar, transfer to the airport to board the flight for Kolkata.

On arrival in Kolkata, transfer to hotel.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel.

Day 14:

Kolkata Departure

After breakfast, transfer to the Airport to take the flight back home / onward destination.

(Rooms will be available till 12:00 Hrs)

End of Services

Program at a glance



INDO ASIA TOURS

Day	City	Hotels		
		Accommodation	Room Type	Meals
Day 01	Arrive at Kolkata	<u>The Lalit Great Easter Kolkata</u>	Deluxe	--/--/D
Day 02	Kolkata / Guwahati (<i>Flight</i>) / M.V Mahabaahu Cruise	M.V Mahabaahu	Superior	B/L/D
Day 03	M.V Mahabaahu Cruise	M.V Mahabaahu	Superior	B/L/D
Day 04	M.V Mahabaahu Cruise	M.V Mahabaahu	Superior	B/L/D
Day 05	M.V Mahabaahu Cruise	M.V Mahabaahu	Superior	B/L/D
Day 06	M.V Mahabaahu Cruise	M.V Mahabaahu	Superior	B/L/D
Day 07	M.V Mahabaahu Cruise	M.V Mahabaahu	Superior	B/L/D
Day 08	M.V Mahabaahu Cruise	M.V Mahabaahu	Superior	B/L/D
Day 09	M.V Mahabaahu Cruise / Jorhat / Kolkata (<i>Flight</i>)	<u>The Lalit Great Easter Kolkata</u>	Deluxe	B/--/D
Day 10	Kolkata / Bhubaneswar (<i>Flight</i>)	<u>Mayfair Lagoon</u>	Club	B/--/D
Day 11	Bhubaneswar / Puri	<u>Mayfair Heritage</u>	Deluxe	B/--/D
Day 12	Puri	<u>Mayfair Heritage</u>	Deluxe	B/--/D
Day 13	Puri / Bhubaneswar / Kolkata (<i>Flight</i>)	<u>The Lalit Great Easter Kolkata</u>	Deluxe	B/--/D
Day 14	Kolkata Departure			

*Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner