



WORLD AFFAIRS  
COUNCIL OF  
PHILADELPHIA  
& PARTNERS

# INDIA Kolkata & The Ganges River

Aboard the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager*

October 7 – 16, 2025



## DEAR COUNCIL TRAVELERS

**From its source high in the mighty Himalayas, the holiest of rivers, *Mother Ganga*, flows 1,500 miles south and east through areas rarely seen by westerners, and connects to the Hooghly River through Kolkata before emptying into the Bay of Bengal.**

A tapestry of varied religious beliefs, devoted faith, awe-inspiring history, rich architecture, and cultural heritage spreads along the sacred riverbanks. Infused with influences of past rulers and European settlers, rich in diverse flora and fauna, and boasting incredible scenery, the Ganges and Hooghly Rivers represent the heart and soul of Indian civilization.

The journey begins in Kolkata (old Calcutta), the former capital of India during British rule, with one night at the luxurious Taj Bengal Hotel. Learn about the fascinating history of Colonial Kolkata on a panoramic tour before embarking on a seven-night cruise aboard the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager*. Visit Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, then continue to Bandel, the site of the renowned Hooghly Imambara. Ride rickshaws through Kalna and admire the magnificent temples at the Rajbari Complex. Next, visit the brass-making village of Matiari, and cruise past the Battlefield of Plassey en route to the Mughul Gardens in Khush Bagh. Leisurely investigate the breathtaking temples in the quaint village of Baranagar before venturing to Hazarduari Palace and the Katra Masjid in Murshidabad. In Mayapur tour the temple headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness and the Pilgrim's Bazaar before calling at Chandernagore, a 17th-century French colony brimming with history and heritage. Conclude the voyage with a celebratory dinner and a delightful cultural program.

This educational program is co-sponsored with other organizations. For those interested, there will also be a pre-tour extension in the Golden Triangle and a post-tour extension to Varanasi, Agra, and Delhi. **With limited space, I urge you to reserve your space today.** Call our office at (800) 942-5004 or email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org).

**We look forward to traveling with you,**

Andrew Haught

Director of Travel

World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

SCAN ME WITH YOUR  
SMART PHONE OR TABLET  
TO REGISTER ONLINE



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ **Cruise aboard the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager*** – Built in the style of the historic Clyde steamers, this luxury vessel promises a relaxing and comfortable environment to encounter remote areas and enjoy spectacular views along the river.
- ▶ **Explore Mother Theresa’s Kolkata** (Calcutta), capital of India for 200 years during the British Raj.
- ▶ **Take rickshaws through Kalna to the Rajbari Complex**, home to Bengal’s highest number of Hindu temples.
- ▶ Call at former French colony, Chandernagore, and **tour the Institut de Chandernagore Museum** to study rare antiquities and to learn about daily life during the French period.
- ▶ Relax and enjoy observing village life, rural landscapes, extraordinary craftsmanship, and evening cultural performances **while cruising through a part of India rarely seen by Western visitors.**



MOTHER THERESA



RICKSHAWS

## STUDY LEADER



**GRACE GARY**

Grace Gary’s relationship with the National Trust began when, while in graduate school, she was chosen as a National Trust Maritime Intern. She’s hard to pin down on how many years ago that was, but she admits to having served as a lecturer on more-than fifty Trust tours over a span of more-than thirty years. She is also the author of two titles in the Trust’s “Information” series and served as director of the Trust’s Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. She also served as executive director of Preservation Pennsylvania, Longue Vue House and Gardens, Colonial Williamsburg’s Tourism Leadership Program, and Nemours Mansion and Gardens. While at Nemours she oversaw an \$80 million restoration program, which received the highest award from the AIA ever bestowed on a restoration project. She and

fellow National Trust Tours lecturer Dwight Young also co-authored “Nemours: A Portrait of Alfred I. DuPont’s Home,” which was published by Rizzoli. She is a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College and has a Master’s in architectural history from the University of Virginia, where she had the privilege of living on the Range in one of the original, Thomas Jefferson-designed rooms.





## ITINERARY

TUESDAY – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 – 8

### HOME/KOLKATA, INDIA

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Kolkata, India. Upon arrival, transfer to the luxurious Taj Bengal Hotel.

*(Meals aloft)*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

### KOLKATA

This morning, take a panoramic tour of Dalhousie Square's heritage buildings including the Town Hall, the Governor's House, the Writers' building, the General Post Office, and the Reserve Bank of India. Next visit St. John's Anglican Church and the Victoria Memorial Museum, housing India's largest collection of British historical artifacts. Continue to the Kumartuli potters' quarter and observe as talented potters sculpt idols using clay from the nearby Hooghly River. Later embark the Ganges Voyager and enjoy a welcome dinner.

*Ganges Voyager (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

### KOLKATA/BANDEL

Start the day in Kolkata with a visit to the lively and colorful Mullick Ghat Flower Market. Next visit the Missionaries of Charity, a community dedicated to serving marginalized members of society that was founded by Mother Teresa in 1950. In the afternoon, cruise past settlements started by the British East India Company between the 17th and 19th centuries. Arrive in Bandel and visit the Hooghly Imambara, a famous Shia pilgrimage center whose sundial gives accurate time even to this day. Return to the ship and cruise onward to Kalna.

*Ganges Voyager (B,L,D)*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

### KALNA

Today ride rickshaws through the Kalna city center en route to the Rajbari Complex, which contains the highest concentration of Hindu temples in Bengal. Later stroll through a local market and visit the home of a traditional muslin cloth weaver. Embark *Ganges Voyager* and cruise to the shore-side village of Matuari.

*Ganges Voyager (B,L,D)*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

### MATIARI/KHUSH BAGH

In the morning, take a walk through Matuari, famous for its brass craftsmanship. Continue upstream and pass the Battlefield of Plassey, where the British East India Company defeated the Mogul Nawabs in 1757. This evening visit Khushbagh, a charming riverside village. Meander through farmland to the peaceful, Moghul-style Garden built by Nawab Ali-Wardi-Khan. Later, enjoy a cultural music and dance performance.

*Ganges Voyager (B,L,D)*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

### BARANAGAR/MURSHIDABAD

Experience rural India at its most idyllic on a walk through Baranagar, a quaint village home to several temples dating from the



FLOWER MARKET

18th century. Unwind this afternoon as the ship glides along the Lower Ganges, passing banks lined with mustard fields and mango orchards. Arrive at Murshidabad, a hidden architectural gem with dramatic whitewashed colonial era structures. Here visit the Hazarduari Palace constructed in the Greek Doric style. Inside marvel at colonial era antiques, artwork, and manuscripts before riding the *toto* (electric rickshaw) to the Katra mosque. *Ganges Voyager* (B,L,D)

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14**

### MAYAPUR

After a restful morning, stop in the village of Mayapur, the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Here find a temple comparable in size to the Vatican, largely funded by Alfred B. Ford, the great grandson of Henry Ford. Engage with Krishna followers and walk through the pilgrim's bazaar before returning to the ship.

*Ganges Voyager* (B,L,D)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15**

### CHANDERNAGORE

Cruise to Chandernagore, a French colony established in 1673 as a trading post. Take a heritage walk and explore the French colonial buildings along the promenade, including Dupleix Palace, which now houses the Institut de Chandernagore Museum. At the museum find a collection of rare French antiques, personal belongings of French governor generals, and historical relics of Chandernagore. Continue to the Sacred Heart Church, which showcases the architectural beauty of the French period. Embark *Ganges Voyager* in the evening and enjoy a cultural program and farewell dinner en route to Kolkata.

*Ganges Voyager* (B,L,D)



MAYAPUR TEMPLE

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16**

### KOLKATA/HOME

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home or join the post-tour extension in Varanasi, Delhi, and Agra. (B)

## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION:

### THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

OCTOBER 2 – 8, 2025

This pre-tour extension to the Golden Triangle begins in Delhi, the capital of modern India as well as Muslim India between the 13th and 19th centuries. Continue to Agra to see the incomparable Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. Marvel at the stunning architecture of the Jaipur Palace and Jantar Mantar, an 18th-century astronomical observatory. Enjoy a free afternoon to explore Jaipur or join an optional tour of the Amber Fort. Fly from Jaipur to Kolkata, where the main tour will commence.

Taj Mahal Hotel; ITC Mughal; Jai Mahal Palace; Taj Bengal Hotel (5B, 4L, 3D)

## POST-TOUR EXTENSION:

### VARANASI, DELHI, AND AGRA

OCTOBER 16 – 20, 2025

Upon conclusion of the main program, begin the post-tour extension in Varanasi. Situated on the banks of the Ganges River, Varanasi serves as a pilgrimage site for Hindus and an important center for learning. Travel to Sarnath, a sacred site where Gautam Buddha achieved enlightenment and delivered his first sermon. Take a flight to Delhi and drive to Agra to visit the Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal. Constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, it is regarded as the most spectacular monument to love ever built. Upon returning to Delhi, take a driving tour of the capital city and relax at the Taj Mahal Hotel before transferring to the Delhi airport for flights home.

Taj Ganges; ITC Mughal; Taj Mahal Hotel (4B, 4L, 3D)

FURTHER INFORMATION AND PRICING WILL BE SENT TO CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS.

# SHIP

The elegant all-suite *Ganges Voyager*, launched in 2015, transports guests in style, comfort, and luxury along the Ganges River, an ideal way to observe the ever-changing tapestry of life unfolding along the riverbanks. Accommodations embody the grace and style of India's colonial era, with modern conveniences and luxuries that rival the finest hotels. Spacious, well-appointed suites provide individual climate control, panoramic floor-to-ceiling French doors, flat-screen television with on-demand movies, electronic safe, en suite bathroom with spa quality robes, slippers, hair dryer, and bath amenities, generous storage, daily housekeeping with turndown service, fine bed linens, premium mattresses, duvets, your choice of pillows, and daily international news. The friendly staff provides the level of attentive service that makes for a memorable river cruise, and the ship's culinary team prepares sumptuous meals incorporating both the incredibly flavorful cuisine of India as well as the diverse cuisines of Europe, served in the beautifully appointed dining room. Public spaces include an inviting lounge, a sun deck with chaise lounges and shaded seating areas, and a spa and fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment.



SIGNATURE SUITE



COLONIAL SUITE



HERITAGE SUITE



VICEROYLE SUITE

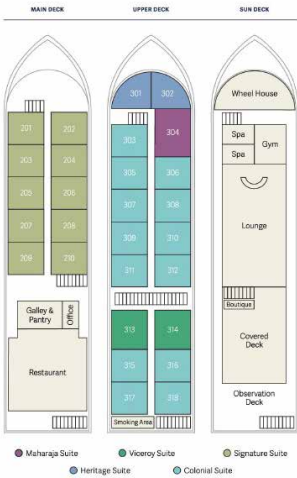


MAHARAJA SUITE



SUNDECK INDOOR LOUNGE

## MV Ganges Voyager



## PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON):

Main Deck Signature suite, per person, sharing accommodations	\$8,990
Upper Deck Colonial suite, per person, sharing accommodations	\$9,990
Main Deck Signature suite, single occupancy	\$10,990
Upper Deck Colonial suite, single occupancy	\$11,990
Supplemental cost for a cabin upgrade to a Heritage suite *	\$1,160 per cabin
Supplemental cost for a cabin upgrade to a Viceroyle suite *	\$2,200 per cabin
Supplemental costs for a cabin upgrade to a Maharaja Suite *	\$3,260 per cabin

\* Upgrade Costs Calculated From Upper Deck Colonial Suite

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE:

All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • One night at the Taj Bengal Hotel in Kolkata • Seven nights aboard the *Ganges Voyager* • All excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Scheduled coach transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • **Gratuities to shipboard personnel** • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine and beer receptions • **soft drinks, coffees, teas and mineral water on the *Ganges Voyager*** • Bottled water on motorcoaches and with all meals • Criterion Tour Manager and an Indian Escort

### AIR ARRANGEMENTS:

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements

for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

### WHAT TO EXPECT:

The pace of this tour is moderately active with considerable walking each day, often over very uneven terrain, and extended periods of standing. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. All participants will be required to follow safety protocols set forth by National Trust Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator; local staff; and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply.

## GENERAL INFORMATION CONT.

### GROUP SIZE:

This program is limited to 50 participants including travelers from Cornell's Adult University, National Trust Tours, and the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.

### PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, and Covid-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

### A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Program rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

### RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

Reserve your space online at [https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/WAC/251007\\_GAN/tour](https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/WAC/251007_GAN/tour); or call (800) 942-5004, email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org), or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit (payable to Criterion Travel) to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. Final payment is due June 9, 2025 (120 days prior to departure). For those who register after June 9, 2025, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

### CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all res-ervations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. For cancellations after the June 9, 2025 final pay-ment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. NOTE: Neither the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

### HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

### ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

*California Seller of Travel Program  
CST #2088800-40*



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## INDIA

### Kolkata & The Ganges River Aboard the 28-cabin *Ganges Voyager* Featuring Architectural Historian Grace Gary October 7 – 16, 2025



SCAN ME WITH YOUR  
SMART PHONE OR TABLET  
TO REGISTER ONLINE

To reserve a place, please scan the QR code above or contact the **World Affairs Council** by phone at (800) 942-5004, or mail to: **Criterion Travel**, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. For more information, please visit our website at [www.wacphila.org/travel](http://www.wacphila.org/travel) or email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org).

### CONTACT INFORMATION (please print)

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on

**India Kolkata & The Ganges River.**

Please charge my deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, to my

VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

### ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Bed Preference:  King/Queen  Twins

### SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer to have single accommodations. (limited availability)

I plan to share accommodations with: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to know about roommates

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of June 9, 2025, I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE



# INDIA Kolkata & The Ganges River

Aboard the 28-cabin Ganges Voyager

October 7 – 16, 2025



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& PARTNERS

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