

Brahmaputra Indian River Cruise **New**

Visit three of Assam's premier wildlife parks and enjoy a wealth of cultural attractions on a luxurious cruise along the mighty Brahmaputra River.



Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

Style	Adventure Cruising
Accommodation	Hotels, Luxury Cruise Boat
Grade	Tour
Duration	14 days from London to London
Min/Max group size	2 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 2
Trip Leader	Local River Cruise & Tour Guide
Land only	Joining in Kolkata, India



Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available

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Departures

Group departures

2026 Dates:

Fri 20 Feb - Thu 05 Mar

Fri 23 Oct - Thu 05 Nov

Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 2 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide



During the river cruise, a crew of 21 hospitality staff will attend to your every need. English-speaking guides will accompany your shore excursions, along with an experienced naturalist.

Your trip highlights

- Sail on a stylish river cruiser with onboard spa and pool
- Visit three of India's finest national parks - Kaziranga, Nameri and Manas
- Search for wildlife in the company of experienced guides and naturalists.
- Take a jeep safari in Kaziranga looking for one-horned rhinos and Bengal tigers
- Discover Assamese culture with visits to tea estates, tribal villages and weaving centres

At a glance itinerary

Days 1-2	Overnight flight to Kolkata (Calcutta). Transfer to hotel. Afternoon sightseeing.
Day 3	Fly to Jorhat and transfer to cruise boat. Safety briefing and introductory talk on wildlife. Evening sail and drop anchor for overnight.
Day 4	Visit Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary and tea estate. Jeep safari in Eastern Range of Kaziranga (Agoratolli) or visit Sibsagar, the ancient city of the Ahom Kings.
Day 5	Early morning nature and village walk at Neamati Ghat. Sail to Majuli and tour the island. After lunch sail on to a deserted island.
Day 6	Visit Mishing tribal village homes. Sail towards Eastern Range of Kaziranga NP. After lunch explore shores of Agoratali Range for birds and wildlife.
Day 7	Sail to Bishwanath to see weavers and visit a jute mill. Visit tea estate.
Day 8	Full day jeep safari in Kaziranga.
Day 9	Morning visit to Nameri National Park. Afternoon continue cruise. Assamese theme evening.
Day 10	Sail to Dungar Ghat - day at leisure.
Day 11	Morning in Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve. Sail in the afternoon.
Day 12	Sail to Sualkuchi. Visit silk processing and weaving area. Opportunity for shopping. Farewell dinner on board.
Days 13-14	Disembark from boat and drive to Guwahati airport. Fly to Kolkata and transfer to hotel for overnight. Transfer to airport and fly to London.

Trip summary

This cruise is a magical journey along the mighty Brahmaputra River primarily in search of an array of wildlife in the finest national parks of Assam. Rhinos, elephants, wild buffalos, leopards and Bengal tiger are just some of the amazing animals you could see, as well as hundreds of species of birds. Along with this immense diversity of wildlife there are many cultural treats to enjoy including ancient ruins and temples, isolated fishing communities, weaving villages and tribal homes which exist from season to season at the whim of the river.

Setting sail from Jorhat for 10 nights, you'll make regular shore visits to see the key sights of this diverse and fascinating region of northern India. You'll begin with excursions to a gibbon sanctuary, tea estate, and the ancient city of Sibsagar before reaching Majuli - the largest inhabited river island in the world with a distinctive Assamese culture. Next you will visit the homes of Mishing tribal communities where traditional weaving methods are still used to make colourful textiles. Weaving is also the main industry at the tiny village of Bishwanath on the shores of the Brahmaputra and at nearby Silghat where jute fibres are processed at a co-operative mill and turned into attractive woven fabrics.

Next come the absolute highlights of the holiday, with safari drives and/or walks in Kaziranga, Nameri and Manas National Parks - three jewels in India's wildlife crown. All three are famous for their populations of rare and endangered species. You can expect to see most, if not all, of the so-called 'Assamese Big Six': one-horned rhinos, Asiatic elephants, wild buffalos, leopards and swamp deer in addition to freshwater dolphins, snakes, lizards and turtles and a varied array of birdlife. For the truly fortunate, there may even be a sighting of an elusive Bengal tiger. Each shore visit will be in the company of an experienced guide and naturalist so you'll be able to make the most of every minute on land and be sure not miss a thing!

As you cruise serenely between these absorbing sights, you will have time to relax on the large sundeck of your luxurious boat, watching day-to-day river life unfold. You will also enjoy superb meals, entertainment, a library

and pool plus the services of the attentive and friendly crew. There's also an onboard spa if you want to treat yourself to a bit of additional pampering.

No doubt you will return home from this fantastic journey with an extensive bird and animal list, but you will also have wonderful memories of a colorful, exciting and enlightening journey through one of India's most rewarding regions.

Special notes

Elephant Safaris

After much careful consideration, and as part of our commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will no longer be offering elephant-back safaris in any of our destinations.

This is because it is not possible to train an elephant to accept a human onto its back without inhumane treatment. Also, elephants' spines are not designed to carry heavy loads, and the houdah (chair) that they are fitted with is uncomfortable and leads to sores.

An elephant-back safari in Kaziranga is part of the cruise package our agent provides on this trip. However, we would discourage any of our clients from taking part in this, and it is at the clients' discretion as to whether or not they do participate. Our agent is aware of our stance on this issue and will offer a jeep safari for Mountain Kingdoms clients instead whilst others (who have not booked with Mountain Kingdoms) join the elephant safari.

Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Kolkata (Calcutta)

Fly from London to Kolkata on an overnight flight.

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Arrive Kolkata. Group transfer to hotel. Afternoon sightseeing.

On arrival in Kolkata, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. If time allows you have some sightseeing in the afternoon, possibly including a visit to the Victoria Museum. This museum is dedicated to Queen Victoria and the building is icon of the British Raj in Kolkata. It contains many interesting exhibits and is set in attractive gardens. After your visit you will head back to your hotel with time to relax.

Overnight: Taj Bengal or Similar, Kolkata

Day 3: Fly to Jorhat in Assam - 1½ hours. Join cruise ship MV Mahabaahu. Safety briefing and introductory talk on wildlife in Assam. Evening sail and drop anchor for the night.

In the morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Jorhat in Assam. When you land you will be met and driven to your cruise ship, the MV Mahabaahu. You will be welcomed on board and shown to your cabins before a light lunch followed by an introduction to the boat and an essential safety briefing. This will be followed by a presentation on the wildlife of Assam and information about the some of the many places you will be visiting over the next few days.

As the sun sets you will enjoy a short local sail and your first sunset views over the Brahmaputra. Your ship will drop anchor for the night and you will then have a welcome dinner on board.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 4: Visit Hollongapur Gibbon Sanctuary. Drive to a tea estate for lunch. In the afternoon visit the eastern range of Kaziranga (Agoratoli) for a jeep safari or take a tour of historic Sibsagar.

After breakfast you will have an early start to drive to the Hollongapur Gibbon Sanctuary. This sanctuary is the home of India's only ape, the Hoolock Gibbon, as well as Northeastern India's only nocturnal primate, the Bengal Slow Loris. Hoolock gibbons are a rare ape found only in this part of Asia and you need a very early start for your best chances of seeing them. Your naturalist and guides, along with an armed guard, will walk with you for a couple of hours through dense evergreen forest and they will do their best to help you spot some of these creatures. You may at the very least hear the distinctive call of the Hoolock Gibbons as they call to each other through the jungle.



After your visit to the Gibbon Sanctuary you will drive to a tea estate to look at some tea gardens and to learn from the tea planters themselves about planting and the tea business. You will get an insight into the lifestyle of these families, who have been involved in the tea trade for generations. There will be an opportunity to taste some genuine Assam tea! Later you will be hosted for an authentic Assamese lunch by the family of a tea planter.

In the afternoon there are two choices of activity. Continuing the wildlife theme, you can drive to the Eastern Range of Kaziranga (Agoratoli) for an afternoon jeep safari, seeking out birds and wildlife before returning to the ship at dusk.

Alternatively, you may choose to visit Sibsagar, the ancient city of the Ahom Kings; The name of the town means 'the ocean of Lord Shiva'. Sibsagar was the capital of the Tai-speaking Ahom people who came to the area from Yunan in China in the 13th Century AD. The district is dotted with the tell-tale ruins of their powerful empire. You may visit the Talatal or Karen Ghar, which was the palace of the Ahom kings and stroll around the monument before continuing to Rang Ghar, which was a place where wrestling bouts, buffalo fights and other entertainment were held for the royal family and their guests. Sibsagar town itself is built around a huge manmade water tank created over 200 years ago.

Some of the famous temples of Sibsagar are found on the banks of this tank. The Shiva Dol, constructed in the year 1734 is believed to be the highest Shiva temple in India.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 5: Sail to Neamati for an early morning walk on Neamati Ghat. Visit Majuli Island, a renowned centre of Assamese culture. Sail towards a deserted island for barbequed snacks and bonfire.

This morning, before breakfast, you may land and take an early morning walk with your onboard naturalist, along the bund at Neamati Ghat, to look for birds and to see the local village waking up. You will see villagers going preparing their boats and fishing nets for the day ahead, and you will also doubtless meet local children on their way to school.

After an enjoyable couple of hours you will return to your boat for breakfast and sail on to Majuli. Here you will take a short boat ride to reach Majuli island, the largest river island in Assam where you will find a real microcosm of Assamese culture and spirituality. Several rich cultural traditions co-exist and thrive here, having found a refuge in this remote place since the 15th century. The many ancient monasteries or 'satras' promulgate a form of Hinduism called Neo-Vaishnavism, a reformist sect that reshaped Assamese society. These Satras are treasure troves of art, dance, and music and are real cultural hubs being dedicated to the preservation and development of Assamese culture. The art of relating mythical tales through dramas and masks is an important part of Majuli culture and after exploring this beautiful area, you will be treated to a fascinating performance by Satriya singers and dancers, perhaps also meeting some of the performers. You may also visit the 'Kamlabari Satra' to see a performance by the Vaishnavite priests in the temple premises. These monasteries have nurtured Assam's classical arts for centuries. Later you may visit the humble dwellings of the monks and perhaps talk to them about their daily lives. Mask making and pottery are also famous art forms in Majuli culture and the satras also preserve other articles and antiques of cultural importance, such as weapons, utensils and jewellery.

A visit to Majuli Island is a richly rewarding cultural visit but there are also excellent opportunities to see many interesting birds, including open-billed storks, adjutant storks, whistling ducks, bar-headed geese and weaver birds.

You will return to the boat for lunch and in the afternoon sail to a deserted island in the river to enjoy an evening on a beautiful silver beach under a starry sky, enjoying some barbequed snacks and a bonfire. Dinner will be taken back on the boat.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Explore Mishing Village. Continue to the Eastern Range of Kaziranga. Explore the shoreline of the Agoratoli Range.

Before breakfast you may enjoy some morning yoga on the beach or go for a walk to spot some birds or just to stretch your legs.

Later you will visit a 'Mishing' village - the Mishings are an ethnic group, possibly originating from Arunachal Pradesh, who now inhabit a number of districts in Assam where they migrated in search of fertile land. Their villages along the Brahmaputra are built on non-permanent islands that are at the mercy of the river when it floods. You will have the opportunity to visit their 'Mishing Chang Ghars' (homes) and have a peep into their way of life.

Bamboo is a critical part of Mishing culture and their chang ghars are built on bamboo scaffolding and raised on stilts above the ground to cope with flooding, with bamboo mats for floors, walls and roofs. Mishings people also have a unique culture of weaving,

with colourful ethnic designs created from home spun, home dyed, cotton threads. They keep their looms in the space beneath the bamboo scaffolding of their homes. You will climb up to visit the Mishings in their elevated bamboo homes and you may take this opportunity to purchase some of their handicrafts. Most Mishing women are expert weavers on handlooms. The traditional dress of the Mishings are dhoti-kurta for men and mekhla-chaadar for women and local people will be delighted to show you how to put on this ethnic attire - a man from the village will give you a 'dhoti' tying demonstration, while a local woman will show you how to tie the traditional 'mekhela chaddor'.



After your visit to Mishing you will return to the comfort of MV Mahabaahu for lunch and sail on towards Agoratoli on the Eastern Range of Kaziranga. Cruising in small boats you explore the shoreline perhaps seeing elephant coming down to drink or buffalo wallowing in the shallows, with the rare chance of seeing a tiger on the river bank or a water monitor lounging on a log. There will also doubtless be numerous birds along the shore. Your on-board naturalist will be able to assist with spotting and identification.

You return to the ship and later will have a cooking demonstration by the chef followed and dinner.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 7: Sail and walk around Bishwanath. Sail to Silghat and visit a jute mill and tea plantation.

In the early morning you may enjoy some yoga on deck as you sail towards Bishwanth Ghat, a tiny village on the banks of the Brahmaputra, located on the opposite side to Kaziranga NP.

On arrival at Bishwanath Ghat (also locally called 'Gupta Kashi'), you take small boats to visit this charming village known for its natural beauty and its cultural importance. It is predominantly a village of weavers, subsistence farmers, fishermen, and boat makers. You can enjoy a relaxed stroll through the village, seeing how local people live as they tend their gardens and mend their fishing nets, but in particular local women busy on their handlooms, creating home spun fabrics. There will be a chance to try your bargaining skills here - be sure to carry some cash with you to help encourage this ancient local craft. You will also visit the famous Shiva Dol, a temple dating back to the times of the Ahoms in the 18th century. This temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and features a large Shiva Lingam - it is a popular pilgrimage site particularly during the festival of Shivaratri. You may also have further chances to purchase some local crafts in a small bazaar which is often set up near the temple.

You return to the boat to sail alongside Kaziranga Park to Silghat where the ship docks. After a relaxed lunch on board you will walk to the Assam Jute Mill. This mill, which is a major producer of jute and employs over 800 people, is unique being the only cooperative jute mill in Assam. Here you will see the complete production process from the raw golden fibre to a manufactured 'gunny bag'.

You then drive to a tea-estate where you may see the whole process from women plucking the tea leaves in the gardens and on to the tea factory for the various procedures, right up to the packing of the tea. (Note: The tea-factory is operational till mid Nov and after mid-Feb). Later you will be treated to a performance by village children dressed in colourful Assamese clothing. They will dance the 'Bihu', the state dance of Assam, traditionally a courtship dance and an important part of the time-honoured heritage of Assam.

You will return to the ship, and over tea, coffee and snacks, you will enjoy a presentation about your visit tomorrow to Kaziranga, one of the highlights of the trip.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 8: Full day jeep safari in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.

You have a wildlife treat in store today! Kaziranga National Park really is the jewel in India's wildlife crown. It is largely undisturbed by human encroachment, being a vast expanse of elephant grass, marshland, and dense tropical broadleaf forests, criss-crossed by four major rivers, including the Brahmaputra. Every spring, the park floods, the waters enriching the habitat for the rare one-horned rhino and attracting many of the birds that migrate to the area. The animal for which the park is most famous is the one-horned rhino, but it is also the breeding ground for elephants, buffalo, and swamp deer. Over the years the tiger population has also increased in Kaziranga, which is why the park has been declared a tiger reserve. Kaziranga is also important for a rich and varied bird population including many specials such as Asian open-bill stork which migrate here from the Central Asia during the winter season.



You will have a really early start to reach the park for your first safari, just as the sun burns off the mist and the park starts to wake up. This is when you have your best opportunity to see animals close up - rhinos, swamp deer, hog deer and Asiatic water buffaloes, all happily grazing within yards of each other. You will break your exploration with a good breakfast at a nearby resort before you continue your safari. You will drive further into

the park to look for more wildlife - rhinos, elephants, various deer, water buffalo and always the chance of seeing an elusive Bengal tiger. After lunch there will be a further jeep safari deeper into the park in the Western Range.

After an exciting day you will head back to your boat at Tezpur and continue your journey along the river. With another wildlife park to visit tomorrow you will have an early dinner to be ready for an early start.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 9: Morning visit to Nameri National Park. Continue sailing. Assamese themed evening.

You will have a light breakfast on board at 4.15am before driving to Nameri National Park and crossing the river by local ferry. The Nameri National Park is located in the foothills of the eastern Himalaya, about 35 km from Tezpur. It is famous for several endangered species including sloth bear, tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, sambar, gaur, langur monkeys, giant squirrels and Indian wild dog as well as for its herds of elephants. But the park is especially known for its bird life - among the wealth of birds found here is the endangered white winged wood duck as well as four different varieties of hornbill. Once in the park you will have a walk in the company of a guide/naturalist and an armed guard to look for some of the rare creatures which are found here. There may also be the opportunity to take small boats to travel through some baby rapids for picturesque views on the Jia-Bhairali River.

After a morning in the park you will return to your ship in time for lunch as you sail downstream. In the afternoon you will have time to relax on board, perhaps treating yourself to a spa or beauty treatment, a sauna, or a swim in the pool.

Later you will enjoy an Assamese themed evening and dinner.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 10: Sail towards Dugar Ghat.

After a couple of very early mornings and busy days, today is altogether more relaxed, with the chance of a lie-in or time for yoga on board. You then have the day to chill-out and enjoy the facilities of the boat or simply spend time on the sundeck. There will be river life to observe and views of the picturesque Assamese hills. You will also pass Peacock Island, the smallest inhabited river island on the Brahmaputra with its important temple dedicated to Shiva.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 11: Morning at Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve. Continue sailing.

You will have an early start to reach the park in time for a safari before breakfast and a jeep safari after breakfast. The India side of the Manas National Park is located in the Himalayan foothills of Assam. It borders the Manas National Park in Bhutan, both parks taking their name from the Manas River, a major tributary of the Brahmaputra, which passes through the park. Manas is famed for its rare and endangered species, such as golden langurs and hispid hare as well as the only known population of pygmy hogs in the world. There is also a population of wild water buffalo, along with rhinos, Bengal tigers and macaque monkeys - in all 55 species of mammal and 450 species of birds have been recorded in the park, included the largest population of the endangered Bengal florican (a species of bustard) to be found anywhere - in short a real feast of birdlife.



After your jeep safari you will have a relaxed lunch and then drive back to the boat to sail upstream.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 12: Sail to Sualkuchi. Visit the silk processing and weaving area. Sail to Pandu Port in Guwahati.

You will have a leisurely morning on board as you cruise to Sualkuchi.

Sualkuchi is famous as the centre of Assam's silk industry. Weaving is a cottage industry here and is the main occupation for the majority of villagers, with many families operating hand looms from their homes. It has been called the "Manchester of the East" and is believed to be one of the world's largest weaving villages. The best silk in the state is produced here with Assam's renowned Muga silk, known for its natural golden sheen, and Pat silk - a white silk.



When you reach the port you will take an e-rickshaw to the silk processing and weaving area of the town and enjoy a real insight into the production of silk and the creation of a wide range of traditional items, including mekhela chadors, Assamese dresses, sarees, and gamosas - a white and red bordered handwoven textile.

You will have a traditional Assamese lunch in town and there will also be opportunities for some shopping. After your excursion you will return to the M.V. Mahabaahu for a last sail to reach Pandu, the port for Guwahati. It's a chance to enjoy a final sundowner on deck as the sun sets.

As this is your last night on board you will enjoy the chef's 'Alvida Bhoj', a special farewell dinner to mark the end of your journey and you may wish to raise a glass to toast the safe completion of your voyage along the Brahmaputra.

Overnight: MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat (Meals: BLD)

Day 13: Disembark from boat. Drive to Guwahati airport - 1½-2 hours. Fly to Kolkata. Transfer to hotel.

After breakfast you will say a sad farewell to the MV Mahabahu and its crew, before driving to Guwahati airport to catch your flight to Kolkata. You will take a packed lunch with you for the journey. On arrival in Kolkata you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: Taj Bengal or Similar, Kolkata (Meals: B L)

Day 14: Group transfer to airport and fly to London.

After breakfast you will be transferred to Kolkata airport for your flight home. (Meals: B)

Our grading system

Brahmaputra Indian River Cruise is graded as a Tour, as described below.

Tours

Tours may include any of the following activities: sightseeing, visiting local villages, exploring temples, game viewing, birdwatching, husky sledding, mountain flights, city tours and dramatic journeys by road, rail, or river. Occasionally there will be short, gentle walks so that you can properly explore the cultural sites you are visiting.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ 12 x breakfasts, 11 x lunches, 10 x dinners
- ✓ Superior cabin on a twin-share basis
- ✓ Experienced guides and naturalists to accompany all shore excursions
- ✓ Special welcome and farewell dinners onboard plus a programme of ship-based activities
- ✓ Jeep safaris and all sightseeing as specified
- ✓ High standard hotel accommodation in Kolkata (twin-share basis)
- ✓ Internal flights and domestic transfers
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK & UK Departure Tax (Flight Inclusive option)
- ✓ Single, timed group airport transfer for international flights on arrival and departure
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project for clients taking our Flight Inclusive option
- ✓ A free Water-to-Go bottle

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- × Travel insurance
- × Visa fees
- × Tips
- × Beverages except mineral water
- × Spa and massage services will be payable onboard
- × Lunch and dinner in Kolkata

Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients, who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

Your accommodation

We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



Taj Bengal or Similar, Kolkata

The Taj Bengal is located in the Alipore neighbourhood of Kolkata, close to several key city sights. It is an elegant Kolkata landmark in its own right, with all the upmarket features you would expect of a 5 star hotel such as a wide choice of restaurants, fitness centre, spa and Wi-Fi. Rooms are very well appointed with first-rate amenities and a high level of comfort.



MV Mahabaahu Cruise Boat

Aboard the MV Mahabaahu, accommodation will be in a superior cabin without a balcony and you have the option of upgrading to a superior cabin with a balcony or suite (please contact us for costs and details). Each cabin has satellite TV, personal safe, mini bar and a spacious bathroom. All are air conditioned for your comfort. Facilities on board include a library, swimming pool and sun deck. There is also a spa (all spa treatments are payable locally).



There will be no night cruising; most cruising takes place between 6.00am and 7.00pm to take full advantage of the spectacular views the river has to offer. Please note that all single cabins on the river cruises must be paid for.

Meal arrangements

12 x breakfasts, 11 x lunches, 10 x dinners. Bed and Breakfast in Kolkata, all meals included elsewhere.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

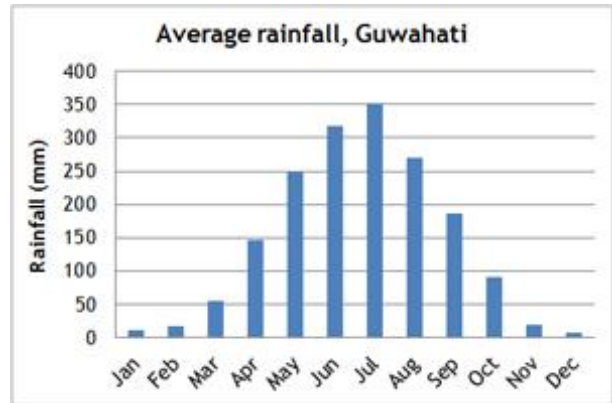
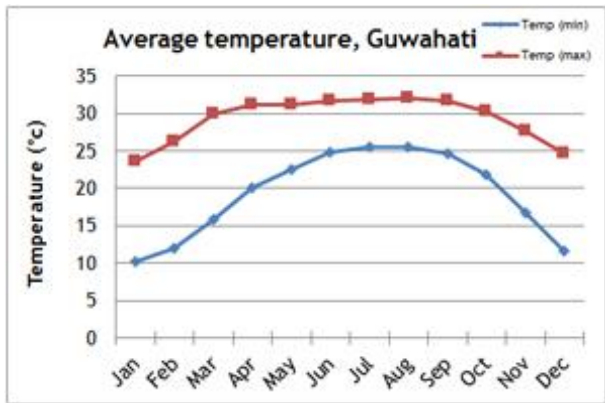
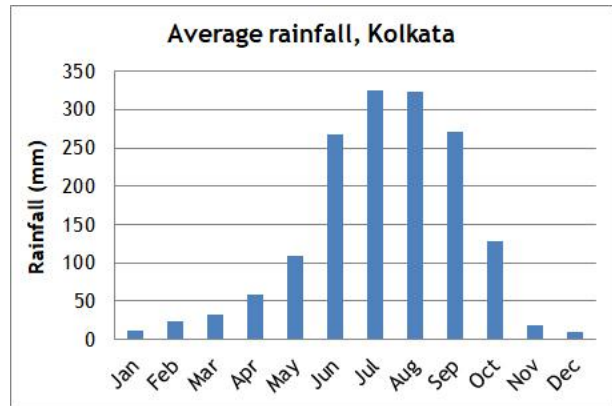
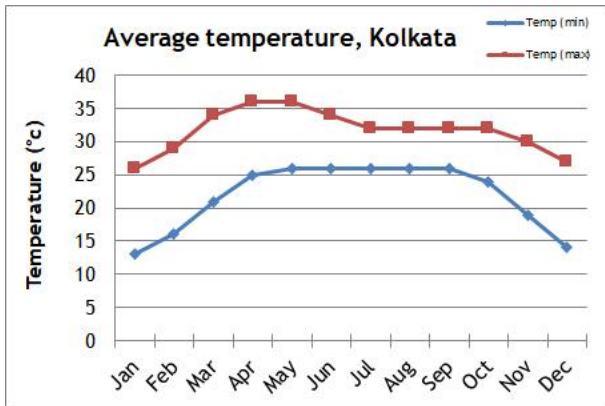
Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

Climate information



Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400.



Extra nights

If you would like to extend your time in India we can arrange additional hotel nights in Kolkata, Delhi and other cities, together with any travel between. We can upgrade your accommodation and also organise personal sightseeing tours.

Agra, Taj Mahal & Jaipur

We offer various extensions to Agra, from a one-day visit to see the majestic Taj Mahal to a six-day trip to visit both the Taj and the Amber Fort at Jaipur. All options travel to Agra on the Shatabdi Express and include the services of an English speaking guide, sightseeing and private transport.

Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- The chance to join a unique river tour specialising in the most wildlife rich parks of Assam along with many of its cultural highlights.
- We use one of the most luxurious river cruise boats on the Brahmaputra River, with well-appointed cabins, excellent recreational facilities and the highest standards of service.
- We use 5 star hotels in Kolkata so you can top and tail your cruise in real style.
- We have a wealth of Indian travel experience in the company and several members of the Mountain Kingdoms team have travelled extensively there. So if you have any questions about any aspect of this holiday please don't hesitate to give us a call, on 01453 844400.
- We offer a flexible service and can extend your holiday with extra hotel nights, upgrades and other exciting activities.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights team for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

What our clients say



)Please note that these reviews are for a previous version of the Brahmaputra River Cruise.)

This was a wonderful trip and an experience we will never forget. The whole voyage was made especially wonderful because of the staff, their helpfulness, concern, charm and efficiency. We wish you a long future in the tourism industry.

-Mr & Mrs M, Australia



Beautiful, all of it. We were amazed by the surroundings and people! We would recommend this trip to anyone. The boat, the people, the staff, the naturalist, all of them made it worthwhile. I forgot - THE FOOD - Delicious! Thank you again for everything.

-Mr PB, Spain

Thank you to all the wonderful people, seen and unseen, who have contributed to this unique experience. We will never forget this week. May MV Mahabaahu achieve the recognition and success it so richly deserves.

-Mr & Mrs M, Melbourne



An excellent holiday. Well organised from beginning to end by Mountain Kingdoms. Nothing was too much trouble. I would highly recommend.

-Robert Washbourne, Wilts

Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit www.tourismdeclares.com

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

Carbon Offsetting

Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

