



29th March to 1st April 2021

Celebrations Cruise

A Lecturer Cruise Journey Downstream

The river cruise aboard the luxury cruise ship - ABN Charaidew II, the newest vessel of the river fleet owned by Assam Bengal Navigation is the ideal way to discover the Brahmaputra river valley, while experiencing vignettes of Assam's rich culture and nature. Not only is the Brahmaputra one of the mightiest rivers in the Indian Subcontinent, but it's also immensely vast and the longest, often resembling the sea in certain parts of its course. Unique to this river are its shifting sand islands that pop up and down every year, changing with the currents.



“River is time in water; as it came, still so it flows, yet never is the same.” – Barten Holyday

The primary highlight of this cruise is undoubtedly the Brahmaputra river in itself. In addition to bathing in the natural beauty of this river, we will be hosting a lecture series on the key points that define Assam in northeast India. On account of Holi coinciding with the embarkation date, we will be

organizing a special Holi celebration with sundowners & BBQ on one of the deserted sand islands (or sand bank) starting with an epic sunset until you are blanketed under a starry night, with no one else around for miles.

This cruise is for those who want to discover a uniquely different part of India while spending time relaxing in the luxury of the Brahmaputra river!

Highlights:

- Cruising the Brahmaputra river - one of the greatest rivers in the Indian Subcontinent - on your boutique luxury ship that offers everchanging panoramic views of Assam's natural beauty
- Expert lecturer talks on Assam's culture, nature, history and economy along with a cultural folk dance performance
- Treat your taste buds to an array of exciting cuisines from Assam with an introduction to indigenous tribal cuisine, seldom before tasted outside of this region
- Enjoy a Holi celebration on a private sandbank or sand island under a starry night, far away from urban life
- Unwind with a book or a cocktail on the ship's comfortable sundeck, pamper yourself with a massage as you watch the world drift by from the spa

BRAHMAPUTRA DOWNSTREAM | 3N/4D | SILGHAT TO GUWAHATI

DAY 1

29th March 2021

Welcoming guests onboard

Arrive at Sil Ghat (1hr drive to the nearest ghat/docking point of Kaziranga National Park) by 10AM to embark your boutique cruise ship, ABN Charaidew II. Alternatively, we can also arrange for a pick-up from our eco-chic safari lodge - Diphlu River Lodge in Kaziranga if guests are staying there to experience Kaziranga National Park before the cruise.

Embark your river journey on the Brahmaputra

India's Brahmaputra River is the 29th longest river in the world at 2,948 km long, and has a discharge of 19,200 cubic litres per second which puts northern India's great waterway in the top 10 when it comes to volume. This is a massive waterway, being the only river on Earth clearly visible from the moon during the Apollo missions. Flowing down from central Tibet through the legendary Tsangpo gorges, the Brahmaputra river opens out as it enters Assam to flow across that state and then through Bangladesh to flow out through the vast Sundarbans Delta, merging with the Ganges River as they discharge into the Bay of Bengal.

The Brahmaputra river may be little-navigated today in comparison to the colonial times - the pioneering river cruise company, 'Assam Bengal Navigation' established in 2003 is the only private family-run luxury operator besides government tie-ups. The river in places can be up to 20 miles wide

and in the monsoon it floods the entire Assam plain. The river is so vast that any river cruise expedition undertaken here can be movingly wondrous, as you pass through this great emptiness of water, sand and shoal. Passengers of our Brahmaputra river cruises enjoy their river trips in peace and tranquility with very little human activity on the riverbank. That means the wild life and bird life are profuse.

Lecture topic today - Introduction to Assam culture, history & nature

Abundant not just in flora and fauna, the Brahmaputra river valley in Assam has long been home to a multitude of ethno-cultural groups under various political-economic systems throughout history. It's believed that the source of Assamese culture developed when the Tai-Shans (traced to either the South China or Myanmar regions) established the Ahom kingdom in Assam and ruled it - unbroken - for 600 years, successfully fending off waves upon waves of Mughal invasion until the dawn of the British Raj. Present-day Assam has a hybrid culture that is largely rooted to the simple agrarian way of life that these fertile plains have bestowed on the Assamese people.

Holi celebration & welcome dinner

We have a special celebration evening planned this evening with sundowners and BBQ dinner under the stars on a deserted sandbank of the Brahmaputra River.

DAY 2

30th March 2021

Cruising downstream of the Brahmaputra River

The day is spent mostly cruising downstream with jungle-covered hills rising on either side, often battling against strong currents. In Assam the Brahmaputra river is mighty, even in the dry season, and during the rains especially in the months of July and August its banks are more than 5 miles (8 km) apart. As the river follows its braided 450-mile (700-km) course through the valley in Assam, it receives several rapidly rushing Himalayan streams, including the Subansiri, Kameng, Bhareli, Dhansiri, Manas & more. With dozens of sediment-rich streams flowing south from the Himalayan highlands into the Brahmaputra Valley and an area with very high erosion rates near Namche Barwa, the Brahmaputra has one of the highest sediment loads per square kilometer of any river in the world. In some ways, the sediment is a blessing. Annual floods spread mineral-rich silt across farmland adjacent to the river, replenishing the soil. In other ways, it poses challenges as there is so much of it that large boats such as our vessels are limited to parts of the river that are navigable which is why we are constantly subject to river conditions that change yearly after the monsoons. Cruising with Assam Bengal Navigation means you are in the hands of the best river cruise operator, the pioneer with 18+ years of experience and expertise in operating long-distance river cruises in India on the Brahmaputra and the Ganges for discerning travellers from around the world.

Indigenous tribal cuisine demonstration and lunch

The first thing that strikes a first time foodie sampling the variety of cuisine in Assam is the delicacy of the flavours and the lightness of the food itself. There is a subtlety in the taste and aroma that makes sampling Assamese cuisine an experience of a different kind. Oils and fats in general are used sparingly, while a profusion of freshly plucked herbs enhance the flavour greatly. Vegetables and greens are used profusely, while rice, whether whole or powdered is a staple.

Riverine village lifestyle of Assam

There is time to pause and visit a riverside village, with its lush green fields of vegetables and corn. Your accompanying guide and accompanying naturalist will brief you as you observe the simple riverine lifestyle of locals in Assam.

Lecture topic - Myriad of indigenous tribes of Assam

Assam is the meeting ground of diverse cultures. The people of the enchanting state of Assam is an intermixture of various racial stocks such as Mongoloid, Indo-Burmese, Indo-Iranian and Aryan. The Assamese culture is a rich and exotic tapestry of all these races evolved through a long assimilative process. The natives of the state of Assam are known as "Asomiya" (Assamese), which is also the state language of Assam. The state has a large number of tribes, each unique in its tradition, culture, dress and exotic way of life. Diverse tribes like Bodo, Kachari, Karbi, Miri, Mishimi, Rabha, etc co-exist in Assam, most tribes have their own languages though Assamese is the principal language of the state.

The crew onboard your ship

We believe that tourism should operate in partnership with local people, ultimately providing employment and economic benefits for the community as well as helping to place a value on the cultural and natural heritage of a destination. You will find that our crew onboard are all locals from the region that have been trained in-house and our managers are professionals from the hospitality trade that personally train and skill our crew members. Additionally, 5% of the proceeds from every booked cabin is contributed to ABN Foundation that supports causes in education, environment and community development along the two rivers we operate in.

Dinner onboard your floating hotel

DAY 3

31st March 2021

Mayong village of the occult

Banked on the Brahmaputra, it is surrounded by hills and hillocks, this village in Morigaon district of Assam is popularly known as the land of black magic. Find out more as to why this little village has come to be known for its black magic history.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary safari

Especially for those who did not visit Kaziranga National Park, no journey into Assam should miss the experience of encountering the one-horned rhinoceros on a jeep safari. Located near the Mayong village

in Morigaon district of Assam, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is a delight for all nature lovers. Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1987, it covers 38.85 km² (15.00 sq mi), providing grassland and wetland habitat for these gentle giants. Those who do not wish to have another wildlife experience, can choose to relax onboard the cruise ship and perhaps enjoy the spa services.

Lecture topic - Assam's natural economy in tea & textiles

Assam has the largest tea growing area in the world, constituting around one-seventh of the global tea production. Assam ranks 3rd amongst raw silk producing states in India contributing over 80% of Muga silk and over 60% of Eri silk produced in India. Sualkuchi in Assam is known as the Manchester of the East and is world renowned for its unique Assam Silk.

Assam Tea tasting session with expert tea connoisseur of Assam

The Assam Tea tasting class is a knowledge session that introduces you to the subtle flavours and varieties of Assam tea led by an expert tea taster and connoisseur by profession. The beauty of Assam tea lies in its hidden notes, delicate aromas, and bold flavours." And it is precisely such beauty that we seek to introduce to our guests over cups of exotic tea and fine blends.

Farewell dinner and drinks on a sandbank with cultural folk performance

DAY 4

1st Ap 2021

Disembark

You will be sailing past Guwahati city to disembark Pandu Ghat that is the ghat nearest to the Guwahati airport that is located at an hours driving distance from the city. Disembark post breakfast.

Note:

All cruising mentioned in these itineraries is subject to river and weather conditions.

All driving times mentioned in these itineraries are approximate.

For private transfers, the additional cost is at Rs.4000/- for an approx. 1hr drive from the western range of Kaziranga National Park where Diphlu River Lodge is situated or any other hotel in Kaziranga of your choosing. Please note that driving distances between western range to eastern range of the park is around 2hrs between them.

For private transfers to Guwahati airport from Pandu Ghar, the cost is at Rs. 3000/-

PRICE

Rs. 98,500/- per person (based on twin-sharing)

INCLUDES:

03 nights' accommodation aboard ABN Charaidew II
Arrival transfers from Kaziranga National Park on a shared basis
Departure transfers to Guwahati airport on a shared basis in a tempo traveler
All excursions and experiences as per the itinerary
All transfers as mentioned in the itinerary on a shared basis
All major meals (03 breakfast, 03 lunch, 03 dinner)
Service of an English-speaking guide onboard and during excursions
Service of an English-speaking naturalist onboard and during excursions
Expert Guide for Lecturer River Series
GST @ 5%

EXCLUDES:

Air or train fare to and from the start of your trip
Drinks from the bar
Laundry, telephone charges, mini bar
Spa treatment
Tips, camera fees
Any Insurance
Items of a personal nature
Personal transfer logistics
Anything which is not mentioned on the includes section

For more information and bookings, please contact:

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