



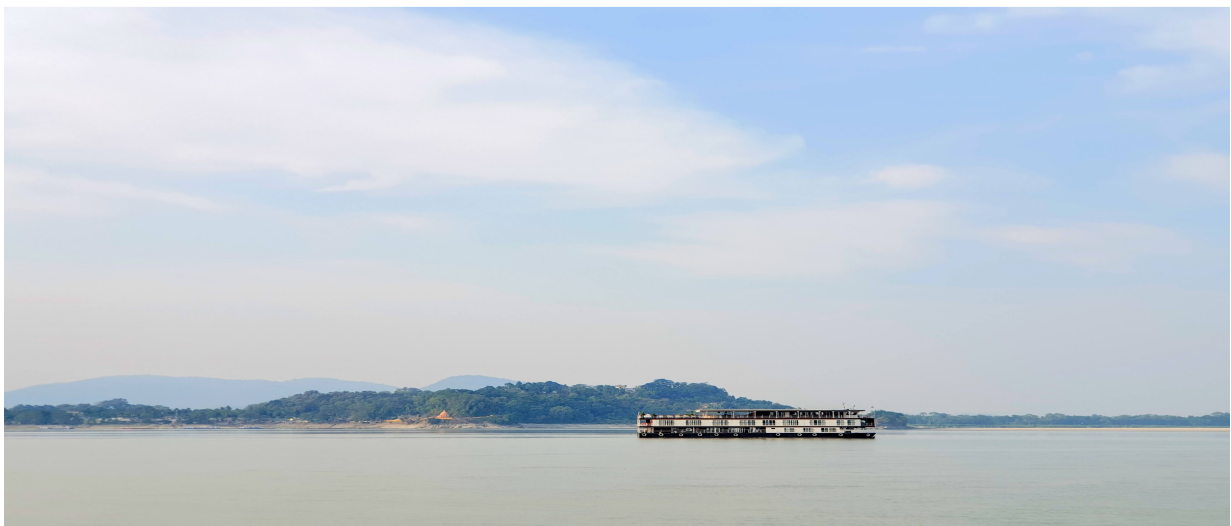
1st to 4th April 2021

Brahmaputra Taster

This 3 night out-and-back cruise aboard the luxury vessel ABN Charaidew II provides a fascinating taster of Assam whilst cruising the Brahmaputra River with visits to silk-weaving villages, the northbank of guwahati city and to Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, where you will venture through the jungle in search of the Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros. The primary highlight is undoubtedly the river experience in itself with incredible views of rolling hills in and around the gateway city of north-east India.

Assam, which literally means ‘a peerless land’, is the gateway to Northeast India. With its blue rivers that often resemble the sea; green mountains that are home to leopards and elephants; and swathes of aromatic tea gardens forming the world’s largest tea-growing region, it’s easy to understand why this state is a very special place on earth especially when experienced on the majestic river, Brahmaputra.

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.



“A river doesn’t just carry water, it carries life. A good river is nature’s life work in a song.” - Mark Helprin

Highlights:

- Cruise the Brahmaputra river - one of the greatest rivers in the Indian Subcontinent - on your boutique luxury ship, the ABN Charaidew II
- Wake up in the mornings to panoramic views of Assam's natural beauty from the middle of the river
- Immerse yourself in Assamese culture on walk into idyllic village settlements on the river bank and temple visits
- Learn about Assam Tea in a tea tasting session and enjoy folk cultural dance performances
- Treat your taste buds to an array of exciting cuisines from Assam
- Enjoy a BBQ on a private sandbank or sand island under a starry night with live music, far away from urban life

BRAHMAPUTRA TASTER

Guwahati - Sualkuchi - Mayong village - Pobitora National park - Guwahati

DAY 1

1st April 2021

Welcome onboard ABN Charaidew II

Meet at Guwahati airport and embark on your ship at Pandu Ghat by mid-afternoon close to the great Saraighat Bridge.

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 away from human activity on the riverbank.

As you have your lunch, we will start cruising downstream to the little town of Sualkuchi, loud with the clatter of looms, and visit its silk-weaving workshops on foot. We shall see the whole process of silk manufacture, from cocoon and spinning to dyeing and hand-weaving into exquisite mekhela chadars (a two-piece sari, the traditional attire of Assamese women).

Sualkuchi -

Also known as the epicenter for textiles, mainly the sought-after silks of Assam. Sualkuchi is famous for its high-quality Muga, Pat and Eri silk products. Local attires like 'Mekhela Chador', 'Sari' and 'Gamosa' are made from these indigenous silk materials which have a great demand throughout Assam and to textile lovers in India.

Cruise further to visit a river side village of Assam to experience a folk dance performance on the banks of the river.

Dinner onboard your cruise ship.

DAY 2

2nd April 2021

We will sail upstream as you have your breakfast to reach Uzaan Bazaar ghat in Guwahati today to give you an introduction to this city as you go past the quaint little cafes, tea houses, old assamese bungalows and visit the boutique store, Konyak which is a treasure trove for all local handlooms, handicrafts & antiques from north-east India.

Navagraha temple visit

The Navagraha Temple, or the temple of the nine celestial bodies, is situated on a hill named Chitrachal in the south eastern part of the city of Guwahati. It is also known as the abode of one of the most important celestial bodies, the sun.

We will have a late lunch onboard as we sail for a few hours upstream to reach a special place before the sun sets, away from the city to moor at.

Dinner onboard the cruise ship.

DAY 3

3rd April 2021

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.

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 we walk along this village to understand why this quaint village has come to be known for its black magic history.

A special sandbank sundowners & BBQ dinner with live music under the stars this evening.

DAY 4

4th April 2021

We will sail downstream past Guwahati city to Pandu Ghat where guests will be disembarking to go

to Guwahati Airport or onwards to Kaziranga National Park.

Shared transfer will be provided to Guwahati airport/hotel.

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 by Innova Crista from Pandu Ghat to Guwahati airport, the additional cost is at Rs. 3000/-

For private transfers to Kaziranga National Park, the additional cost is at Rs. 8000 for an approx. 4hr drive from Pandu Ghat in Guwahati to the western range of Kaziranga National Park where Diphlu River Lodge is situated. Please note that driving distances between western range to eastern range of the park is around 2hrs between them so there is an additional cost depending on the location of the chosen hotel.

PRICE

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

INCLUDES:

03 nights' accommodation aboard ABN Charaidew II
Arrival morning transfers from Guwahati Airport 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
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

EXTENSION TO KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Day 4

After disembarking your ship at Pandu Ghat, drive for approx. 4 hrs to Diphlu River Lodge, a luxury boutique accommodation at Kaziranga National Park for the next 2 nights. Post late lunch, we will do a **rubber plantation walk and karbi tribal village walk** (both located in the karbi hills opposite the lodge) will be arranged with our in-house guide who is also a resident of the karbi village. Evening at leisure. Dinner and overnight at Lodge.

Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. The park has an area of some 165 square miles (430 square km) and lies between the Brahmaputra River and the Karbi (Mikir) Hills. Much of the park is marshland interspersed with large pools fringed with reeds, patches of elephant grass, scattered trees, and thickets. Wildlife includes the world's largest population of great Indian one-horned Rhinoceros, tigers, leopards, panthers, bears, elephants, wild pigs, hog deer, swamp deer, buffalo, and pelicans, storks, and other waterfowl. Seasonal flooding regularly inundates much of the park and kills numerous animals; the land near the river is also subject to erosion. These events have been major factors for a gradual decrease in animal populations over the years but efforts from the Kaziranga Forest Department have vastly improved simultaneously.

DAY 5

5th April 2021

Today, enjoy two more jeep safaris (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) in two different ranges of the National Park accompanied by our resident guide.

DAY 6

6th April 2021

You can choose to do an early morning jeep safari today or do a morning nature trail with our resident guide in lieu of a safari.

After a leisurely breakfast today, check out from the lodge and drive approx. 4 ½ hours to Guwahati airport for your onward journey.

For more information and bookings, please contact:

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