

# BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER CRUISE



## 5 NIGHTS 6 DAYS UPSTREAM CRUISE ITINERARY

### ITINERARY

#### **Day 1 | Tues | ARRIVE GUWAHATI/ SILGHAT/ CRUISE / VISIT TEA ESTATE AND/OR JUTE MILL**

On arrival at the airport, our rep will meet & assist you at the airport, and you would start the drive carrying packed lunch.

The drive to Silghat takes about 5 hours. On arrival at Silghat, we are welcomed on board the Cruise.

We take a short drive to Kaliabore Tea Estate which is a vast expanse of undulating estate with tea bushes, watching the tribal women picking tea leaves. (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.



## **DAY 2: 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.

Post 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 Cruise for a leisurely lunch and a relaxed afternoon.

## **DAY 3: DHANSIRI BOAT SAFARI**

This morning Cruise 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.



## **DAY 4: MISHING 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 Mishing Village

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

The indoor life of a Mishing 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.

#### **DAY 5 : MAJULI VISIT / SIBSAGAR/ NEAMATI GHAT**

After breakfast, we enjoy a talk on 'Majuli' the seat of Vaishnav 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 Kamlabari 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 Neamati 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 13<sup>th</sup> Century AD to the area from the north-east and were essentially of Tibeto-Burman origin.

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.



## **DAY 6 : NEAMATI GHAT/ HOME HOSTED LUNCH /JORHAT/ DEPARTURE**

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 for a relaxed afternoon where we enjoy a traditional Assamese lunch with the Tea-estate family to get a peep into the lifestyle of the families that have been involved in the tea business over a period of a century. Here we sip our beverages and indulge in tea tasting as we explore the lawns and proceed to enjoy a traditional Assamese cuisine.

The crew on board organises our transport.

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

### **PRICE CHART**

#### **5 Nights / 6 Days Upstream Cruise Program**

**All below prices are per person on a twin sharing basis.**

<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Superior Cabin without Balcony</b>	<b>Superior Cabin with Balcony</b>	<b>Suite Cabin (Double Occupancy)</b>
Price per person on Twin sharing	INR 96,250*	INR 68,250*	INR 91,875*
Single Room Supplement	INR 55,000*	INR 59,100*	INR 91,875*
Full Charter	INR 30,13500*		

#### **TOTAL CABINS = 23.**

- 12 Superior Cabins without balcony
- 9 Superior Cabins with balcony
- 2 Suite Cabins

#### **Inclusions:**

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis with meals specified in the itinerary.
- All Entrance fees at the Monuments and National Parks as per the itinerary.
- 1 Glass of Domestic wine/beer with Farewell and Welcome dinners at Guwahati only.
- All excursions/lectures/performances and activities as per the itinerary.
- All applicable taxes
- Services of English speaking guide during sightseeing at all the places as per the itinerary.
- Assistance and portorage at the airports.
- All Arrival & Departure transfers with Representative at the airport and Land transport by Air-Conditioned vehicles.

#### **The above cost does not Include:**

- Expense of personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, internet, imported wines & spirits, camera/video camera fee at monuments/National Park, medical expenses, Salon/massages, airport departure tax etc.
- Any Insurance.
- Any further tax levied by the government of India.
- Evacuation charges in case of medical emergencies, insurance is available on request.
- Expenses caused by factors beyond our control like rail and airplanes delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, taxes, lost luggage, etc.
- Any tipping.

- International & Domestic Air fares.
- Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.
- Supplement of peak period from 20<sup>th</sup> Dec'14 till 10<sup>th</sup> Jan'15 will be advised on booking request for that period.

**WEATHER AND SEASONAL INFORMATION:**

The best time to visit Assam is from October to April, which is also the festive season of Assam.

While winter days are usually sunny, the temperature can fall to 8 degrees Celsius (46 F) at night. Cabins are air conditioned and heated for your comfort, but you should include warm clothing, hats and jackets in your packing when visiting during the winter months.

Kaziranga National Park is open from 1<sup>st</sup> November until the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. During October and May, the park will be open but that not all roads may be navigable as they work to restore them to pre monsoon standards.

During the peak winter season of mid-December to mid-February, the itinerary will be adjusted according to daylight hours as the Cruise does not sail during darkness. In order to provide for full coverage of the Kaziranga National Park during these winter months, we will not visit Bishwanath Ghat.

**RIVER CONDITIONS AND DISCLAIMER:**

River cruising in this part of the world is an adventurous experience. Assam is still in the developing stages of tourism and the developing infrastructure is rushing to keep pace with the rapidly growing interest in this part of India. As such, our voyage is an expedition-style cruise with all creature comforts on-board. Our shore-side staff will make every effort to attend to your comfort during onshore expeditions. However, vehicles and roads may not be of the same standard that you have experienced elsewhere, although we use the best of what is available locally.

Please note, this itinerary is subject to weather and river conditions. The Captain/Cruise Director reserves the right to adjust the itinerary for passenger safety and comfort.

The Brahmaputra River is subject to seasonal fluctuations. Islands and sand bars can appear and disappear between one sailing and the next. Also, being one of the highest precipitation zones in the world, our program is subject to weather and River conditions.

Also, we reserve the right to convert the direction of the cruise from upstream to downstream or vice versa without any compensation.