INDIA: ALONG THE RIVER GANGES

6 DAYS 16-21 November, 2017

slow travel India’s holiest river aboard the RV Bengal Ganga
### TRIP DOSSIER

11 pages: A Brief Outline Itinerary, Your Detailed Itinerary, Important Notes, Booking Form and Booking Conditions.

#### 6 DAYS 16-21 NOVEMBER 2017
£ to be advised MAIN DECK, per person twin sharing  
£ to be advised MAIN DECK, single room occupancy

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| **Day 1**     | **Thursday 16 November**  
A free day for independent activities for those already in Kolkata and joining the 6-day Extension: Along the River Ganges.  
Meeting on arrival Kolkata International Airport. Transfer to hotel. Check-in from 2pm today. | Kolkata – Hotel Oberoi Grand                       |
| **Day 2**     | **Friday 17 November**   
Morning embark the ship RV Bengal Ganga.  
Afternoon Kolkata Orientation Tour. Sail to Kalna. | On board RV Bengal Ganga                           |
| **Day 3**     | **Saturday 18 November**  
Morning visit the temple town of Kalna. Sail to Matiari. | On board RV Bengal Ganga                           |
| **Day 4**     | **Sunday 19 November**    
Morning visit Matiari famous for its work in brass and copper. Sail to Murshidabad past Plassey, associated with Robert Clive and the British East India Company. | On board RV Bengal Ganga                           |
| **Day 5**     | **Monday 20 November**    
Morning shore excursion of Murshidabad includes the Katra mosque and Hazarduari palace. Sail to Jangipur. | On board RV Bengal Ganga                           |
| **Day 6**     | **Tuesday 21 November**   
Disembark at Jangipur. Train to Kolkata and transfer to airport for onward flight. |                                                   |
Join Lesley on a slow journey along the Lower Ganges and the Hoogly River, a 160-mile long distributary of the River Ganges, known as the Mother Ganga, and the holiest river in India. For the millions of Indians who live in villages along their banks, these rivers are a lifeline.

Our luxurious cruise ship, the RV Bengal Ganga was designed as a replica of the colonial style ‘Clyde’ steamers that at the height of Empire trudged through swamps and far flung deltas. A succession of important officials and celebrities of the day, including the Viceroy of India and the Prince of Wales, used similar ships.

This is an opportunity to see a part of India that would normally be arduous to visit by road and to watch the world go slowly by as we sail upstream. We’ll go to areas where the early European settlers established their respective East Indian Companies. Visits will include the temple town of Kalna, the brass making village of Matiari, Hazarduari Palace and Katra mosque. A different experience of India!

**This Extension takes place immediately after the ‘Colors of Central India’ tour that ends in Kolkata (16 November 2017) thereby enabling you to do both trips back-to-back.**

**Should you wish to only join the 6-day river tour, we can help plan your travel arrangements around the cruise dates.**

**DETAILED ITINERARY: ALONG THE GANGES 2017**

**Day 1**  
16 November  
THURSDAY

A free day in Kolkata for those joining the 6-day Extension: Along the River Ganges. Meal Plan: Breakfast & Dinner

Arrival in Kolkata by your own independent air arrangements. Rooms available for check-in from 2pm today. Land arrangements begin with a transfer from Kolkata International Airport to Hotel Oberoi Grand. We come together this evening to meet our traveling companions and to go over the trip before dinner.

**KOLKATA – HOTEL OBEROI GRAND (Dinner)**

**Day 2**  
17 November  
FRIDAY

KOLKATA – EMBARK / SAIL TO KALNA

This morning we are picked up at our hotel and transfer to the jetty to board the cruise ship RV Bengal Ganga. Lunch onboard.
The rest of the day is at leisure to relax on board, do an independent activity or post lunch embark on an Orientation Tour of Kolkata, which will take us to the Dalhousie Square that houses several Colonial/Heritage monuments like Writer's Building, General Post Office, High Court, Raj Bhawan (Governor's Palace), Town Hall, Council House, Treasury Building and the Reserve Bank of India.

We then visit St. John's Church and the Victoria Memorial for a photo stop and walk in the gardens. St. John's Church, originally a cathedral, was among the first public buildings erected by the East India Company after Kolkata became the effective capital of British India. It was modeled according to the St. Martin-in-the-Fields of London. The Victoria Memorial is a grand marble building built during 1906-1921 in the memory of Queen Victoria (1819–1901). The Memorial lies on the Maidan (grounds) by the bank of the Hooghly River.

Return to the ship and cast off to Kalna. Our upstream journey towards Kalna sails through the areas where the different European settlers had established their respective East Indian Companies leaving back reminiscence of their settlements during the period of 17th to 19th century.

OVERNIGHT ON BOARD RV BENGAL GANGA (B,L,D)

Day 3
18 November
SATURDAY

KALNA – MATIARI

Morning we ride cycle rickshaws to visit the enchanting Rajbari Temple Complex in Kalna. The temples of Kalna take elements from mosques and temple architecture to create a new congregational space of worship. On one side of the road lies the Nabakailas Temples. Built in 1809 by the Bardhaman Maharaja, it contains 108 'aat-chala' or "eight slope-roofed" Shiva temples arranged in two concentric circles. The outer circle consists of 74 temples of alternate black and white lingams; while the 34 temples of the inner circle have only white lingams. On the other side of the road lies a walled complex, containing the most diversified form of Bengal's temple architecture: Pratapeshwar Temple, contains terra cotta plaques depicting themes of Hindu epics and mythical life of saints, gods & goddesses and various aspects of day-to-day life. The other notable temples here are the Lalji temple, Krishnachandra temple and the flat roofed temple of Giri Govardhan.

Return to the ship and cruise towards Matiari, arriving by the evening and moor for the night.

OVERNIGHT ON BOARD RV BENGAL GANGA (B,L,D)
### Day 4
**19 November**  
**SUNDAY**

**SAIL MATIARI - MURSHIDABAD**

Early in the morning we will visit the village of Matiari, which is famous for its work in brass and copper. Here copper is still processed manually. The unique character of the area is that as we start walking towards the village, we can hear loud noises of beating metal coming from all the houses. Stroll in the village and visit some homes to see and experience the different process of the brass making with a chance of buying artifacts and souvenirs.

Return to the ship, cast off and cruise towards Murshidabad sailing past Plassey, which is well known for the battle that took place in 1757 that turned the history of India. The battlefield of Plassey is where Robert Clive of British East India Company defeated the Mogul Nawab, the then ruler of Bengal and his French Allies; establishing the company rule in India which expanded over much of South Asia for the next 190 years.

Arrive at Murshidabad and moor for the night.

**OVERNIGHT ON BOARD RV BENGAL GANGA (B,L,D)**

### Day 5
**20 November**  
**MONDAY**

**SAIL MURSHIDABAD - JANGIPUR**

Morning excursion of the historic town of Murshidabad. We ride the local Tonga (horse cart) to visit the oldest mosque of this town the Katra Mosque built by the first Nawab of Murshidabad, Nawab Murshid Quli Khan in the year 1724-25. From there we ride the Tonga to the Hazarduari Palace Museum. Built during the reign of Nawab Nazim Humayun Jah (1824-1838 AD) by an English architect, Duncan McLeod following the Greek “Doric” style. The palace has more than a thousand real and false doors in the vast corridors. Inside the palace museum one can observe a wide collection of antiquities including various kinds of weapons, oil paintings of Dutch, French and Italian artists, marble, porcelain & stucco statues, are manuscripts and palanquins mostly belonging to the 18th, 19th centuries. Opposite to the Palace is the vast Imambara open only during the religious ceremony time.

Return to the ship and sail onwards to Jangipur and moor for the night.

**OVERNIGHT ON BOARD RV BENGAL GANGA (B,L,D)**

### Day 6
**21 November**  
**TUESDAY**

**DISEMBARK JANGIPUR – TRAIN KOLKATA - DEPARTURE**

Early this morning we disembark the ship with packed snack boxes and transfer to Jangipur train station to board the train to Kolkata: Train Intercity Express, 07:40 – 12:50 hrs.
On arrival in Kolkata, lunch is at a local restaurant and then transfer to the airport for your international flight homeward or depart to your onward destination.

(Depending on your flight departure timings, you may require an airport hotel today until your departure. Please ask for details).

**TOUR DIRECTOR, LESLEY ROBIN:** Lesley’s experience of India spans more than 30 years, bringing to our journey a personal and in depth knowledge of this vast country with its diverse culture. Her interest in textiles began in the late 70s when she settled in Dharamsala (Western Himalayas) exiled home of the Tibetan Dalai Lama. Here she helped set up projects with local weavers. Her knowledge of eastern culture, Hinduism and Buddhism and her interest in the textile & craft heritage of the Indian sub-continent is a result of her extensive travels throughout the region.

**For further information please email Lesley:** lesley@exclusivejourneys.com

**IMPORTANT NOTES**

**PASSPORTS:** Passports need to be valid for 6 months beyond trip dates. A visa is required for India.

**Indian Visas:** Holders of British and American passports, as well as citizens from many other countries, are now able to apply online for the Indian e-Tourist Visa (eTV). An easy process, this visa allows the holder to enter India at sixteen designated airports for two visits per year of one-month duration each.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** Two months prior to the start of the tour you will be sent comprehensive pre-departure details pertaining to health, clothing, climate, hotels, obtaining your Indian visa etc. In the meantime if you have any questions or require assistance with any arrangements additional to the itinerary please let us know.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** Is due 12 weeks before departure (24 August, 2017).

**PRICES (includes Government Service Tax):**

**MAIN DECK:** £ to be advised: per person, twin sharing  
£ to be advised: single room occupancy

*Cruise Price includes*

Accommodation as requested aboard the RV Bengal Ganga and all meals as indicated in the itinerary – Indian Brand Mineral Water at the time of meals - Sightseeing as described in the Itinerary – All Entrance Fees – Transfers by car/minivan/coach as per programs – all entrance fees - camera fees (still) – local assistance.
Cruise Price excludes

Wine and Spirits or Beverages, personal laundry, all visa costs, gratuities to staff, all items of a personal nature; health-accident-baggage or travel protection plan outside the ship's boundaries.

THE RV BENGAL GANZA: The ship accommodates a maximum of 56 passengers and prices are based on individuals joining in twin rooms or single rooms (each with 2 beds). The dates for this cruise have been chosen to coincide with the Colours of Central India 2017 tour but other dates and longer cruises are available. If you are interested in other dates, please make contact with Lesley.

For more information about the ship, to see the accommodation, learn about life on board and much more, please see the website for the RV Bengal Ganga: http://www.bengalganga.com/

Important Note: For all departures should the occupancy be less than 10 passengers the Company reserves the right to cancel the cruise up to 60 days prior the departure date. A written confirmation notice will be released to all booked clients and/or their agents within and not later than 60 days prior the departure date. In case of cancellation an alternative cruise will be offered and if not acceptable all down payments will be refunded. PLEASE NOTE: Lesley would let you know 90 days prior to the departure if for any reason the ship does not have sufficient numbers to run. However, it is highly likely this departure date will go, as it is the season and a perfect time of year for such a trip. It is therefore best to reserve your place early.

Meals: All meals onboard are prepared by highly experienced chefs and consist of primarily Indian/European-style food, making each meal a delectable culinary experience.

Gratuities: Are not included. Please read Passenger Information A-Z under Life on Board which includes these details and which you will find on the website: http://www.bengalganga.com/

The Bengal Ganga family is waiting to welcome you; to ensure that your every comfort and need is taken care of, so as to make this a memorable experience on board the RV Bengal Ganga.

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES (additional to Cruise Price includes as above):

International Airport Transfers: Transfers are included on arrival and departure.

Accommodation, meals and sightseeing Kolkata: Overnight on arrival is at the centrally located and iconic Hotel Oberoi Grand. Sightseeing is as per itinerary, meals as stated include tea/coffee. Bottled mineral water is provided with lunch/dinner.
TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE (additional to Cruise Price excludes as above):

- Round-trip international flights to India
- Indian visa fee and Travel Insurance
- Gratuities
- Meals not specified as included
- Personal expenses including alcoholic beverages, room service, laundry charges, phone calls etc.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS: International airfare is NOT included in the price of Land Arrangements. This tour begins and ends in Kolkata (Calcutta).

Your booking is made with CT Group Travel who can arrange your international flights to join this trip. Should you require assistance with any arrangements additional to the itinerary please let us know.

In the meantime do not delay in reserving your place on this fabulous trip!

SEE BOOKING FORM & BOOKING CONDITIONS ON THE PAGES BELOW.

Contact Hilary Crundwell on 01892 673435 or email: hilary@ctgrouptravel.co.uk.
BOOKING FORM

ALONG THE GANGES: 16-21 November 2017

Surname .............................................................................. Full Name (as on passport) .............................................

Nationality ................................................................. Date of Birth ............................................................... ..............................................

Place of Birth (City & Country) .......................................................... .......................................................... ..............................................

Passport No. ......................................................................... Place of Issue ..........................................................

Date of Issue ........................................................................ Date of Expiry ..........................................................

Address for Correspondence: ..........................................................................................................................................

Telephone (day): ........................................................... Telephone (home): ..........................................................

Email: ..........................................................@..........................................................

TWIN SHARING MAIN DECK .............................................. or SINGLE ROOM MAIN DECK ..........................................

I shall be accompanied by: (optional) ..........................................................

PLEASE NOTE: For hotels as per itinerary we require a copy of your passport details (photograph page) – please scan and email/include with Booking Form.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS:
Indicate if you would like CT TRAVEL to book your flights from the UK. YES/NO (delete as appropriate)
Indicate if you are arranging your international flights independently YES/NO (delete as appropriate)

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS DURING THE TOUR – Please supply minimum of 1 person's contact details:

NAME & ADDRESS: 
TELEPHONE NUMBER HOME: 
TELEPHONE NUMBER MOBILE: 

NAME & ADDRESS: 
TELEPHONE NUMBER HOME: 
TELEPHONE NUMBER MOBILE: 

INSURANCE DETAILS: Name of Insurance Provider ..........................................................
Policy Number ..........................................................
Insurance Providers 24hr Medical Emergency Telephone Number ..........................................................

I confirm I have read and now accept the Booking Conditions of CTT Group Ltd on behalf of all persons listed above by whom I am authorised to make this agreement.

Signed: .............................................................................. Date: ..........................................................

Deposit(s) @ £300 per person  £..........................................................

Cheque (payable to CTT Group Ltd) enclosed for total:  £..........................................................

We accept payment by Debit Cards such as Maestro and Visa Debit. We also accept payment, subject to a handling charge, by American Express (3.5% handling charge), and by Visa or Mastercard (2.5% handling charge). To make a payment by card please call Hilary Crundwell on 01892 673435.

CTT Group Ltd, Units 8-9 Orchard Business Centre, North Farm Road Tunbridge Wells TN2 3XF
TELEPHONE: Hilary Crundwell on 01892 673435 EMAIL: hilary@ctgrouptravel.co.uk
Booking Terms & Conditions of CTT Group Ltd.

Your contract is with CTT Group Ltd (Company number GB3464732), fully licensed and bonded within the guidelines of ABTA (The Association of British Travel Agents), our membership number is 99162, we are licensed by The CAA (The Civil Aviation Authority) who provide us with the following ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) number 5158, we are also an agent for IATA (The International Air Transport Association) for which our membership number is 91231976.

YOUR HOLIDAY CONTRACT: Contract means the contract for the provision of the specified service. When you make a booking you guarantee that you have the authority to accept and do accept on behalf of your party the terms of these booking conditions. A contract will exist as soon as we issue you with your booking reference number. This contract is made on the terms of these booking conditions which are governed by English Law and the jurisdiction of the English Courts.

Making your booking
Please complete the provided booking form and send it to us together with the deposit, or full payment if your booking is within 14 weeks of departure. Provided the holiday is available we will make all arrangements and send you a confirmation of your booking and all relevant details including your booking reference number. If the holiday is not available, we will return your deposit or full payment. Once we have confirmed your booking, your deposit is non-returnable except in the special circumstances mentioned below. We will send you a final invoice approximately 16 weeks prior to departure and this will show any surcharges due. You must pay the full balance of your holiday 14 weeks before departure. We may otherwise treat the booking as cancelled and apply our cancellation charges. We will send you your tickets approximately 10 days before travel.

What your money buys
The holiday price includes: Twin or double-bedded room with private bath or shower at the named hotels or substitutes of the same standard. Meals are as specified on your confirmation. Meetings, transfers, surface transportation by car, bus or train. Holiday prices cover only the services and duration shown on each itinerary. Check-out time from rooms is generally 12 noon.

Economy class air travel inclusive of all ticketable airport taxes, fuel surcharges which will be secured at the lowest available fare at the time of booking (with any supplements payable due to lack of flight availability advised to you for your approval before confirmation). Once booked your airline ticket(s) will be 100 % non-refundable.

Where, for reasons of force majeure, altered services are taken or the duration of the holiday is extended, we reserve the right to pass on additional costs in full. Excluded are all expenses of a personal nature such as drinks or laundry. Group tours are based on a minimum number of persons travelling. We must regretfully reserve the right not to operate any tour on which there are insufficient bookings 8 weeks before departure. Full payment, including your deposit, will be refunded.

Your luggage and belongings
Our ground arrangements allow for you to take one suitcase and one piece of hand luggage. If you have booked your flights through us we will advise you of your weight restrictions. Please check with your airline if you have arranged your own flights.

Airlines and Seating
We are able to quote for upgrades to World Traveler Plus and to Business Class on some British Airways flights. Reserving your actual seat can only be done by you personally once you have received your ticket (or e-ticket).

Delays at Point of Departure
The scheduled airlines we use will generally provide meals and accommodation to passengers already checked-in in the event of extended delays. The CTT Group t/a CT Groups and Incentives and or The Embroiderers’ Guild cannot be held responsible for any alterations that are necessary as a result of any delays caused directly or indirectly to the international flights for reasons within or outside of theirs or the carrier’s control.

Passports, Visas and Health
You must have a full British passport valid for a minimum of 6 months beyond your return date and at least one blank page available in your passport. All names on the booking must be exactly as per your passport. If you do not hold a British passport, do not meet these requirements or have any doubt as to your eligibility to enter INDIA then please contact us for further advice before confirming your booking.

Age and Health
We do not operate any age limit on our holidays. However if you are aged over 80, we strongly recommend that you should be travelling with a companion and you are fit and healthy to travel. In many of the countries in which we operate, medical facilities are poor and if you do fall ill appropriate treatment may be difficult to access. There are no formal health requirements except for those who have recently visited a Yellow Fever area. Recommended precautions will be advised with the confirmation of booking. All clients are themselves responsible for ensuring that they conform to the health regulations regarding vaccinations.

Surcharges – Our Policy
All costs quoted are the most up-to-date prices available for October 2016. All prices quoted are subject to unforeseen increases such as currency fluctuation and are in the main based on negotiated group rates and therefore subject to minimum numbers. The price of your holiday is subject to surcharges on the following items for increases in transportation costs, e.g. scheduled airfares and any other airline surcharge which is part of the contract between airlines (and their agents) and the tour operator, government action such as increases in VAT or any other government imposed increases, currency in relation to adverse exchange rate variations, fuel for road vehicles. Even in these cases we will absorb an amount equivalent to 2% of the holiday price, which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges. Only amounts in excess of this 2% will be surcharged. If this means paying more than 10% on the holiday price, you will be entitled to cancel your holiday with a full refund of all monies paid except for any deposits paid to the airline which in some circumstances may be non refundable, and any premium paid to us for holiday insurance and amendment charges. Should you decide to cancel because of this, you must exercise your right to do so within 14 days from the issue date printed on the invoice.
If you cancel your holiday
You, or any member of your party, may cancel your travel arrangements at any time. Written notification from the lead person who made the booking must be received at our offices before we action your cancellation request. Since we incur costs in cancelling your travel arrangements, you will have to pay the applicable cancellation charges up to the maximum shown below.
If you cancel, we must impose cancellation charges up to a maximum as follows.

**Percentages are of the total holiday cost**
Between time of booking and 98 Days before departure - Loss of Deposit
Between 97 - 56 days before departure - 30%
Between 55 - 36 days before departure - 50%
Between 35 - Departure - 100%

In addition to this, and over and above the cancellation charges as outlined in this clause, some aspects of your travel arrangements maybe completely non refundable and therefore result in cancellation charges being higher than outlined above. (For example all flight only tickets are generally 100% non refundable from the point of booking onwards).

**Travel Insurance**
Travel insurance is required to travel on one of our tours. We require, before travel, the name of your insurance provider, your policy number and the 24hr medical emergency telephone number for your provider. Please note you must make sure your insurance includes cancellation & repatriation. Your travel insurance must cover the destinations you will be visiting along with any activities you are taking part in. (Please ask if you need any assistance with an insurance quote).

**Alterations by ourselves**
We will do our utmost to provide the holiday arrangements that have been confirmed. We reserve the right to modify or cancel any holiday, flight schedule, accommodation or arrangement if unforeseen circumstances arise or if our minimum number of 10 travelers per tour is not met. In such rare circumstances, we will inform you as soon as possible and, should the change be such that it alters the nature of your holiday, we shall offer you the choice of an alternative holiday or a full refund of all monies paid to ourselves.

**Our liabilities to you**
We do not exclude or limit any liability to our clients which may arise from proven negligence by any person employed directly by us or by our suppliers and subcontractors, servants or agents of the same whilst acting in the course of their employment in respect of death, bodily injury or illness. If our suppliers are able to exclude or limit liability by virtue of any international convention we will claim the benefit of that exclusion or limitation. Such liabilities shall be subject to English law and all proceedings shall be within the exclusive domain of the English courts. We accept responsibility for ensuring that all parts of the holiday are supplied as described and that all services shall reach a reasonable standard. These obligations and responsibilities shall be limited where international conventions in respect of air or sea carriers apply. Naturally we cannot assume responsibility for loss or expense due to war, riots, strikes, terrorist activities or natural disasters.

**Complaints**
If you have cause for complaint, please inform our tour guide immediately who will endeavor to put things right so you can continue to enjoy your holiday. If the matter cannot be rectified whilst you are on holiday, please write and tell us as soon as possible after you get back and we will do our best to sort it out promptly. If your complaint is not resolved whilst on holiday, please follow this up within 28 days of your return home by writing to our Customer Services Department at CTT Group Ltd, Units 8-9 Orchard Business Centre, North Farm Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3XF giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. This will assist us to quickly identify your concerns and speed up our response to you.

**Debit, Credit and Charge Cards**
We do accept payment by debit cards such as Maestro. We also accept payment by credit cards, subject to a handling charge - Visa, MasterCard (2.5%) & American Express (3.5%).

**Consumer Protection**
This package is protected by ATOL since we hold an Air Travel Organiser’s Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 5158. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking. For further information, visit the ATOL website at [http://www.atol.org.uk](http://www.atol.org.uk)

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North Farm Road, Tunbridge Wells
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