



HARVARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2017 WORLDWIDE TRAVEL PROGRAM



TRAVELS 2017

KOLKATA TO VARANASI

India's Ganges River aboard *Bengal Ganga*

December 26, 2017–January 10, 2018

THE GANGES RIVER Aboard *Bengal Ganga*

December 26, 2017–January 10, 2018 • 15 nights/16 days



Marvel at the colorful displays of produce in Kolkata's markets (above). In Bodhgaya, learn about the significance of Mahabodhi Temple to Buddhists (inset).

FROM ITS SOURCE HIGH IN THE MIGHTY HIMALAYAS, the Ganges River

(Mother Ganga to the Indian people) flows 1,500 miles south and east through areas western visitors have rarely seen, connecting to the Hooghly River through Kolkata (Calcutta) before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. A vibrant, complex tapestry of religious beliefs, historical sagas, diverse architectural styles, and fascinating cultural traditions spreads along its banks.

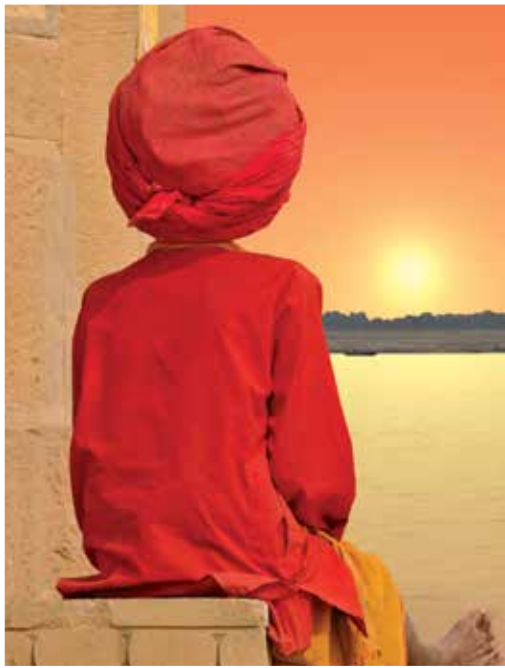
During an 800-mile riverboat journey from Kolkata to Simaria aboard *Bengal*

Ganga, and continuing overland to Varanasi, you will be treated to a panoply of Muslim and colonial architecture, Hindu culture, Buddhist temples, the daily rituals of village life, and the unspoiled countryside of a part of India seldom experienced by travelers.

Infused with the influences of past rulers and European settlers, rich in diverse flora and fauna, and endowed with incredibly beautiful landscapes, the Ganges represents the heart and soul of Indian civilization. An optional post-trip extension to Agra makes a compelling finale for those who have never seen the Taj Mahal.

HARVARD STUDY LEADER

As this brochure goes to print, we have not yet confirmed the faculty study leader for this program. We intend, however, that you will be joined by a Harvard lecturer who will enhance your travel experience. You will discover that our lecturers are not only first-rate scholars and teachers but also friendly traveling companions, eager to share their insights through conversation as well as in scheduled presentations.



WHY TRAVEL WITH THE HAA?

- Expert Harvard faculty and study leaders
- Over 80 destinations on all 7 continents
- Choice of land & rail, cruises, rivers & lakes, and family adventures
- Travel with fellow Harvard alumni
- Local culture, history, and cuisine at each stop
- Relationships that last beyond your itinerary

See Victoria Memorial (below), icon of British colonial architecture, in Kolkata. (Inset) A contemplative moment for a Hindu holy man. (Back cover) Observe fine examples of Bengal temple architecture in Kalna.



SCHEDULE BY DAY



(Above left) Explore Katra Mosque, a center of Islamic learning and the tomb of Nawab Murshid Quli Khan, in Murshidabad. (Above center) Observe the Varanasi. (Above right) Monks at prayer in Bodhgaya, an important and sacred Buddhist pilgrimage center.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 26 & 27

Home / Kolkata, India

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Kolkata, arriving on December 27. After hotel check-in, enjoy an afternoon visit to the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Center and a welcome reception with fellow travelers. *Taj Bengal Hotel (R)*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

Kolkata (Embark)

Explore colonial Kolkata, the capital of British India until 1912, including Dalhousie Square; the Writers' Building, once the administrative offices of the British East India Company; the Kolkata Race Course; the Raj Bhavan, seat of imperial British power; and St. John's Church. Mid-afternoon embark *Bengal Ganga* and depart for Kalna, traveling through areas where successive waves of European settlers established their East Indian companies. Enjoy a welcome dinner aboard ship this evening. *Bengal Ganga (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Kalna

Ride in rickshaws to the enchanting Rajbari complex, whose impressive concentration of temples include the Pratapeshwar Temple, richly ornamented with terra cotta, and the Nabakailas Temples, 108 slope-roofed Shiva temples arranged in two concentric circles. Relax aboard *Bengal Ganga* this afternoon en route to Matiari. *Bengal Ganga (B,L,D)*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

Matiari

In the village of Matiari, observe master craftsmen hand-crafting the brass pots

and utensils for which Matiari is known. Back aboard ship, cruise past the battle of Plassey, where Robert Clive of the British East India Company defeated the Mogul Nawabs and their French allies in 1757. *Bengal Ganga (B,L,D)*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

Murshidabad & Baranagar

Aboard local *tongas* (horse carts), ride to the Hazarduari Palace Museum to view a vast collection of antiquities including rare books, old maps and manuscripts, weapons, and European oil paintings. Also visit the Katra Mosque, built in 1723–24 by Nawab Murshid Quli Khan, and the temple complex of Baranagar, a superior example of Bengal terra-cotta art. This evening celebrate New Year's Eve on board the ship. *Bengal Ganga (B,L,D)*

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

Farakka & Rajmahal

Today *Bengal Ganga* enters the Farakka lock gate and cruises through the feeder canal that connects the Hooghly River to the Ganges in West Bengal. Observe the Farakka Barrage, which regulates the flow of Ganges water into the delta shared by Bangladesh and India, as well as the diversity of birdlife that inhabits this stretch of water. In Rajmahal, founded by Emperor Akbar in 1592, explore the ruins of palaces and mosques and walk through areas where the china clay used to make fine porcelains is mined. *Bengal Ganga (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

Cruising

Enjoy a full day of cruising, with time to relax, enjoy the continuation of the

educational program, and learn about distinctive elements of Indian cooking from the ship's chef. *Bengal Ganga (B,L,D)*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

Bateshwarsthan

Visit the ruins of Vikramshila University, one of the two most important centers of Buddhist learning in India during the Pala Dynasty. Later cruise through the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary—where the endangered Gangetic river dolphin is protected—accompanied by some of the sanctuary's wildlife experts. *Bengal Ganga (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Sultanganj

Sultanganj is notable for its two imposing granite bluffs, crowned by a mosque and by the temple of Ghabinath Siva. Nearby excavations have yielded a wealth of art and architectural remains, including ancient relics such as *stupas*, seals, coins, and terra cotta Hindu and Buddha images. Continue to Munger along a picturesque stretch of the Ganges. *Bengal Ganga (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

Munger

Visit the Bihar School of Yoga, established in 1963 in order to preserve yogic science by combining academic and scientific methodology with a spiritual vision. On this last evening aboard ship, enjoy the captain's farewell dinner. *Bengal Ganga (B,L,D)*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Simaria (Disembark) / Nalanda / Rajgir / Bodhgaya

Disembark *Bengal Ganga* and travel to the archaeological site of Nalanda, an ancient Buddhist monastery and one of the oldest centers of learning in India, now



the Hindu ritual of aarti from the bathing steps in

a UNESCO World Heritage site. After lunch in Rajgir, the first capital of the Magadha Empire, where Buddha spent many years, continue to Bodhgaya, an important and sacred Buddhist pilgrimage center.
Royal Residence (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

Bodhgaya / Varanasi

This morning visit the Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Bodhgaya where, under the "Bodhi Tree," Gautama attained supreme knowledge to become Buddha, the Enlightened One. Continue on to Varanasi. *Gateway Hotel Ganges (B,L,D)*

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Varanasi (Sarnath)

Take an early-morning boat ride on the river, then visit the ruins and museum at Sarnath, where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment in Bodhgaya. This evening, celebrate your journey at a festive farewell dinner.
Gateway Hotel Ganges (B,L,D)

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 9 & 10

Varanasi / Delhi / Home

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight to Delhi. Relax in day rooms before boarding flights home, arriving on January 10. *(B,L)*



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AIR —————
CRUISE - - - - -
LAND ·········

DETAILS

Activity level: Moderate
Group size: 24 guests

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately active program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily activities can involve up to one mile of walking at a time, uneven terrain, and stairs that may not have handrails. Participants should be fit and in active good health. Participants with medical issues and/or dietary restrictions must make them known to us well before departure, and impairments regarding mobility must be disclosed prior to booking. If you have any questions about the level of activity of this program or your ability to participate, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636.

In January along the Ganges, you can expect temperatures in the low to mid-60s °F with little rain, making this an ideal time of year for a Ganges cruise. India is a destination best received with an open mind, a sense of wonderment, and a willingness to embrace the unfamiliar. It is a colorful, crowded, and cacophonous country, meant to be experienced with all of your senses and to reward your intellectual curiosity.

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION AGRA & DELHI JANUARY 10–13, 2018

Depart Delhi for a visit to Agra and the incomparable Taj Mahal, completed in 1654 in memory of Emperor Shah Jahan's wife, Mumtaz, and often described as the most beautiful monument to love ever built. Also explore Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site, a former imperial residence of the Mogul Dynasty. Return to

Delhi to see the magnificent Parliament Building; the Rashtrapati, the presidential residence; and Humayun's Tomb, one of the most beautiful buildings in this vibrant city. Relax in day rooms before boarding flights to the U.S.

Extension cost: \$1,195 per person double occupancy; \$300 single supplement. Complete details will be sent to confirmed participants.

BENGAL GANGA

Built in Myanmar in 2004 as a replica of the colonial Clyde steamers, this thoroughly modern ship has 28 outside staterooms (each 168 square feet) on two decks. Fine dining, excellent service, and a hospitable and caring management team all help to make your Ganges River experience very special, and passengers often describe feeling as if they were guests on a private motor yacht rather than passengers on a cruise ship. Although all staterooms are very comfortable and roomy, most passengers prefer to spend their time outside on the deck, observing the fascinating scenes and scenery along the Ganges River. PLEASE NOTE: There is no elevator between decks on *Bengal Ganga*.



PRICING

Land/Cruise rates per person

| | DOUBLE OCCUPANCY | SINGLE OCCUPANCY |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| MAIN DECK | \$12,990 | \$15,490 |
| UPPER DECK | \$13,990 | \$16,990 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 317 | 315 | 313 | 311 | 309 | 307 | 305 | 303 | 301 |
| 318 | 316 | 314 | 312 | 310 | 308 | 306 | 304 | 302 |

UPPER DECK

AIRFARE Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., is our preferred provider for airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Please note: U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program cost. Economy-class airfare from New York to Kolkata (Calcutta) and return from Delhi is approximately \$1,000 per person as of March 2017 and is subject to change without notice.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--|--|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| RESTAURANT | | | | | 209 | 207 | 205 | 203 | 201 |
| | | | | | 210 | 208 | 206 | 204 | 202 |

MAIN DECK

GENERAL INFORMATION

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS: All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary; Wine, beer, and soft drinks with meals; All sightseeing as specified in the itinerary; Bottled water on coaches; Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations; Airfare from Varanasi to Delhi; Baggage handling; Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, ship's crew, and drivers; Entrance fees and port charges; Welcome and farewell receptions; Professional tour manager; \$200,000 Emergency Medical and Evacuation Insurance.

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS: U.S. domestic and international airfare; Passport or visa expenses; Medical expenses and immunizations; Transportation for those not meeting scheduled transfers; Travel and trip cancellation insurance; Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour; Excess baggage charges; Meals not specified in the itinerary; Dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; Liquor; Personal items such as e-mail, telephone and fax calls, laundry, and gratuities for nongroup services.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, a \$1,000 deposit is required per person. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Final payment deadline is September 1, 2017, 120 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by HAA from the participant. Cancellations within 14 days of booking: full refund; cancellations received up to 120 days prior to departure will be assessed a cancellation fee of \$1,000 per person. Cancellations received within 120 days prior to departure are subject to 100% penalty of all deposits and payments.

ITINERARY CHANGES: The itinerary contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing. We reserve the right to change the program or accommodations as conditions warrant.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by HAA upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at <http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/ganges-2017>. If you are not able to access the internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER: Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Neither HAA nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

QUESTIONS: Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806, email: haatravels@harvard.edu.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

A SAMPLING OF 2017 & 2018 HAA TRIPS

LAND & RAIL

JAPAN & CHINA: ANCIENT & MODERN CONNECTIONS
MAY 8–22, 2017
PETER BOL &
ANDREW GORDON

VILLAGE LIFE IN DORDOGNE
MAY 11–19, 2017
MICHAEL MCCORMICK

NORWEGIAN SPLENDOR
JUN 20–JUL 5, 2017

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. JAMES: EL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO
SEP 15–27, 2017
MARY GAYLORD

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. JAMES: EL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO
SEP 15–27, 2017
MARY GAYLORD

EXPLORING HAVANA, CUBA
OCT 12–17, 2017
SUSANNA SIEGEL

MYSTICAL INDIA
OCT 15–31, 2017

SOUTHERN AFRICAN ODYSSEY
OCT 19–NOV 5, 2017

PUEBLA & OAXACA
NOV 6–12, 2017

MARFA, TEXAS
NOV 8–12, 2017
ALICE DELANA

ARCTIC EXPLORER ABOARD THE GOLDEN EAGLE TRANS-SIBERIAN XPRESS PRIVATE TRAIN
DEC 28, 2017–
JAN 9, 2018
JULIE BUCKLER

JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM
JAN 1–16, 2018
NATIONAL PARKS OF THE SOUTHWEST
APR 30–MAY 10
FRAN ULMER

CRUISES

ADRIATIC & AEGEAN: ATHENS TO VENICE ON LE LYRIAL
MAY 8–16, 2017
HARVEY COX &
NINA TUMARKIN

SAILING THE BALTIC'S AMBER COAST ON SEA CLOUD II
JUL 19–30, 2017
MICHAEL SHINAGEL

SICILY BY SEA ON SEA CLOUD II
OCT 11–19, 2017
ROBERT DARNTON

CRUISING THE RIVIERAS & ISLANDS OF ITALY, FRANCE & SPAIN ON VARIETY VOYAGER
OCT 14–28, 2017
THOMAS FORREST
KELLY

PEARLS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA: VIETNAM & CAMBODIA (HONG KONG TO SAIGON) ON L'AUSTRAL
OCT 17–29, 2017

NEW ZEALAND BY SEA ON CALEDONIAN SKY
JAN 4–17, 2018
RICHARD THOMAS

EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA ON LE SOLÉAL
JAN 11–24, 2018
DANIEL JACOB

CRUISING TAHITI & FRENCH POLYNESIA ON WIND SPIRIT
FEB 6–16, 2018
CHRISTIE
MACDONALD

PASSAGE THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL & COSTA RICA ON STAR BREEZE
FEB 9–17, 2018

CUBA BY LAND & SEA ON LE PONANT
FEB 12–21, 2108
ROBERT BRUSTEIN

JAPAN BY SEA: LAND OF THE RISING SUN ON CALEDONIAN SKY
APR 15–28, 2018

EUROPEAN COASTAL CIVILIZATIONS (LISBON TO LONDON) ON LE BOREAL
APR 30–MAY 9, 2018

RIVERS & LAKES

WATERWAYS OF THE TSARS (MOSCOW TO ST. PETERSBURG) ON VOLGA DREAM
JUN 7–17, 2017
JOHN STEWART

SYMPHONY ON THE BLUE DANUBE ON AMADEUS SILVER II
OCT 10–21, 2017
CATHERINE MCKENNA

PRAGUE TO THE SWISS ALPS (DANUBE, MAIN & RHINE RIVERS) ON ROYAL CROWN
OCT 12–26, 2017
TOM SIMONS

VINEYARDS & CHATEAUX OF BORDEAUX ON AMADOLCE
OCT 18–26, 2017
CHRISTIE MCDONALD

PRIDE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA ON ZAMBEZI QUEEN
FEB 27–MAR 15, 2018
JAMES ENGELL

AMAZON RIVER EXPEDITION ON ZAFIRO
MAR 10–18, 2018
MICHAEL SHINAGEL

ENCHANTING DOURO RIVER ON AMAVIDA
APR 16–24, 2018

FAMILY ADVENTURES: GREECE: A FAMILY ODYSSEY ON RUNNING ON WAVES
JUN 22–JUL 1, 2017
JONATHAN WALTON

CHINA FAMILY ADVENTURE: IMPERIAL PALACES, ANCIENT VILLAGES, WILD MOUNTAINS & HIGH-TECH MARVELS
JUN 25–JUL 7, 2017

FAMILY TANZANIA SAFARI
JUNE 21–JULY 2, 2017
JAMES SALZMAN

FAMILY COSTA RICA
DEC 26, 2017–
JAN 3, 2018
DANIEL LIEBERMAN

VIETNAM, CAMBODIA & LAOS: A FAMILY PROGRAM
SUMMER 2018
MICHAEL SZONYI

REGISTRATION FORM

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of \$1,000 per person.

Please return this form by mail to:

Harvard Alumni Travels
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions:

800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

I AM NOT ABLE TO MAKE THIS TRIP, BUT PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST

PROGRAM NAME START DATE

FIRST PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

HOME TELEPHONE WORK TELEPHONE

SECOND PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT DATE OF BIRTH

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

HOME TELEPHONE WORK TELEPHONE

METHOD OF DEPOSIT

CHECK (please enclose check) MASTERCARD VISA

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE 3 DIGIT SECURITY CODE

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD

I/WE CONFIRM THAT WE HAVE READ AND ACCEPT THE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THIS TOUR, INCLUDING REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE AT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/HAA/TRAVEL.

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS

CABIN DECK PREFERENCE

HOTEL ROOM PREFERENCE

DOUBLE ROOM SINGLE ROOM SHARE A ROOM WITH:

ROOMMATE

Hazarduari Palace, built in the early 19th century, is now a museum whose embellishments include a very large crystal chandelier given to the Nawab by Queen Victoria.





HARVARD Alumni Association

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS
124 MOUNT AUBURN STREET, 6TH FLOOR
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138



**BOOK YOUR NEXT JOURNEY
WITH THE HAA TODAY!**

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