



GANGES RIVER CRUISES

Cruises on the Ganges and Lower Ganges (the Hooghly) offer a chance to witness life as lived in riverbank villages and towns, and marvel at ornate historic temples and monuments. A little-known but fascinating and culturally rich part of India, travelling by boat opens up areas otherwise largely inaccessible to the traveller.

Lower Ganges cruises operate all year round, while cruises on the Ganges operate in the winter months. Itineraries can be taken separately or combined to offer a choice of durations from three to 15 nights. Due to river conditions, we can only cruise all the way up to Varanasi in the months of August and September.

Come and join us on [one of the world's best cruise holidays](#) as rated by The Guardian UK.

GANGES RIVER CRUISE

Journeys through Bengal

"Among the world's 40 best cruising holidays"

The Guardian UK

The Ganges may begin life as a mere trickle in the Western Himalayas, but as it powers across India it brings life, livelihoods and cultural wealth to millions of people. Its vital waterways and religious significance have drawn travellers to its banks for thousands of years, creating a confluence of colonisers, from the Mughals to the British, the French to the Dutch. This rich tapestry of historic sites, cultural influences, and political epochs has left a legacy that endures to this day in its buildings, people, religious sites, and food.

From the crumbling vestiges of the British Empire that line Kolkata's wide boulevards, to the vibrant, electrifying colour of Varanasi, the Ganges peels back the layers of history that have moulded India into the country she is today. Besides being a life-giving force of nature, it's not uncommon to find people bathing in the latte-coloured waters of the Ganges, and offering flowers and lit oil clay lamps whilst in prayer.



ITINERARIES



Bengal Despatch 1 & 5
Historic Hoogly (Lower Ganges)

7 NIGHTS



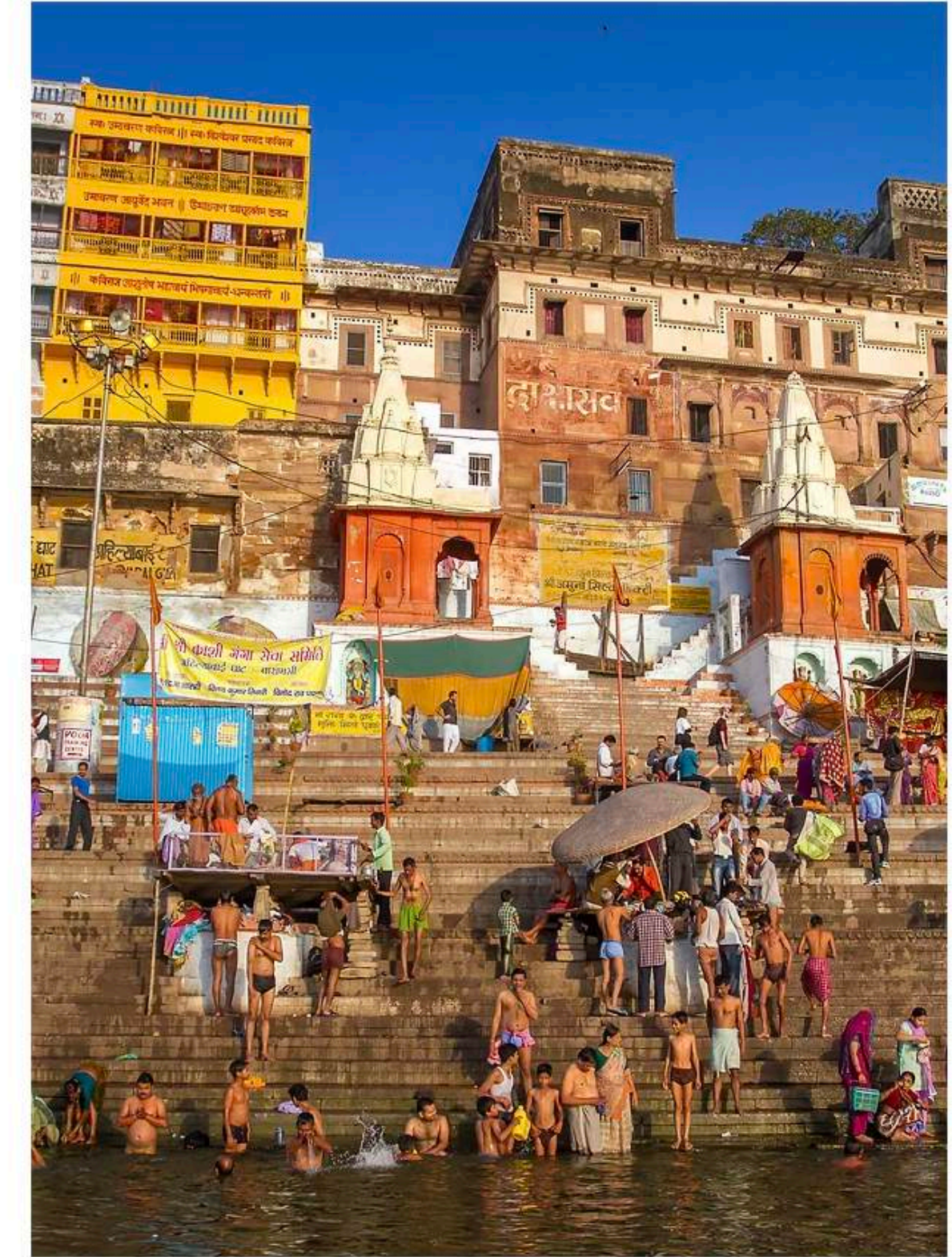
Bengal Despatch 2 & 4
The Holy Ganges

6 to 8 NIGHTS



Bengal Despatch 8
Bengal Memories

3 NIGHTS



Bengal Despatch 9 & 10
*City of Light:
A Varanasi Summer*

7 NIGHTS

When creating our Himalayan River journeys, we approach each aspect - from design to the experience, from the people you meet to the quality of service you receive - with purpose, thoughtfulness and careful consideration of its impact.

Bengal Despatch 1 & 5
Historic Hoogly (Lower Ganges)

7 NIGHTS

Operating upstream or downstream, these cruises include a return journey by rail, allowing you to sample the quintessential train travel experience, ably assisted by your ABN crew. The cruise itself takes you along the intimate Hooghly, from Farakka down to Kolkata. As well as exploring Kolkata, the cruise takes in Murshidabad, capital of the Nawabs of Bengal, and the many monuments of the mediaeval Islamic capital of Gaur. From silk-weaving villages to a hamlet known for its brass-making artisans, this region offers a glimpse into a traditional way of life through riverside village walks

Bengal Despatch 2 & 4
The Holy Ganges

6 to 8 NIGHTS

These cruises along the main stream of the Ganges operate between Farakka and Patna, or vice versa. Wander through the Mughal ruins at Rajmahal, explore East India Company relics at Patna and Monghyr, and discover the monuments of Buddha's homeland, including Bodh Gaya. With such a wealth of cultural, historic and religious sites, the region offers an insight into India's richly diverse character and is an exciting voyage through largely uncharted territory.

Bengal Despatch 8
Bengal Memories

3 NIGHTS

This short itinerary has been specially designed to give travellers a taste of Bengal's rich heritage. Visit the imposing Imambara that overlooks the river, the new ISKCON temple of Mayapur - a vast complex of worship that receives over a million Krishna devotees annually - the intricately carved terracotta Hindu temples of Kalna, and Chandernagore, a charming riverside town that was in French possession until 1950.

Bengal Despatch 9 & 10
*City of Light:
A Varanasi Summer*

7 NIGHTS

With our specially designed ship, ABN Rajmahal, we are able to offer two one-week cruises which access the Holy Grail of Ganges cruises, the sacred city of Varanasi itself. Operating only in periods of high water, when India is at its most lush and attractive, they explore the untouched villages and towns of rural India along the river between Patna and Varanasi. Both cruises feature two days of sightseeing in Varanasi itself, including sailing all the way up to the spectacular Chunar Fort.

Unlike the Brahmaputra, where one bows to the might of nature, the Ganges is rich in culture, soul and reverence.

The New York Times

**Condé Nast
Traveler**


THE ECONOMIC TIMES

The Telegraph

CNN



ABN Rajmahal

Boutique expedition ship

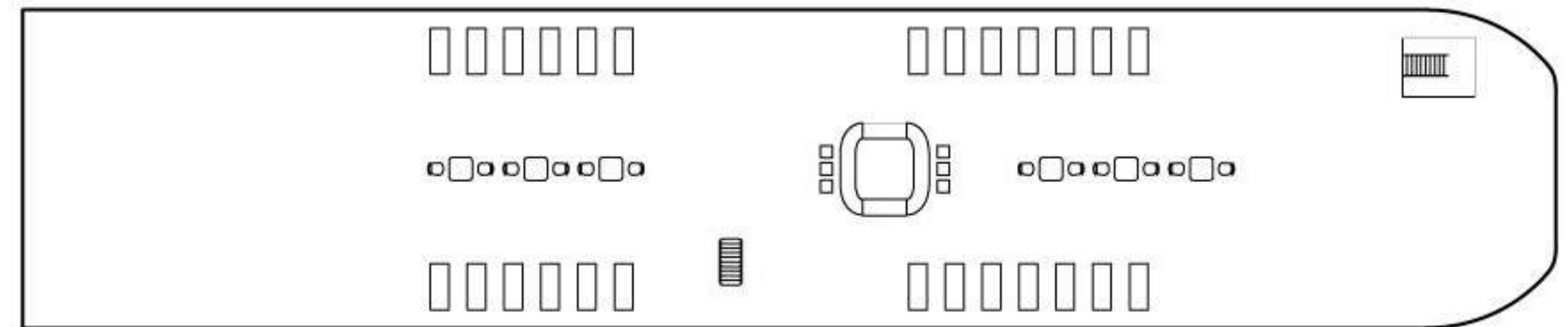
This specially- designed boutique expedition ship was inaugurated with a historic first cruise from Kolkata all the way to Varanasi (previously not been done before) and beyond to Chunar fort, August & September with comfortable water levels to cruise the upper Ganges.

With a maximum group size of 40 guests in 22 cabins, ABN Rajmahal is a 50m long ship powered by 3 engines; her extra-shallow draught and a lower profile than conventional designs allows her to cruise further upstream.

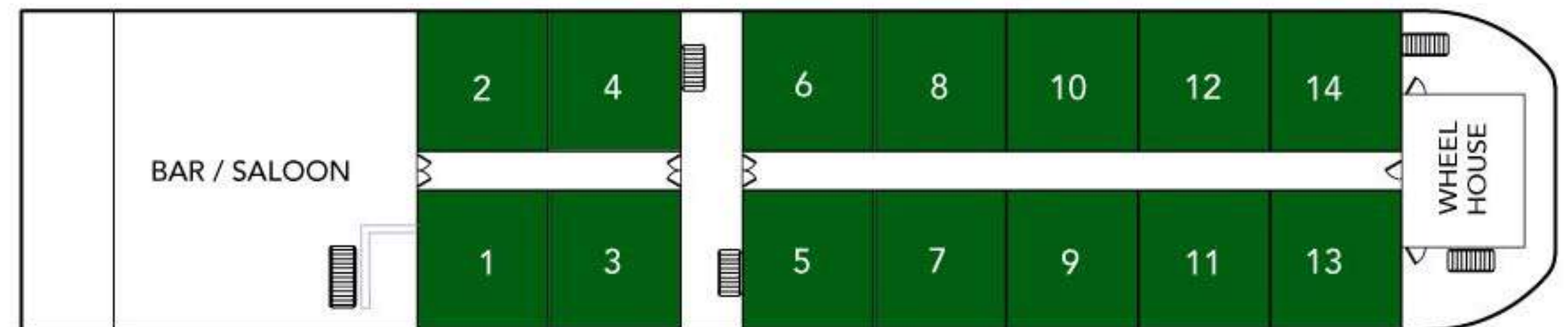
The décor onboard is designed to reflect a sense of homecoming to the region of Bengal with touches of colonial elegance, antiques and rural Bengal handicrafts, brought to life by traditional Indian-inspired designs on hand-blocked cotton fabrics.

ABN RAJMAHAL

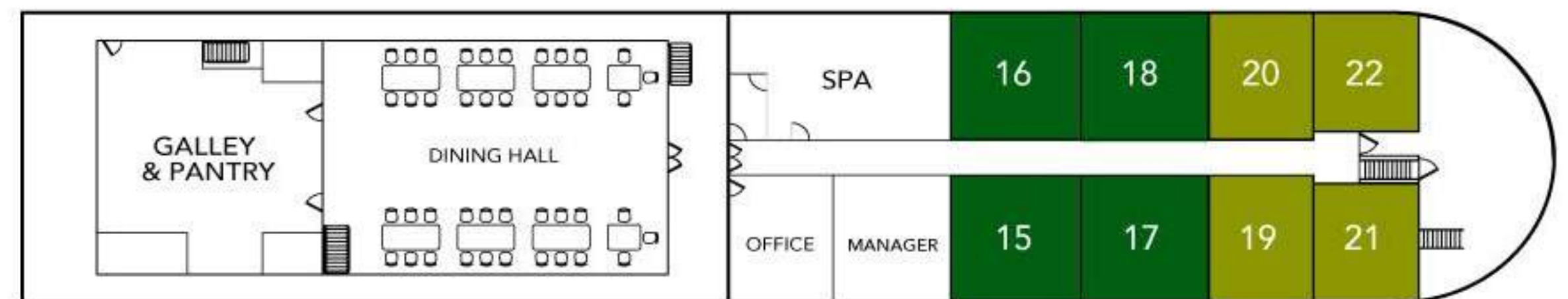
SUN DECK





UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



-  TWIN/DOUBLE CABIN (195.75 Sq. Ft.)
-  SINGLE CABIN (159.50 Sq. Ft.)

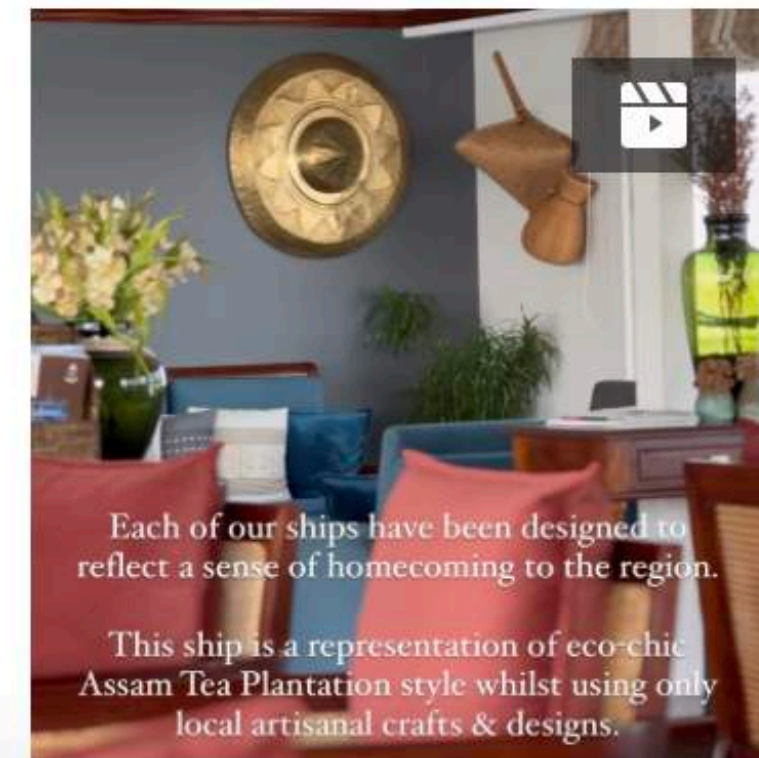
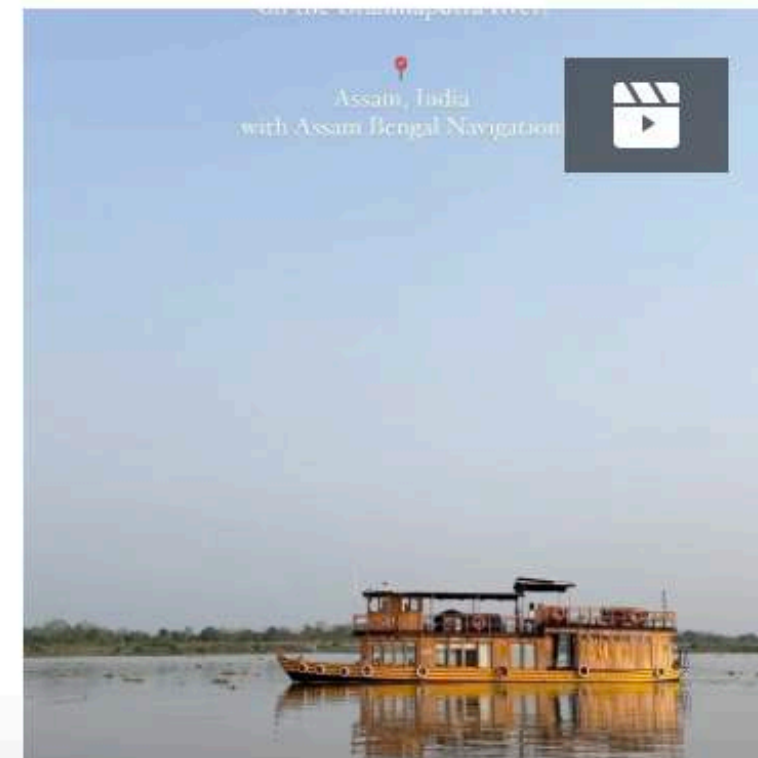
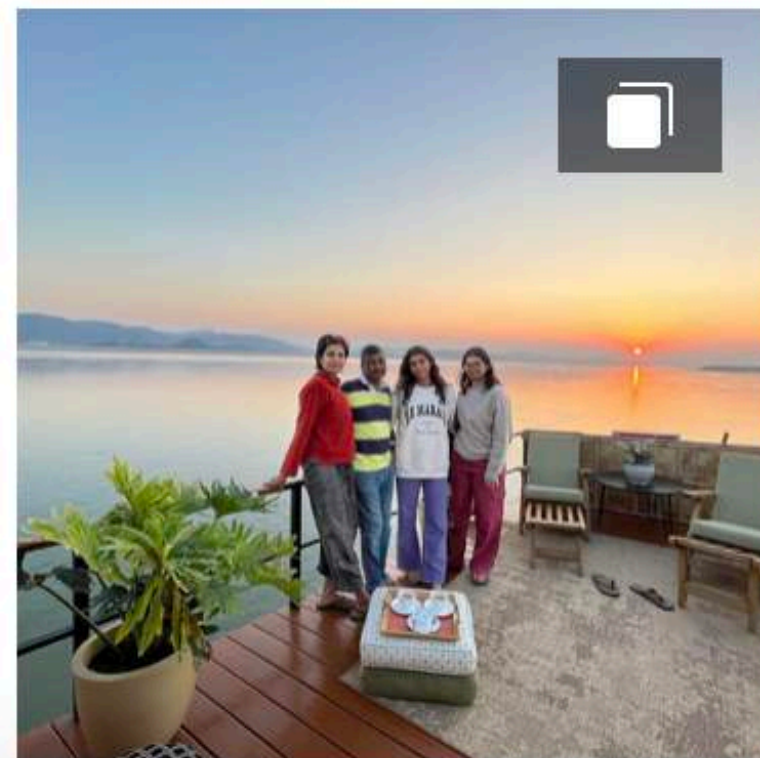
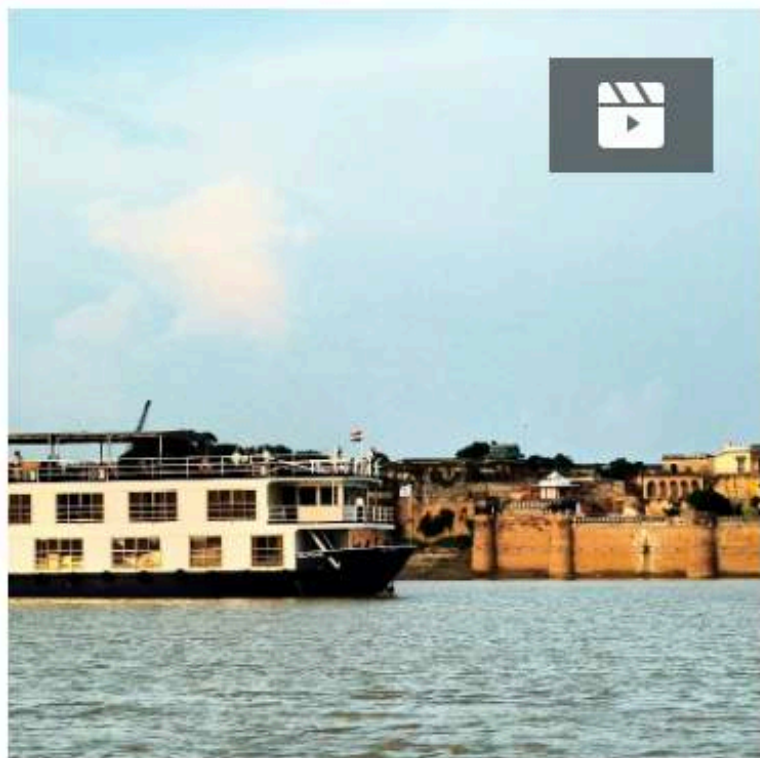
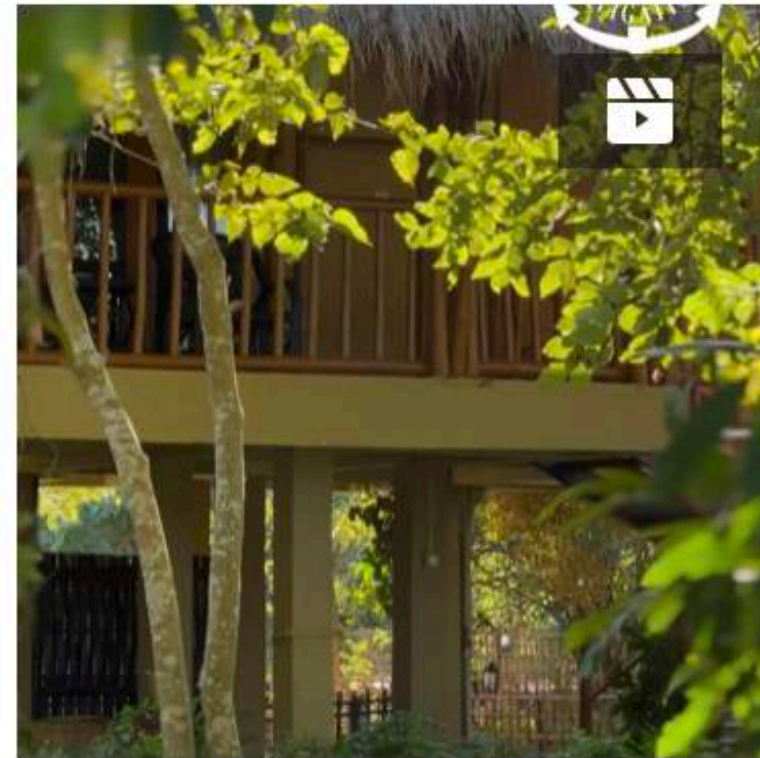
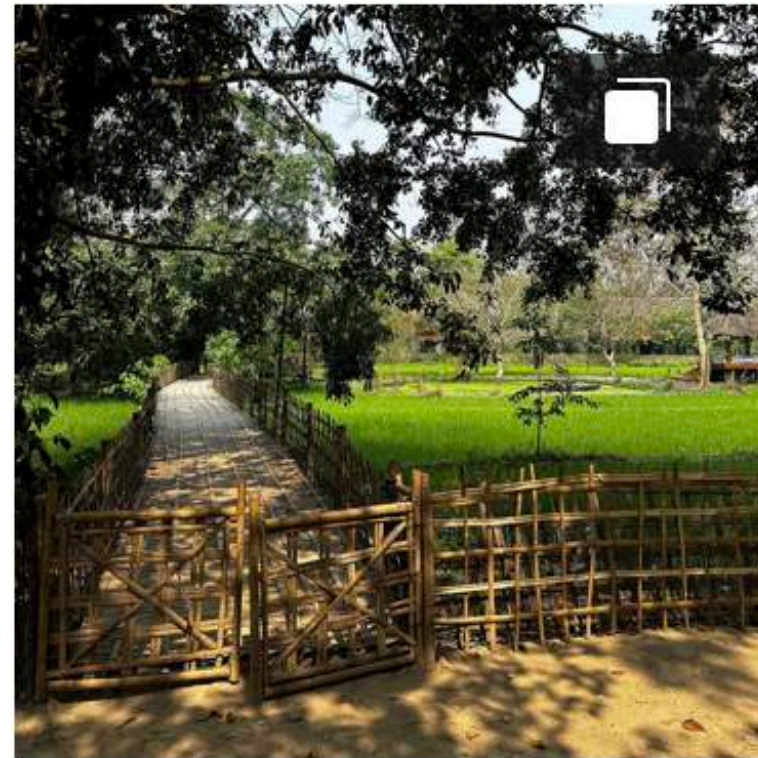
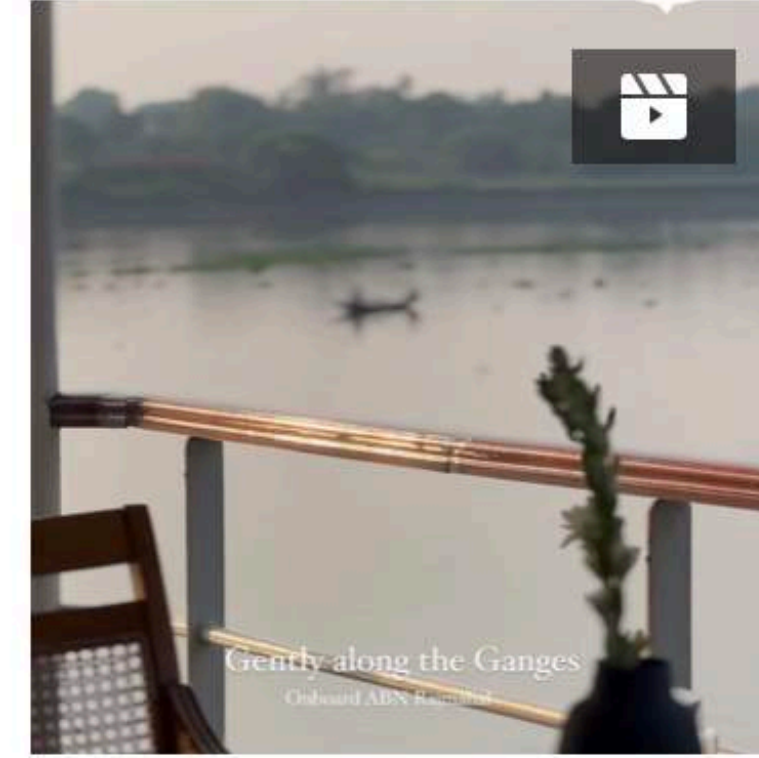
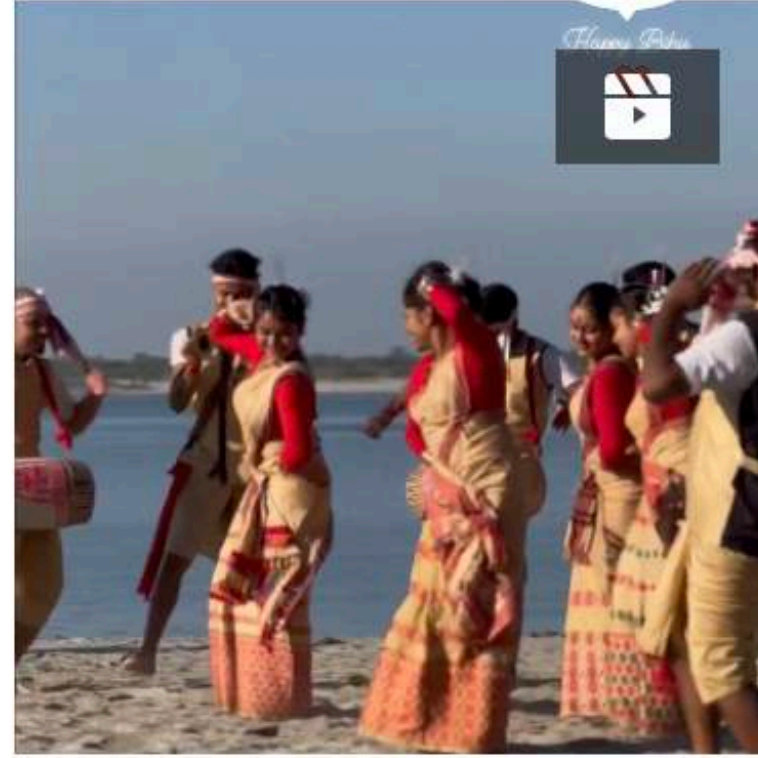
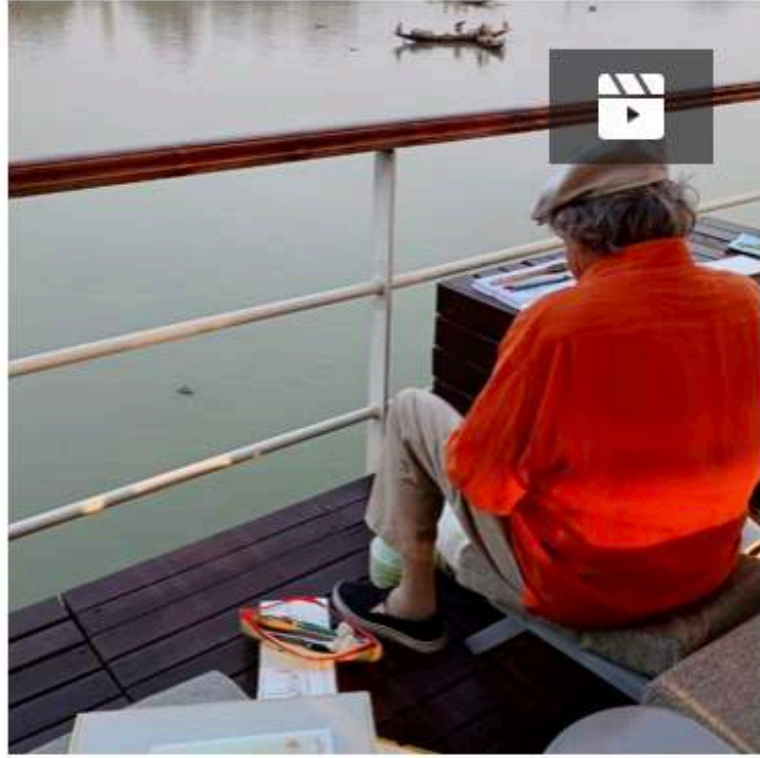






BEHIND THE SCENES

@assambengalnavigation



As a company, Assam Bengal Navigation prided itself on adhering strongly to the principles of responsible tourism, long before this became a more common practice. Our aim, besides striving for the best level of service and experience for our guests, is to grow and nurture rural communities in the areas we operate in. Since our inception, we have invested heavily in many rural community development initiatives; one such example is our choice to employ young men and women from villages and train them in hospitality and English language skills.

In April 2017, we formalised our philanthropy into a legitimate charitable body, the ABN Foundation. A total of 5% of every room booked with Assam Bengal Navigation is contributed to the ABN Foundation to fund causes that support education, environmental protection efforts and rural community development.



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Estd.2003

Assam Bengal Navigation is a family-owned and managed company by the Phookan's and the Brock's that introduced long-distance river cruising along India's greatest Himalayan rivers.

Established in 2003, this family company has grown into a conscious luxury collection of boutique river cruise ships, houseboats and jungle lodges in east India.

VALUE ADDITIONS

On all ABN small ships

Regional cultural performances from folk, tribal to classical

Meet change-makers and experts on a variety of cultural or regional subjects of interest

Local guides and naturalists who are from Assam and Bengal

5% of every cabin booked is contributed to ABN Foundation

Full board on all ABN small ships

All excursions included

Spa packages available upon request

Beverages packages available upon request

Complimentary transfers

Complimentary Wifi

Complimentary dock/port charges

Complimentary water flasks

Cycles on board our active expedition-style cruising ships