



# 2019 INDIA & THE GANGES RIVER

September 30 - October 12, 2019

Varanasi Extension  
October 13 – 14, 2019

Program Guide

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# BEFORE YOU GO

## PERSONAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & TRAVEL PROTECTION

All documentation required for a particular itinerary is the sole responsibility of the guest. Brand g will not be responsible for advising and/or obtaining required travel documentation for any passenger, or for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip, related to improper or absent travel documentation. It is suggested that copies of important documents, including your passport and visas, be kept in a separate place, in case the originals are lost or stolen.

**Passport:** A passport that is valid for at least six (6) months after your return date is required for this program.

**Visa Requirements:** Citizens of almost every country require tourist visas to enter India. The guidelines below are meant for US citizens. Citizens of other countries should consult with their own Indian embassy or consulate for application instructions.

- Brand g's program only requires a single-entry visa, which may be obtained through an online application process: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>. This eVisa is valid for 120 days after issuance and is valid for two entries into India within a period of 60 days. This process does not require you to relinquish your passport for processing.
- If you have made other independent arrangements which require more than two entries into India you should consult the US State Department's website for further instructions: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/India.html>. This process requires you to relinquish your passport for processing and normally takes around 10 days including mailing time.

**Travel Protection:** While travel insurance is not required to participate in this program, Brand g strongly recommends that each guest purchase a travel protection plan, as unforeseen circumstances can occur both prior to and during travel. Brand g's recommended travel insurance provider is Travel Guard Insurance. They may be reached at 1-800-826-4919 or [www.travelguard.com/brandgvacations](http://www.travelguard.com/brandgvacations). Please be sure to carry all policy information with you during your program.

## HEALTH AND MOBILITY

**Vaccinations:** Guests arriving from or transiting through sub-Saharan Africa or other areas where a yellow fever outbreak is active, are required to provide proof of a current yellow fever vaccine.

No additional vaccinations are required for entering India, but it is recommended that you discuss available vaccinations and any other health concerns you may have with your personal physician or a travel medicine specialist.

The consulates of the countries to be visited will also provide information on vaccination requirements and/or suggestions. You may also consult your home country's centers for disease control for their current recommendations. Their website in the US is <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

**Physical Limitations:** The Ganges River cruise is an active program. While there will be plenty of time to relax, there is much to see and do. Many included excursions require an extensive amount of walking on uneven terrain, and numerous steps. Guests with physical limitations will find access to many sites generally restricted. For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend that all guests be in good physical condition.

**Medical:** While the ship staff is trained in basic first aid, the ship does not employ staff nurses or doctors on board its ships, and medical facilities are not always easily accessible during the more rural portions of the cruise. Any medical expenses incurred during the trip are the guest's own responsibility, and neither Brand g nor the ship is responsible for cost or quality of medical care received. Guests should bring their medications with them. A travel insurance policy that covers medical expenses while traveling internationally is highly recommended.

**Dietary Preferences:** Please advise us of any special dietary restrictions at least 15 days prior to your departure. This information will be provided to the proper personnel, and to the extent possible within local conditions and limitations, every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. Additionally, sugar free foods and sugar substitutes are not always available. While gluten free flour may not be available in India, diets can be accommodated with naan and rice crackers.

It is the guest's responsibility to provide us with as much detail as necessary concerning any medically related dietary concerns. Not all dietary requests can be accommodated, and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

## LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

While there are no restrictions on the number of bags each guest may bring on board the ship, storage space is limited, and it is suggested that each guest bring only one checked bag. Additionally, all airlines impose restrictions on both size and weight, and many airlines restrict the number of bags per person. Each guest must check with his or her selected air carrier for limitations prior to departure, as luggage restrictions are subject to change. Guests who exceed an airline's luggage restrictions may be asked by the airline to pay the airline's overweight/oversized luggage fees.

On one of the included domestic flights within India, the checked luggage allowance is only 15 kg (33 lbs). You may purchase extra weight on this flight if you wish. One carry-on is allowed per person, in addition to one personal item (purse, camera bag, laptop bag, etc.). Your carry-on should not exceed 17" x 14" x 8" (43 cm x 35 cm x 20 cm) and should not weigh more than 7 kg (15 lbs.).

An airline's limitations on the weight and size of checked and carry-on baggage are usually found on their website or may be obtained by calling the airline directly. Please remember that international (over the water) and domestic (intra continental) restrictions may not be the same.

Your luggage and all personal belongings are solely your responsibility throughout the trip. Brand g is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged luggage or personal belongings. Selecting a travel insurance plan that will cover lost or stolen luggage and/or personal items is highly recommended.

Please place luggage tags on the outside of all of your bags, including carry on and hand luggage, and include a copy of your contact information during the trip on the inside of your checked bags. Valuables and medication should only be packed in your carry-on bags (unless required to be placed in checked bags by your airline).

## PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Brand g issues all final documents by mail or email, including cruise tickets (if applicable), Program Guide, etc. between 30 and 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided that full payment has been made and the Passenger Information Forms have been fully completed (either online or through the Brand g online booking website, email or hard copy mailed to the Brand g office).

# GETTING THERE

## AIRPORT SECURITY AND CHECK-IN

Please be sure to contact your airline prior to departure and verify there have been no changes to the flight number or schedule. If you have an airport transfer confirmed with Brand g, please advise of any schedule change affecting your airport pick up time.

Please be sure you are familiar with current airport security procedures and arrive at the airport at least two and a half (2.5) hours prior to your scheduled departure. During peak travel times, you may want to arrive three (3) hours prior to your scheduled departure time.

## CUSTOMS

Entry documents will be required at all border crossings, so please carry proper identification with you all times, and never place it in checked luggage.

When arriving by airplane, it is not unusual for a border guard to ask you questions such as "where you are from," "where are you going," "how long will you be there," or "what is the purpose of your trip." Always answer honestly and politely.

If you are bringing laptops, cameras, or other electrical equipment with you on your trip, you may be required to register these items with the local customs authority to ensure you are not charged duty on these items when you return home.

Most items you purchase internationally can be brought back into the US and Canada. We do recommend, however, that you check with both your home country's customs office for current restrictions, as well as with the embassies of the countries you are visiting for any restrictions on items that may be unlawful to take outside their borders.

When you return to your home country, you should be prepared to declare everything you purchased or acquired while traveling. Many countries will ask you to complete a customs form, which will require descriptions and values of the items. These forms are easier to complete if you keep your sales receipts easily accessible. Most countries have set customs duty exemptions for both quantity and value of certain items. We suggest that you familiarize yourself with these allowances and limits prior to your travel.

## HOTEL CHECK-IN/HOTEL CHECK-OUT

Please be advised that most hotels do not allow check-in earlier than 2:00pm. If you arrive at the hotel before 2:00pm, you may need to wait until the room becomes available. Hotel check-out is usually no later than 12:00pm. If your arrival or departure schedule does not coincide with these times, you may ask the hotel to store your luggage while you explore independently. Please note that every effort is made to ensure that your hotel room is available and ready for occupancy upon your arrival at the hotel, but this is not always possible. A short wait for your room to become available may be unavoidable. Depending on your scheduled arrival or departure, you may wish to purchase an early check-in or late check-out, or an additional hotel night, to guarantee availability of your room. Feel free to contact your travel agent or Brand g to review your arrival and departure and discuss any special check-in and/or check-out needs.

## TRANSFERS

**Airport Arrival Transfers:** Guests who provided their independently arranged flight details to Brand g no later than 30 days prior to departure, will be greeted at the airport by a Brand g representative and accompanied to the hotel. Upon arrival at your destination airport, please proceed through immigration, then collect your luggage and exit the secure area through customs, where you will find our representative holding a Brand g sign. If you cannot find the representative, please remain outside the customs area until the representative comes to you. There may be a waiting period of up to one (1) hour for scheduled airport transfers, depending on grouping of flight arrivals.

Flight information and pre-trip arrangements for all guests must be provided to Brand g no later than 30 days prior to departure in order for transfers to be properly arranged. Flight schedule changes do occur, guests are responsible for checking with the airlines and providing their most up-to-date flight details.

**Airport Departure Transfers:** Guests who have provided their independently arranged flight details to Brand g prior to departure, will automatically have airport departure transfers arranged. Guests who did not previously schedule a transfer but wish to add a departure transfer at the end of their journey, should speak with the Tour Manager as soon as possible after arrival.

**Travel Delays:** If you experience a travel delay while still in your home country, after working with your air carrier to revise your flight schedule, please contact Brand g's Minneapolis-based Operations Office at 1-800-433-4303 (toll free within the U.S.) or 952-405-9309 to advise us of your revised arrival date and time. If the line is busy or you are calling outside of general business hours, please leave a message. The Minneapolis office is on central time (GMT -6 hours).

If you have already departed your home country, please contact our local staff at the numbers provided on the communication card that is included with your final documents.

If you purchased travel insurance that covers flight delay and cancellation expenses, you will also want to contact your travel insurance company to start a claim for expenses incurred during your delay. If the delay is serious enough that you will miss the starting point of your cruise, any additional hotel, and/or flight arrangements necessary to meet your group will be at your expense.

If your delay is serious enough that you miss the starting point of your tour, our local offices will be happy to assist you in making any transfer, hotel, and/or flight arrangements necessary to meet your group as soon as possible, within any applicable government restrictions. Due to the rural nature of the Ganges River, however, it may not be possible to join the ship at each of the scheduled ports of call. The cost of any flight, car, or hotel arrangements needed, will be at your expense. Brand g is not responsible for missed transfers or additional costs incurred in getting to the next destination due to missed or delayed flight arrangements.

**Baggage Delays:** Baggage delays unfortunately occur from time to time, especially during peak travel periods. If you discover any bag did not make it to your destination, do not leave the airport baggage area without completing a Lost Baggage Report with your air carrier. This report is essential to the tracking of your claim. If you have an airport transfer scheduled, and are traveling with a companion, we recommend that one person exit the baggage claim area and locate

the representative to inform them of the situation. This will allow the representative to ensure that the transfer is properly provided. Give the air carrier a copy of your travel itinerary, along with the hotel and ship contact information. Report your lost baggage to your Brand g host and provide them with a copy of your Lost Baggage Report. Brand g is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged baggage and/or personal belongings. Selecting a travel insurance plan that will cover lost or stolen luggage and/or personal items is highly recommended.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### CONTACTING HOME

The ability to stay in touch with friends and family is an important part of travel, and many guests choose to bring cell phones on the trip. International roaming charges can be expensive, and it is advisable to contact your local carrier to determine the charges and plans available for each country you are visiting, then select the best available plan for your expected usage. In some countries, SIM cards are available for purchase that can be used in an unlocked phone (call your carrier to determine if your phone is, or can be, unlocked), providing a local number that can be used both locally and internationally, usually at a significantly lower rate.

Making international calls from the hotel and ship is possible, but costly. Connection fees are usually applied, in addition to other charges.

Each suite on board the Ganges Voyager is equipped with a phone for internal calls only and cannot be used for calls off ship. The Cruise Director will be able to assist you in case of an emergency but should not be relied upon to assist with personal calls, as it is impossible to be familiar with all the phones and calling plans on the market. A satellite phone is available on board the Ganges Voyager for emergency calls only.

While cell phone service is typically available in the larger cities of Kolkata, Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra, service along the Ganges River is extremely limited, and at times may not be available at all. Should you choose to bring your cell phone on your cruise, please refrain from conducting conversations during the guides' excursion commentary.

### CURRENCY AND MONEY MATTERS

The official currency of India is the Indian rupee. Indian law stipulates that official transactions should be made only in rupees obtained at official exchange bureaus (found in airports, banks, and hotels). It is unlawful to bring Indian rupees into the country or take them out. Currency exchanges at the airports can exchange a wide variety of currencies, including US dollars, British pound sterling, Euros, and Australian dollars. It is advisable to keep small rupee notes on hand, as it is sometimes difficult to get change. ATMs in India only provide Indian rupees.

Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted in India by many merchants. However, you may find that some are reluctant to take credit cards because of the fees associated with them. Therefore, we suggest that you carry rupees, in case you wish to make purchases. Aside from a few of the international hotel chains, American Express is not widely accepted in this part of the world.

Please contact your bank and/or credit card companies to let them know that you will be leaving the country to avoid any problems using your debit/ATM and credit card(s) overseas.

The official currency on board the Ganges Voyager is the Indian rupee. The cruise operates on a cashless system, with all purchases billed to your onboard account. At the end of the cruise, bills may be settled in cash with Indian rupees or in US Dollars. If it is settled by credit card with Visa or MasterCard, a surcharge of 3% will be levied.

The Ganges Voyager does not provide a currency exchange service, nor is there an ATM on board. In Delhi, Kolkata, Jaipur, and Agra, you will find options for obtaining rupees at both Indian and international banks, ATMs, and wire services.

### ELECTRICAL CURRENT

The voltage in India is 220v. To use any electrical product from the US or Canada that is not dual voltage, you will need a plug adaptor (type D) and some devices will require an electrical converter. Many electronic devices have built-in electrical converters; however please check the manufacturer's specifications for details. The ship has multi-configuration outlets, which accommodate most Western plugs. We recommend bringing an adapter for use in the hotels. Because the voltage may fluctuate at times, we also recommend unplugging your devices when not in use or when leaving them unattended.

## EXCURSIONS

Your tour program includes comprehensive shore excursions led by a local English-speaking guide; these excursions have been designed to provide you with the best possible experience. Your Brand g host will provide details on each day's excursion(s) and timing. If you are concerned about any aspect of an excursion, please inform your Brand g tour leader.

## ETIQUETTE

Many of the local customs in India differ greatly from Western culture. In many Hindu temples, it is required that you cover your knees and shoulders when entering the grounds and remove your shoes. Socks may be worn in Hindu temples, and we recommend bringing a few extra pairs of "temple socks" that can be discarded at the end of your cruise. Dress restrictions for specific excursions will be listed on the Daily Program. Our itinerary takes us into areas where locals are simply living their daily lives. Should you wish to take a photo of locals, please request their permission first (simply pointing to your camera and allowing them to nod is sufficient). Guides will inform you when entering places where photos are not allowed.

## FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED

The ship does not have elevators and is not handicapped or wheelchair-accessible. Embarkation/disembarkation facilities may also be impossible to navigate with wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, or any other mechanical device.

Many of the places we visit on the itinerary are not handicapped accessible. Many excursions involve walking over uneven ground. Additionally, some excursions are walking tours only, and some places will require the removal of shoes before entering. For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend that all guests be in good physical condition.

At its sole discretion, Brand g reserves the right to refuse passage, or to require a passenger to end his or her trip if the passenger's state of health or physical condition may affect his or her own health, safety, and enjoyment, or that of other passengers.

## INTERNET ACCESS

On board the Ganges Voyager I, 300 MB per person per day of complimentary internet is provided in all public areas of the ship, for guests who bring their own Wi-Fi capable devices. Guests may also "stay connected," in our internet lounge.

Connectivity may vary based on position of the ship. Guests are advised to only use ship internet access for immediate travel needs or important emails as it will not be possible to download larger files.

The hotels used in India provide complimentary Internet access as detailed below:

- *The Imperial*: Wi-Fi with basic speed is complimentary.
- *Rambagh Palace*: Wi-Fi with basic speed is complimentary.
- *ITC Mughal*: Wi-Fi is chargeable at US \$6 per day per room.
- *Radisson Blu*: Wi-Fi with basic speed is complimentary.
- *Radisson Varanasi*: Wi-Fi with basic speed is complimentary.

## GRATUITIES

Gratuities for the included components of this program have been pre-paid. At your discretion, you may choose to provide additional tips for exemplary service. It is best to provide these tips in cash, directly to the individual or individuals you wish to reward.

## PROGRAM STAFF

A Brand g Tour Leader will be with you during your travel program to handle all the details, leaving you to relax and enjoy your vacation.

## SECURITY

In the countries in which we operate, pickpockets are not uncommon, and caution is encouraged. When sailing, many passengers do not lock their doors, creating the opportunity for theft. A 24-hour watch is kept on board in order to control access to the ship, but we suggest keeping your door locked when your suite is not in use and at night. Brand g cannot be



held liable for loss of money, jewelry, or other valuable items from the ship, from a hotel, or while on an excursion ashore during a voyage. A travel insurance policy will typically cover most incidents of loss or theft.

## SHOPPING

During your stay in New Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, there is free time built into your schedule for shopping or other activities. Additionally, we make every effort to ensure time is available for shopping during excursions where this is feasible. On excursions where shopping is possible, the actual amount of time available may be limited due to tour constraints.

Shopping suggestions can be made by your Tour Manager or on-board Cruise Director. It is a good idea to take a small amount of cash in local currency to use for on-the-spot gratuities, purchasing of souvenirs or sundries, and taxis you may wish to use in your free time.

## SMOKING

On the ship, smoking is allowed only on designated parts of the Sun Deck. The hotels have open areas where smoking is allowed and may offer smoking areas in specific sections of some indoor lounges. All hotel rooms and ship staterooms are non-smoking.

## WATER

Please **do not drink** the tap water while on board or on shore or use it for brushing your teeth. The ship's water supply comes from the river after passing through a sterilization process. This water is suitable for showers and baths but should not be consumed. Complimentary bottled water for drinking and brushing teeth is provided on board, as well as during excursions.

## WEATHER

Weather forecasts are widely available on the Internet, and some of the favorites for large, international cities are <https://weather.com/> and [www.cnn.com/weather](http://www.cnn.com/weather).

## WHAT TO BRING

**Travel Essentials:** The following items are essential for any destination: sunglasses, sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, and umbrella. It is recommended that you bring duplicates of prescription eyewear, copies of prescriptions for any medications (generic equivalents are usually easier to obtain), copies of credit card information, and copies of your passport information pages and visas.

**Clothing:** Comfortable, sporty, casual clothing is appropriate both on shore and on board. We suggest natural and/or moisture-wicking fabrics in light colors which may be layered, such as a mix of lightweight shirts, everyday khakis, slacks, skirts/dresses, and walking shorts, along with a lightweight jacket or pullover for early mornings, late evenings, and air-conditioned spaces. It is also recommended to bring a lightweight rain jacket or umbrella.

Shorts, or lightweight pants, good walking shoes, and sun hats during the day are highly recommended. For evenings, we recommend casual and cool attire and we require shirts and footwear to be worn in the dining room.

You will engage in a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes, with good ankle support. Sport jackets and cocktail dresses are not needed at any time during this program. However, we do recommend a few dressier outfits for the hotel portions of the program. Please remember that some sites, monuments and temples require knees and shoulders to be covered and shoes to be removed, although Hindu temples do not require visitors to be barefoot, and therefore, socks are recommended.

# OMISSIONS & RESPONSIBILITY WAIVER

## OMISSIONS

Brand g is not responsible for omissions, printing and/or presentation errors in brochures, on Internet sites, or in any other media where such information may be presented. We reserve the right to make corrections as required.

## RESPONSIBILITY WAIVER

The Passenger accepts the terms and conditions of the Contract of Passage when participating in any Brand g cruise/excursion/tour/land extension. Participation in some shore excursions or tours may also be subject to an independent operator's own Terms and Conditions.



# GANGES VOYAGER AMENITIES & SERVICES

## DINING

The breakfast on board is an American-style buffet. Buffet lunch on board offers a selection of fresh salads, daily soups, entrées and desserts. Dinner is seated and offers soup, salad, a main course, and dessert. Vegetarian options are always available on the ship. Please notify Brand g, in advance, if you have any special dietary concerns or considerations that need to be taken into account while traveling with us. We will do our best to ensure that your request is accommodated but cannot guarantee all diet needs and preferences can be met. Additionally, sugar free foods and sugar substitutes are not always available. While gluten free flour is not available in India, diets can be accommodated with naan and rice crackers.

## FITNESS CENTER AND SPA

The fitness center is located on the Sun Deck and offers modern fitness equipment in a light and airy environment, with floor-to-ceiling windows looking out over the river. The fitness center is open from 6:00am to 8:00pm daily (Treadmill is available after 7:00am). The Voyager Spa (open from 08:00 am to 08:00 pm) offers traditional Indian and Western spa treatments in our private spa rooms on the Sun Deck; contact the spa to make your appointments.

## LAUNDRY

Laundry service is available on board the ship. Instructions and fees are listed in your Guest Service Directory book in your suite. Self-service laundry facilities are not available on the ship.

## SUITE AMENITIES

We want you to be as comfortable as possible during your voyage with us. Our onboard team will do their best to ensure the highest possible standards of cleanliness and comfort in your room. Please let us know if you have questions or if you are not satisfied with any aspect of our service. All suites are equipped with a minibar, on-demand TV, alarm clock, and phones connected to onboard staff. Each suite also has individually controlled air conditioning; a personal safe; a closet; a hair dryer; spa quality robes, slippers, and spa bath amenities; as well as premium mattresses, linens and pillows. All Ganges Voyager suites offer French balconies.

## LAND ACCOMODATIONS

### *IMPERIAL NEW DELHI - NEW DELHI*

Chosen as India's best 'Luxury Historical Hotel' by World Luxury Hotel Awards 2015, The Imperial is an iconic property in Delhi's 5-star hotel category and the most distinguished address situated in the heart of the capital. The Hotel is steps away from Connaught Place, the renowned shopping district and is very close to the city's major attractions.

### *RAMBAGH PALACE - JAIPUR*

The Rambagh Palace, is a royal resort set in a breathtaking oasis of beautiful landscaped gardens. Built in 1835, Rambagh Palace has stepped gracefully through many royal transitions—from the home of the queen's favorite handmaiden, to royal guesthouse and hunting lodge, and later as the residence of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II and his queen, Maharani Gayatri Devi. Today, this jewel in the Taj's crown offers 78 stunningly restored grand luxury rooms and suites which were the chambers of the former Maharaja.

### *ITC MUGHAL - AGRA*

ITC Mughal, a luxury hotel in Agra is a fitting tribute to the great Mughal builders of the past. The only Indian hotel to have won the prestigious Aga Khan Award for its excellent representation of Mughal architecture. This luxury hotel in Agra comprises of 233 opulent rooms and suites, recreating a paradise for the contemporary Mogul - full of splendor which was the hallmark of the Mughal Dynasty.

### *RADISSON BLU NEW DELHI - NEW DELHI*

As one of the closest luxury hotels to the Delhi airport, the Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi provides a convenient location without compromising comfort. Enjoy the many amenities, Western and Asian dining options and spacious guest rooms during your overnight stay in New Delhi.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What about the weather?**

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions, including the unexpected occasional rain shower along the Ganges River. Average temperatures throughout this itinerary in October typically range from 68 – 95 Fahrenheit (20C – 35C) in Delhi and Jaipur with low precipitation. In Kolkata and along the Ganges River temperatures typically range from 75 – 90 Fahrenheit (24C – 32C) with up to two inches of rain.

## **What should I wear?**

Comfortable, casual clothing is appropriate throughout most of the itinerary. Layering clothing items is always your best bet, as this allows each person to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperature, by removing or adding items throughout the day. An umbrella for shade and light-weight loose-fitting clothes are advised to help beat the heat. You will find a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support, as well as head covering to protect from the sun. Don't forget to pack a lightweight waterproof jacket (preferably hooded) for unpredictable rain. You may also wish to pack a few dressier outfits for the land program as we are staying in quite luxurious properties.

## **I have concerns about my physical ability. What do I do?**

Guests with mobility concerns should discuss their concerns with Brand g. Guests requiring the use of a mobility device, such as a wheelchair, motorized scooter, or walker, may not be able to participate in many shore excursions or use them on board the ships. Also, guests who may be limited in their ability to walk long distances may also have difficulties, as there is often uneven terrain on many shore excursions. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your physician.

## **How accurate are the shore excursion/tour descriptions?**

Brand g makes every effort to ensure that shore excursions are performed as promoted and outlined. In certain circumstances beyond our control, it may not be possible or practical for an excursion to be performed exactly as written. The decision to cancel or alter excursions, and/or otherwise adjust or modify any element of an advertised excursion is at the sole discretion of Brand g, always considering the safety and best interests of the guests, and the intent of the overall product delivery. Any modifications deemed necessary to any excursion will not result in eligibility for a refund.

## **Can the itinerary change? What happens if it does change?**

You can count on the value of Brand g's experience and regional knowledge to make sure you enjoy your travel program, even when conditions beyond our control occur. Although every effort is made to keep itineraries as advertised, Brand g reserves the right to make changes and substitutions, as necessary, to ensure the safety of our guests and our vessels. Every effort will be made to alert guests of known changes, in advance of boarding. When this is not possible, all guests will be informed on board of any change or amendment. Changes to itineraries, including the addition of extensive motor coach touring needed to arrive at the intended excursions, will not result in eligibility for a refund.

## **What time will excursions depart?**

All excursions are carefully coordinated into the daily schedule. Your Cruise Manager or Brand g Tour Leader will conduct briefings, informing all guests of departure times, specifics about shore excursions/tours, suggested shopping and restaurant recommendations, where applicable, and other important information about upcoming activities. Guests are strongly encouraged to attend the briefings, as information will be presented that may not be included elsewhere, and guests are given the opportunity to ask questions about previous or future activities or events.

## **Does each motor coach or walking group have its own tour guide?**

Yes. Each motor coach or walking group has its own English-speaking local guide. Brand g, through its travel partners endeavors to select the highest quality guides, who are well versed in the destination, and who will ensure that you have the best possible time ashore.

## **What about tipping?**

Gratuities should always be in accordance with each guest's personal satisfaction. Gratuities for all included services have been pre-paid. At your own discretion, you may choose to provide additional tips.

## **Is smoking allowed on shore excursions/tours?**

Smoking is not allowed while on motor coaches, and many historical venues now request that visitors not smoke anywhere on site. We ask all our guests to refrain from smoking while on excursions/tours.

# ITINERARY

## NEW DELHI *to* NEW DELHI

September 30, 2019

### NEW DELHI

Arrive at the Delhi airport where you will be met by a Brand g representative and transferred to your hotel for two nights, at the deluxe The Imperial New Delhi. Meet your fellow travelers at an evening welcome reception at the hotel.

October 1, 2019

### NEW DELHI

Today's comprehensive tour introduces you to this bustling city's landmarks, passing the imposing Red Fort, President's Palace and City Gate, and discovering the narrow lanes of Old Delhi via a rickshaw ride. Visit Raj Ghat, the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, Humayun's Tomb, a 16th century landmark of Mughal architecture inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list, and Qutab Minar, also a UNESCO site. This evening join your fellow travelers for dinner at the hotel. (B/L/D)

October 2, 2019

### NEW DELHI/KOLKATA (EMBARKATION)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your flight to Kolkata. (Lunch on own at the airport or in-flight lunch) Transfer from the airport to the ship. After settling into your suite aboard the Ganges Voyager, we'll gather for a welcome reception and dinner, followed by a musical performance featuring songs of the Bengal region. (B/D)

October 3, 2019

### KOLKATA /BANDELL/KALNA

This morning, we'll go ashore to explore the legacy of Kolkata's British colonial era. We'll see the Writers' Building, General Post Office, High Court, Raj Bhawan (Governor's House), Town Hall, Council House, Treasury Building, Reserve Bank of India and tour St. John's Church.

This afternoon, we'll board our excursion boats and go ashore at Bandel. Our visit includes a tour of the Hooghly Imambara. Inside the main building, large Persian chandeliers and smaller lamps light the main prayer hall where text from the Quran is engraved in the walls. After our visit, we'll return to the ship for dinner. (B/L/D)

October 4, 2019

### KALNA/MATIARI

This morning we enjoy a rickshaw ride through the city center of Kalna en route to the enchanting Rajbari complex, with the highest concentration of temples in the region. Bengal's mixture of temple architecture includes the Nabakailas Temples. Built in 1809 by the Bardhaman Maharaja, the complex contains 108 eight slope---roofed temples – 74 in the outer circle here and another 34 making an inner circle. Another complex features diverse architecture, including the Pratapeshwar Temple, built in 1849. Terra cotta plaques depict themes of Hindu epics, mythical life of Sree Chaitanya, images of Durga, and various aspects of life in the region. Other temples on the site include Lalji Temple, the oldest in the complex (1739), and Krishnachandra Temple (1751). (B/L/D)

October 5, 2019

### MATIARI/KHUSHBAGH

This morning you may enjoy a shore side bazaar. Matiari is known for manufacturing beautiful handcrafted brass items, utilizing traditional methods passed down for generations. These master craftsmen utilize recycled copper to create exquisite pots, platters and more from their workshops in the village.

We then continue our journey upstream. We sail past the battlefield of Plassey, where Robert Clive of British East India Company defeated the Mogul Nawabs in 1757. The rulers of Bengal and their French allies established the company rule in India, which spread through much of South Asia. (B/L/D)

October 6, 2019

### **KHUSHBAGH/BARANAGAR/MURSHIDABAD**

This morning we visit the charming village of Khushbagh, passing through scenic fields to arrive to the well-preserved mosque complex.

This afternoon we pass by charming countryside villages filled where locals greet us from the banks. We approach Murshidabad, a hidden architectural gem along the Ganges with dramatic whitewashed colonial era structures. We visit the Hazarduari Palace, built during the reign of Nawab Nazim Humayun Jah (1824 –1838 AD) by an English architect, McLeod Duncan, in the Greek “Doric” style. The palace has more than a thousand real and false doors in the vast corridors, and is filled with colonial era antiques, artwork and manuscripts. We then take a scenic ride by local buggy to the Katra mosque. Built by the first Nawab of Murshidabad - Murshid Quli Khan in the 1724 – 25, this mosque has distinctive minarets from which the muezzin calls the faithful to Friday prayers. (B/L/D)

October 7, 2019

### **KMURSHIDABAD/MAYAPUR/CHANDERNAGORE**

After a restful morning, we stop in the village of Mayapur. Known as the birthplace of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (1486) and considered an incarnation of Lord Krishna, this is the home of the Krishna Consciousness Movement also called ISKON. Guests can experience the fascinating culture of these followers and their ornate, colorful decorated statues of Krishna. Additionally, we will learn from Krishna followers leading the construction of the new temple located on the complex, completed in 2016. The new temple can be compared to the Vatican, and contains a 700,000 square-foot temple, measuring 340 feet high with a 75- foot domed planetarium. American Alfred B. Ford, the great grandson of Henry Ford, has funded more than 50% of the project. (B/L/D)

October 8, 2019

### **CHANDERAGORE/KOLKATA**

This We begin the day in Chandernagore, established as a French colony in 1673. The French obtained permission from Ibrahim Khan, the then Nawab of Bengal to establish a trading post on the riverbanks of this city, which became a permanent French settlement in 1688. We will explore the French colonial buildings along the promenade, including the former French governor’s residence (now converted to a museum that features an exhibition of items that depict life during this period). We then will visit the Sacred Heart Church of Chandernagore. We then return to the ship and continue our journey downstream to Kolkata. (B/L/D)

October 9, 2019

### **CHANDERAGORE/KOLKATA**

Following breakfast, we disembark the vessel with packed lunch and transfer to the Kolkata Airport en route visiting Mother Teresa’s House and Orphanage. Mother Teresa started the Missionary of Charity in 1952, then lived and worked here until her death in 1997. The permanent exhibition includes a visit to her personal room where we learn her life story. We continue by foot a short distance to her orphanage, Sishu Bhawan (Children’s Home), where one of the sisters will lead us on a tour.

Afterwards we transfer to the airport for our short flight to the capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur. Upon arrival we transfer to the magnificent Rambagh Palace where you’ll check into your room for an evening of relaxation, including dinner in the hotel’s opulent ballroom. (B/L/D)

October 10, 2019

### **JAIPUR**

Enjoy the opulent breakfast at the hotel this morning and join today’s tour of the “Pink City” featuring an optional elephant back ride up the hill to the Amber Fort, the former seat of the Rajput rulers of Jaipur. Visit the UNESCO-designated site of the Jantar Mantar Observatory and the residence of the former royal family City Palace, a complex of lovely courtyards and gardens. Dinner is on your own tonight to explore northern India cuisine. (B/L)

October 11, 2019

### JAIPUR/AGRA

Today's scenic ride takes you to the city of Agra, located on the banks of the river Yamuna in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Check in to your Mughal Chambers room at the ITC Mughal for one night. This afternoon, we visit the massive and impressive Agra Fort, a red sandstone stone walled complex of palatial buildings. Afterwards we transfer to Mehtab Bagh park for an unforgettable sunset view of the Taj Mahal from across the Yamuna River. (B/L/D)

October 12, 2019

### AGRA/DELHI

Early risers may join the captivating sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal for an inside visit of the UNESCO site. Enjoy breakfast and some time at leisure at your beautiful hotel this morning or take the opportunity to shop for keepsakes. After lunch, a scenic ride takes you to New Delhi for the rest of the day at leisure. Day room use in a Superior room at the deluxe Radisson Blu Plaza, refresh and relax before your transfer to the airport for your late evening or early morning international flight. Or, spend the night and join the post trip add on to Varanasi the next morning. (B/L)

## VARANASI EXTENSION

October 12, 2019

### NEW DELHI

Arrive Overnight stay at the Radisson Blue Plaza following our return from Agra. After hotel check-in, the evening is at your leisure and dinner on your own (B/L).

October 13, 2019

### NEW DELHI/ VARANASI

After breakfast at the hotel, transfers to the New Delhi airport for your 1:20pm flight, arriving in the holy city of Varanasi at 2:45pm. Following check-in to the Radisson Hotel Varanasi, enjoy a bit of time to rest. This evening we take a private boat ride on the Ganges River to witness the mesmerizing Aarti Ceremony attended by hundreds of worshippers. Tonight, dinner is included at the Radisson Hotel Varanasi (B/D).

October 14, 2019

### VARANASI/NEW DELHI

The morning starts with an early, daily ritual performed along the Ganges during an unforgettable private sunrise cruise. After lunch, it's off to the airport for our 3:30pm flight, which is scheduled to arrive in Delhi at 5:05pm. Upon arrival we return to the Radisson Blu Hotel where dinner is included, and you can refresh and relax before your transfer to the airport for your late evening or early morning international flight. (B/L/D)

### - LUGGAGE INFORMATION -

For this extension, you will be flying Vistara Airlines from Delhi to Varanasi. The baggage limit of this airline is 15 Kilo check-in and 07 Kilo carry on. We recommend you pack an overnight bag for this extension and leave your larger luggage at the Radisson Blu hotel to collect upon your return. The return flight from Varanasi to Delhi is on Air India, which allows 25 Kilos (55lb) for check-in baggage and hand carry 07 kilos (15lb).