

13 Days | India's Golden Triangle & The Ganges | With UNIWORLD

Delhi - Agra - Jaipur - Kolkata - Kalna - Murshidabad - Baranagar - River Ganges - Khusbagh - Mayapur - Chandannagar

From **\$8,399** Typically \$11,399 pp twin share



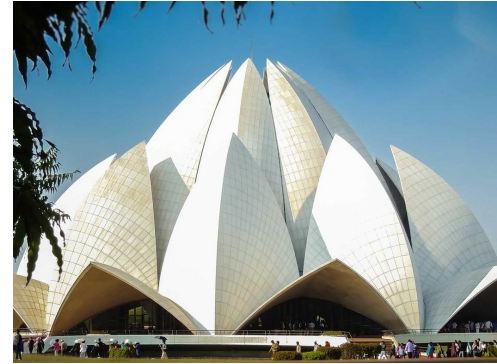
Stay at the award winning luxurious Oberoi Hotels

Cruise the River Ganges on Uniworlds 'Ganges Voyager II'

Whilst on the Golden Triangle, visit the Taj Mahal at both Sunrise and Sunset

Experience a range of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and MORE!

Description



Delve deep into India's fascinating historical and religious heritage with UNIWORLD.

Embark on a mesmerizing journey through the captivating landscapes and cultural treasures of India with Uniworld Cruises. As a premier travel experience provider, Uniworld Cruises invites you to delve into the heart of India's mystique, unfolding a tapestry of wonders in the enchanting "Golden Triangle"—comprising Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra.

Your odyssey begins in Delhi, a city that seamlessly blends history and modernity. Marvel at the grandeur of the red sandstone marble tomb commissioned by Emperor Humayun's grief-stricken wife, a testament to eternal love. The poignant Raj Ghat, a black granite memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, beckons as a symbol of India's struggle for independence, stirring your soul with its profound significance.

In the Pink City of Jaipur, be enchanted by the architectural marvels that adorn its streets. Witness the vibrant hues of the Pink City, and let its rich history and cultural vibrancy captivate your senses. Agra, home to the iconic Taj Mahal, awaits as a grand tribute to love. The ethereal beauty of this UNESCO World Heritage site, whether bathed in the soft glow of sunrise or the warm hues of sunset, will etch an indelible mark on your memory.

Read our latest Travel Blogs at ['Wake Up Here'](#)

Immerse yourself in luxury with five opulent nights at three distinct Oberoi hotels, each an award-winning haven of comfort and elegance. Revel in the exquisite surroundings, allowing yourself to be pampered and rejuvenated in preparation for the adventures that lie ahead.

Onboard the Uniworld Cruises vessel, your journey continues along the sacred Ganges River. Traverse to remote villages that remain hidden from the conventional tourist trails, granting you a rare glimpse into the authentic essence of Indian life. Experience the all-new Wellness Program, thoughtfully designed around India's ancient tradition and practice of yoga. Enrich your mind, body, and soul as you participate in rejuvenating yoga sessions amidst the serene backdrop of the Ganges.

Uniworld Cruises, renowned for curating unparalleled travel experiences, invites you to embark on a voyage that transcends the ordinary. From the historic landmarks of the "Golden Triangle" to the tranquil villages along the Ganges, this journey promises to be a symphony of cultural immersion, luxury, and spiritual rejuvenation. Join us in discovering the many facets of India—a country complex and beguiling, where every moment is a revelation.



Itinerary

Day 1

New Delhi

Arrive at New Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport. If your cruise/ tour package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the Oberoi New Delhi hotel.

Meals: None

Accommodation: Oberoi New Delhi

Day 2

New Delhi

India's sprawling capital city is colorful, confounding and captivating. Your expertly led city tour provides an ideal first foray into this fascinating land.

Travel down the broad boulevards of New Delhi, laid out early in the 20th century after the British moved the capital of the Raj from Kolkata to New Delhi and created a new administrative city just south of the old city. Sir Edwin Lutyens, a noted British architect, was given the task of designing this new city, which is still known as Lutyens' Delhi; though the British are long gone, this area continues to house India's government. The British were by no means the only conquerors to make New Delhi their capital. It was also the capital of the Mughal Empire for centuries, so it hosts spectacular examples of Mughal architecture, including Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Humayun's Tomb, erected in 1570, was the first Mughal garden tomb in India (and a model for the Taj Mahal and Birla House). Your panoramic tour includes a look at the enormous fort where the emperors lived. The old phrase says that "Delhi belongs to the large-hearted," and no one was larger hearted than Mahatma Gandhi, the founder of modern India, whose memorial, Raj Ghat, is also on the itinerary today.

You have some free time after your tour to explore this exciting city on your own—you'll find goods from all over India in bustling Connaught Place, in case you want to indulge in some shopping, and the National Museum displays 5,000 years of India's arts and artifacts. You may opt for the optional tour to Qutab Minar and the Jagannath Hindu Temple.

To cap your day taking in the sights of scenic New Delhi, relax this evening over a delicious dinner at the Oberoi.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Accommodation: Oberoi New Delhi

Day 3

New Delhi Agra

This morning you will check out of your New Delhi hotel and head south via motorcoach to Agra, the site of Shah Jahan's best-known building project, the exquisite Taj Mahal. You'll visit the Taj Mahal this afternoon and stay for sunset, as the monument's changing colors draw comparisons to the shifting mood of the late Emperor's wife.

Arrive this afternoon at the luxurious Oberoi Amarvilas. Relax over lunch there and then check into your room, where you will be delighted to discover that your room—indeed, every room—has a view of the Taj Mahal, your next destination for the day.

It's easily the most famous building in India, and one of the most famous in the world, with its white domes and minarets floating serenely above the reflecting pools—and you will encounter it just as the setting sun bathes the white marble in a panoply of colors. It's a monument to a love story between a great ruler, Shah Jahan, and a learned and powerful woman, his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. After she died giving birth to their 14th child, he gathered some 20,000 craftsmen to build her mausoleum, who endowed it with dazzling translucent marble carvings inlaid with precious and semiprecious stones. Step through the gate and into the symmetrical gardens, and experience one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Accommodation: Oberoi Amarvilas

Day 4

Agra Jaipur

Is the Taj Mahal best seen at sunset or sunrise? It's an impossible question to answer, so Uniworld guests have the rare pleasure of experiencing both. Wake up early this morning to see the white marble monument aglow with the rosy tinge of dawn.

Awake early in the morning for a return visit to the Taj Mahal, which will take on the rosy pink tints of sunrise as you arrive. The gates open as the sun lifts above the horizon, and you enter the exquisite precincts, which you may explore at your leisure.

You'll return to your hotel for lunch before you head by motorcoach to the third city in the Golden Triangle, Jaipur. Capital of the state of Rajasthan, strewn with massive palaces, it was founded and carefully planned in the 18th century by Maharaja Jai Singh II (who gave the new city his name), so even the old part of the city is laid out on a grid. The Singh family's influence is still felt in Jaipur, though all hereditary titles in India were discontinued in 1971.

Check into the romantic Oberoi Rajvilas, a luxurious oasis, and spend the afternoon relaxing at the hotel, enjoying the extensive, bird-filled gardens.

You'll spend your next two nights at the beautiful Oberoi Rajvilas. The luxury hotel sits on 32 acres of landscaped gardens and is built around an ancient Shiva temple.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Accommodation: Oberoi Rajvilas

Day 5

Jaipur

Pink is the color of hospitality in Rajasthan, which gives you an idea of what to expect in the "Pink City" of Jaipur.

Today you'll tour the Amber Palace, followed by a visit to another of Jai Singh II's architectural projects, the Jantar Mantar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site devoted to astronomy. Each of the curious structures, called yantras, in this observatory without telescopes enabled court astronomers to study the heavens, measuring various celestial phenomena—eclipses, the position of stars—or the time of day. Some of these instruments are still used by astrologers to determine which days will be auspicious for weddings or other important events.

Take the afternoon to explore on your own: Shuttles will be available to carry you to and from the hotel to the major shopping district. Jaipur's bazaars are famous for their traditional Rajasthani crafts—jewelry, pottery, hand-printed textiles and carpets—so go and enjoy the swirl of colors even if you aren't interested in buying some souvenirs.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Oberoi Rajvilas

Day 6

Jaipur Kolkata

Settle into your beautifully appointed suite aboard the Ganges Voyager II in Kolkata.

Meals: Breakfast and all meals once onboard

Accommodation: *'Ganges Voyager II'*

Day 7

Kalna

Kalna, once an important trade port on the river, is best known today for the magnificent Hindu temples built by the maharajas of Bardhaman— which you'll experience today. After marveling at the astonishing Rajbari temple complex, you may opt to walk with your guide through the colorful local market.

Stroll along the streets of Kalna as you head to the Rajbari temple complex. The Pratapeshwar Temple, built in 1849, is embellished with exceptional terra-cotta carvings depicting myths and rituals, as well as scenes of everyday life (see if you can spot the girl in typical Victorian dress with a violin among the hundreds of figures). Lalji, the oldest temple in the complex, dates to 1739; the three-storied structure is topped with 25 distinctive pinnacles. Next to it is Krishna Chandra, built in a similar style. Across the street you'll find the amazing Naba Kailash, two concentric circles of intricately carved temples dedicated to Shiva. The inner circle is made up of 34 white temples symbolizing pure thought; the outer circle contains 74 temples symbolizing the everyday world.

Meals: All meals onboard

Accommodation: *'Ganges Voyager II'*

Day 8

Matuari

Your ship serves as a time machine today, transporting you hundreds of years into the past, as we travel to the authentic artisan village of Matuari.

Artisans have been making ornamental brass objects—vases, lamps, figurines, platters—in Matuari for more than a century, so it's no wonder that production is so well-organized and the craftsmen so skillful. Scrap metal is melted in the village foundry and pressed into new sheets of brass, which are then turned into various objects. Each craftsman specializes in a different step of the process, so one artisan might cut the metal, while another shapes it into a wide tray, and yet another etches an intricate pattern onto the surface. The sound of hammer on brass will fill the air as you stroll from workshop to workshop to see each step of the fascinating process.

Meals: All meals onboard

Accommodation: *'Ganges Voyager II'*

Day 9

Murshidabad - Baranagar

Today's adventures take you to a duo of Bengali towns—Murshidabad and Baranagar—each one boasting surprising and beautiful architectural monuments closely linked to the ruling families of the area.

Climb aboard a horse-drawn buggy for a ride to Katra Mosque, built in 1723 by the first nawab, Murshid Quli Khan, who gave his name to the town. The huge mosque was damaged by an earthquake in 1897, losing two of its four great towers, but it is still a remarkable sight.

Your visit continues in Murshidabad, long ago the capital of Bengal and an important administrative center during the Raj—a fact that comes clear as the ship rounds a bend in the river and you behold Hazarduari Palace. This massive neoclassical building was erected in the mid-19th century for British officials, who lived and had their offices in its 114 rooms. One might wonder why the architect, Colonel Duncan Macleod of the Bengal Corps, thought the building needed a thousand doors, but that's how many it has—900 of them are real doors, and the remaining 100 are false. It is now a museum, which you will visit.

Return to the ship for lunch and cruise to the town of Baranagar, where Rani Bhabani built beautiful brick temples in the 18th century. Goats frolic among them now and vines attempt to take them over, but the terra-cotta carvings are considered among the best in Bengal and the temples are well-tended.

After your tour, if time and weather allow, you can learn a bit about one of the Raj's enduring legacies in India: a passion for that most British of all games, cricket. It remains India's favorite sport, and the national team, nicknamed the "Men in Blue," has won the Cricket World Cup more than once. The game is played in schools, in fields, even on village streets; watch it in action and discover the meaning of terms like "long leg," "fast bowler" and "run-out."

Meals: All meals onboard

Accommodation: *'Ganges Voyager II'*

Day 10

The Ganges - Khusbagh - Mayapur

One of the world's most sacred bodies of water, the Ganges River flows through a myriad of small villages and highly populated cities throughout India and Bangladesh. Take in the remarkable scenery as you sail and be on the lookout for a rare sighting of the endangered Ganges river dolphin.

Also today, watch as a skilled practitioner of mehndi demonstrates how the intricate henna patterns are created, and discover the meanings of the traditional motifs.

Khusbagh, which literally translates to "Garden of Happiness," is the garden-graveyard of the Nawabs of Bengal. Several historic rulers of this region, including Siraj ud-Daulah and Alivardi Khan, were laid to rest here. Take a walk through the village here, with a visit to see the mausoleum and the arcade verandah that surrounds it.

Meals: All meals onboard

Accommodation: *'Ganges Voyager II'*

Day 11

Mayapur - Chandannagar

Few places of worship exist on such a head-spinning scale as what you will witness today in Mayapur, the center of the international Hare Krishna movement and home to the new Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, still under construction. Most students of history know a thing or two about the British colonial powers in India, but few are aware that the French had colonies here as well. You'll visit this former French outpost today.

As the ship comes into sight of Mayapur, look for the new Vedic temple currently under construction. Funded in part by Alfred Ford, great-grandson of Henry Ford, the temple is designed to be larger than St. Paul's Cathedral in London once completed. The new temple construction coincides with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Hare Krishna movement, whose founder was born in Mayapur. Millions of Hare Krishna devotees come from all over the world to this pilgrimage site; as you walk through Mayapur's bazaar to the temple complex, you may well spot expatriates from America, Canada and Europe. Colorful parades of followers often weave through the streets, adding to the hustle and bustle of the lively, vivid scene. You'll tour the existing temple complex, get a look at the new Vedic Planetarium and learn something about the beliefs of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness.

"Liberté, Egalité et Fraternité." These words, the famous slogan of the French Revolution, are inscribed on the gateposts of Chandannagar, a mark of the centuries the town was a French outpost in West Bengal. In fact, Chandannagar did not officially become part of India until 1952, so when you step ashore here you will find a mixture of French Colonial and Indian architecture. A broad, tree-lined riverfront promenade known as the Strand shows off the handsomest remaining French buildings, and a river winds its way through the town. Chandannagar actually earned its name from the crescent shape of the river, as the Hindi word "chand" translates to "moon." Our visit to Chandannagar today includes a stop at the 19th-century Church of the Sacred Heart.

This evening, enjoy a Farewell dinner and take in a lively cultural dance performance, complete with music and dancing.

Meals: All meals onboard

Accommodation: *'Ganges Voyager II'*

Day 12

Kolkata

The city of Kolkata is synonymous with the enduring legacies of Mother Teresa and the colonial-era British Raj, both of which you will get better acquainted with today.

Continue this morning with a panoramic tour of Kolkata's city center. The first stop? A visit to the captivatingly colorful Flower Market. Located adjacent to the Howrah Bridge, this vibrant and bustling market is filled with vendors and buyers exchanging money for flowers to be used in festivals, rituals, weddings and more. Though teeming Kolkata is home to palaces and tenements, new developments and modern office buildings, grand hotels and parks, its historic architecture reflects its status as the longtime administrative heart of the British Raj. The colonial buildings still standing—and still in use—offer a blend of baroque and neoclassical styles that say much about British colonial taste. Perhaps the most surprising is the red-and-white façade of the Calcutta High Court building—a replica of the city hall in Ypres, Belgium. You'll see it as well as the stately Palladian dome of Government House, the classical white columns of Town Hall, the red-brick Writers' Building and the enormous General Post Office. Stop outside St. John's for a photo op, the oldest Anglican church in the city, and the Victoria Memorial Museum—which was partly inspired by the Taj Mahal. Built as a tribute to Queen Victoria after her death, this huge white-marble structure houses an illuminating exhibition on the colonial era. From there, you'll venture to Kumartuli, a traditional potters' neighborhood that specializes in making intricate clay idols, for a look at this complex and fascinating time-honored tradition.

You will then need to Choose between a visit to the local NGO Calcutta Rescue or visiting Mother Teresa's home and tomb.

Meals: All meals whilst onboard

Accommodation: *'Ganges Voyager II'*

Day 13

Kolkata

Your incredible Indian adventure ends early this morning, as you disembark and transfer to the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport for your flight home or extend your journey with an optional extension to Varanasi.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 7-night cruise in a riverview stateroom on the elegant Ganges Voyager II.
- Lavishly appointed riverview suites with private balconies.
- 2 nights in New Delhi at The Oberoi New Delhi (or similar).
- 1 night in Agra at The Oberoi Amarvilas (or similar).
- 2 nights in Jaipur at The Oberoi Rajvilas (or similar).

DINING

- Meals onboard prepared using the finest and freshest ingredients.
- 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 9 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Gala Dinners.
- Complimentary house wine, local spirits and beer, soft drinks, tea and coffee will be served throughout the cruise. Onshore lunches include complimentary coffee and tea. Onshore dinners include complimentary house wine, local beer, soft drinks, coffee, and tea.

EXCURSIONS

- 10 days of excursions, all fully hosted by English-speaking local experts

EXPERIENCES

- 4 UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Services of an experienced Uniworld Tour Manager.
- Complimentary Wellness Program on every sailing.
- Cultural enrichment.
- Group Transfers are included on arrival and departure days (please see terms and conditions for transfer guidelines).
- Flights included between Jaipur and Kolkata.
- Gratuities for onboard personnel (ship staff, crew, Cruise/Tour Manager) are included during the cruise/tour.

Exclusions

- International Flights
- Visas
- Travel Insurance (Highly recommended for this program)
- Tips/Gratuities
- Any meals or drinks not listed
- Any activities not listed

Travelling solo: Contact us for a quote!

Group Size: Uniworld's elegant ships feature an average capacity of 130 guests and one of the highest staff-to-guest ratios in the river cruise industry.

Travel Insurance: We recommend Covermore travel insurance. To quote and book, please click [HERE](#).

About 'Ganges Voyager II': The ship's spacious suites are a serene sanctuary, with beautiful hand-painted murals and all the comforts of a five-star hotel. All suites have a cozy sitting area and a French balcony with floor-to-ceiling glass doors. A bed dressed in soft linens, with a choice of pillows. Your roomy bathroom has a rain shower, comfy robes and slippers, and spa-quality bath products. Other high-end amenities include a generous amount of closet space, under-bed storage, a flat-screen television with a wide selection of on-demand movies, individual climate control, glass bottled water replenished daily, fresh fruit and flowers upon arrival, makeup mirrors and universal electrical plugs.

About your cabin: The price is based on the '*Signature Suite*'. Upgrades to other categories is available on checkout and subject to availability and price fluctuations.

Extensions: The option to extend and visit the ancient city of Varanasi is available NOW! Speak to our Customer Service team for a quote and to book.

Note: Due to cultural differences and other factors, the beverage policy for Uniworlds India program differs from their European programs.

Travelling on your own? Why not join the [Traveldream Solo Travellers Facebook group](#) where you can interact with other travellers.