

# Darjeeling & Sikkim with River Ganges Cruise

15 Nights / 16 Days

*Situated in the Eastern Himalayas Sikkim is one of the most beautiful states of India. It boasts the 3rd highest mountain in the world – Kanchenjunga – at 8586m, luxuriant forests, deep valleys with terraced hillsides, exotic flora and fauna, pristine waterfalls, sacred lakes and a number of beautifully ornate Buddhist monasteries.*

*We will enter Sikkim via Darjeeling, long renowned as a Hill Station during the Raj, famous for its colonial architecture and tea plantations. Heading south we cross Gangtok before taking our overnight train journey south to Kolkata, India's second largest city and revered as the cultural and intellectual capital, but also famed for its huge population.*

*When we talk about the cruises, downstream/upstream with return journey by rail, take you along the intimate lower Ganges sidestream, the River Hooghly, which flows from Farakka on the main river down to Kolkata. As well as sightseeing of Kolkata itself and the European colonies just outside, the cruise takes in Murshidabad, capital of the Nawabs of Bengal, the battlefield of Plassey close by, and the many monuments of the medieval Islamic capital of Gaur. A highlight is several delightful and little-known Bengali Terracotta temples.*

**Depart NZ 23 or 34 SEP 2019**

**Day 01: 25 SEP 2019: Arrive Kolkata**

Arrive Kolkata, TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS Executive will meet at the arrival with a placard to welcome you. Thereafter you will be assisted with a transfer and check in at the hotel for two nights. Home to five Nobel laureates, Kolkata is the nerve centre of intellect and human values, where many modern movements began in art, cinema and theatre, science and industry. The city is the gateway to Eastern India with a rich heritage and bustling streets. **(Dinner)**



**Day 02: 26 SEP 2019: Kolkata**

The morning after breakfast visit the Flower market followed by **The Howrah Bridge** build in 1874 and stands on two 270 feet high pillars and considered to be one of the busiest bridges in the world. Drive past **The Eden Gardens & Dalhousie Square**; the oldest and finest cricket playground in the country, which has undergone tremendous modernization and today boast of its ability to accommodate about 1, 20,000 persons. Appreciate the architecture and history of the city's many unique and spectacular buildings during the drive past **Dalhousie square** now a World Heritage Site.

Afternoon proceeds to **Kumartulli-Potter's lane**, the centuries-old tradition-bound studios of the idol makers ceremonially add life to the goddess Durga by creating her lotus-shaped eyes that wordlessly tell volumes of life divine. You experience a truly artistic work of these Kumar's. Later return to your hotel for dinner and overnight stay. **(B, D)**



**Day 03: 27 SEP 2019: Kolkata – Bagdogra (Flight TBA) – Darjeeling (approx. 03 hours)**

The morning after breakfast check out and transfer to Kolkata domestic airport to board flight to Bagdogra. On Arrival to Bagdogra, you will be met at the arrival and travel to Darjeeling and later check-in at the hotel for two nights. Darjeeling is famous for its scenic beauty and tea gardens. Remaining day is free to stroll around this beautiful city. **(B, D)**

**Day 04: 28 SEP 2019: Darjeeling** This morning we take the *Toy Train ride* to Ghoom and walk back to Darjeeling before visiting the Mountaineering Institute, the zoo and the Tibetan refugee centre. Stay overnight at Darjeeling. **(B, D)**



**Day 05: 29 SEP 2019: Darjeeling – Gangtok (by surface 3 ½ hrs. drive)**

The morning after breakfast drive to Gangtok, situated an altitude of 1750m, became the state capital in the mid-19th century and has undergone rapid development since then. The downtown area is dominated by huge government buildings decorated with traditional Buddhist symbols. Surrounded by Monasteries and Orchids, Gangtok is truly a traveller’s delight. Stay two nights in Gangtok. **(B, D)**



**Day 06: 30 SEP 2019: Gangtok**

The morning after breakfast start your sightseeing tour of Gangtok and visit **Rumtek Monastery**, the world dharma chakra centre and the seat of His Holiness, the Gyalwa Karmapa, who is the head of the Kagyupa order of Tibetan Buddhism. Continue your sightseeing visiting **Enchey Monastery** - located on a hilltop which is one of the oldest monasteries around. Stop at **Institute of Tibetology**; the fantastic museum housed in a traditional Tibetan-style mansion boasts a jaw-dropping collection of artefacts related to Vajrayana Buddhism and Tibetan culture. Later return to the hotel for dinner with an overnight stay in Gangtok. **(B, D)**

**Day 07: 01 OCT 2019: Gangtok – Kalimpong (by surface 3 hrs. drive)**

The morning after breakfast travel to Kalimpong, is a bustling bazaar town, famous for its flower market, particularly its wide array of orchids. This was once part of Sikkim and a meeting point on the trade route to Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal. It sits amid beautiful mountain scenery where orchids and other plants and flowers grow in profusion. Kalimpong offers wonderful views of Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world and the town is home to several important monasteries. The evening is free for you to explore the town on your own. Stay overnight at Kalimpong. **(B, D)**

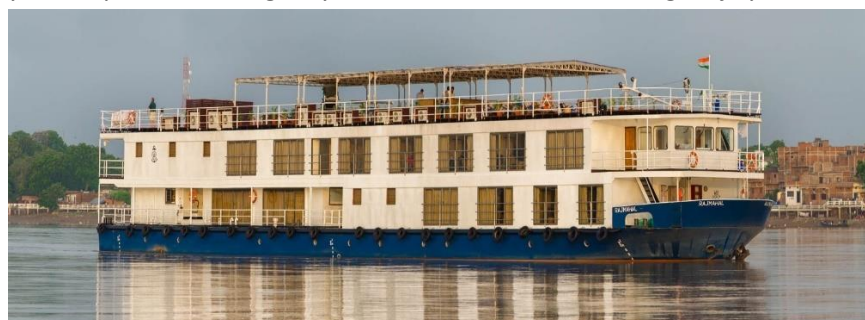


**Day 08: 02 OCT 2019: Kalimpong – Siliguri (by surface 2 ½ hrs. drive)**

The morning after breakfast check out and visit **Tharpa Choling Monastery** - established in 1937 by Gelupka sect of Buddhism on Mt Tirpai Hills, the monastery offers great natural views. The cool environment on one of the ideal places of Kalimpong is best for a rendezvous with spirituality, also visit **Flower Nurseries** - Kalimpong has left its mark for horticulture which boosts its economy and thus one can enjoy various nurseries including varieties of flowers as well as cactuses they have on display, Later travel to Siliguri and check in for a night with rest of the day is at your leisure. **(B, D)**

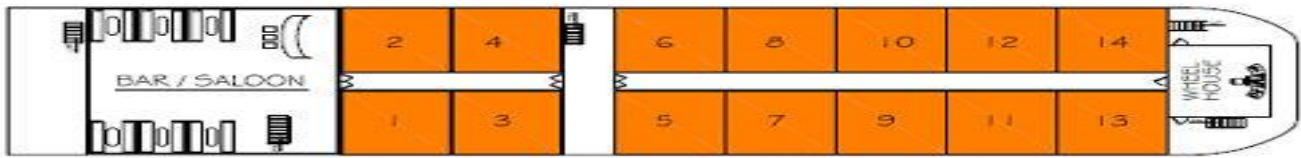
**Day 09: 03 OCT 2019: Siliguri – Farakka (Train 12042 ETD 0530 Hrs // ETA 09:22 Hrs)**

Early morning in time transfer to New Jalpaiguri train station to board your express train to Farakka where you board your ship. Remaining day free to relax and evening enjoy dinner after a short safety briefing. **(B, D)**



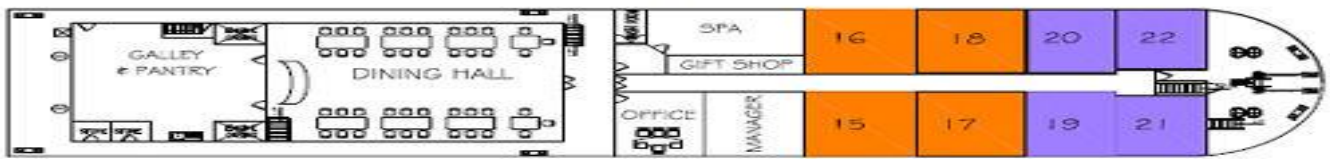


### Upper Deck



ABN Rajmahal

### Main Deck



ABN Rajmahal

#### Day 10: 04 OCT 2019: Malda

This morning's cruise is along a straight canal section to Jangipur, where the afternoon is free to explore this small country town on foot.

We enjoy a full day excursion by road to Gaur, near the town of Malda, or English Bazar. This quiet, deserted place was once one of India's great cities, first under the Hindus in the 12th century, then as the Muslim capital of Eastern India from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. There are plentiful remains of mosques, palaces and gateways and you visit a number of the most interesting historical sites before rejoining the ship in the evening near Jangipur.

(B,L,D)



#### Day 11: 05 OCT 2019: Baranagar & Murshidabad

This morning, set sail down the Lower Ganges, a charming waterway twisting and turning between banks lined with mustard fields and mango orchards. Moor at the delightful sleepy village of Baranagar with three gorgeous miniature terracotta temples to which you walk through the fields. This is rural India at its most idyllic.

Continue on down past Azimganj, boasting some fine riverside mansions, to Murshidabad where the Nawab's great Hazarduari Palace dominates the waterfront. Built by an English architect in 1837, the palace hosts an extensive collection of pictures, China, weapons and other objects. Carry on to visit the great Katra Mosque and Nashipara Palace before driving out to see the Katgola Palace. Built in the classical Georgian style by rich local merchants, Katgola Palace represents the other side of the coin of the 'White Mughal' period when English and Indian cultures came close to fusion. Moor overnight on the riverbank across from town.

(B,L,D)

#### Day 12: 06 OCT 2019: Murshidabad

Sail downstream a short distance then walk to the Khushbagh, a peaceful Mughul-style garden enclosing the tombs of Siraj-Ud-Daulah – the last independent Nawab of Bengal – and his family. Return to the ship and continue downstream past the old British cantonment of Berhampur to a rural mooring close to the battlefield of Plassey where, in 1757, Robert Clive, the Commander-in-Chief of British India, defeated Siraj-Ud-Daulah, to change the course of Indian history. You can walk through the fields to the commemorative obelisk.



Cruise on to a mooring near Katwa, a market town with narrow bustling bazaars. **(B,L,D)**

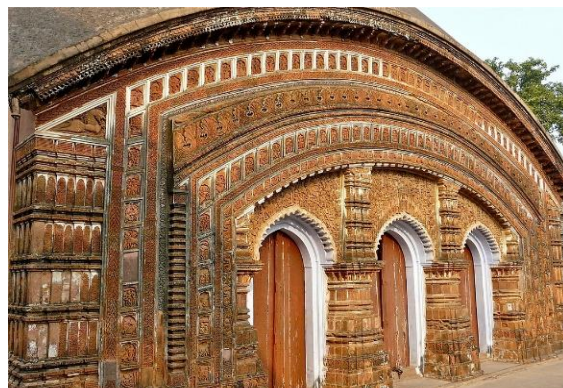
**Day 13: 07 OCT 2019: Matiari**

Visit the brassworking village of Matiari where you can see the whole primitive process of beating out brass water pots and other vessels. Continue on through the countryside to Mayapur to visit the vast new ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) temple which dominates the skyline. As the headquarters of ISKCON or the Hare Krishna movement, the temple receives over a million singing and dancing devotees a year from around the world. **(B,L,D)**



**Day 14: 08 OCT 2019: Kalna**

Continue on down to the country town of Kalna. Take cycle rickshaws to see a group of some of Bengal's most attractive terracotta temples, as well as the unique Shiva temple with concentric rings made up of 108 shrinelets. Sail on, leaving fields behind and arrive at the outskirts of Kolkata. Land near Bandel to visit the imposing Imambara at Hooghly. With verses from the Koran written on its walls, the Imambara is an opportunity to step back in time and relive a slice of Islamic history in Bengal. **(B,L,D)**



**Day 15: 09 OCT 2019: Chandernagore**

Sail downstream – past fine waterfront buildings and the old Dutch settlement at Chinsura – to land at Chandernagore, a French possession until 1950. Visit the 18th-century church and Dupleix's House, the erstwhile Governor-General of French India, before continuing down to Barrackpore. Land and take a walk through the cantonment – past the Semaphore Tower, Government House, the Temple of Fame and Flagstaff House – to get a better understanding of India's journey to independence. **(B,L,D)**



**Day 16: 10 OCT 2019: Kolkata Departure**

Early this morning, cruise under the Howrah Bridge to central Kolkata. Disembark after breakfast and your cruise tour finish with direct transfer to the airport by afternoon to board the flight.

**\*\*\* Tour Ends \*\*\***

*\*All flight fares are based on Economy class travel based on availability which is subject to change*

*\*\*Baggage Allowance is 25kgs Check-in and 07kgs Cabin luggage on Air India & Jet Airways / Konnect Flights.*

*\*\*Baggage Allowance is 15kgs Check-in and 07kgs Cabin luggage on all other Domestic Flights in India*

**Hotels Include below or similar: -**

City	Luxury Hotel (5*) / Room Category	Nights
Kolkata	The Lalit / Deluxe Room	02
Darjeeling	Mayfair / Executive Room	02
Gangtok	Norkhill / Deluxe Room	02
Kalimpong	Mayfair / Deluxe Room	01
Siliguri	Sarovar Premier / Superior Room	01
Ship	On Board	07



## What's included?

- **Flights ex NZ with Singapore Airlines**
- 08 Nights luxury hotel accommodation (Check In 1400 Hrs / Out at 1200 Hrs)
- 07 Nights on board ship.
- Travel and transfers by air-conditioned vehicle as per the itinerary.
- Meals as specified (**B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D= Dinner**)
- English speaking tour guide as per the Itinerary.
- THO Tour Manager Kolkata to Siliguri (min 10 pax)
- Entrance fee to the monuments as per the Program (one visit per monument)
- Economy class airfare Kolkata to Bagdogra
- 01 toy train ride in Darjeeling
- 01 train ride in Shatabdi express from New Jalpaiguri to Farakka
- Bottled water during drives, sightseeing and onboard ship
- **All meals while onboard cruise, all excursions, sightseeing and transfers in Kolkata & Farakka**
- THO Assistance throughout the tour.
- All currently applicable taxes.
- All tips and gratuities, except those of a personal nature ie toilet stops, porters, at meals.

## What's excluded?

Any International or Domestic Airfare not mentioned and Visa fee, Early check-in or late check out, Meals other than specified above, Travel & Medical Insurance, Camera and video permits, Expenses incurred due to flight / train cancellation or delay, any expense of a personal nature, like drinks, laundry, telephone calls, mini bar, etc, any optional excursion or tour, any other expense not mentioned in the prices include column.

To obtain Electronic Visa Online - India, please visit <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html> for more details / submit your individual visa application. **Please apply for your visa online at least 15 days before departure date.**

**For India local references please use our India office address:** TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS Building No. -97, Ground Floor, Sai Enclave, Sector 23, Dwarka New Delhi 110077; Phone: +91 11 25308100

## Onboard Ship features

Spacious cabins with individual climate control  
Ensuite shower/WC with Boutique toiletries  
Generous cupboard space and under-bed storage  
Hair drier in each cabin  
Minibar in each cabin  
In-room electronic safe  
Tea/coffee making facilities in cabins  
Intercommunication telephone in cabins  
High-quality bathrobes and slippers in cabins  
Large sliding glass windows offering panoramic views of the river  
Vast sundeck both open and shaded, with sun loungers or steamer chairs  
Spacious air-conditioned saloon with library and recorded entertainment  
Spa with choice of treatments.

## On-Board Cruise Services

Shore excursion programme including all admissions  
Maximum 20 guests per guide on all excursions  
Naturalist onboard the vessel  
Cold towel service after excursions  
Welcome drink after excursions  
Shoe-cleaning after excursions  
Turndown service in all cabins  
Expertly trained culinary staff  
Single seating for buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner  
Acclaimed combination of Indian & Western cuisines  
Wide choice of wines, spirits and beer  
Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water throughout

Welcome reception  
 Farewell reception  
 Local cultural shows and folk music

**Cost Per Person in NZD Valid as per mentioned departure**

<b>Darjeeling &amp; Sikkim with River Ganges Cruise 15 Nights / 16 Days Start Kolkata – End Kolkata</b>	
<b>Tour Dates: 25 Sep – 10 Oct 2019</b>	<b>Tour Code: THO – D52</b>
	<b>Cost per person in NZ\$</b>
<b>Full Charter (22 Cabins)</b>	<b>Luxury Hotels &amp; Deluxe Cabin</b>
	<b>Twin / Solo</b>
<b>Main Deck Cabins</b>	<b>\$10,730.00 / \$14,330.00</b>
<b>Upper Deck Cabins</b>	<b>\$11,530.00 / \$15,430.00</b>
<b>Main Deck Single Cabin</b>	<b>NA / \$12,630.00</b>
<b>Local Beer &amp; Wine Package on board ship - During Lunch &amp; Dinner</b>	<b>included</b>
<b>Tipping Kitty</b>	<b>included</b>

**Terms & Conditions:**

1. The price quoted for the land, airfare and taxes are subject to change without notice until final payment has been received in full and tickets are issued.
2. Price validity mentioned in the quote means you must start and end tour within those dates.
3. Deposit is non-refundable and due within 7 days of the invoice dates (unless otherwise stated)
4. Receiving confirmation of the booking means you and your client have read and agreed on TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS booking conditions mentioned in the brochure and website. Due to any unforeseen circumstances booking conditions may change without notice hence please request a copy before making reservation.
5. Please check all the dates are correct and ensure that the name given is the same as mentioned in the passport, resulting not to do may cause penalties and increase in cost.
6. No accommodation or services are confirmed while quoting. Booking of services and accommodations will only be process once written confirmation is received. Our priority always is to offer same hotel as quoted unless sold-out prior where similar category hotel will be offered.
7. We are happy to assist with information; however, it's your clients and/or agent's responsibility to ensure all the relevant visas of the countries are obtained.
8. We recommend that you advise client to familiarise with latest consular advice issued by the department of foreign affair and trade.
9. The quoted prices are based on cash, cheque, bank transfer and eNett.
10. No early check-in or late check-out is included.
11. If you are carrying sizable items i.e. surf board or anything which require large vehicle, please advise us at the time of quoting. Failing to inform may cause inconvenience and delay. Any extra cost incurs due to change of vehicle will need to pay directly to our local office. Transport is subject to availability at the time therefore pre-booked is highly recommended to avoid disappointment.
12. Activities mentioned above are subject to availability and changes can be made if necessary for any reason till the last moment.
13. Driving time mentioned in the itinerary is approx. and is for guidance only. Travelling may take much longer time than mentioned in the itinerary as it varies per season, area of your tour and road conditions or the region.
14. Picture shown in the itinerary and website is for reference only and may not be actual picture of your room, services or activities.
15. If you are booking hotel or tour on triple share, please note that depending on the hotel policy and availability extra rollaway bed/mattress will be provided in the same room.
16. Every hotel is different in room size, services, location, category and decor. We take utmost care while selecting and suggestion hotels, so every traveller can have comfortable stay. All travel agent and client is also responsible to ensure they do research and satisfy themselves with the hotels and its services at the time of quotation and request for alternative if any concern. Due to any unforeseen circumstance if changes are made at the last moments than client had to pay any additional cost in full at the time of changes. There will not be any refund for unused hotel or services.
17. TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS booking conditions apply.

