Thali

Tour Cost (per person):

Main Deck:	Upper Deck:	Upper Deck Suites:
US$5295	US$5895	US$6145

Port charges: US$100 | Includes all land taxes and gratuities.
Single Supplement: 50% of tour cost based on cabin category

Tour Cost Includes:
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in hotels listed or similar
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in selected cabin on board the *RV Bengal Ganga*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals on board the *RV Bengal Ganga*
- Flight from Delhi to Varanasi in economy class
- Flight from Varanasi to Kolkata in economy class
- Transfers by private, air-conditioned coach
- Sightseeing with qualified English-speaking guides
- All activities and entrance fees
- All land taxes
- All gratuities (for guides, drivers, hotels, restaurants)

Not Included:
- Airfare from your home to join the tour
- Visa fee (Currently US$80)
- Fuel surcharges, if applicable
- Travel insurance
- Excess baggage charges
- Items of a personal nature
- Additional arrangements required due to any emergency or other situation

Payment Details
A non-refundable deposit of US$1000 per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. A second deposit of US$2000 is due six months prior to departure. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. We accept payment by VISA, MasterCard, or cheque.

Group Size
Limited to 48 participants. Daily excursions will be in small groups of 16 – 18 participants.

IATA Accredited Agent | tico.ca #2667946

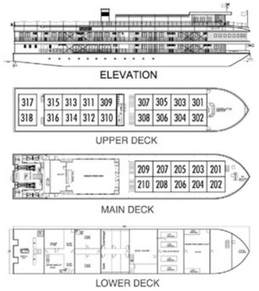
Worldwide Quest Int'l 491 King St. E. Toronto, ON M5A 1L9

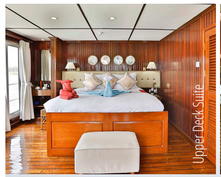
The University of Toronto, its officers and employees, do not assume any responsibility for the financing, arranging or conducting of tours. They shall not be liable for any damages or financial loss to person or property of any description that might occur in connection with tours, howsoever arising from the negligence, omission or otherwise of travel services arranged through Worldwide Quest International.

On board the *RV Bengal Ganga*

Built in 2004 as a replica of traditional Clyde steamers, this modern vessel has 28 outside staterooms, 10 on the main deck and 18 (including two suites) on the upper deck. Brass and teak feature prominently throughout the ship. Staterooms are approximately 15 metres², have air conditioning, and are equipped with twin beds, safe, hair dryers, and bath robes. There are no mini-bars, TVs, or phones. Every stateroom has an outdoor seating area with rattan chairs for relaxing.

Fine Indian and European cuisine, excellent service, and a hospitable and caring on-board team contribute to making this a very special experience. Passengers often describe feeling as if they were guests on a private motor yacht rather than passengers on a cruise ship. Although all staterooms are very comfortable and roomy, most passengers prefer to spend their time outside on the deck, observing the fascinating scenes and scenery along the river.




Upper Deck Suite

More University of Toronto alumni tours with Worldwide Quest:

Fogo Island & St. John's
LIMITED SPACE STILL AVAILABLE
September, 2019
Experience the spectacular scenery, the daring architecture, and the traditions of the Newfoundland way of life. Enjoy two days in St. John's, a scenic drive on the Trans Canada Highway, and a four-night stay at the renowned Fogo Island Inn with a full program of daily activities, all meals, and those spectacular panoramic ocean views. Hike, tour, meet, and indulge... This tour sold out in 2018. Don't miss out on this UofT exclusive!

Amazon Rainforest River Cruise
February, 2020
Join University of Toronto adjunct professor Dan Riskin, scientist, author, and most recently co-host of Discovery Channel's flagship science program, *Daily Planet*, to experience the tremendous biodiversity of the Amazon River. Come onboard our exclusively chartered 36-passenger luxury river cruiser, travelling deep into the rainforest. Enjoy unrivalled access to the Peruvian rainforest's most pristine areas in the company of a world-class Canadian authority and the river's most knowledgeable local naturalists. *With the University of Alberta and other Canadian groups.*

Uzbekistan
April, 2020
Get to the best of central Asia on our modern-day caravan through Uzbekistan along the fabled Silk Route. Traverse memorable landscapes and admire outstanding architecture, epitomized by the superb ensembles in Samarkand and Bukhara. Stroll winding medieval streets, journey across the vast Kizilkum Desert, and marvel at the intricate turquoise tile work. Enjoy colourful markets, enticing crafts, and perfectly preserved ancient towns. *With Western University.*

Douro Valley Walking
October, 2020
Immerse yourself in some of the most picture-perfect walking country in all of Europe. On this 11-day fully supported walk, you will be rewarded with spectacular views of the dramatically beautiful scenery of the Rio Douro with its terraced vineyards, hilltop wine estates, olive groves, pine forests, and gorgeous small villages. *With Western University.*

WorldwideQuest
Alumni Expeditions

Exclusive ship charter

How to Book
Please contact Worldwide Quest for more information and to book this expedition.

1-800-387-1483 | 416-633-5666
travel@worldwidequest.com

Sadhus (holy men)

This expedition is offered exclusively to alumni and friends of the University of Toronto, McGill University, Western University, the University of Alberta, the University of Saskatchewan, and McMaster University.

Visit WorldwideQuest.com/UniversityofToronto to view all alumni expeditions with Worldwide Quest.

University of Toronto Alumni Travel
21 King's College Circle
Toronto, ON M5S 3J3
Canada

Worldwide Quest presents to
University of Toronto Alumni and Friends

Ganges River Cruise

EXCLUSIVE CHARTER CRUISE WITH VARANASI AND KOLKATA

March 10 – 22, 2020

UofT travellers on our 2018 tour

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The name Ganges conjures all of India's exotic fascination. Considered a living goddess in the Hindu religion, the Ganges is also the daily lifeblood that provides food, water, and transportation to millions who live along its banks. Now you can travel this extraordinary river in considerable comfort on a truly unforgettable river cruise.

You will be on board the exclusively chartered 28-cabin *R/V Bengal Ganga* for this very special voyage. Based on a traditional 19th century British design, the river cruiser blends beautifully with the timeless landscape. Over eight leisurely days you will experience the vibrant, complex tapestry of diverse architectural expressions, historical narratives, religious beliefs, and fascinating cultural traditions that thrive along the banks of the Ganges. As you sail, you will be treated to the daily rituals of village life and the unspoilt countryside that are a part of India seldom visited by travellers. And before the cruise begins, delve into colourful Varanasi and vibrant Kolkata.

This is an experience for the culturally curious, for photographers of unforgettable landscapes, and for adventurous travellers who relish authentic moments. The experience of the Ganges River is beguiling, complex, infinite, and profound. I hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Daphne Tao

Daphne Tao
Manager, Alumni Travel Program

The University of Toronto respects your privacy, your personal information remains confidential and is never released to our travel partners. The promotional information in this mailing is provided by an official travel partner of the University of Toronto. Revenue generated through travel programs support student and alumni events and initiatives. If you prefer not to receive information regarding the university's travel programs, please contact address.update@utoronto.ca or write to: "Alumni Records — Attn.: no travel mailings", 21 King's College Circle, Toronto, ON M5S 3J3.

Detailed Itinerary

Tuesday, Mar. 10: Meet in Delhi
Arrive in Delhi, where our local representative provides a transfer to our hotel. The evening is at leisure to rest up after your flight.
Overnight: Grand Hotel, Delhi

Wednesday, Mar. 11: Fly to Varanasi
Meet your tour director and study leader for a morning briefing, then head out to the airport for the short flight to Varanasi. Experience the colourful and fascinating street life as we walk through the winding lanes of the ancient city. Witness the Aarti Ceremony on the banks of the Ganges as oil lamps are lit, bells are rung and chanting and singing create a magical end to the day.
Overnight: Taj Gateway Varanasi B, D

Thursday, Mar. 12: Varanasi
Early this morning return to the banks of the Ganges where pilgrims perform their timeless rites along the *ghats* leading to the sacred river. Visit several of the most significant *ghats* by boat to experience the very special mystique of these hallowed waters. Later, visit the ruins at Sarnath where Buddha delivered his first sermon and founded the first monastic community in the 6th century.
Overnight: Taj Gateway, Varanasi B, L, D

Friday, Mar. 13: Fly to Kolkata
It was from here that the British ruled a large part of Southeast Asia for two centuries. Following in their footsteps, the Bengali aristocracy and middle class came to settle here, together with Armenians, Jews, and Chinese. All left their imprint and legacy, which in turn contribute to Kolkata's thrilling cultural blend. Enjoy a heritage walk this afternoon to introduce Kolkata's fascinating neighbourhoods.
Overnight: Lalit Hotel, Kolkata B, D

Saturday, Mar. 14: Kolkata
Experience the energy of the city as we explore with our guides today. Visit the Jain Temple to see its ornate mirrors, coloured stones, and glass mosaics. See the Victoria Memorial Hall, a spectacular example of Indo-gothic architecture. At Kumartolli, observe craftsmen making decorations for the city's grand festivals. On College Street, peruse Asia's largest book market and enjoy a cup of coffee at the famous 'Coffee Shop', meeting place for Bengali intellectuals. End the day at the Kali Temple, a great Hindu pilgrimage centre.
Overnight: Lalit Hotel, Kolkata B, D

Sunday, Mar. 15: Embark the river cruise
Head out to the Mullik Ghat Flower Market spread out below the iconic Howrah Bridge. It is captivatingly colourful especially in the morning as huge amounts of flowers are prepared for temple and home use. Visit Kolkata's Botanical Gardens, founded in 1786, home to more than 12,000 plant species. This afternoon embark the *Bengal Ganga* and set sail on our exclusive river cruise.
Overnight: The R/V Bengal Ganga B, D

Monday, Mar. 16: Serampore, Chandernagore
Visit two outposts of colonial India. The Danish Asiatic Company established a trading post at Serampore to acquire silk and cotton textiles as well as the important saltpetre, used for production of black powder. See some of the 18th and 19th century private buildings built by the Danes. Chandernagore was an outpost set up by the French in 1696; today it reflects the confluence of French and Bengali cultures.
Overnight: The R/V Bengal Ganga B, L, D

Tuesday, Mar. 17: Shantipur
Enjoy a morning of cruising with time to relax, take in the educational program, and learn about distinctive elements of Indian cooking from the ship's chef. This afternoon visit Shantipur, a region famous for its handloom weavings. Saris and finely woven feather-touch textiles are still being produced in the traditional method today using patterns and colours from ancient times.
Overnight: The R/V Bengal Ganga B, L, D

Wednesday, Mar. 18: Kalna
Ride rickshaws to the enchanting Rajbari Temple Complex, to see the impressive concentration of temples including the Nabakailas Temples, 108 slope-roofed Shiva temples arranged in two concentric circles, and the Pratapeshwar Temple richly ornamented with terra cotta friezes depicting episodes from the Hindu epics.
Overnight: The R/V Bengal Ganga B, L, D

Thursday, Mar. 19: Mayapur
The riverside town is the headquarters of the ISKCON, the International Centre for Krishna Consciousness, known in the west as the Hare Krishna movement. Meet with devotees and visit the headquarters to learn more about this orthodox core of Hinduism and see the temples and monuments dedicated to its founder.
Overnight: The R/V Bengal Ganga B, L, D

Friday, Mar. 20: Guptipara
Visit the beautiful complex of terra cotta temples dating from the 17th and 18th centuries with intricately carved facades and pillars depicting scenes from epic stories. The town is famous for its sweets – we'll sample these on our village walk.
Overnight: The R/V Bengal Ganga B, L, D

Saturday, Mar. 21: Bandel
Ride cycle rickshaws to the Basilica of Our Lady of Bandel, in the town founded by Portuguese settlers around 1660. Visit the Hooghly Imambara, a grand Indo-Saracenic building inaugurated as a centre of learning and worship in the 1860s, where you can climb the clock tower for breathtaking views of the river.
Overnight: The R/V Bengal Ganga B, L, D

Sunday, Mar. 22: Disembark in Kolkata and depart
Early this morning, cruise under the iconic Howrah Bridge to central Kolkata and disembark. Transfer to the airport for departure flights or to join optional extensions. B

Note: The itinerary and accommodation described in this tour brochure are subject to change due to logistical arrangements and to take advantage of local events.

Enjoy more India on our optional extensions.

Please be in touch for detailed itineraries.

PRE-TOUR

Delhi & the Taj Mahal | March 7 – 10
Get to know the marvels of Old and New Delhi plus a full day in Agra to visit the iconic Taj Mahal.

Cost (per person): US$1395 (based on a minimum of four participants), single supplement: US$295
Includes: Transfer from the airport on arrival; three nights' accommodation based on double occupancy in first class hotels; breakfast daily; two dinners; transportation by private vehicle; entrance fees; full sightseeing program with expert guides.

Colourful Rajasthan | March 1 – 10
Discover the grand forts, extravagant palaces, and spectacular colours of Rajasthan in this fully guided extension to Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and the Taj Mahal.

Cost (per person): US$3650 (based on a minimum of six participants), single supplement: US$795
Includes: Arrival transfer; nine nights' accommodation based on double occupancy in first class hotels; breakfast daily; four dinners; transportation by private vehicle; entrance fees; full sightseeing program with expert guides; flight from Udaipur to Delhi.

POST-TOUR

Darjeeling and Sikkim | March 22 – 28
Experience the dramatically beautiful scenery of the Eastern Himalayas. Marvel at views of the world's third highest mountain, admire hill station architecture, visit Buddhist monasteries, and sample tea surrounded by emerald-green plantations.

Cost (per person): US$3450 (based on a minimum of four participants), single supplement: US$795
Includes: Flight from Kolkata to Bagdogra; six nights' accommodation based on double occupancy in first class hotels; all meals; transportation by private vehicle; entrance fees; full sightseeing program with expert guides; flight from Bagdogra to Delhi.

South India | March 22 – 30
Enjoy a culinary adventure mixing colourful villages, lush tropical landscapes, and world-renowned temple complexes with the spice of hands-on cooking classes, guided market walks, and chef presentations.

Cost (per person): US$3950 (based on a minimum of ten participants), single supplement: US$795
Includes: Flight from Kolkata to Chennai; eight nights' accommodation based on double occupancy in first class hotels; breakfast daily; lunch or dinner daily; two cooking classes; transportation by private vehicle; entrance fees; full sightseeing program with expert guides; flight from Madurai to Chennai.

What to Expect

Level of Activity: Moderate
This tour involves walking for up to two hours on uneven terrain in busy cities and on dirt roads in villages. Many times our ship is moored alongside the shore and passengers will cross a gangplank to reach the bank of the river and walk up to level ground. Should you have any questions about your ability to take part in this tour, please give Worldwide Quest a call.

Weather
Expect temperatures around 30°C during the day and 19°C overnight. This is the dry season with little rain expected. We arrange our activities in the early morning and late afternoon and are on board over mid-day.

Travel Documents
You will require a passport for this trip. Please ensure it is valid for at least 6 months beyond your scheduled return home. You will require a visa for India (US$80). Worldwide Quest will provide instructions for obtaining your visa.

Terms and Conditions
For information about terms and conditions, please refer to your booking form or Worldwide Quest's website. All participants are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Act.

Shores of the Ganges

Our Route

Study Leader

Sarah Richardson returns to the Ganges for a second time as the study leader for this voyage. Sarah is a historian of the arts and religions of South Asia with a specialization in Buddhist visual and material practice. Sarah holds a PhD from the University of Toronto (2016), and is currently teaching courses as a Lecturer in the History of Religions for the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Toronto Mississauga. This year (2018-19) she is also serving as the Interim Director of the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Studies at the University of Toronto. She especially enjoys teaching courses on the ways that the arts are used in religious contexts.