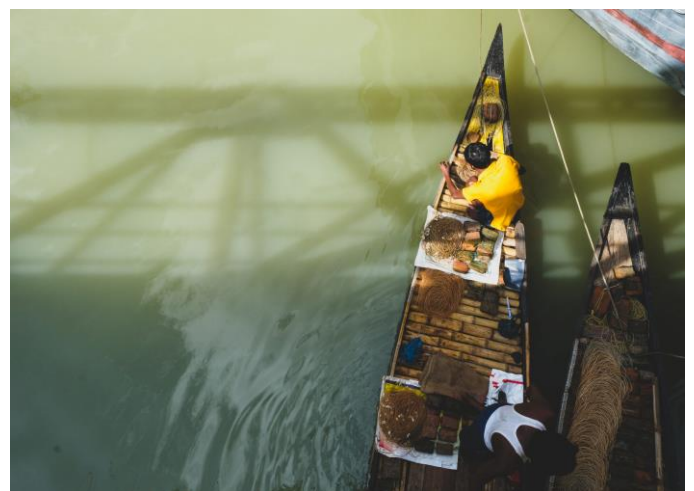


MV Ganga Vilas *by Antara Cruises*

Kolkata – Patna / Varanasi

Upstream

19 nights / 20 days





Welcome Aboard

Day 1: Arrive Kolkata, Embarkation / Lunch, Dinner

Embarkation: 12:00 hrs

Arrival in Kolkata in the morning. Meet and greet at the airport and transfer to the jetty for embarking MV Ganga Vilas.

Welcome onboard followed by safety briefing and lunch. Post lunch we visit **Mother Teresa's Home and Tomb**. 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, we learn her life story, and see her charity that is still active. Return to the ship.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas

Day 2 : Kolkata – Kalna / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

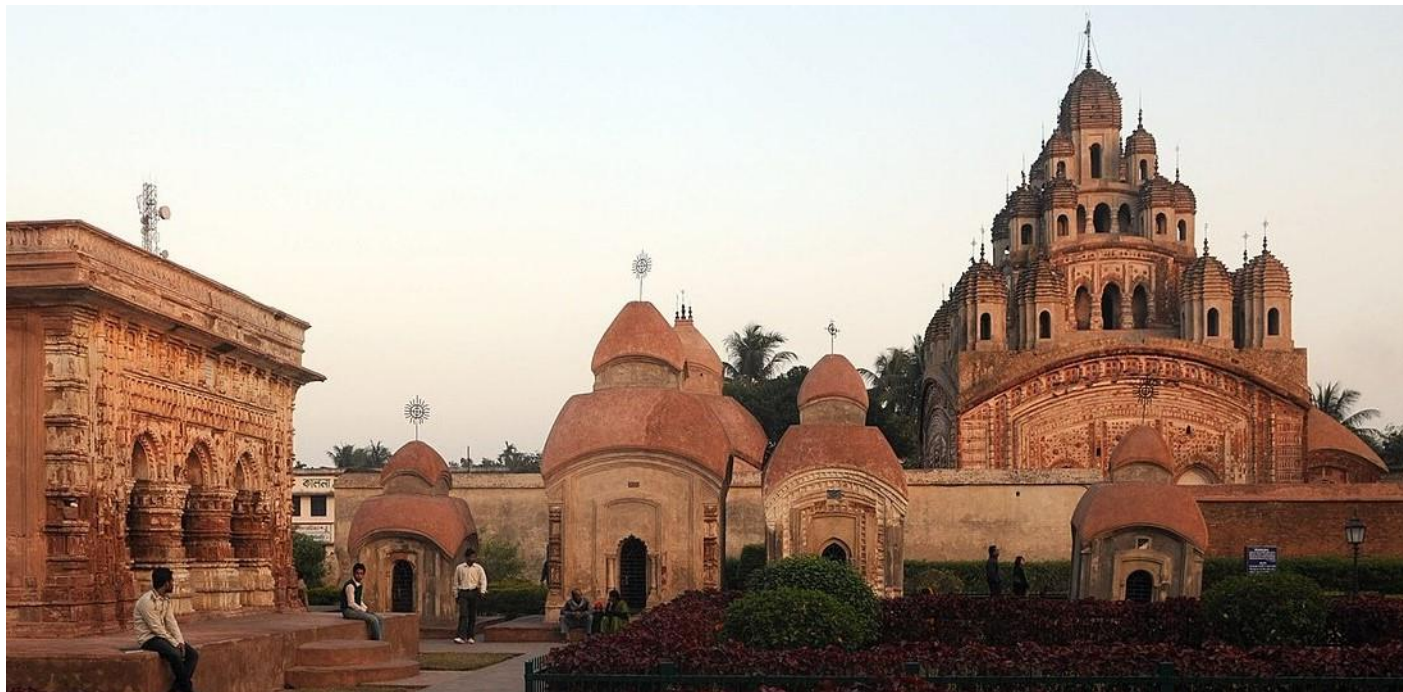
After breakfast, visit the **Flower Market**, where you can see artists creating a variety of garlands, ornaments, and other items made of flowers and leaves for temples, weddings, and other uses. Thereafter, visit **Kumartuli**, a traditional potters' quarter renowned for its sculpting prowess.



Clay idol making at Kumartulli, Kolkata

Return to the ship for lunch and start sailing upstream, passing below the Howrah Bridge, and seeing various colonial buildings along the Ganges River.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas



Terracotta Temples, Kalna

Day 3: Kalna – Matiari / *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

After breakfast ride e-rickshaws through the town of Kalna to visit the enchanting **Rajbari Temple complex**. The Nabakailas Temple contains 108 eight-slope-roofed shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. Other temples in the complex feature diverse architecture and terracotta plaques depict themes of Hindu epics and various aspects of day-to-day life in the region.

Return to the ship walking through the **local vegetable market**. Begin sail towards the shore-side village of Matiari, while having lunch onboard.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas.





Brass-work, Matiari

Day 4: Matiari - Murshidabad / *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Early this morning walk in the village to see and experience the craftsmen at work. These master craftsmen utilize recycled copper to create exquisite pots, platters, and more from their workshops in the village.

Return to ship for breakfast and sail full day towards **Murshidabad**, a hidden architectural gem with dramatic whitewashed colonial era structures. Lunch onboard.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas



Katra Mosque, Murshidabad



Hazarduari Palace, Murshidabad

Day 5: Murshidabad – Jangipur / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast ride the Toto (e-rickshaw) through the countryside to the **Katra mosque**, which has distinctive minarets.

Thereafter visit the **Hazarduari Palace**, which dominates the waterfront. Built 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.

Return to the ship for lunch and sail towards Jangipur.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas



Farakka

Day 6: Jangipur – Farakka / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Enjoying breakfast onboard we sail in the morning to cross the historic **Farakka Lock Gate**. The travel through the Feeder Canal will give us a chance to see the different birds of the region. After crossing the Lock Gate, we cruise through the connecting canal to the Ganges revealing vast panoramas.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas



Sahibganj

Day 7: River Day, Farakka – Sahibganj / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we sail full day towards **Sahibganj** enjoying breakfast and lunch. You will be fascinated by the passing landscape and the lively life on the river.

Sahibganj is a scenic town and a port city on the banks of Ganges. Literally meaning a place (*ganj*) of masters (*sahebs or sahibs*) as several English and other European people lived and worked in and around the railway station during the British Raj.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas

Day 8: Sahibganj - Bateshwarsthan / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Enjoy a Village Walk in the morning.

Return to ship and sail towards **Bateshwarsthan** enjoying lunch onboard. We will arrive in Bateshwarsthan by evening. Time permitting, enjoy a walk on the Ghats (embankments).

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas





Archaeological Site, Vikramshila

Day 9: Bateswarsthan – Vikramshila Excursion / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast drive in cars to the 8-9th century excavation site of Vikramshila University. Spend the day walk around the archaeological ruins. Vikramshila University - an important Buddhist center of learning under Pala Dynasty. where theology, philosophy, grammar, metaphysics, and logic were taught here.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas

Day 10: Bateswarsthan – Sultanganj – Munger / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we sail to **Sultanganj** while enjoying breakfast onboard.

After breakfast excursion to **Sultanganj**, which is notable for two prominent granite rock islands in the river connected to the mainland by a causeway. On one island is a mosque and on the other larger one, is the Ajgaibinath Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. We will visit the **Shiva temple**.



Stone Relief, Sultanganj

Return to the ship and sail towards Munger while enjoying lunch onboard. We arrive by the evening.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas



Temple Gate & Munger Fort entrance

Day 11: Munger Tour / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast visit the **Chandika Sthan Temple**, which is dedicated to Goddess Shakti. It is one of the fifty-one *Shakti Peethas*, associated with the legend of Lord Vishnu who to save the world from Lord Shiva's wrath, cut into pieces the corpse of Devi Sati that Shiva was carrying.

Return to ship for lunch. Thereafter visit the **Munger Fort** and enjoy a walking tour and the **local market** popular for fruits, vegetables, textiles, and readymade garments.

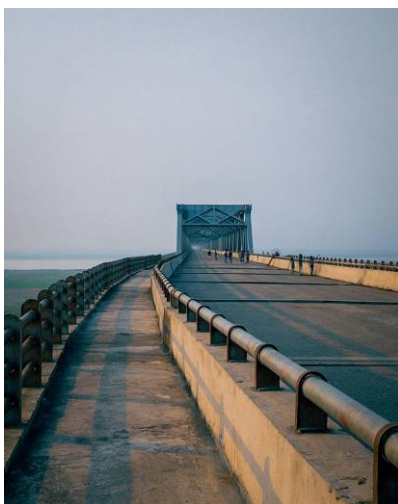
Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas

Day 12: River Day, Munger – Barh / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Enjoying our breakfast and lunch onboard, we continue our journey further upstream to arrive at Barh, a historic town located on the southern banks of the Ganges.

We arrive by late afternoon. In the evening walk in the riverside village of Barh to see the daily activities of the local people.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas





Archeological ruins, Nalanda

Day 13: Barh – Nalanda Excursion / Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, embark on a full day excursion to archaeological ruins of **Nalanda** (approx. one-hour's drive). A World Heritage Site Nalanda was a renowned Mahavihara (Buddhist monastic university) in ancient Magadha. It is considered by historians to be the world's first residential university and among the greatest centers of learning in the ancient world. Operating from 427 until 1197 CE, it played a vital role in promoting the patronage of arts and academics. It taught six major Buddhist schools and philosophies as well as subjects such as Vedas, grammar, medicine, logic and mathematics.

We continue to nearby **Rajgir** for lunch at a local restaurant. Return to the ship by evening.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas



Replica of the seal of Nalanda set in Terracotta



Chhoti Dargah, Maner

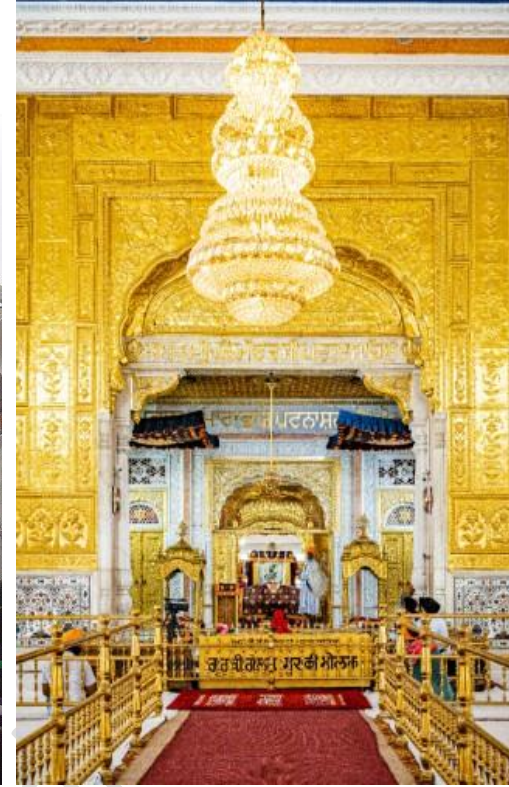
Day 14: River Day, Barh – Patna / *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Today we sail full day through wonderful countryside to Patna, enjoying breakfast and lunch. Patna is the capital of the State of Bihar and is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world founded in 490 BCE as **Pataliputra**. Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas

Day 15: Patna – Maner Shrine & Gurudwara / *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

After breakfast, we embark on an excursion to **Maner Shrine** (approx. one & a half-hours drive). It is renowned for the tombs of the 13th century Sufi saints Makhdoom Yahya Maneri and Makhdoom Shah Daulat, known as *Bari Dargah* (the great shrine) and *Chhoti Dargah* (the small shrine), respectively. The Bari Dargah stands within a walled garden on top of a mound that according to some archaeologists conceals an old Buddhist site. It also has a small mosque dating back thirteenth century with the graves of Shaikh Maneri's disciples and descendants. Choti Dargah it is built in the Mughal style with extensive Chunar sandstone. With its central dome and four cupolas on the four corners the two-storied Choti Dargah is constructed within a large walled courtyard and garden. Emperor Jahangir added gateway on the north of the mausoleum and the three-bay mosque on the west. Return to ship for Lunch.





Thereafter visit the Gurudwara. the **Takht Sri Patna Sahib Gurdwara** (Sikh Temple) was built to commemorate the birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs in 1666. It was built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the first Maharaja of the Sikh Empire. The current shrine was built in the 1950s.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas

Day 16: Patna – City Tour / *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

After breakfast and proceed to visit the Golghar and the Bihar Museum. The 18th century **Golghar**, literally meaning "Round house", is a large beehive-shaped granary that was built "for the perpetual prevention of famine in these provinces" in 1784 by Warren Hastings, the British Governor General of India. Designed by Captain John Garstin of the Bengal Engineers, part of the East India Company's Bengal Army, this pillar-less building has a height of 29m. One can climb at the top of the Golghar through the spiral stairway around it. The spiral staircase was designed to facilitate the passage of the workers, who had to carry grain-bags up one flight, deliver their load through a hole at the top, and descend the other stairs. The top of the Golghar presents a wonderful panoramic view of the city and the Ganges.



Golghar, Patna



The modern day, **Bihar Museum** has several galleries of curated exhibitions like the Orientation gallery, the children gallery, the regional gallery, the contemporary gallery, the historical art galleries, the Bihari Diaspora gallery, and the visible storage gallery. The exhibits range from artefacts from the Harappan Civilization from the 4th century BCE, the Gupta Dynasty (4th-6th centuries CE) to crafts, folk culture and traditions of Bihar. Apart from the galleries, there is publication and education section, sales counter, and a cafeteria.

Return to ship for lunch. Rest of the day free for rest and packing for the next day's long drive.

Dinner & Overnight onboard MV Ganga Vilas

Day 17: Disembark, Drive Patna – Varanasi / *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

We disembark after an early breakfast and drive to Varanasi (approx. 5 – 6 hrs drive, depending upon road traffic conditions). Upon arrival in Varanasi, transfer to the hotel for lunch and check-in.

Varanasi is a major religious hub in India, and is considered the holiest city in Hinduism and Jainism. It also played an important role in the development of Buddhism. It is also an important industrial centre, famous for its muslin and silk fabrics, perfumes, ivory works, and sculpture.

Dinner & Overnight at Hotel Taj Ganges or similar





Varanasi Ghats



Ganga Aarti, Varanasi

Day 18: Varanasi / *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Morning is at leisure with breakfast at the hotel. Afternoon Proceed for lunch at a local restaurant. Thereafter enjoy a walk on these Ghats to experience the activities and hustle-bustle in the by-lanes. The city is known worldwide for its many Ghats, which are embankments made in steps of stone slabs along the river bank where pilgrims perform ritual ablutions. Continue to the riverside at the Dashashwamedh Ghat to see the “**Ganga Aarti**” ritual, performed by a group of priests lined up on the riverbank chanting mantras and performing the prayer ritual with lamps, incense, bells and traditional Hindu instruments to honour the river. Thousands of devotees throng the riverbank to participate in the ceremony every evening.

Dinner & Overnight at Hotel Taj Ganges or similar

Day 19: Varanasi / *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

At early dawn enjoy a Sunrise Boat Tour to witness the incredible scenes along the Holy River. Return to hotel for breakfast. After breakfast we visit the excavation site of **Sarnath** where, circa 528 BCE, at 35 years of age, Gautama Buddha taught his first sermon after attaining enlightenment at Bodhgaya. The Dhamek Stupa here marks the precise location where Buddha preached his first discourse to his first five disciples, and where all five eventually became fully liberated. It is also where the Buddhist Sangha first came into existence as a result of the enlightenment of his first five disciples. It is also one of the eight stupas where Buddha’s ashes after his cremation were divided and buried.

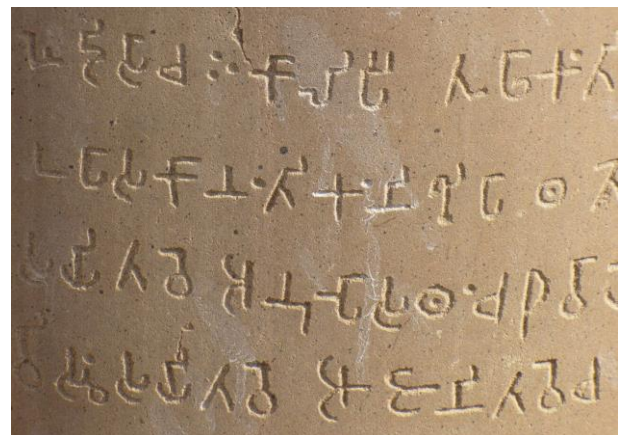
The Archaeological Museum at Sarnath contains a large collection of sculptures that stand testimony to the fervent artistic and religious activity for more than a thousand years.

Lunch at a local restaurant in the city with free time for shopping and other activities.

Dinner & Overnight at Hotel Taj Ganges or similar



Archaeological Ruins & the Dhamek Stupa, Sarnath



Brahmi inscription on the main pillar of Ashoka at Sarnath



Day 20: Varanasi Departure / Breakfast

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

Important Note:

- The itinerary may be readjusted due to local conditions and days of the week, to avoid closure of monuments/museums. Last-minute sailing adjustments may also occur. The onboard tour staff will announce or post the exact time for each activity.
- For upstream / downstream, please refer to Itinerary routing <https://www.antaracruises.com/>
- The letters in parentheses indicate the included meal of the day B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner.
- **As per government restrictions, from Farakka to Patna, no liquor will be served on board.**
- Satellite phones & drone cameras are not allowed in Varanasi, please ensure the same, while traveling to Varanasi.

Kolkata – Patna / Varanasi Sailings
Season 2026- 2027

Day	Embark	Disembark	Nights	Program
SAT	10-Oct-2026	29-Oct-2026	19 nights	Kolkata-Varanasi Upstream
FRI	30-Oct-2026	18-Nov-2026	19 nights	Varanasi-Kolkata Downstream

Important Note: Please do check with us for the definite operation of all the above cruises 90 days prior to scheduled departure date.

19 nights / 20 days Kolkata to Varanasi

Upstream & Downstream - Tariff

Category	Quantity	Cabin Rates	
Main Deck Suite	2 Suites	Double	USD 19710
		Single	USD 15775
Main Deck Suite – Front	6 Suites	Double	USD 21580
		Single	USD 17185
Upper Deck Suite	4 Suites	Double	USD 24000
		Single	USD 19215
Upper Deck Suite - Front	6 Suites	Double	USD 25780
		Single	USD 20630

Onboard Amenities/Inclusions/Exclusions as per Antara Cruise Policy

<https://www.antaracruises.com/>

Accommodations:

- 08 Suites on the Main Deck with French Balcony (265 sq. feet/24.4 sq. meters).
- 10 Suites on the Upper Deck with French Balcony (265 sq. feet/24.6 sq. meters).
- All Suites offer two twin-size beds that can be converted to one Queen-size bed.
- Luxury Honeycomb Spa Robes with Slippers
- All-Natural Spa-quality Bath Amenities
- In-room Electronic Safe & Individual Climate Control
- High Quality Linens with Duvet and Premium Mattresses
- Bottled Water Replenished Daily
- Complimentary Wireless Internet in All Public Areas
- Make-up Mirror & Hair Dryer
- Alarm Clock & Multi-Configuration Plugs
- Generous Closet Space
- Flat Screen LCD Television with Movie System
- Mini Bar
- All taxes



Complimentary Excursion Amenities:

- Transfers to/from Jetty for embarkation/disembarkation.
- Waterways/Jetty Passenger Service Fees
- Shore Excursions including all admissions and applicable local transport.
- Shoe Cleaning after Excursions
- Welcome Drink and Cold Towel Service following Excursions
- One English speaking Guide on All Excursions

Included Dining & Entertainment:

- Expertly Trained Culinary Team providing Buffet Breakfast, Buffet Lunch & Seated Multiple Course Dinner.
- Special meal requests like vegan, gluten/lactose free etc. can be arranged with advance information.
- Cultural Performances, Educational Talks, Cooking Classes and Movie Shows.
- Spacious Air-conditioned Lounge.
- Indoor Board Games and Books to read in the Lounge
- Gym facilities

Other Facilities (on chargeable basis):

- Specialty Coffee
- Full-service Bar with Indian and imported liquor (wine, beer, spirits)
- Spa Facilities
- Laundry

NOT INCLUDED:

- Airfare to/from Destination
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Shipboard Gratuities
- All Incidentals

Booking Terms:

To secure the reservation, a **Booking Deposit** is required as per the below timeline:

If booked up to 91 days prior to cruise departure: Non-Refundable deposit of 10% of the total cruise fare to be deposited within 15 days.

If booked between 90 to 61 days prior to cruise departure: Non-Refundable deposit of 20% of the total cruise fare to be deposited within 7 days.

Balance 90% or 80% is to be deposited 60 days prior to cruise departure along with the Passenger Information as requested in the Reservation Confirmation.

Cancellation Charges will be applied as per the below timeline:

- If cancelled more than 91 days prior to cruise departure date: the 10% deposit will be forfeited.
- If cancelled between 90 to 61 days prior to cruise departure date: the 10% or 20% deposit as applicable will be forfeited.
- If cancelled between 60 to 0 days prior to the initial sailing date or nonappearance at the time of sailing: 100% of the total cruise fare per person.

