

Sacred India Cruise from Calcutta to Benares

- Regions / Countries: **France** **India**
- Duration: **14 Days / 13 Nights**
- Tags: **City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife, Town, Village**
- URL: https://embarq.travel/boats/rajmahal/sacred-india-cruise-from-calcutta-to-benares/



Day 1



France / Paris

City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife

DAY 1: FRANCE

Departure on scheduled flight with stopover(s).

Day 2



India / Calcutta

City

DAY 2: CALCUTTA (INDIA)

Upon arrival in Kolkata in the morning, welcome and first city tour to get acquainted with the capital of West Bengal, then transfer to a 4* hotel in the city. Lunch at the restaurant and check-in to the rooms. In the afternoon, visit the house of Mother Teresa converted into a small museum dedicated to her charitable work. Return to the hotel and dinner at the restaurant.

Day 3



India / Calcutta

City

DAY 3: CALCUTTA

In the morning, panoramic discovery of the capital of West Bengal. The British Empire of India strongly influenced the city in its Victorian perspectives, up to the memorial dedicated to Victoria and inspired by the Taj Mahal. Once the largest colonial city in the East, Calcutta intrigues and
charms with its facades marked by time and the extraordinary animation of its streets. After a stroll in the charming flower market and the visit of a Jain temple, one of the oldest Indian religions, discovery of Kumartuli, the picturesque district of potters. The artisans there
are busy all year round making offerings and richly decorated statues for the celebrations of the many Indian religious festivals (pujas). Lunch at the restaurant, then visit the Indian Museum, a remarkable archaeological museum and one of the oldest museums in the world. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 4



India / Belure

DAY 4: CALCUTTA - SERAMPORE

After breakfast, transfer and embarkation on board the R/V Rajmahal moored at the Outram quay. Installation and lunch on board. The boat begins its navigation on the tributary of the Ganges River: the Hooghly. In the afternoon, walk in Serampore, former trading post of the Danish East India Company. Some vestiges of the Danish colonial presence are still visible such as the College, the Saint-Olaf church or the Governor's house. Return on board and navigation towards Chandernagor.
Dinner and overnight stay on board.

Day 5

India / Chandernagor

Town

DAY 5: CHANDERNAGOR

In the morning, guided walk in this charming former trading post of the French East India Company. Visit the small colonial museum, housed in the former residence of the French governor Dupleix. Discovery of the Sacré-Coeur church and its astonishing statues of Joan of Arc and Jesus Christ. After lunch on board, visit the imposing Victorian-style Imambara located along the river. This important cultural and ritual place of Shiite Islam in West Bengal is known for its Victorian architecture, its monumental towers and clock. Dinner and overnight on board. In the evening, local dance and music show on board.

Day 6

India / Bandel

Town

DAY 6: KALNA - MAYAPUR

After breakfast, departure for the visit of Kalna and rickshaw ride to discover the Rajbari complex. The site includes the Nabakailas complex, 108 terracotta temples built in concentric circles in the 19th century in honor of Shiva. Nearby, several 18th century Hindu temples house epic bas-reliefs. Lunch on board. Afternoon, discovery of ISKCON, headquarters of the association responsible for revealing Krishna consciousness to the world. Established in Mayapur, ISKCON has built an imposing temple thanks to donations collected by the association's representatives throughout the world. Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 7



India / Mayapur

Village

DAY 7: MATIARI - PLASSEY

Early in the morning, walk in the village of Matiari, specialized in copper crafts. The discovery on foot of the village is punctuated by the clear and regular sound of the instruments striking and shaping objects intended for tableware and decoration. Lunch on board. In the afternoon, discovery of the Plassey memorial on the site of the eponymous battle marking the defeat of the last independent nabob of Bengal, against the British army. Dinner and night on board.

Day 8



India / Plassey

Town

DAY 8: MURSHIDABAD

In the morning, walk and discover Khushbagh, a Mughal cemetery garden where the nawabs of Bengal of the Afshar dynasty and their families rest. Visit the Hazarduari Palace built by Duncan McLeod in 1837. Nicknamed the "Palace of a thousand doors", Hazarduari houses objects and paintings, witnesses to the splendor of the reign of the last nawabs of Bengal. Discovery of the Katra mosque built in bricks in the 18th century, then the Kathgola Palace whose magnificent gardens house a Jain temple. Dinner and night on board.

Day 9



India / Murshidabad

Town

DAY 9: BARANAGAR

In the morning, cross the small village of Baranagar on foot to discover a remarkable group of 18th century terracotta temples. Return on board. The Rajmahal goes up part of the canal to reach the Farraka dam located upstream of the very vast Ganges delta and the border with Bangladesh. Dinner and night on board.

Day 10



India / Baranagar

Town

DAY 10: GAUR

In the morning, departure for a full day of discovery of the city of Gaur, near Malda. This peaceful locality was once an important city of the Indian subcontinent, reaching its peak between the 14th and 16th centuries, under the domination of the Sultans of Delhi and then the Sultans of Bengal. Gaur was transformed into a major center of Islam in eastern India, with a heritage rich in mosques and sumptuously decorated doors. Return to the ship at the end of the day. Dinner and night on board.

Day 11



India / Calcutta

City

DAY 11: FARRAKA - CALCUTTA

After breakfast, transfer to Farraka Railway Station and depart by train to Kolkata (journey time: approximately 4 hours). On arrival, late lunch and walking tour around the College Street Coffee House, then visit the Birla Hindu Temple whose construction was supervised by the Sompuras, a great dynasty of Indian architects. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 12



Navigation

DAY 12: CALCUTTA - BENARES

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and flight to Benares (Varanasi), the holy city of Hindus, built facing the rising sun and dedicated to Shiva. Upon arrival, check into a 4* hotel. In the late afternoon, walk to feel the magic of the twilight rituals. The banks of the sacred river are arranged in a succession of immense ghats (stairs), lined with temples. The fervor is tangible here and is transmitted to the traveler to crown his Indian journey.
Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 13



India / Delhi

City

DAY 13: BENARES - DELHI

As soon as the first rays of the sun appear, a local boat ride allows you to experience and better understand the many rites practiced at dawn. Visit the Kashu Vishwanath temple, a sacred place of Hinduism, dedicated to Shiva. Return to the hotel for breakfast. The day continues towards Sarnath, about ten kilometers from Benares. This site is a very important place in the Buddhist religion. It is here that Buddha proclaimed his very first sermon before reaching enlightenment more than 2500 years ago. Visit the site including the stupas and the archaeological museum. After lunch at the restaurant, transfer to the airport and flight to Delhi. Installation in a 5 * hotel near Delhi airport, dinner and night at the host

Day 14



France / Paris

City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife

DAY 1: FRANCE

Departure on scheduled flight with stopover(s).


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