Splendors of WEST BENGAL

ABOARD the GANGES VOYAGER

SEPTEMBER 12–26, 2016

Save $500 Per Person if Paid in Full by March 11, 2016

Featuring The Newly-Built Elegant

GANGES VOYAGER

STATE-OF-THE-ART DESIGN
Whether you are an experienced river cruiser, or this is your maiden voyage, Haimark invites you to explore India and the lower Ganges River — a magical destination full of mystery, enchantment, and beauty in every direction. Explore the historic cities and villages of the Ganges Delta along the holy river known as the Mother Ganga.

SPACIOUS SUITES, 95% WITH PRIVATE BALCONIES
Accommodations aboard the Ganges Voyager embody the grace and style of the British colonial era, incorporating modern conveniences and luxuries that rival the finest hotels of Asia. Spacious, well-appointed suites include daily housekeeping and turndown service, fine bed linens, premium mattresses and duvets, your choice of pillows, flat-screen televisions with on-demand movies, international newspapers, individual climate control, as well as spa quality robes, slippers, and bath amenities.

CHIC AND CASUAL DINING
A tribute to the flavorful cuisine of the region, the East India Dining Room offers daily opportunities to explore the tastes and sensations of Southern Asian dishes or delight in beloved Western favorites. With an elegant open seating dining area surrounded by ethereal, colonial-era murals and floor-to-ceiling windows, each meal can be savored in elegance and comfort as you glide past the lush scenery of the fertile Ganges Delta.

SPACIOUS PUBLIC AREAS/FIVE-STAR SERVICE AND FACILITIES
Awaken with a refreshing spa session, relax with a good book, or watch the sun set with an evening beverage. In the covered Observation Deck of the Ganges Voyager you'll find lovely shaded seating areas, perfectly arranged for private reflection, intimate conversations, or friendly gatherings. The open-air Sun Deck invites personal relaxation with cushioned chaise lounges and an attentive crew to cater to your needs as you watch the world go by. If you enjoy fitness, s the perfect place to restore harmony with a detoxifying workout. And, of course, no Ganges River expedition is complete without a journey to wellbeing in the Voyager Spa. Here, you can explore the healing sensations of Ayurvedic or traditional European treatments. Close your eyes, breathe deeply, and let the worries of the world slip away.

(L to R): Ganges Voyager; Taj Mahal; Dining Room; Viceroy Suite; Outdoor Lounge; Amber Fort, Jaipur

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JOIN US ON A COMPREHENSIVE 15-DAY JOURNEY THROUGH THE SPLENDORS OF WEST BENGAL: CRUISING THE LOWER GANGES. Brimming with political intrigue, religious significance, natural wonders, and economic potential, India has captured the imagination of world travelers and fueled the desires of conquering rulers from Alexander the Great to Queen Victoria. Along the nation’s eastern border, in the state of West Bengal, the Ganges River is revered as a life-giving force and sacred to those who practice the Hindu faith.

In the southern Ganges, where the larger river gives way to smaller tributaries, well-preserved landmarks tell the tales of India’s ancient history, colonization, and the long road to independence. Remote villages – untouched by the commercialization of big cities – offer opportunities to experience the local cultures first-hand, and perhaps make a few new friends.

ON BOARD THE EXCLUSIVE, GANGES VOYAGER
• Seven nights cruising the Ganges River in India. Ports of call to include Kolkata, Bandel, Kalna, Matiari, Khushbagh, Baganagar, Mushidabad, Mayapur, and Chandannagar
• Spacious, five-star, 100% river-view suite accommodations
• Welcome and farewell receptions
• Expertly-trained culinary team providing daily buffet breakfast and lunch, and open-seated, multi-course dinner, featuring fine regional and international cuisines
• Complimentary coffee, tea, water, soft drinks, local beer, local spirits, with free-flow house wine (wine at dinner only)
• Comprehensive shore excursion program, with local, expert, naturalist guides, with a maximum of 19 guests per guide on all excursions
• Series of cultural performances, educational talks and cooking classes during cruise
• Themed dinners onboard ship
• Shoe cleaning after shore excursions
• Welcome drink and cold towel service following shore excursions

ENHANCED TRAVEL SERVICES
• Transfers and luggage handling.
• All excursions and visits with experienced local guides.
• Gratuitous to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
• Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship
• The services of an experienced team throughout the program
• Individual VOX listening devices for all shore excursions

LAND ACCOMMODATIONS

OBEROI NEW DELHI – NEW DELHI
The Oberoi New Delhi is an iconic landmark. Situated in an unparalleled location, it is afforded sweeping views of the prestigious Delhi Golf Course on one side and the world heritage site: Humayun’s Tomb, on the other.

OBEROI RAJVILAS - JAIPUR
The Oberoi Rajvilas, is a royal resort set in a breathtaking thirty two acre oasis of beautiful landscaped gardens and exotic birdlife. Built around an 18th century Shiva temple which affords chanting with a Hindu priest, meditation and morning yoga, The Oberoi Rajvilas is a haven of mystical peace and natural serenity.

OBEROI AMARVILAS - AGRA
The Oberoi Amarvilas enjoys an unrivaled position, just 2,000 feet from the iconic Taj Mahal. Each of our rooms affords uninterrupted views of this ancient monument to love, while elements of the layout and design pay homage to its Mughal splendor. At night, they can savor a candlelit dinner beside its soft silhouette.

RADISSON BLU NEW DELHI – NEW DELHI
As one of the closest luxury hotels to the Delhi airport, the Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi provides a convenient location without compromising comfort. Enjoy the many amenities, Western and Asian dining options and spacious guest rooms during your overnight stay in New Delhi.

THE TAJ GATEWAY HOTEL – VARANASI
(OPTIONAL EXTENSION)
Set amidst 40 acres of lush green gardens, The Gateway Hotel, is the veritable haven of peace and tranquility in this crowded and ancient temple city. Only minutes away from the city center and the commercial hub of Varanasi, The hotel is constructed in the holy Swastik shape, which is an ancient symbol which represents good fortune and blessing.

2-NIGHT POST-PROGRAM EXTENSION - VARANASI, INDIA
Complete your exciting journey with a visit to captivating Varanasi. Transfer to the New Delhi airport for your flight to the holy city of Varanasi and one night at the Taj Gateway Ganges Hotel. Witness the mesmerizing Aarti Ceremony attended by hundreds of worshipers, from your private boat on the Ganges River. The next morning, discover the early, daily rituals performed along the Ganges during an unforgettable private sunrise cruise. Later, fly to New Delhi for some time at leisure at the deluxe Radisson Blu hotel before your late evening flight.
DAILY ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2
NEW DELHI
Depart from your home city on an overnight flight, arriving at the Delhi airport where you will be met by a Harkam representative and transferred to your hotel for two nights, the deluxe Oberoi New Delhi.

Day 3
NEW DELHI
After the Welcome Briefing, the comprehensive tour introduces you to the bustling city's landmarks, passing the imposing Red Fort, President's Palace and City Gate, and the British Parliament. Your afternoon is free to explore the city on your own or join our optional extension program to the lively and spiritual city of Varanasi to witness life at the Ganges. Later that evening, we'll depart for a gala dinner on board the traditional riverboat. (B/L/D)

Day 4
NEW DELHI – KOLKATA (EMBARKATION)
Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your flight to Kolkata. Transfer from the airport to the ship. After settling into your suite aboard the Ganges Voyager, join your fellow travelers for a refreshing lunch in the East India Dining Room. Afterwards, we'll set off on an afternoon excursion to the home of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mother Teresa. Visit the Missionaries of Charity, the 19th century mansion occupied by the Mother of Charity who lived here until her death in 1997. Before returning to the ship, we may tour a local cemetery where many of Mother Teresa's former patients are buried. (B/L/R/D)

DAY 5
KOLKATA, BANDEL
This morning, we’ll go ashore to explore the 18th century Hooghly Imambara. This was the first Imambara in India, consecrated in 1737 by the Nawab of Bengal to commemorate the death of his mother. The Imambara is a large, domed building with a series of rooms arranged around a central courtyard. The interior features intricate plasterwork, with elaborate chandeliers and paintings adorning the walls. After our visit, we’ll return to the ship for lunch and sail to Murshidabad, the birthplace of the great transmitter of Sufi spirituality, Rumi. (B/L/D)

DAY 6
KALNA
Today begins with a ride through the city center of Kalna en route to the enchanting Rajbari complex, where we'll find the highest concentration of temples in the region. The complex contains a unique mixture of West Bengal architecture. On one side of the road we’ll find the Nabakailas temples. Built in 1809 by the Bardhaman Maharaja, this temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and features more than a thousand doors (900 of which are false), 114 rooms, and vast terra cotta art in West Bengal. After visiting the temples, we’ll sail back to the ship for dinner and sail downstream past charming villages to the city of Murshidabad. (B/L/D)

DAY 7
MAYAPUR
Following a restful morning of river cruising we’ll arrive in Mayapur, home of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Born here in 1486, he is considered to have been an incarnation of the Hindu deity Krishna. Mayapur is also the birthplace of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the Hare Krishna movement. We’ll visit the ISKCON temple complex, the largest Hindu temple in the world. The temple features a large planetarium, with a single dome designed to resemble the temple of the Vedic Planetarium. (B/L/D)

DAY 8
KOLKATA – JAIPUR (DISEMBARKATION)
This morning, we’ll depart for a day in Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan. We’ll visit the city palace, the former residence of the royal family, and see the famous Amber Fort, the former seat of the Rajput rulers of Jaipur. After lunch, we’ll visit the Jantar Mantar Observatory and the residence of the former royal family City Palace, a complex of lovely courtyards and gardens. (B/L/D)

DAY 9
JAIPUR
Enjoy the opulent breakfast at the hotel this morning and join today’s tour of the “Pink City” featuring an elephant back ride up the hill to the Amber Fort, the former seat of the Rajput rulers of Jaipur. Visit the UNESCO-designated site of the Jantar Mantar Observatory and the residence of the former royal family City Palace, a complex of lovely courtyards and gardens. (B/L/D)

DAY 10
CHANDANNAGAR
Not to be outdone by their British counterparts, in 1673 the French obtained permission from Nawab Ibrahim Khan to establish a trading post on the riverbanks of Chandannagar. The city was founded by Portuguese settlers in the 1800s. Our visit includes a tour of the sacred temple complex dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. (B/L/D)

DAY 11
KOLKATA – AGRA
This morning, we’ll visit the XIXth Century Hazarduari Palace, which was built in 1756 by Lt. Colonel James Agg and houses India’s oldest functioning pipe organ as well as a painting of the Last Supper by German artist Johann Zoffany. As we stroll through the grounds, we’ll see several tombs of British Generals who lost their lives during the Siege of Kolkata in 1756 by Nawab Shujah Uda Daula. Finally, we’ll visit the impressive Victoria Memorial Museum before returning to the Ganges Voyager for lunch and the start of our journey upstream. This afternoon, we’ll board our excursion boats and go ashore at Bandel, a port founded by Portuguese settlers in the 1800s. Our visit includes a tour of the Hooghly Imambara (completed in 1861), a significant Shia pilgrimage center with a clock-tower lookout that boasts views of the Ganges. The structure contains a working clock with a winding key weighing approximately 20 kilograms (44 pounds). Inside the main building, large Persian chandeliers and smaller lamps light the main prayer hall where text from the Quran is engraved in the walls. After our visit, we’ll return to the ship for dinner in the East India Dining Room. (B/L/D)

DAY 12
AGRA - NEW DELHI
Today’s scenic ride takes you to the city of Agra, located on the banks of the river Yamuna in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Early risers may join the captivating sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal for one last glimpse of this beautiful monument. After lunch, the scenic ride takes you to New Delhi for the rest of the day at leisure in Delhi. Overnight at the deluxe Radisson Blu Plaza, or use the hotel to refresh and relax before your transfer to the airport if you have a late evening international flight. (B/L/D)

Day 13
AGRA - NEW DELHI
Early risers may join the captivating sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal for one last glimpse at the UNESCO site. Enjoy breakfast and some time at leisure at your beautiful hotel. (B/L/D)

Day 14
NEW DELHI
For those leaving today, transfer to the airport for your flight home or join the optional extension program to the lively and spiritual city of Varanasi to witness timeless ceremonies and rituals. (B)
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1. Any physical or mental condition that may require medical or professional treatment or attention during travel program

Haimark, Affinity reserves the right without liability to require a guest to disembark and/or to refuse to board and transport a guest who, in the judgment of Haimark, or the ship’s Captain, is un

Itinerary arrival and departure times are always subject to change without notice. Haimark, Affinity reserves the right to change the itinerary at any time and without notice.

Full payment is due no later than 120 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 120 days of departure require payment in full at the time of booking. Payment may be made by personal check (US$50 bills), or by VISA, Discover, MasterCard or American Express (no cash). No refunds may be issued for any reason after 90 days prior to the departure date.

Important notice: To determine the appropriate council for specific requirements. Security measures imposed by governments may change from time to time and each guest shall be required to comply with them. As a result of any behavior or action that affects the cruise line, the passenger(s) will be liable for any costs and/or expenses incurred by the cruise line in providing appropriate security or assistance. Should guests require assistance, they must travel with someone who is able to assist them both ashore and on board. Haimark, Affinity is unable to offer special assistance. Please note that wheel-on and/or wheel-off access is not available at ports-of-call.

To reserve your program, a $850 deposit is required at the time of booking your advanced reservation. Full payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Final documentation will be issued after full payment is received. Final documentation will be issued 45 to 60 days prior to the departure date. All reservations are subject to cancellation if payments are not received by the due date, and are guaranteed only when paid in full 90 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 90 days of departure require payment in full at the time of booking. Payment may be made by personal check (US$50 bills), or by VISA, Discover or MasterCard.

You will receive a confirmation of your advance reservation and a copy of your Passage Contract which will be issued with your travel documents. Your Passage Contract contains complete information regarding your Haimark, Affinity cruise. You should read and retain your Passage Contract for your own records.

The Splendors of West Bengal: Cruising the Lower Ganges September 29-October 7, 2016

Program information and rates for this program are subject to change from time to time. Should you wish to cancel your advance reservation or any component thereof, your affinity market sponsor is required to contact Haimark, Ltd. in writing to submit your cancellation. Should you find it necessary to cancel your advance reservation booking or any component thereof, your affinity market sponsor is required to contact Haimark, Ltd. in writing to submit your cancellation.