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# Travel with The Met

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January 22–31, 2024

Sailing the River Ganges:  
Round-Trip Kolkata  
Aboard *Ganges Voyager*  
with Christopher Noey,  
Lecturer



THE  
MET

# Sailing the River Ganges: Round-Trip Kolkata Aboard *Ganges Voyager*

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

As Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wrote, the Ganges is “the river of India, beloved of her people, ‘round which are intertwined her hopes and fears, her songs of triumph, her victories and her defeats.’” Join me in January 2024 on The Met’s first-ever voyage along this sacred waterway, the holiest river of Hinduism. We will cruise this river aboard the luxurious *Ganges Voyager*, sailing round trip from Kolkata through West Bengal. As a scholar of Asian art, I am excited to introduce you to the wonderful museums, ornate terra-cotta brick temples, and the extraordinary energy of daily life in villages along the Ganges.

In vibrant Kolkata, we will explore the opulent Neoclassical palaces built by wealthy Hindu merchants, as well as the diverse collections of the Indian Museum. We will also visit the Kalighat Kali Temple, a colorful pilgrimage site dedicated to Kali, the Hindu goddess of creation, nurturing, and destruction. As we sail upstream to Bandel, we will admire the magnificent terra-cotta temples in Kalna. In the village of Matiari, we will witness artisans crafting beautiful objects from brass and copper.

An exquisite highlight will be the intricately carved terra-cotta temples around the village of Baranagar, a former trading post. In Murshidabad, once the capital of the richest province in the Mughal Empire, we will savor timeless artworks in a 19th-century royal palace known for its 1,000 doors. A special visit to the vast Hare Krishna temple complex in Mayapur will inspire awe. We will conclude our journey with a stroll amid the gorgeous 17th-century French colonial architecture of Chandannagar before returning to Kolkata for disembarkation.

Join me on this journey of discovery and inspiration, as we admire hidden gems along India’s most sacred river.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Noey,  
*Lecturer*  
*The Metropolitan Museum of Art*



## Traveling with You

Christopher Noey

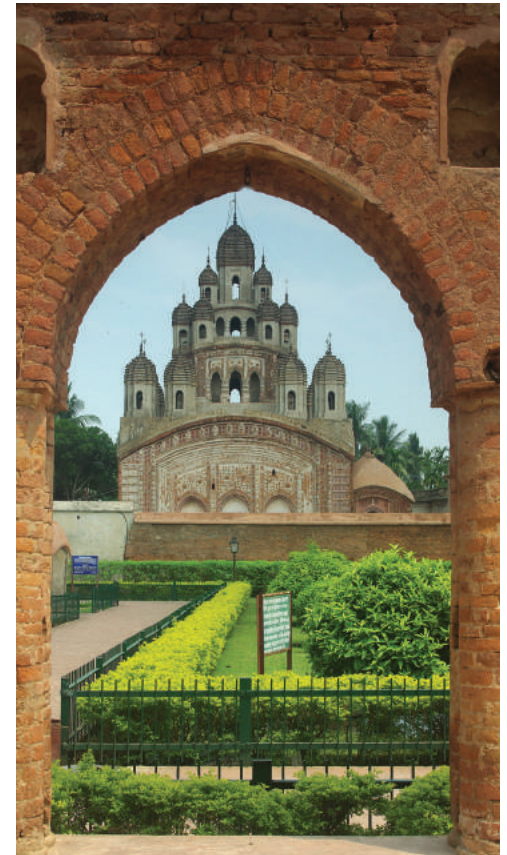
Christopher Noey is an art historian, author, and Emmy Award-winning producer of films on art and culture. At The Met, he has created video installations for a diverse array of exhibitions including *Jerusalem 1000-1400: Every People Under Heaven*, and he was series director of the innovative online features 82nd & Fifth and The Artist Project, in which he interviewed 120 contemporary artists on how they are inspired by The Met and its collections. An expert in Asian and Islamic art, Mr. Noey has taught at Williams College and at the City College of New York. This will be his eighth time leading one of his highly regarded Travel with The Met tours across India.

## Trip Highlights

- Join The Met’s first-ever Ganges journey aboard the luxurious *Ganges Voyager*, and experience West Bengal’s nuanced influences from its British, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish, and French settlers and traders
- Experience the superb **Indian Museum**, home to precious remains of the third-century B.C. Buddhist *stupa* of Bharhut, with an exclusive tour of its peerless collection of Mughal and Rajput paintings (*pending confirmation*)
- Explore West Bengal’s unique and intricately carved terra-cotta brick temples, with a rickshaw ride to the visually stunning **Rajbari** temple complex in Kalna and a walking tour of lavish 18th-century structures in the village of **Baranagar**
- Discover **Hazarduari Palace**, famous for its 1,000 doors, and marvel at its astonishing collection of Bengali and European antiquities from the 18th and 19th centuries
- Meet master artisans in the village of **Matiari** who create exquisite pots, platters, and artifacts from recycled brass and copper



*Goddess and Attendants*, 1st century BCE–1st century CE. India (West Bengal, Chandraketugarh). Terracotta. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Purchase, Florence and Herbert Irving Gift, 1990 (1990.281)



Photos clockwise from top right: Regional map; *Goddess Lakshmi*, 1878–1883. West Bengal, Calcutta. Lithograph, printed in black and hand-coloring with watercolor and selectively applied glaze. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Purchase, Friends of Asian Art Gifts, 2021 (2021.202); Krishna Chandra Temple, Kalna; Nizam Imambara, Murshidabad; Ganges River, Mayapur; Metal work at display at the market, Matiari. Front cover: ISKCON, Mayapur. Back cover: Mosque, Nawab of Bengal, Khushbagh, photo by Mirza Ferdous Alam (top); Lalji Temple of Kalna (bottom).

# Sailing the River Ganges Aboard *Ganges Voyager*

January 22–31, 2024



Indian Museum, Kolkata, photo by UPD der Reisende

**An optional prelude in Kolkata is offered from January 20–23, 2024.**

## Departure

Monday, January 22

Depart on an overnight flight to Kolkata, India.

## Kolkata, India

Tuesday, January 23

Arrive in Kolkata and transfer to the Oberoi Grand Hotel. Subject to your flight arrival, you are invited to join the prelude group for dinner tonight at the hotel. D

## Kolkata / Embark *Ganges Voyager*

Wednesday, January 24

Begin the day with a lecture at the hotel. Continue to the Indian Museum, arguably the best in the country. See the remains of the Buddhist *stupa* of Bharhut, as well as sculptures from almost every Indian school of art. The museum's collection of Mughal and Rajput paintings will be opened especially for us (*pending confirmation*). Then visit a potters' village in Kumartuli. After lunch, you may opt to learn about the life of Mother Teresa at her home in the Missionaries of Charity headquarters with a tour of her personal room. Visit Nirmala Shishu Bhawan, the orphanage that she founded. Transfer to the port to embark *Ganges Voyager*. This evening, attend a festive welcome reception, dinner, and performance aboard the ship. B, L, R, D

## Kolkata / Bandel / Kalna

Thursday, January 25

This morning, visit Kalighat Kali Temple, dedicated to Kali, patron goddess of Kolkata. Continue with an exploration of the architectural highlights of 18th- and 19th-century Kolkata and the Victoria Memorial. Return to the ship for lunch. After lunch, begin the journey upstream as *Ganges Voyager* sails through areas where European settlers established various East India companies. Step ashore in Bandel and take an excursion to Hooghly Imambara, one of the famous Shia pilgrimage centers in West Bengal, with its Victorian-era clock and large Persian chandeliers. B, L, D

## Kalna / Matiari

Friday, January 26

After breakfast on board, take a full-day excursion starting with a rickshaw ride to Kalna, once a prosperous port town. Visit the Rajbari, a temple complex featuring a unique mixture of Bengali architecture. Noteworthy are the Nabakailas, Pratapeshwar, Lalji, and Krishnachandra Temples. B, L, D

## Matiari / Khushbagh

Saturday, January 27

Enjoy a morning walk to the coastal village of Matiari, known for its handcrafted brass items. Return to the ship and journey upstream while having lunch on board. Cruise past the battlefield of Plassey, where Robert Clive of the British East India Company defeated the Mughal Nawabs in 1757. In the early evening, visit the charming village of Khushbagh, passing through scenic fields to arrive at the peaceful Mughal-style garden built by Alivardi Khan, an 18th-century Nawab of Bengal, where we will find his family's private mosque. B, L, D

## Khushbagh / Baranagar / Murshidabad

Sunday, January 28

Continue to the peaceful village of Baranagar, which has a storied colonial history. Enjoy a walk in the village and discover several temples dating from the 18th century, including the exquisite Char Bangla Temple. Later, return to the ship and sail downstream, passing mustard fields and mango orchards to arrive at Murshidabad, a former Bengali capital with

dramatic whitewashed colonial-era structures. Visit Hazarduari Palace, a 19th-century royal complex famous for its 1,000 doors. The palace houses an astonishing collection of Bengali and European antiquities. Opposite the building is the vast Nizamat Imambara, built by the Nawab for worship. Enjoy a scenic ride by local buggy to the Katra Mosque, known for its distinctive minarets. B, L, D

## Murshidabad / Mayapur

Monday, January 29

Observe life along the banks of the river this morning as we journey on *Ganges Voyager*. After lunch on board, visit the sacred village of Mayapur, where we will find the headquarters of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), which is the formal name of the Hare Krishna movement. The temple complex has been largely funded by Henry Ford's great-grandson, Alfred B. Ford. B, L, D

## Mayapur / Chandannagar / Kolkata

Tuesday, January 30

Cruise to Chandannagar, which was established as a French colony in 1673. In the afternoon, explore the French colonial buildings along the promenade, including the former French governor's residence, now a museum. Continue with a visit to the Sacred Heart Church of Chandannagar, an exceptional example of French colonial architecture. Return to the ship and attend a festive farewell dinner as we continue the journey downstream to Kolkata. B, L, D

## Kolkata / Disembark / Return

Wednesday, January 31

Arrive in Kolkata while enjoying breakfast on board. Later, transfer to the airport for flights home. B

**An optional postlude in Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur is offered from January 31–February 5, 2024.**

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).

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## Program Rates

Categories	Decks	Double Rates	Single Rates
Cabins 201-210 Signature Suites, 260 sq.ft. with French balconies.	Main	\$9,999	\$13,499
Cabins 303, 305-312 & 315-318 Colonial Suites, 260 sq.ft. with French balconies.	Upper	\$10,499	\$16,499
Cabins 301 & 302 Heritage Suites, 280 sq.ft. with Juliette balconies.	Upper	\$11,999	Inquire
Cabins 313 & 314 Viceroy Suites, 360 sq.ft. with French balconies.	Upper	\$13,999	Inquire
Cabin 304 Maharaja Suite, 400 sq.ft. with French balconies.	Upper	\$15,999	Inquire

## Rates Include

- One night accommodations at The Oberoi Grand in Kolkata
- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Ganges Voyager*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; local beers and wines with all lunches and dinners
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Customary shipboard gratuities
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

### Not included in rates

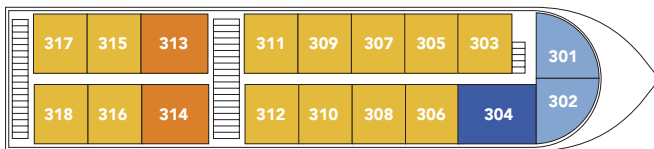
International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; excess baggage; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; optional Kolkata prelude; optional Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur postlude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

## Ganges Voyager

### SUN DECK

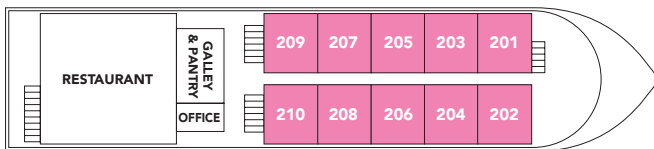


### UPPER DECK



ALL SUITES ON THIS DECK HAVE FRENCH BALCONIES. SUITES 301 & 302 HAVE JULIETTE BALCONIES.

### MAIN DECK



ALL SUITES ON THIS DECK HAVE FRENCH BALCONIES.



*Ganges Voyager*

Our elegant riverboat's spacious suites are serene sanctuaries, with high ceilings and beautiful hand-painted murals, and include all the comforts of a five-star hotel. All suites have a cozy sitting area and a French balcony with floor-to-ceiling glass doors. *Ganges Voyager* features enticing public areas and luxurious amenities, including a lounge with a full-service bar, fitness center, restaurant, spa, and three decks including a sun deck, where you can relax and take in the ever-changing views.

## Sailing the River Ganges: January 22–31, 2024

### Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); email: [met@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:met@arrangementsabroad.com); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

### Accommodations

*Ganges Voyager* cabin preference (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to share a room/cabin with \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional Prelude and Postlude

- I/We wish to join the optional prelude in Kolkata  
 I/We wish to join the optional postlude in Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur

Hotel Room Preference  One bed  Two beds  Single

### Form of Payment

- Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*)  Debit card  Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

**Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms) and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.**

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email [travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org](mailto:travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org)



# Sailing the River Ganges: Round-Trip Kolkata Aboard *Ganges Voyager* January 22–31, 2024

The Metropolitan  
Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

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## Travel with The Metropolitan Museum of Art



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