Cruise Details

Name:	Golden Triangle and Luxury Lower Ganges River Cruise
Reference:	SCENICICGT051227-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Aura
Regions:	Ganges
Departs On:	05 Dec 27
Departs From:	Delhi
Arrives On:	21 Dec 27
Arrives At:	Kolkata (ex Calcutta)
Cruise Nights:	16
Total Vacation Days:	17

Itinerary

Day 1: Delhi (India)

Be welcomed to North India with a traditional floral garland and red tikka before transferring to your hotel for the next two nights, the luxurious The Leela Palace New Delhi.

Arrives On: 05 Dec 27

Day 2: Delhi (India)

Discover the contrasts of Old and New Delhi, beginning with a visit to Jama Masjid, India’s largest mosque. Then, take an exhilarating rickshaw ride past the Red Fort and through the bustling lanes of Chandni Chowk, including Khari Baoli, Asia’s largest wholesale spice market.

Later, visit Humayun’s Tomb, built in 1570 and considered the architectural inspiration for the Taj Mahal. Drive along New Delhi’s ceremonial boulevard past India Gate and Rashtrapati Bhavan before returning to your hotel. This evening, enjoy a special Welcome Dinner.

Arrives On: 06 Dec 27

Day 3: Delhi (India)

Begin your morning with a visit to Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, one of Delhi's most prominent Sikh temples. Travel to Agra, once the capital of the Mughal Empire, arriving mid-afternoon at your Scenic Special Stay, The Oberoi Amarvilas. Located just 600 metres from the Taj Mahal, every room offers uninterrupted views with complimentary butler service. Scenic Freechoice Dining:
This evening choose your Scenic Free dining experience from the following options, Indian BBQ at Bon Barbeque Restaurant, Chinese at C'est Chine at the Hotel Jaypee Palace or enjoy a buffet meal of Asian and Western cuisine at the Bellevue Restaurant at your hotel.

Arrives On: 07 Dec 27

Day 3: Agra (India)

Arrives On: 07 Dec 27

Day 4: Agra (India)

Rise early to witness the breathtaking Taj Mahal at sunrise, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and enduring symbol of love built by Emperor Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Return to the hotel for breakfast before heading to discover the World Heritage-listed Red Fort of Agra, built in the 16th century primarily by Mughal Emperor Akbar. The fort served as the main residence for the Mughal emperors until 1638 when the capital moved to Delhi. It offers an intricate look at Islamic architecture at that time, plus see the famous balcony where Shah Jahan was imprisoned, overlooking the Taj Mahal. Enjoy your afternoon at leisure at the hotel before your evening function. Scenic Sunset Drinks
Gather for evening drinks to overlook and appreciate the architectural wonder of the Taj Mahal from the close proximity of your hotel.

Arrives On: 08 Dec 27

Day 5: Agra (India)

Scenic Freechoice:
This morning, choose from Scenic Freechoice experiences exploring Agra by bicycle or tuk tuk, either through the surrounding countryside or the city's vibrant streets. Travel to the Pink City, Jaipur, stopping en route at Abhaneri Village to visit the remarkable Chand Baori stepwell, one of the largest and oldest in the world, dating back over 1,000 years.

Stay at the Jai Mahal Palace for three nights, an authentic luxury palace now a lovingly restored gem of Rajasthani heritage in the heart of Jaipur. Originally built in 1745, the palace is set amidst eighteen acres of

landscaped gardens. This evening, enjoy a cultural show at the hotel.

Arrives On: 09 Dec 27

Day 5: Jaipur (India)

Arrives On: 09 Dec 27

Day 6: Jaipur (India)

Begin your day at the iconic Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), famed for its intricate honeycomb façade of 953 windows designed to capture cooling breezes. Continue to Jantar Mantar, an 18th-century astronomical observatory and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

From here take a short walk to enjoy lunch in a restaurant attached to the City Palace, home to the rulers of Jaipur. After exploring the City Palace and its museum, undertake a tuk tuk into small chowkris of the city before returning to your hotel. Scenic Freechoice Dining:
This evening, choose a Scenic Freechoice dining experience from the following; a home-hosted cooking demonstration, undertake a jeep tour around Jaipur sampling local food haunts including a heritage liquor tasting at an ancestral Haveli with an erstwhile royal family, or enjoy Italian cuisine at Giardino Restaurant at your hotel.

Arrives On: 10 Dec 27

Day 7: Jaipur (India)

Visit the magnificent Amber Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed hilltop fortress located just outside Jaipur. Explore its opulent palaces, richly decorated with intricate carvings, mirrored halls and exquisite artwork.

After lunch, return to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure before your Scenic Enrich experience. Scenic Enrich
Enjoy sundowner drinks overlooking Jaipur’s old town from the terrace of Samode Haveli, followed by a magical farewell dinner set around a historic stepwell, illuminated by hundreds of flickering lamps and accompanied by local music.

Arrives On: 11 Dec 27

Day 8: Jaipur (India)

Fly to the vibrant city of Kolkata to continue your West Bengal river journey. You will be warmly welcomed at the airport and transferred to the wharf to board Scenic Aura. Settle into your luxurious surroundings before joining your fellow guests for an elegant Welcome Dinner.

Arrives On: 12 Dec 27

Day 8: Kolkata (ex Calcutta) (India)

Arrives On: 12 Dec 27

Day 9: Serampore (India)

After an early morning visit to Kolkata’s flower market, one of the largest in India, step ashore at Serampore to explore one of Bengal’s most intriguing Danish colonial settlements, once described as the best-kept European town in India. A Danish enclave from 1755 until 1845, when it was sold to the British East India Company, the town still retains many buildings recently restored through the combined efforts of the National Museum of Denmark and the Government of West Bengal.

Visit the historic St. Olav’s Church, built in 1806, along with the Governor’s House and the Denmark Tavern, where you can pause for a morning refreshment. Each site offers a fascinating window into Bengal’s European past.

This afternoon, Scenic Aura calls at Chinsura, where you will visit the iconic Hooghly Imambara, one of West Bengal’s most revered Shia pilgrimage centres. Constructed in 1861, it features a sundial and an imposing clock tower acquired in 1852 from the London-based manufacturer who created ‘Big Ben’.

Arrives On: 13 Dec 27

Day 9: Chinsurah (India)

Arrives On: 13 Dec 27

Day 10: Mayapur (India)

Today, Scenic Aura arrives at Mayapur, the global spiritual headquarters of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and one of the 20 most visited and sacred places in the world.

Admire the nearly completed Temple of the Vedic Planetarium, part funded by Alfred Ford and due for completion in November 2027, with opening celebrations planned through to March 2028. Engage with the welcoming Hare Krishna community and stroll through the vibrant pilgrims’ bazaar, a sensory celebration of colour, fragrance and devotion.

Arrives On: 14 Dec 27

Day 11: Murshidabad (India)

This morning, arrive in Murshidabad, once the powerful seat of the Nawabs of Bengal and the region where the British East India Company began its expansion in India. It remained the capital of Bengal until it was moved to Calcutta (Kolkata) in 1773.

Marvel at Hazarduari Palace, known as the Palace of a Thousand Doors, of which 100 are false. Built in 1837 and designed by Duncan Macleod, it is now one of the largest site museums under the Archaeological

Survey of India.

Travel in timeless style by toto (electric rickshaw) to the grand Katra Masjid. Built between 1723 and 1724 by Nawab Murshid Quli Khan, Katra Masjid is a significant religious site showcasing a unique blend of Indo-Islamic architecture. Scenic Enrich
Visit the exquisite Kathgola Palace, where a signature Scenic Enrich High Tea awaits within its storied walls. Surrounded by lush gardens and water features, this elegant palace showcases the influence of Greek, Roman, and Indian architectural styles. A walk through its corridors will transport you back to the days of opulence and grandeur. This afternoon, the ship will move to Azimganj and Baranagar, smaller cities in the municipality in Murshidabad district. In Azimganj visit the serene Jain temples, offering a captivating introduction to the influence of the wealthy merchant families of the region and the intricate temples of the Jainism, an ancient Indian religion centred on spiritual purity, self-discipline, and disciplined nonviolence (ahimsa) to all living creatures. In Baranagar visit the 260-year-old ornate terracotta Char Bangla Temples, a unique complex of four terracotta temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Arrives On: 15 Dec 27

Day 11: Baranagar (India)

Arrives On: 15 Dec 27

Day 11: Azimganj (India)

Arrives On: 15 Dec 27

Day 12: Port information not found

Step ashore to explore the tranquil village of Khushbagh, known as the “Gardens of Happiness” where history and rural life intertwine. A serene early morning journey past farmland leads to a beautifully preserved mosque complex built by Nawab Ali-Wardi-Khan, where the Nawab, his family and his grandson Siraj-ud-Daulah are laid to rest.

Nearby lies the historic site of the Battle of Plassey (1757), fought on the banks of the Hooghly River. This victory by the British East India Company under Robert Clive marked a turning point, leading to British control of Bengal.

Arrives On: 16 Dec 27

Day 12: Palashi (India)

Arrives On: 16 Dec 27

Day 13: Matiari (India)

Today’s destination is the village of Matiari, renowned for its long-standing tradition of copper and brass craftsmanship. Watch master artisans transform recycled metals into beautifully handcrafted pots, platters and decorative pieces using techniques passed down through generations. This visit offers an authentic glimpse into a living cultural tradition.

Arrives On: 17 Dec 27

Day 14: Kalna (India)

Arrive this morning in the ‘City of Temples’, Kalna, which flourished in the late 18th century under the patronage of the Maharajas of Bardhaman.

Explore the Rajbari complex, home to several remarkable temples, including the Lalji Temple built around 1739, the Krishna Chandra Temple with its 25 decorated spires, the Vijay Vaidyanath Temple dedicated to Shiva, and the intricately detailed Pratapeswar Temple. These temples are the magnificent Rajbari complex.

Nearby is the Naba Kailash Complex, built in 1809, featuring 108 Shiva temples arranged in two concentric circles, with alternating black and white lingas in the outer ring and white lingas in the inner circle.

Spend the afternoon at Phulia (Fulia) weaving village where artisans craft hand-woven cotton and silk saris. The weaving history of the town is inextricably linked to the settlement of skilled refugees from Bangladesh who came down here after India’s Partition. It is famous for its Phulia Tangail saris, similar to the Dhakai Jamdani in technique with the motifs spaced out, but softer in feel. The Fulia Tangail incorporates vibrant colours and large, intricate designs woven in double jacquard. Apart from cotton, these saris are also woven in mulberry and tussar silk.

Arrives On: 18 Dec 27

Day 14: Phulia (India)

Arrives On: 18 Dec 27

Day 15: Chandannagar (India)

Today’s call at Chandernagore transports you to a beautifully preserved corner of French colonial India. It was first established as a French colony in 1673 on the bank of the Hooghly River, when the French obtained permission from Ibrahim Khan, the Nawab of Bengal, to establish a trading post. Since that time the town has changed hands with Britain in 1757, 1794 and then given back to the French control in 1815. There it remained until 1950 after the French Government recognised the right to determination of the Indian people of the French Settlements in India.

Stroll the elegant riverside promenade, lined with French colonial buildings. Visit the Dupleix Palace, the former French Governor’s residence and now a museum, and the Sacred Heart Church, a fine example of French Gothic design built in 1691. Visit the former Hotel de Paris built in 1878, now the sub–Divisional Court and a reminder of the town’s colonial

past.

Arrives On: 19 Dec 27

Day 16: Kolkata (ex Calcutta) (India)

Your final full day returns you to the captivating streets of Kolkata. Visit Mother Teresa’s Mother House of The Missionaries of Charity before embarking on a private heritage tram tour, a nostalgic way to glide through the city. Continue to Tipu Sultan Masjid and the Victoria Memorial and Gardens before returning to the ship for lunch. Scenic Freechoice:
The afternoon is yours to enjoy with a selection of Scenic Freechoice excursions. Choose from a visit to Kumartoli, the traditional potter's quarter and the Parshwanath Jain Temple, or undertake a tour of ‘Colonial Kolkata’ including Dalhousie Square, the Writers’ Building, College Street (Boi Para and Indian Coffee House). Alternatively visit the Indian Museum and South Park Cemetery. This evening, enjoy your farewell on board with your fellow guests and crew.

Arrives On: 20 Dec 27

Day 17: Kolkata (ex Calcutta) (India)

This morning, disembark Scenic Aura in Kolkata and transfer to the airport or hotel for your onward journey. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for changes in river conditions, ad hoc local government regulations or festivities. Please refer to Scenic’s terms and conditions for further information. Hotels are indicative and subject to change. Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.

Arrives On: 21 Dec 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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