Bengal Despatch 8: Bengal Memories

LOWER GANGES | 3 NIGHTS/4 DAYS | KOLKATA - MAYAPUR – KOLKATA

DAY 1

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel to embark the ship by 11 am. Sail upstream past the old Dutch settlement of Chinsura before landing to visit the imposing Imambara at Hooghly. With verses from the Koran written on its walls, the Imambara is an opportunity to step back in time and relive a slice of Islamic history in Bengal. After the visit, reboard your cruise and start sailing, leaving urban sprawl behind.

DAY 2

Sail upstream and, after breakfast, land at the country town of Kalna and take cycle rickshaws to see a group of some of Bengal's most attractive terracotta temples, as well as the unique Shiva temple with concentric rings made up of 108 shrinelets. Continue on through the countryside to Mayapur to visit the vast new ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) temple which dominates the skyline. As the headquarters of ISKCON or the Hare Krishna movement, the temple receives over a million singing and dancing devotees a year from around the world. Sail downstream as dusk falls to a mooring near Kalna.

DAY 3

This morning, sail downstream and visit a saree-weaving village before continuing on to Chandernagore, a French possession until 1950, to visit the 18th century church as well as Dupleix's House, the erstwhile Governor-General of French India. Later, sail on down to Kolkata.

DAY 4

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to airport or hotel at Central Kolkata.

This itinerary, including the cruise and approximate driving durations, is subject to river and weather conditions.