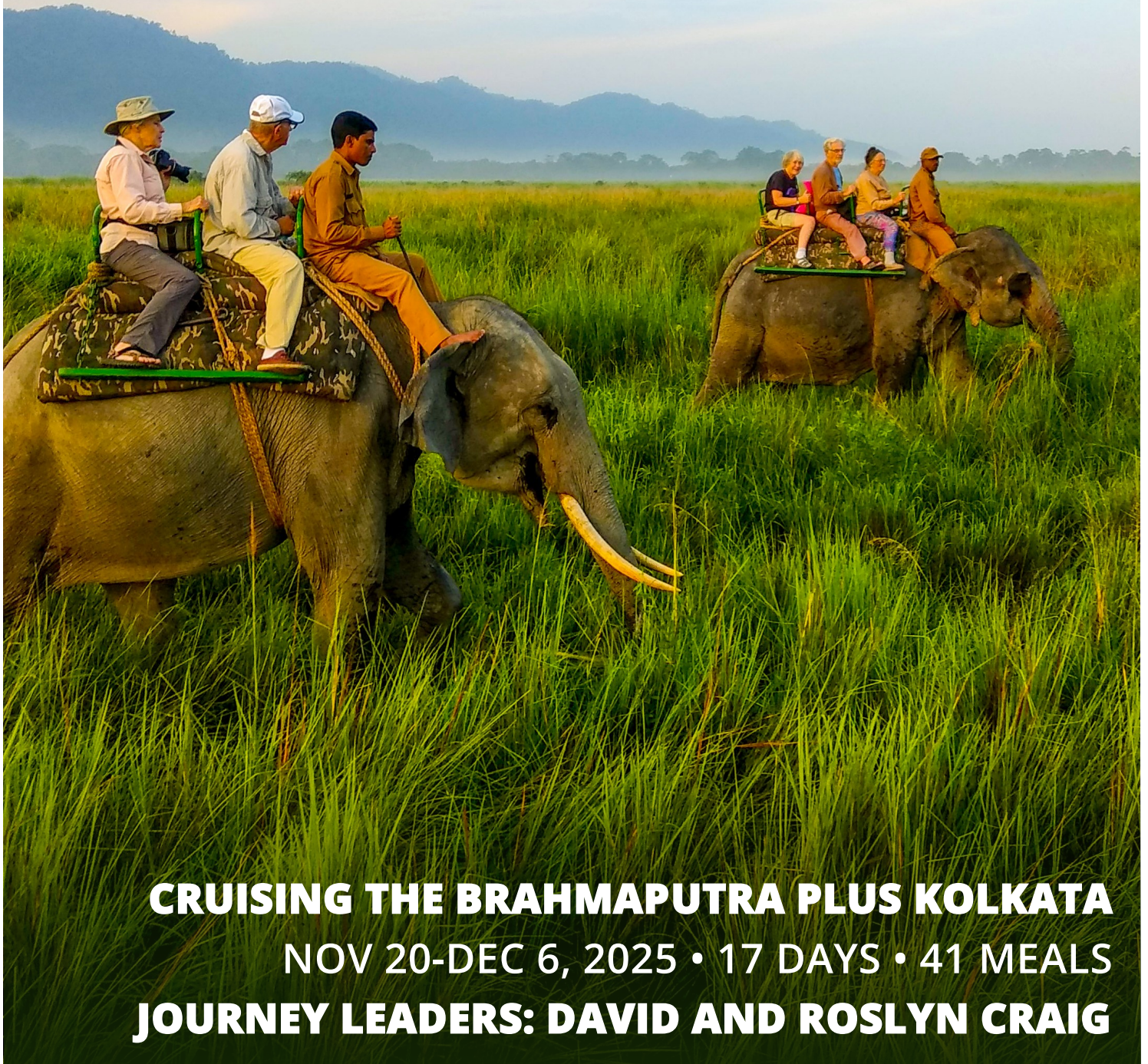


BOOK BY MAY 30
SAVE \$300 PP



Assam



CRUISING THE BRAHMAPUTRA PLUS KOLKATA
NOV 20-DEC 6, 2025 • 17 DAYS • 41 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADERS: DAVID AND ROSLYN CRAIG

Experience an elephant safari in Assam

Bordered by Bhutan and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh to the north, and Bangladesh and West Bengal to the south, Assam is a stunningly beautiful region renowned for its wildlife. Kaziranga National Park, named 'the Serengeti of India' by National Geographic, along with Nameri and Manas National Parks, teem with diverse wildlife such as tigers, elephants, wild buffalo, and white rhinos.

The Tai-Ahom people, who originated from southern China, established their kingdom in the southeastern Brahmaputra Valley in 1228. They named their new home Mung-Dun-Chun-Kham, meaning 'The Golden Land', which later became known as Assam. Their rule lasted six centuries, until the British arrival in 1826. Today, we can still experience their culture along the riverside villages.

Join us aboard our exceptionally comfortable riverboat as we explore this remote part of India in depth through daily excursions. November offers ideal weather, marking the start of the dry winter season with warm days and pleasant evenings. This is truly a bucket list destination that is now available to virtually every traveller.



Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Kolkata, plus domestic flights in India
- Accommodations in selected deluxe hotels in Kolkata as indicated or similar
- 10-night fully inclusive cruise on the mv Mahabaahu in Assam
- All excursions from the riverboat including walks, jeep safaris, river cruises, and an elephant excursion
- 41 meals included as shown in the itinerary (B - 14 breakfasts, L - 14 lunches, D - 13 dinners)
- Services of your Canadian journey leaders, plus professional naturalists and guides in India
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- India visa fee for Canadian passport holders
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Tour Highlights

- Immerse yourself in the rich history, culture, and vibrant life of Kolkata with in-depth sightseeing
- Experience the superior MV Mahabaahu on a scenic journey along the Brahmaputra River in Assam
- Visit the Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary
- Explore three renowned national parks: Kaziranga, Nameri, and Manas
- Assam Big Six: opportunities to see single-horned rhinos, Asiatic elephants, long-horned buffalo, Royal Bengal tigers, leopards, and swamp deer
- Cruise 400 km through vast wetlands, home to 482 bird species
- Enjoy 100 km of cruising by Kaziranga National Park
- Visit the world's largest inhabited riverine island, Majuli
- Cultural Insights: explore tea plantations, weaving crafts, silk production, and visit local villages, private homes, and temples!

Journey Leaders

David Craig, Chairman of Craig Travel, and **Roslyn** bring decades of travel experience as escorts and operators. David, educated at the University of Toronto and York University, lived in Australia before returning to Canada to dedicate almost fifty years to arranging global tours and cruises. Roslyn, originally from Australia, has worked in travel for over three decades. Together, they have led tours to over 100 countries across seven continents and look forward to exploring India with you.



Our Riverboat • mv MAHABAABU

The award-winning **mv Mahabaahu** offers a comfortable base for exploring the Brahmaputra and Assam. Large-windowed cabins, half with balconies, provide excellent views of the river and passing villages. Amenities include a dining room with diverse continental and Indian menus, the cozy Soma bar/lounge with daily happy hour, and a sun deck featuring a small pool. The spa offers Ayurvedic therapies, massages, a gym, jacuzzi, and steam room. A small elevator connects most decks. With a maximum capacity of 46 passengers, the attentive crew and serene itinerary ensure a peaceful introduction to India.

The riverboat offers cabins in four categories:

Superior with double picture windows (195 sq ft)

Deluxe with private balcony (250 sq ft)

Luxury with private balcony (280 sq ft)

Suite with private balcony (330 sq ft)



NOV 20, Thursday **DEPART CANADA**
Tour members gather for the overnight flights to India.

NOV 21, Friday **KOLKATA (CALCUTTA)**
On arrival in Kolkata, we transfer directly to our hotel. Kolkata, often described as "The City of Joy", is an alluring microcosm of India. **Taj Bengal Hotel** (2 nights)

NOV 22, Saturday **KOLKATA**
Our first morning provides an overview of this vast city, highlighting the transition from the time of the British Raj to the 21st century. Highlights include Fort William, the Victoria Memorial (1921), the Maidan, and the Raj Bhavan. After lunch, visit Kumartuli, the Potters' Colony, where artisans craft Hindu gods from Hooghly River clay. BLD

NOV 23, Sunday **KOLKATA / JORHAT**
Fly to Jorhat and board the mv Mahabaahu. After lunch and a welcome talk, enjoy a sunset cruise followed by our welcome dinner. **mv Mahabaahu** (10 nights) BLD

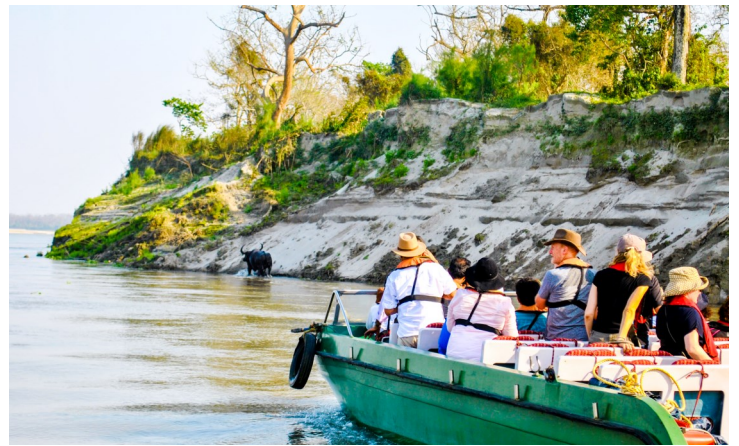
NOV 24, Monday **HOLLONGAPAR SANCTUARY or SIVASAGAR**
Choose between two excursions today. **Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary / Jeep Safari:** Depart early with a picnic breakfast to explore this sanctuary, home to the hoolock gibbon (the only ape in India) and Bengal slow loris. Enjoy an Assamese brunch and tea experience at a local tea estate, followed by a 3-hour wildlife safari. **Sivasagar and the T'Ahom People:** Drive through Assamese villages and farmlands to Sivasagar, the region's capital for 600 years. Visit Rang Ghar (royal sports pavilion), Talatal Ghar (an 18th-century palace), and Shiva Dol (India's highest Shiva temple). BLD

NOV 25, Tuesday **MAJULI and NEAMATI GHAT**
Walk the Neamati Ghat to experience the waking village, then enjoy breakfast as we sail to Majuli, the world's largest river island. Experience the Neo-Vaishnav people's dances and music, including Gayan Bayan, Dashavatar, and Mukha Bhavana. Majuli is renowned for its mask-making and pottery and is home to unique fauna like open-billed storks, whistling ducks, bar-headed geese, and weaver birds. Enjoy free time to explore the local bazaar. In the evening, enjoy a bush BBQ on a deserted island. BLD

NOV 26, Wednesday **MISHING VILLAGE and SAFARI**
In Mishing, visit private homes (Chang Ghars) to observe daily life and traditional weaving. The Mishings wear traditional attire: dhoti kurta for men and mekhla chaadar for women. After lunch, use the ship's tenders to explore the national park shores, watching for water buffalo, elephants, various birds, and water monitors. Back on board, enjoy a cooking demonstration by the chef. BLD

NOV 27, Thursday **BISHWANATH GHAT**
Explore Bishwanath, where weavers, fishermen, farmers, and boatmakers thrive. Visit the ancient Shiva Dol temple by the riverbank, surrounded by traditional fishing boats. Then, visit Silghat to witness the jute processing at the Jute Mill, from golden fibre to gunny bags. Nearby, observe women harvesting tea leaves at a tea estate. Conclude with a performance of Assam's State Dance, 'Bihu', performed by local children. BLD

NOV 28, Friday **KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK**
Today, choose between two thrilling adventures, both offering opportunities to spot Asiatic elephants, wild cats, water buffalo, deer, and the famous one-horned rhinoceros up close and personal in this UNESCO World Heritage



Unforgettable wildlife encounters await



Experience vibrant traditional dances in Majuli, the world's largest river island



Search for the majestic Bengal tiger in Manas National Park

Site. **Elephant Ride / Jeep Safari:** Begin early with a thrilling elephant ride at sunrise. After, enjoy breakfast with Indian specialties like dosas (thin savoury crepes), idlis (rice cakes), poori aloo (potato curry with crisp fried bread), and parathas (flatbread). Then, embark on two jeep safaris exploring the Central and Western Ranges, with lunch. **Jeep Safari at Eastern & Central Range:** Opt for a full-day jeep safari through the Eastern and Central Ranges, including lunch. Return to our riverboat, passing through the scenic paddy fields of the Karbi Anglong people. BLD

NOV 29, Saturday **NAMERI NP OR KAZIRANGA NP**
Today offers two enticing options. **Nameri National Park:** Begin early with a drive to Nameri, renowned for its diverse wildlife including the Bengal tiger. Join our naturalist guide for a 2-hour park walk followed by a leisurely 2-hour boat

float along the scenic Jia-Bhaireli River. **Kaziranga National Park:** Opt for a 3-hour jeep safari to the Western Range of Kaziranga NP. Both groups return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon of cruising. In the evening, we are in for a special treat, the Assamese theme evening. Dress in traditional attire and indulge in local snacks, traditional dances, music, and a themed dinner. BLD

NOV 30, Sunday CRUISING THE BRAHMAPUTRA
Spend a leisurely day cruising down the Brahmaputra River. Relax by the pool or indulge in spa services aboard our riverboat. Enjoy views of villages, farms, and the majestic Himalayas as we pass Peacock Island, the world's smallest inhabited river island. BLD

DEC 1, Monday MANAS NP / TIGER RESERVE
Today, we journey north to Manas National Park for a safari in the Bansbari Range. Located at the Bhutan border, the park features hills leading to mountains. Spend the morning searching for Bengal tigers, golden langurs, and diverse wildlife. Enjoy lunch at a park resort and return to our riverboat for an afternoon cruise. BLD

DEC 2, Tuesday SUALKUCHI
In Sualkuchi, enjoy a special welcome show of Bodo dances by tribal folk. Explore the village by e-rickshaw, discovering the art of silk making and weaving. After an authentic Assamese lunch, indulge in some retail therapy. In the evening, savour our final sunset cruise followed by the Alvida Bhoj, our farewell dinner. BLD

DEC 3, Wednesday GUWAHATI / KOLKATA
Later this morning, we bid fond farewells to our wonderful staff and floating home before catching a short flight to Kolkata. **Taj Bengal Hotel (2 nights)** BLD

DEC 4, Thursday KOLKATA
Visit Asia's largest flower market, a dazzling array of colours and people. Stop by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity to learn about their ongoing work. At the Indian Museum (established in 1814 as the Imperial Museum), explore exhibits dedicated to the British Raj. BLD

DEC 5, Friday KOLKATA / CANADA
Enjoy your final day at leisure. Relax by the pool or explore the city centre. We fly home this evening. BL

DEC 6, Saturday CANADA
Arriving in Toronto this morning, we make connections to our homes across Canada.

Note: River cruising in India is an adventurous experience. Assam's tourism infrastructure is being developed to meet growing interest. Our expedition-style cruise ensures onboard satisfaction. Shore-side staff will prioritize your comfort during expeditions. While we use the best equipment available, expect varying vehicle and road standards. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed. Please note that this itinerary is subject to weather and river conditions, and may be adjusted for your safety and comfort by the Captain/Cruise Director. The Brahmaputra River experiences seasonal changes, with islands and sand bars appearing and disappearing between sailings.

Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Category Superior

Land/Cruise Only (Join / Leave at Kolkata hotels)	\$6,995
Toronto	\$9,245
Ottawa / Montreal	\$9,345
Halifax / Winnipeg.....	\$9,495
St. John's / Fredericton.....	\$9,545
Regina / Saskatoon	\$9,695
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$9,545
Victoria.....	\$9,595
Single Supplement (hotels & cabin)	\$3,695

Singles are extremely limited - see rates on our website.

Supplement to Upgrade to Higher Category

Category/Description/Deck	Sharing Twin
Deluxe (with private balcony)	\$995
Luxury (with private balcony).....	\$1,285
Suite (with private balcony)	\$2,145

Rates are per person based on sharing a twin/double Category Superior cabin with windows, and sharing a twin/double room at hotels. Stateroom categories are subject to availability at the time of booking. See deck plan on our website for more details on the various categories available. Rates, taxes, and fees are from October 2024 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Prices and escort based on a minimum of 20 travellers. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to our Inclusive Features for more details.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to our terms and conditions.

Final payment is due on July 17, 2025

Deposit is \$1,500 per person

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:



1092 Mount Pleasant Road
Toronto, ON M4P 2M6
416-484-0926 | 1-800-387-8890
cruises@craigtravel.com
craigtravel.com



**Book by May 30, 2025
and save \$300 per person**

CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging: All members must be in good physical health, willing and prepared for the challenges of this adventure. Our accommodations (hotels and riverboat) are very comfortable with varied meal options. Our excursions include jeep safaris (over rough roads and tracks), river rafting (in rubber boats), two-hour leisurely forest treks and an elephant ride (one hour, 4 persons per elephant). Alternative excursions are available for those with limitations. Off-boat excursions may encounter rough roads, limited facilities, and conditions typical of a developing country. We are visiting during the dry winter season and temperatures will range from cool evenings to hot days. Members must be ready to experience the reality that is remote India.