

A red circular logo with the word "Craig" in white, featuring a small maple leaf above the 'i', and the word "travel" in white below it.

Craig
travel

ASSAM & BHUTAN

BOOK BY AUG 31, 2025
SAVE \$500 PP

BRAHMAPUTRA CRUISE & THE DRUK WANGYAL FESTIVAL
NOV 26-DEC 17, 2026 • 22 DAYS • 54 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADERS: JON & SUE GURR

Tiger's Nest: Bhutan's iconic cliffside monastery and sacred pilgrimage site

Cruise the mighty Brahmaputra, one of the few navigable rivers sourced from the Himalayas, as you journey through Assam's lush tea estates, vibrant villages, and UNESCO-listed Kaziranga, home to the world's largest population of one-horned rhinos. Witness centuries-old dance rituals on Majuli, the world's largest river island. Then, ascend to Bhutan, where a deep commitment to cultural heritage and community well-being shapes everyday life. Hike to the legendary Tiger's Nest, join locals at a lively Himalayan festival and find quiet beauty in forested valleys laced with prayer flags and riverside dzongs. From the bustling streets of Kolkata to the peaceful heights of Bhutan, each day brings moments you'll never forget, and stories you'll want to tell.

Journey Leaders



Jon and Sue Gurr have explored more than 80 countries across all seven continents, capturing the spirit of their travels through photography. With over 40 years of experience, Jon, a certified professional photographer, looks forward to offering a few photography tips along the way, while both he and Sue are excited to share their passion for travel with you on this unforgettable journey.

Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada to Kolkata, plus domestic flights in India and Bhutan
- Accommodations in selected hotels as indicated
- 7-night Brahmaputra cruise on the mv Mahabaahu
- All excursions from the riverboat as noted
- 54 meals included as shown in the itinerary (B - 19 breakfasts, L - 17 lunches, D - 18 dinners)
- Services of your Canadian journey leaders, plus professional local guides in India and Bhutan
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for inclusions
- India/Bhutan visa fees 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
- Witness local life on a scenic cruise along the Brahmaputra River in Assam
- Explore UNESCO-listed Kaziranga National Park, home to one-horned rhinos, Asiatic elephants, wild water buffalo, Bengal tigers, swamp deer and more
- Experience vibrant Bhutanese culture at the unique Druk Wangyal Festival
- Visit historic dzongs and sacred monasteries in Paro, Punakha, Gangtey and Thimphu
- Walk through local villages and nature trails



Our Riverboat • mv MAHABAAHU

The **mv Mahabaahu** offers a comfortable base for exploring the Brahmaputra. 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 26, Thursday

DEPART CANADA

Tour members gather for the overnight flights to India.

NOV 27, Friday

KOLKATA

On arrival in Kolkata, we transfer directly to our hotel.
Peerless Kolkata Hotel (2 nights)

NOV 28, Saturday

KOLKATA

Our tour of Kolkata, the City of Joy, showcases its history and architecture, a blend of neo-Gothic, Baroque, neo-Classical, Oriental, and Islamic influences. Next, visit Kumartuli, the Potters Colony, where 400 artisans create vivid works from river clay, straw, and beads. After lunch, we explore the Victoria Memorial and Hall.

BLD

NOV 29, Sunday KOLKATA / JORHAT

Fly to Jorhat and embark on our riverboat. Enjoy the afternoon cruising and an evening talk on Sivasagar and the Ahom civilization. **mv Mahabaahu** (7 nights) BLD

NOV 30, Monday SIVASAGAR / TEA ESTATE

Drive through the scenic Assamese countryside to Sivasagar, the 13th-century capital of the Ahom dynasty. Later, we tour Haroocharai tea estate to learn about Assam tea, a variety grown only here and in parts of China. Savour a buffet lunch of traditional Assamese cuisine, a tea tasting, and an insightful talk with tea experts. BLD

DEC 1, Tuesday MAJULI / MISHING VILLAGE

Rise early for optional yoga before heading to Majuli, the world's largest river island, for a performance by Satriya singers and dancers. At Kamalabari Satra, Vaishnavite priests bring ancient devotion to life through rhythmic chants and dances. Later, visit a Mishing village. This evening, following dinner and a talk on Assam's geography, we relax under the stars on a deserted island. BLD

DEC 2, Wednesday KAZIRANGA EASTERN RANGE

Walk through a traditional village built on bamboo stilts, reflecting the unique lifestyle of the Mishing people. Watch women weaving colourful textiles beneath their raised homes. Then, sail to Kaziranga for a two-hour boat safari, exploring the river's edge in small tenders. This evening features a cooking demonstration by the chef. BLD

DEC 3, Thursday BISHWANATH GHAT / SILGHAT

Explore Bishwanath Ghat, a village where weavers, fishermen, and boatmakers shape daily life. Continue to Silghat to tour a cooperative jute mill and see how this golden fibre is processed. At the Kaliabore Tea Estate, visit the factory to learn how Assam's famous tea is cultivated and processed. Return to the ship for a lively cultural dance performance by local artists. BLD

DEC 4, Friday KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Begin the day early with a sunrise elephant safari through the misty grasslands of Kaziranga, looking for swamp and hog deer, wild water buffalo, and the park's iconic one-horned rhinoceros. After breakfast at the resort, set out on a jeep safari for another opportunity to encounter Kaziranga's diverse wildlife. Spend a relaxing afternoon onboard before an Assamese-themed evening featuring regional music and a specially curated dinner. BLD

DEC 5, Saturday BANGLA VILLAGE / PEACOCK ISLAND

Morning yoga is offered this morning as the ship sails toward a river island inhabited by a Bangla-speaking Muslim farming community. After lunch, we dock at Peacock Island, home to the sacred Umananda Temple. Later, we gather for a farewell dinner, "Alvida Bhoj." BLD

DEC 6, Sunday GUWAHATI / PARO, BHUTAN

After disembarking, we visit Kamakhya Temple, one of India's oldest Shakti shrines, before flying to Paro, the gateway of Bhutan. Time permitting, we explore Ta Dzong, now the National Museum, with its rich collection of art, textiles, and artifacts. A short walk takes us to Rinpung Dzong to see vivid murals of Buddhist legends. BLD

Kaachi Grand Hotel (2 nights)

DEC 7, Monday PARO

Today, we hike to the legendary Taktshang Monastery, better known as Tiger's Nest, perched on a cliffside above the Paro Valley. According to legend, Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress, making it one of



Try your hand at traditional weaving with local artisans in Bishwanath Ghat



Venture out on a thrilling jeep safari across the wild grasslands of Kaziranga



Marvel at Punakha Dzong, a majestic riverside fortress

Bhutan's most sacred pilgrimage sites. Then, we discover Kyichu Lhakhang, one of Bhutan's oldest temples, dating back to the 7th-century. BLD

DEC 8, Tuesday PARO / PUNAKHA

Drive eastward over the scenic Dochula Pass, offering sweeping views of the eastern Himalayas. In Punakha, Bhutan's former capital and the winter residence of the Chief Abbot, we visit the majestic Punakha Dzong, a 17th-century fortress known as the 'Palace of Great Happiness,' and once the seat of Bhutan's government. Later, enjoy a short walk through traditional farmhouses and rice paddies to Chimi Lhakhang, a 15th-century fertility temple dedicated to the colourful Drukpa Kuenley, the "Divine Madman." **Lobesa Boutique Hotel** (2 nights) BLD

DEC 9, Wednesday PUNAKHA

A 2-hour hike through the lush countryside takes us to the striking Khamsum Yuelley Namgel Chorten. Built to promote peace and harmony, this elaborately decorated monument stands as a beacon overlooking the Punakha Valley. Later, we visit a meditation center and nunnery. BLD

DEC 10, Thursday PUNAKHA / GANGTEY

En route to Gangtey, we explore Rinchenang, one of Bhutan's oldest villages, with traditional mud-brick homes nestled among terraced fields. Visit Wangduephodrang Dzong, noted for its wonderful location and exceptional stonework. **Dewachen Hotel** (2 nights) BLD

DEC 11, Friday GANGTEY

This morning, tour Gangtey Goenpa, a majestic hilltop monastery and the largest Nyingmapa institution in Bhutan. Then, take a 2-hour walk through flower-filled meadows and forests along the Gangtey Nature Trail, offering views of the glacial Phobjikha Valley. BLD

DEC 12, Saturday GANGTEY / THIMPHU

Transfer to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital and the only city in the world without traffic lights. A unique blend of tradition and modernity, it offers a glimpse into Bhutan's evolving identity. Visit the National Memorial Chorten, followed by a walk along the main street and the market area of Ka Ja Throm. **The Seva Hotel** (2 nights) BLD

DEC 13, Sunday DRUK WANGYAL FESTIVAL

At Dochula Pass, we experience the vibrant Druk Wangyal Festival, a unique and colourful celebration featuring sacred mask dances performed by members of the Royal Bhutan Army, dedicated to the previous King as an expression of loyalty. Back in Thimphu, we will stop by Trashichhoedzong, the home to Bhutan's throne room, central monastic body, and seat of the Chief Abbot. BLD

DEC 14, Monday THIMPHU / KOLKATA

After breakfast, we drive to Paro airport for your flight back to Kolkata. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Peerless Kolkata Hotel (2 nights) BD

DEC 15, Tuesday KOLKATA

Start the day amid the vibrant chaos of Asia's largest flower market, Mullick Ghat. Pay respect to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, then uncover centuries of history at the Indian Museum. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure before our farewell buffet dinner. BLD

DEC 16, Wednesday KOLKATA / CANADA

Spend the morning exploring before we head to the airport in the late afternoon. B

DEC 17, Thursday CANADA

Arriving in Toronto this morning, we make connections to our homes across Canada.

Cruise Note: River cruising in India is an adventurous experience. Assam's tourism infrastructure is being developed to meet growing interest. 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.

**EXTENDED SAVINGS FOR A LIMITED TIME!**

Book by Aug 31, 2025 & save \$500 per person

**Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person****Category Superior**

Land/Cruise Only (join / leave at Kolkata hotel)	\$10,545
Toronto	\$12,595
Ottawa / Montreal	\$12,685
Halifax / Winnipeg	\$12,835
Regina / Saskatoon	\$13,035
Calgary / St. John's / Vancouver	\$12,885

Single cabins are limited - see rates on our website.

Supplement to Upgrade to Higher Category

Category/Description/Deck	Sharing Twin
Deluxe (with private balcony)	\$895
Luxury (with private balcony)	\$1,285
Suite (with private balcony)	\$2,145

Land only price includes domestic flights in India and Bhutan, but excludes international airfare and related airport transfers. Land only members join and leave at the Kolkata hotel. Rates are based on sharing a twin-bedded room and Category Superior cabin. See deck plan on our website for more details on the various categories available. Prices are based on a minimum 20 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective June 2025 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Group to be escorted with a minimum 20 group members. 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. Please contact our staff to receive a quote. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to our terms and conditions.

Deposit is \$2,250 per person

Final payment is due on July 15, 2026

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

tours@craigtravel.com • craigtravel.com

CT Rating 4/5 - Very Challenging: Members must be in excellent physical health with no mobility issues to fully enjoy this trip. Excursions include jeep safaris over rough terrain, river safaris (in rubber boats), an elephant ride, and some extensive hikes, walks and climbs (including stairs). Expect infrastructure typical of developing regions, such as uneven roads and basic facilities. In Bhutan, members will travel and walk at altitudes between 5,000–10,000ft and may experience altitude sickness. Temperatures will range from cool evenings to hot days. Members should be prepared for the realities of remote India and Bhutan.



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