

Carleton College

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world

JOURNEY DOWN THE GANGES: INDIA'S HOLIEST RIVER

February 10 - 23, 2015

aboard the 28-stateroom *RV Bengal Ganga*
with Drs. Nancy Wilkie and Annapurna Garimella



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Dear Carleton College Alumni and Friends,

I invite you to enjoy what is perhaps the most relaxing, luxurious, and in-depth means of discovering India by cruising, for eight unforgettable days aboard a classic 28-cabin riverboat, 800 miles down the Ganges, India's holiest river. Relax on a comfy lounge chair right outside your cabin or on the top deck while viewing a panoply of river and village life, as well as freshwater dolphins, water buffalo, and exotic birds. Plus, enjoy five nights in comfortable, often luxurious, hotels before the river cruise.

Throughout the program you will gain insights from two distinguished experts with abundant experience leading small groups in India: Carleton Professor Emerita Nancy Wilkie and Dr. Annapurna Garimella, an art historian and cultural expert based in Bangalore and Delhi.

Learn about the extraordinary cultural diversity and history of India, spanning millennia, as you visit famous Buddhist sites, Hindu temples, Mughal mosques, fortresses, palaces, and much more:

- Take daily excursions that reveal a variety of ancient, medieval, and modern sites, several of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Wander through the enigmatic, extensive ruins of two of the earliest universities in the world—Nalanda and Vikramshila—both founded well over a thousand years ago.
- Experience Varanasi, the holiest city for all Indic religions, exploring this unforgettable, bustling town both by foot and boat.
- See the highlights of Delhi, India's capital: the National Museum of India, which contains over 200,000 works of art; Humayun's tomb, predecessor of the Taj Mahal; the Qutub Complex; and more.
- Explore the famous Maha Bodhi Temple Complex where, under a *Ficus religiosa* tree 2,500 years ago, it is said that Gautama Siddhartha attained supreme knowledge to become "Buddha," the Enlightened One. Also discover the ancient ruins of Sarnath, where Buddha gave his first sermon.
- Choose to extend your trip in Odisha (Orissa), with three nights in Bhubaneswar ("Temple City of India"), visiting Konarak's 13th-century Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site; the unusual, 9th-century Temple of Chausath (64) Yogini at Hirapur; and more.

"This was my first Carleton adventure. I went with trepidation, but the experience was wonderful. I will go on another [Carleton Alumni] adventure."

Michael '81 participated on the southern India (February 2014) tour.

Savor a variety of delicious Indian and international cuisine and enjoy the convenience of an expert trip manager and local guides who handle all the logistical details.

India is a diverse, complex country that you will be able to truly appreciate in the company of Drs. Nancy Wilkie and Annapurna Garimella.

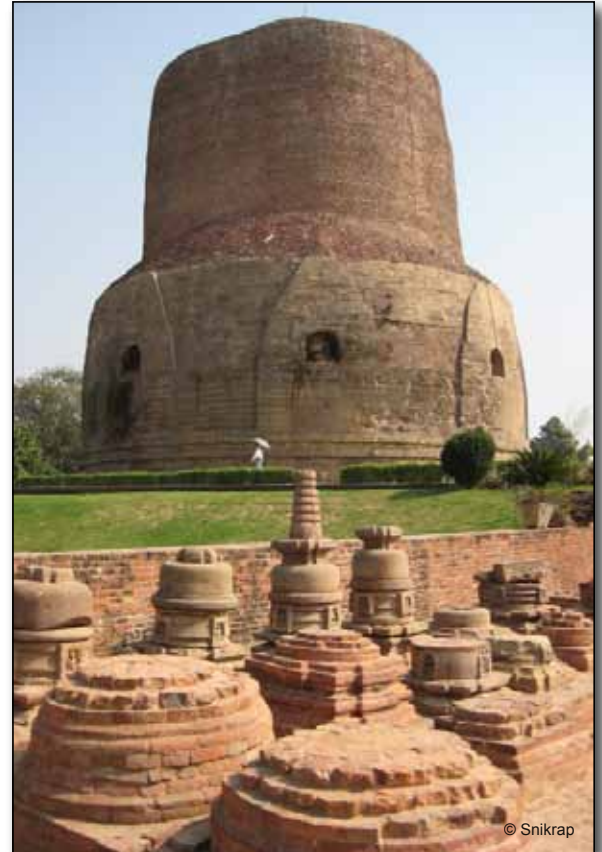
Sincerely,

Frances L. Spangler '91
President, Carleton College Alumni Association

P.S. This Alumni Adventure is co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America. I encourage you to reserve your space ASAP, since there are only 28 riverboat cabins available; contact the Alumni Adventures office at (800) 811-7244 or carleton@studytours.org.



(Above) We will see numerous sadhus (religious ascetics), especially in Varanasi, Hinduism's holiest city. (Below) An ancient stupa towers over the ruins of Sarnath, where Buddha gave his first sermon. Sarnath also features an excellent site museum with world-renowned early Buddhist art.



(Below) Hindu pilgrims bathing in the Ganges, India's holiest river, believed to purify one's soul.



Itinerary

(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

Tuesday, February 10, 2015: Arrive DELHI, India

Upon arrival in Delhi today, you are met and transferred to our hotel. *Overnight at the Taj Mahal Hotel, or similar, for two nights.* (D)

Wednesday, February 11: DELHI

Our first full day focuses on three major sites in Delhi: the National Museum of India, which contains over 200,000 works of art spanning thousands of years; the World Heritage site of Humayun's tomb (known as "the predecessor of the Taj Mahal"), the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent; and the Qutub Complex, a World Heritage site with a 236-foot high minaret, a 1,500-year old iron pillar that does not rust, and a large mosque that was constructed from reused temple pillars. We will also slowly drive by and admire many other famous monuments, such as Jama Mosque, Red Fort, Raj Ghat (where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated), the ruined fortress at Feroze Shah Kotla, the Ashok Pillar, and Safdarjung's tomb. (B,L,D)

Thursday, February 12: DELHI | VARANASI

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight to Varanasi, the holiest town for Hindus. On arrival we check in to our hotel, and enjoy lunch followed by some time at leisure. In late afternoon, experience Varanasi's enchanting street life, take a boat ride to see the ghats (broad steps down to the water, along the riverbank) lining the Ganges River, and witness the beautiful Ganga Aarti ritual after sunset, when hundreds of small lamps are set afloat on the river. *Overnight at the Taj Gateway Hotel Ganges Varanasi, or similar, for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Friday, February 13: VARANASI | SARNATH | VARANASI

Enjoy a sunrise boat ride on the Ganges River to witness early morning rituals. In the afternoon we visit Sarnath, where Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment in Bodhgaya. Explore the ruins of its monasteries, built more than 2,000 years ago; as well as its Archaeological Museum, which displays antiquities from Sarnath dating from the 3rd century B.C. to 12th century A.D. (B,L,D)

Saturday, February 14: VARANASI | BODHGAYA

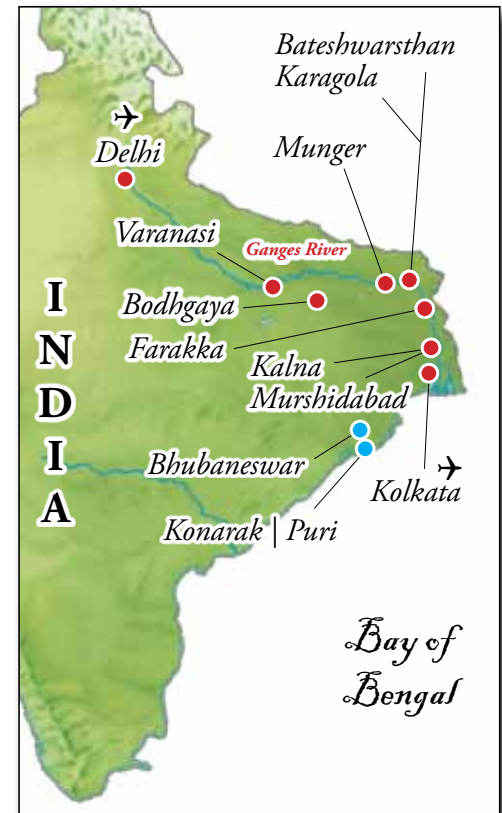
After breakfast we depart Varanasi for Bodhgaya, where arrive in time for lunch. Bodhgaya is one of Buddhism's most important and sacred pilgrimage centers and it was here, under a banyan tree, that Gautama attained supreme knowledge to become "Buddha," the Enlightened One. Explore the Maha Bodhi Temple Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site whose courtyard is dotted with many stupas built over the past 2,500 years. Inside the main sanctum is the immense black stone statue of the sitting Buddha touching the Earth with his right hand—the posture in which he is said to have attained supreme enlightenment. Also drive by the Thai Temple and two Japanese temples. *Overnight at The Royal Residency Hotel, or similar.* (B,L,D)

Sunday, February 15: BODHGAYA | RAJGIR | NALANDA | SIMARIA | EMBARKATION

After breakfast we drive to Rajgir, the first capital of the Magadha Empire, scenically located in a lush valley. Buddha delivered many important sermons during the years he spent here, and today Rajgir is a complex of temples and monasteries. Continue on to the ancient university of Nalanda, perhaps the oldest seat of learning in India, thought to have been established in the 5th century B.C. Nalanda is on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, and was excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1915-37 and 1974-82. Its extensive remains include six brick temples and eleven monasteries, with many sculptures and images in stone, bronze, and stucco. Enjoy a boxed lunch en route to Simaria Jetty, where we embark our classic riverboat to begin our cruise down the sacred Ganges River. *Overnight aboard the RV Bengal Ganga for eight nights.* (B,L,D)

Monday, February 16: MUNGER | SULTANGANJ | BHAGALPUR

This morning we visit the Bihar School of Yoga, established in 1964 by Swami Niranjananda to preserve and regenerate the total scope of yogic science by combining academic and scientific methodology with a spiritual vision. The School is located within the walls of Munger Fort, on the south bank of the Ganges River, which is thought to date from approximately the 12th/13th centuries. Several religious and historic monuments are also located within the Fort, including the Palace of Shah Suja, the ancient Chandisthana temple, and an 18th-century British cemetery. En route to Bhagalpur,



(Above) Witness the famous Ganga Aarti ritual in the evening along Varanasi's ancient ghats (below) lining the Ganges River.



cruise past Sultanganj, whose two great granite rocks on the riverbank are crowned by a mosque and a temple of Ghaibinath Siva. Excavations near Sultanganj have yielded ancient stupas, seals, coins, and terracotta Hindu and Buddha images. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, February 17: BHAGALPUR | DOLPHIN SANCTUARY | VIKRAMSHILA | BATESHWARSTHAN | KARAGOLA

Cruise from Bhagalpur to Bateshwarsthan via the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, established in 1991 for the dolphins' protection and conservation. The area also supports a rich diversity of other wildlife, many of which are threatened with extinction, such as the Indian smooth-coated otter, several species of hard- and soft shell turtles, and an astounding variety of migratory and resident birds. Later visit the Vikramshila University, established by King Dharampala in the late 8th or early 9th century A.D. Along with Nalanda University, Vikramshila was one of the two most important centers of Buddhist learning in India during the Pala dynasty. Cruise onward to Karagola, an area rich in bird life where we may see large flocks of water birds such as common cranes. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, February 18: KARAGOLA | RAJ MAHAL

Depart Karagola this morning for Raj Mahal, founded by the Mogul Emperor Akbar as the capital of Bengal in 1592. Shah Jahan, builder of the Taj Mahal, spent part of his youth here. Walk around and explore the ruins of the mosque and the areas where China clay is mined. (B,L,D)

Thursday, February 19: RAJ MAHAL | FARAKKA | JANGIPUR

This morning we cruise through the Farakka Lock Gate and the connecting canal to the Ganges, revealing vast panoramas. Visible at a distance is the Farakka barrage, which regulates the Ganges water into Bangladesh and India. Continue cruising the waters of West Bengal toward Jangipur. (B,L,D)

Friday, February 20: JANGIPUR | MURSHIDABAD | CHOURIGACHA

Cruise from Jangipur toward Murshidabad. Time permitting, visit the early 18th-century Temples of Baranagar, considered to be among the best examples of Bengal terracotta art. Arrive at Murshidabad Jetty, opposite the New Palace. We visit the Hazarduari Palace, built in the early 19th century by an English architect, Duncan McLeod, in the Greek "Doric" style. The palace has more than a thousand real and false doors in its vast corridors. Opposite the Palace is the 19th-century Nizammat Imambara. Also visit the impressive, early 18th-century Katra Masjid (mosque), with its huge domes and tall minarets. (B,L,D)

Saturday, February 21: CHOURIGACHA | KALNA

We depart Chourigacha and cruise past Matiari, a unique brass-making village, and the religious town of Mayapur, situated on the banks of the confluence of the Ganga and Jalangi Rivers. In the afternoon we take rickshaws to visit the temple town of Kalna, including the enchanting Rajbari complex with a great concentration and mixture of temples. The early 19th-century Nabakailas temple complex contains 108 "eight slope-roofed" Shiva temples arranged in two concentric circles. On the other side of the road lies a walled complex with Bengal's most diversified collection of temple architecture, including the 19th-century Pratapeshwar Temple, Lalji temple (built in 1739, and the oldest in the complex), Krishnachandra Temple, and a flat-roofed temple of Giri Govardhan. (B,L,D)

Sunday, February 22: KALNA | KOLKATA (Calcutta)

Cast off early this morning from Kalna and cruise toward Kolkata, through the vast countryside of golden Bengal. Relax aboard our riverboat and watch the passing scenery of the areas where various European settlers established their respective East Indian Companies in the 17th to 19th centuries. (B,L,D)

Monday, February 23: KOLKATA | DISEMBARKATION | FLY HOME

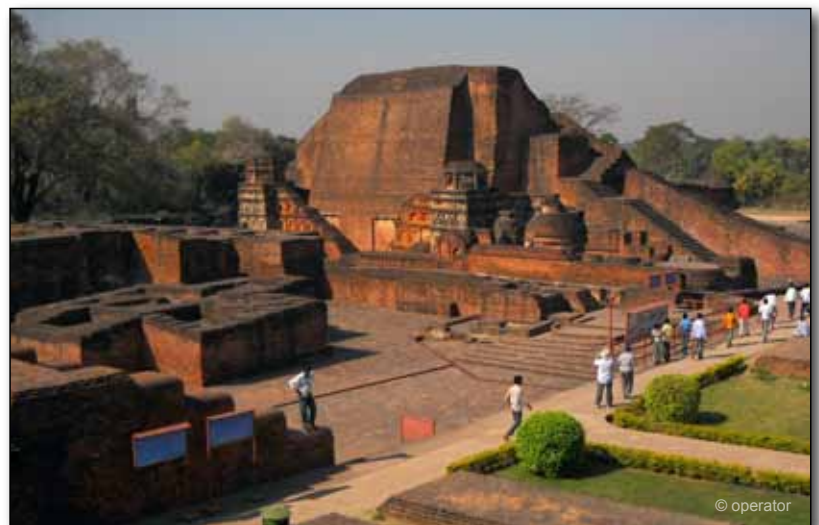
After breakfast, take an orientation tour of Kolkata's colonial areas, including the Writer's Building, General Post Office, High Court, Raj Bhawan, Town Hall, Council House, Treasury Building, and Reserve Bank of India. Also visit Dalhousie Square and drive past St. John's Church and Victoria Memorial, stopping for photos. After lunch aboard ship, disembark and transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B,L)



(Above and below) Two views of Bodhgaya's Great Temple (Maha Bodhi), the place where it is said the Buddha attained enlightenment.



(Below) The extensive ruins of Nalanda, one of the two ancient Buddhist universities you will visit.



Study Leaders



Nancy Wilkie is a distinguished archaeologist and professor who has led numerous study tours throughout Asia and the Mediterranean. Nancy is William H. Laird Professor of Classics, Anthropology, and the Liberal Arts, Emerita, and co-coordinator of the Archaeology Concentration at Carleton. From 1998-2002 she served as President

of the Archaeological Institute of America, and in 2009-10 she was the AIA's Charles Eliot Norton lecturer, one of the highest honors that the Institute bestows. In the mid-90's she was named to the Alumni of Notable Achievement by the College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota; and in April 2003 the President appointed Nancy to the Cultural Property Advisory Committee of the U.S. State Department on which she continues to serve. In April 2013 she was elected President of the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, an organization dedicated to the protection of cultural property in times of armed conflict. Nancy has directed archaeological projects in Greece, Egypt, and Nepal; and has lectured on travel programs around the world, including several to India. Nancy's most recent research project is focused on the depiction of Hell in the Buddhist temples of Sri Lanka.



Annapurna Garimella is an art historian and designer who specializes in the art and architecture of India. Annapurna has been a study leader on many tours of India and received the highest praise. She earned her Ph.D. in Art History from Columbia University, where her work focused on religion, kingship, architecture, and urban planning in medieval India, and she curated a show on Rajput painting at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Annapurna has taught at universities in the U.S. and India. As Research Editor for Marg Publications, South Asia's oldest publishing house dedicated to the arts, Annapurna edited several volumes on Buddhist art in Central Asia and the Himalayan kingdoms. Her own published work includes research on the medieval city of Vijayanagara, modernism, contemporary religiosities, and the politics of tourism and heritage.

"Nancy and Annapurna; I'd travel anywhere with them."

Cathy '80 (and Stephen) participated on Carleton Alumni Adventures to northern India (2012) and southern India (2014).

Optional Post-Tour Extension: ODISHA

Monday, February 23, 2015: KOLKATA | BHUBANESWAR

After this morning's orientation tour of Kolkata's colonial areas, those who are on the optional extension will transfer to the domestic airport for a short flight to Bhubaneswar, in the Indian state of Odisha (formerly known as Orissa). Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. *Overnight at the Trident Bhubaneswar Hotel, or similar, for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, February 24: BHUBANESWAR

Today we explore Bhubaneswar, a Hindu pilgrimage center popularly known as the "Temple City of India," with about 400 extant temples dating from the 7th to 13th centuries A.D. In the morning, visit the Parsurameswar, Mukteswar, and Lingaraj temples (only Hindus can enter Lingaraj); as well as the Bindusagar Tank, said to contain water from every sacred river in India. After lunch, visit the Rajarani and Brahmeswar temples, and the Tribal Research Institute Museum with exhibits of tribal dwellings and artifacts created by Odisha's craftsmen. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, February 25: RAGHURAJPUR | PURI | KONARAK | PIPLI

Make a morning visit to Raghurajpur, a heritage crafts village known for its master Pattachitra painters, traditional crafts, and Gotipua dance troupes, the precursor to the Indian classical dance form of Odisha. Continue on to Puri, one of the four celebrated religious centers of India and famous for the 12th-century Jagannath Temple that dominates its landscape. (Only Hindus are permitted to enter the temple premises.) After lunch we visit the 13th-century Sun Temple at Konarak, a UNESCO World Heritage site that was designed to represent the chariot of the sun god, Surya, with twelve pairs of ornamented wheels pulled by seven horses. The immense structure is covered with carvings, sculptures, figures, and bas-reliefs. On our return to Bhubaneswar we stop at Pipli, a town of artisans famous for designing beautiful appliqué handicrafts. (B,L,D)

Thursday, February 26: CHAUSATH YOGINI TEMPLE | FLY HOME

This morning we visit the 9th-century Temple of Chausath (64) Yogini at Hirapur village. Built to harness supernatural powers, this small, circular, hypaethral (open to the sky) temple provides a glimpse into religious and occult (tantric) practices that are still alive in local tribal traditions and folklore. Only four such distinctive temples remain in India, two of which are in Odisha. Return to our hotel for lunch and then enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure. After an early dinner, transfer to the airport for our flight to Delhi, connecting with your flights home. (B,L,D)



(Above and below) the 13th-century Sun Temple at Konarak, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



What to Expect

You must be in good physical condition to participate. You must be able to make long walks unassisted over uneven terrain and up and down steps. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you. All participants are expected to be physically active, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences.

Complete pre-departure details will be sent to participants.

Air Arrangements & Transfers

There is one flight within India during the main tour that is included (at an estimated cost of \$220 per person): Delhi/Varanasi. There are two flights within India during the extension that are included (at an estimated cost of \$475 per person): Kolkata/Bhubaneswar; and Bhubaneswar/Delhi. These flights will be booked for the entire group.

International round-trip airfare from your home to Delhi and returning from Kolkata is not included. Complimentary transfers in India on arrival and departure are included. Several carriers offer flights to India. **Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights from/to home. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.**

Passenger Cancellation Penalties: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received at least ninety (90) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of three hundred dollars (\$300) per person. Cancellations received between eighty nine (89) and sixty (60) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per person. Cancellations received within sixty (60) days of departure are subject to 100% of the tour cost. For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.

Prices, itinerary, and leaders are subject to change.

Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

“You need another category to describe our tour manager...He is not excellent, he is phenomenal!”

Susan '74 (and Lon) participated on the Carleton Alumni Adventure to southern India (February 2014).

For questions, or to hold your space while you send in your Reservation Form, please contact us:

Carleton College
ALUMNI ADVENTURES
explore the world

800-811-7244

Fax: 603-756-2922 Toll: 603-756-4844

Email: carleton@studytours.org • Web: go.carleton.edu/adventures
P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608

Main Tour Pricing (Per Person)

Main Deck

Double Occupancy..... \$11,295

Single Occupancy \$12,995

Upper Deck

Double Occupancy..... \$12,495

Single Occupancy \$14,295

Tour prices are based on a minimum of fifteen participants.

Odisha Post-Tour Extension Pricing (per person)

Double Occupancy (8 to 10 participants) \$1,995

Double Occupancy (4 to 7 participants)..... \$2,195

SINGLE Supplement (limited availability).....\$345

Extension prices are based on a minimum of four participants.

Main Tour Prices Include:

- Leadership of study leaders Nancy Wilkie and Annapurna Garimella;
- One flight within India (Delhi/Varanasi);
- Five (5) nights' accommodations in deluxe or finest available hotels;
- Eight (8) nights' accommodations aboard the *RV Bengal Ganga*;
- All meals, including mineral water;
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship;
- Arrival and departure transfers and portorage at the airports in India;
- Surface transportation by deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach;
- All excursions and entrance fees as per the itinerary, with bottled water provided;
- Services of local, English-speaking guides;
- Services of a Professional Tour Manager;
- Still camera fees;
- Tips to porters, guides, drivers, and ship's crew;
- Local taxes and service charges;
- Current Indian Government taxes and VAT;
- Comprehensive pre-departure information, including what to pack and a suggested reading guide

Main Tour Prices do not include: U.S. domestic and international airfare to Delhi and return from Kolkata; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; meals other than those listed in the itinerary; personal tips; tips for tour manager; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; alcoholic or other beverages (except as noted above); taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

Extension Prices include: Leadership of Annapurna Garimella; three (3) nights' accommodations at the *Trident Bhubaneswar Hotel*, or similar; two flights within India (Kolkata/Bhubaneswar/Delhi); surface transportation by deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach; local taxes and service charges; current Indian government taxes and VAT; all meals, including mineral water; tips to porters, guide and drivers; all excursions and entrance fees as per the itinerary, with bottled water provided; airport transfers for included flights and departure; local, English-speaking guide on excursions.

Extension Prices do not include: Passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; meals other than those listed in the itinerary; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; alcoholic or other beverages (except as noted above); taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

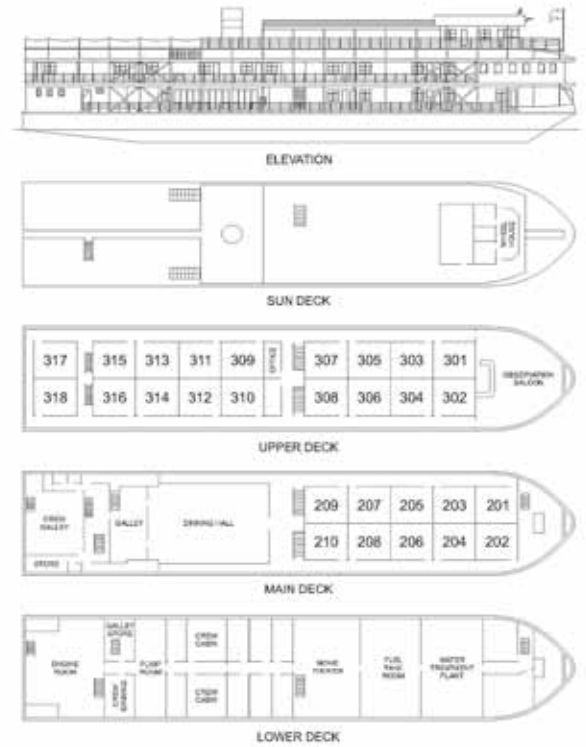
RV Bengal Ganga

The *RV Bengal Ganga* is a modern replica of the colonial style 'Clyde' steamers with shining teak and brass-lined staterooms opening onto similarly equipped promenade decks with rattan sitting areas. The 28 staterooms provide an extremely comfortable, elite traveling style. We have reserved 14 of the 28 staterooms for our group; nine on the Upper Deck and five on the Main Deck.

All staterooms measure 170 square feet and have twin beds and spacious private bathrooms with bathrobes, slippers, and a hair dryer. Staterooms also have a writing desk, rattan chairs, a table, safe, and picture windows. All interior spaces are air-conditioned and every stateroom has individual AC controls. The spacious Sun Deck has both uncovered and shaded areas that are perfect for relaxing, as well as viewing and photographing the panoply of river traffic and shoreline happenings.

The ship's executive chefs offer a fusion of Asian and Western cuisine, providing Indian, European and vegetarian choices. Bottled mineral water is used for cooking and food preparation. Complimentary bottled water is provided in your stateroom and replenished throughout the cruise. Please note that there is no elevator. There are two computers with internet access, and internet cards may be purchased. The language on board is English.

Please reserve your space ASAP because we will need to release unsold staterooms many months prior to departure.



All Bengal Ganga images on this page © operator



To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-811-7244 or carleton@studytours.org

Name 1: _____ Carleton Class of: _____
(as it appears on passport)

Name 2: _____ Carleton Class of: _____
(as it appears on passport)

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (h) _____

Phone (w) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Email _____

I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

Enroll me/us in the optional Odisha post-tour extension.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Ship Deck preference: Main Upper

Double (one bed) Twin (two beds) Single

I will be sharing with: _____

Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

I am a Non-smoker Smoker

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. You will receive an invoice for final payment. **Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment.**

All prices and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE):

Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account-CAA Ganges2/15

Visa Master Card American Express

CC# _____

Exp. Date _____ 3 or 4 Digit Code _____

Name on Card _____

Please complete this reservation form, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and mail or fax to:

Carleton College Alumni Adventures
P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938
Fax: 603-756-2922

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Terms & Conditions on the reverse.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason nor to passengers whose required documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. RESPONSIBILITY: Carleton College and its agent, Eos Study Tours (hereinafter "Sponsors"), and the tour operator, and/or its agents (hereinafter "Operator") assume no liability for failure to provide the services, transportation, lecturers and accommodations referred to in this brochure to the extent that such services and accommodations cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond the control of Operator, which include but are not limited to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, and acts of God. In the absence of negligence on the part of Operator, the participant agrees that Operator has no responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for damage to or loss of property, or injury to, or death of persons due to any act, omission or negligence of any carrier, hotel, restaurant, bus carrier, tender service, sightseeing company, or any other persons rendering any of the services or ground portions of the itinerary. The participant further waives any claim against Operator and Sponsors for any such damage, loss, injury or death. Operator and Sponsors shall not be responsible for any additional expenses, delays, substitution of equipment, and/or any act or omission whatsoever by the suppliers of such services, their agents, servants and employees, and the participant hereby waives any claim arising there from. Operator and Sponsors reserve the right to decline, accept or retain any participant at any time. Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part, except when trip cancellation, itinerary changes and/or delays are mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Operator and Sponsors are able to recover on the passenger's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, Operator and Sponsors shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. All refunds of passenger payments are the responsibility of Eos and/or the Operator, and the participant agrees that Carleton College bears no financial responsibility for refunding of participant's payments. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies (such as ship operators and airlines) and the purchaser of this tour and/or passage. Participants are encouraged to purchase airline tickets no sooner than 60 days before the tour begins to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Sponsors and Operator accept no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets to the tour departure city and return. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. By forwarding of deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. Itinerary: Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary due to weather conditions, availability of anchorages, political conditions and other factors beyond our control without consulting the participants. Participants have no right to any refund or other considerations in the event of these itinerary changes. Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices. AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE, EACH PARTICIPANT MUST AGREE TO AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING RELEASE OF LIABILITY: RELEASE: Notwithstanding anything set forth above or otherwise contained herein, the signatory clearly understands that the Sponsors are in no way responsible and can assume no liability of any nature whatsoever for the tour and any acts, omissions or negligence by the Operator or by companies and persons with whom the Operator may contract. The signatory has carefully read the list of activities, requirements and conditions as listed in the brochure and application for the tour and is/are aware that the tour and its activities involve the risk of personal injury or death and damage or loss of property. In consideration of the benefits to be derived from participation in the tour, the signatory voluntarily accepts all risk of personal injury or death and property damage or other loss arising from participation on the tour and hereby agrees that he/she and his/her dependents, heirs, executors and assigns, do release and hold harmless Sponsors and the employees, officers, directors, trustees or representatives of Sponsors, from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, illness, personal injury, death or property damage or loss, however caused, arising from or related to this tour. The signatory has read carefully this agreement, and will abide by the conditions set by Sponsors and the Operator as described in the brochure and in the Terms and Conditions of this and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. The signatory affirms that he/she has not received or relied on any oral or written representation of Sponsors as a basis for executing this Release.