

M.V. RUDRA SINGHA

PRIVATE SAILING ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER





PRIVATE HOUSEBOAT EXPERIENCE ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

In February 2017, Eastern Odyssey launched M.V. Rudra Singha, a tastefully appointed, air-conditioned houseboat for private river cruises on the entire stretch of the Brahmaputra river in the Assam plains. Built to sail all the way upstream to river ports near the remote, mountainous state of Arunachal Pradesh, where the mighty Brahmaputra river starts its tumultuous journey from Tibet, Rudra Singha is well-equipped to explore seldom navigated parts of the region.

Assam is arguably one of India's most beautiful states, with its tea gardens, river islands, national parks and temples. Located close to Southeast Asia, Assam was ruled by the Ahom dynasty (kings of Thai stock) for 600 years and, as such, has cultures and customs that have been influenced by those of the kingdoms of Myanmar, Bhutan, Thailand and other parts of that region.

Large parts of Assam are carpeted in greenery – from evergreen forests to dense grasslands – making this



state a very suitable home for rhinos, elephants, tigers and other wildlife. The state is also renowned for its tea, an industry that was brought to life during the British Raj.

The mighty Brahmaputra river is Assam's lifeline, depositing silt along its course and contributing to the rich fertility of its soil. The river bed is often 20 or 30 km across, a calm vista of sand spits and water. Deep water channels change their course from week to week, making every cruise an adventure. Watch out for the endangered Gangetic Dolphin, a sight not uncommon along these waters, and discover bucolic riverside scenes as your boat sails past towns and villages.

FEATURES AND TECHNICALITIES

Rudra Singha is built by local craftsmen in the traditional style of Assamese *Pansoinau* (flat-bottomed large boat), entirely made of local wood and elegantly adorned with local weavings. The houseboat is perfect for couples and small families to explore the Brahmaputra river and the numerous attractions close to its banks. A crew of four – Captain, sailor, chef and cruise manager/guide – will be present at all times to ensure your comfort.

A unique feature of Rudra Singha is its shallow draft that enables it to glide through the shallowest of channels on the river, even at the peak of winter (dry season) in Assam. This capability of the houseboat enables travellers to explore tribal communities and wildlife parks along the river, to places hitherto unexplored by boat.

Rudra Singha is 70 ft. (l) x 13 ft. (w) and is equipped with modern on-board waste-water treatment plant, safety equipment (including life jackets, life buoys and a fire-fighting system), and an electric generator with a battery pack that ensures a quiet night.

The cabin is 121 sq. ft. and has double or twin occupancy. It is air-conditioned with a private bathroom and a lounge that offers panoramic views. On prior request, the lounge can also be converted into an additional bedroom with a sofa bed.



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TIGERS & MONKS OF ASSAM: 7 DAY ITINERARY

Kaziranga National Park - Silghat - Majuli

DAYS 1 & 2: Arrive at either Jorhat or Guwahati airport and drive around 2.5 or 4.5 hrs (respectively) to Diphlu River Lodge, Kaziranga National Park. Dinner and overnight at the lodge. Next day, go on an elephant safari followed by two jeep safaris. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

DAYS 3 & 4: This morning, go on a walking safari or jeep safari in Kaziranga National Park. After lunch, set off for an afternoon jeep safari. Dinner and overnight at the lodge. Next morning, check out of the lodge and drive to Silghat to embark on your exclusive river cruise experience. Start sailing upstream on your comfortable houseboat till Dhansiri Mukh. Enjoy a wonderfully-cooked dinner on board and spend time relaxing on the sundeck as your houseboat glides past verdant paradise. Overnight aboard Rudra Singha.

DAYS 5 to 7: Spend another day sailing upstream and, if time permits, stop at a local riverside village to get an insight into Assamese rural life. Dinner and overnight aboard Rudra Singha.

Arrive at Majuli the following morning. Visit the Hindu Vashnavite Monastery of Auniati Satra and the local Mishing villages before cruising across to Neamati Ghat on the opposite bank. Dinner and overnight on Rudra Singha. The next morning, disembark and drive 45-60 mins to Jorhat airport for your onward journey.

This itinerary is also available in reverse on a downstream route.

RATES

Foreign nationals: Rs. 220,000/- plus 5% GST on twin share for two people for six nights. For individual travellers, the rate is Rs. 180,000/- for six nights plus 5% GST.

Indian nationals: Rs. 184,000/- plus 5% GST on twin share for two people for six nights. For individual travellers, the rate is Rs. 159,000/- for six nights plus 5% GST.

Rates include all accommodation, meals, drinking water, tea + coffee, road transfers, safaris, park entrance + amateur still camera fees, services of guide/naturalist, and listed activities.

TEMPLES, TEXTILES & RHINOS: 4 DAY ITINERARY

Guwahati - Vijaynagar -
Sualkuchi - Pobitora Wildlife
Sanctuary - Guwahati

DAY 1: Arrive at Uzanbazar Ghat in Guwahati and climb aboard Rudra Singha by 9 am. Start sailing towards Peacock Island, one of the smallest inhabited river islands in the world. The beautiful Umananda Temple on the island is dedicated to Lord Shiva and his consort Parvati; the island is also home to Golden Langurs, a rare species of primate found only in the forests of Assam bordering Bhutan. After Peacock Island, start sailing towards Aswaktanta Temple, an 18th century hilltop temple. Explore this temple and then walk a little distance to visit a nearby Hindu Vaishnavite Monastery of Auniati Satra.

Return to your boat to enjoy a lunch cooked by your private chef. Start sailing downstream and stop close to the village of Vijaynagar. Explore this small Assamese town on your mountain bikes before returning to the boat in the evening. Dinner and overnight on the boat.

DAY 2: Sail upstream this morning to the silk-weaving town of Sualkuchi. Explore this town on your mountain bikes and witness the entire process of silk manufacture, from cocoon to spinning and dyeing, and to hand-weaving into exquisite saris (mekhela chador). Re-board the boat and start sailing upstream to Guwahati up to Uzanbazar Ghat; disembark and go on a short walk along the quiet riverfront or visit the local market and emporium. Enjoy lunch at a restaurant before sailing upstream to Ganesh Pahar. Dinner and overnight on the boat.

DAY 3: After breakfast, arrive at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and ride your mountain bike up to the park's entry point. This small park has a sizeable population of one-horned rhinos, and we shall be unlucky if we do not spot some of these amazing armoured beasts on a jeep safari. Return to your boat for lunch and enjoy your time at the sundeck. Tonight, stop near the park and be treated to a specially prepared farewell dinner on board with complimentary wine.

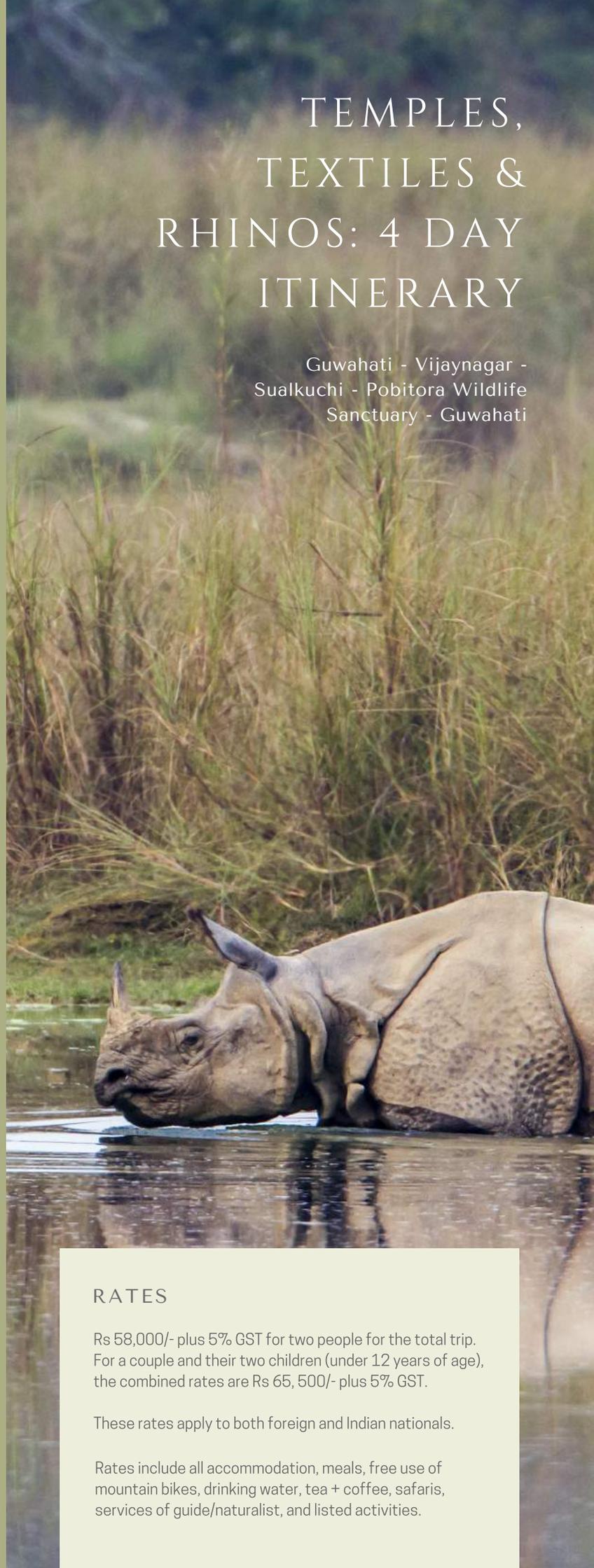
DAY 4: Sail downstream to Guwahati in the morning and disembark after breakfast near Uzanbazar Ghat.

RATES

Rs 58,000/- plus 5% GST for two people for the total trip. For a couple and their two children (under 12 years of age), the combined rates are Rs 65,500/- plus 5% GST.

These rates apply to both foreign and Indian nationals.

Rates include all accommodation, meals, free use of mountain bikes, drinking water, tea + coffee, safaris, services of guide/naturalist, and listed activities.



RURAL COUNTRYSIDE & WILDLIFE: 2 DAY ITINERARY

Guwahati - Pobitora Wildlife
Sanctuary - Guwahati

DAY 1: Arrive at Uzanbazar Ghat in Guwahati by 9 am to embark on your private cruise aboard Rudra Singha. Start sailing upstream towards Aswaktanta Ghat; disembark and ride mountain bikes through a small rural town to visit the DouL Govinda Temple, an important religious site for Assamese Hindus. After the temple, visit a riverside village and ride past green paddy fields and kitchen gardens of individual families.

Later, ride up to Kuruaghat where your boat will be waiting for you with lunch prepared by your private chef. Start cruising upstream towards Chandrapur; relax on the sundeck and enjoy the sunset with tea, coffee and snacks. Tonight, you will be treated to a specially prepared welcome dinner on board with complimentary wine. Overnight on the boat.

DAY 2: Sail upstream this morning past jungle-covered hills, and turn into the Mayong River. Take your mountain bike to reach Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, known for its sizable population of one-horned rhinos; we shall be unlucky if we do not spot some of these amazing armoured beasts on a jeep safari around the park! Arrive back at the boat for lunch. Sail downstream to Guwahati and disembark near Uzanbazar Ghat.

RATES

2 day itinerary: Rs 30,000/- plus 5% GST for two people. For a couple and their two children (under 12 years of age), the combined rates are Rs 35,000/- plus 5% GST.

Day cruise: Rs 25,000/- plus 5% GST for up to four people. Beyond four people (and up to 12 people), an additional Rs 3,000 plus 5% GST per person will apply.

These rates apply to both foreign and Indian nationals.

Rates include all accommodation (only on 2 day itinerary), meals, free use of mountain bikes (only up to four people), drinking water, tea + coffee, safaris, services of guide/naturalist, and listed activities.



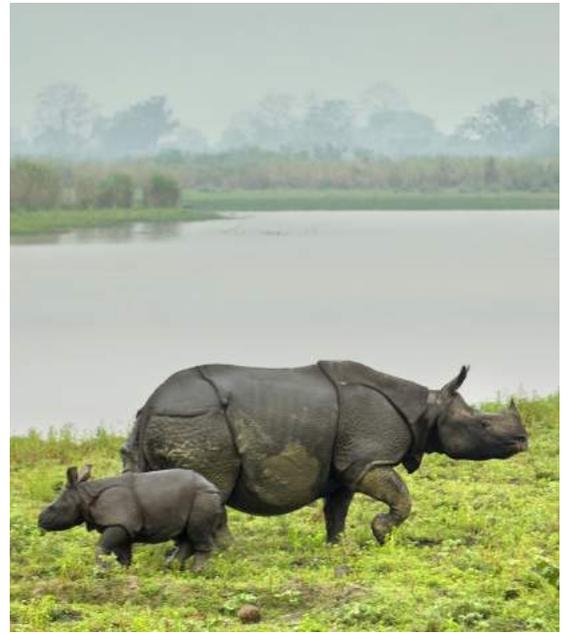
DAY CRUISE ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA

Embark Rudra Singha by 9 am at Uzanbazar Ghat in Guwahati. Start sailing towards Peacock Island, one of the smallest inhabited river islands of the world, and visit Umananda Temple, dedicated to Shiva and his consort Parvati. Peacock Island is also inhabited by a number of Golden Langurs, a rare species of primate found only in the forests of Assam bordering Bhutan.

After Peacock Island, re-board the boat and start sailing towards Aswaktanta Temple. Located on the north bank of Guwahati, this early 18th century temple is built atop a hill and offers scenic views of the city. After exploring this temple on foot, walk a short distance to visit the nearby Hindu Vashnavite monastery of Auniati.

Return to your boat for lunch cooked by your private chef. Spend the rest of the day relaxing on the sundeck; enjoy the sunset with a cup of tea or coffee with cookies. Return to Uzanbazar Ghat and disembark.





PLACES OF INTEREST IN ASSAM

Kaziranga National Park

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kaziranga National Park is known for hosting the world's largest population of the Indian One-horned Rhinoceros and the Wild Water Buffalo. Besides these two beasts, Kaziranga has also earned the distinction of having the world's highest density of Royal Bengal Tigers.

Majuli Island

As one of the world's largest river islands, Majuli represents rural idyll in Assam. A stronghold of the peaceful religion of neo-Vaishnavism, the elegant island satras – some for celibate monks, some for families – showcase a unique way of life where the faithful live simply, offering worship through song and dance. Majuli is also home to the Mishing weaver tribes.

Sualkuchi

Sualkuchi is the textile centre of Assam and a charming, rural town by the Brahmaputra river that is known for its silk-weaving traditions.

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

Pobitora is mainly famous for its sizeable population of the Indian One-horned rhinoceros. Besides rhinos, one can also find leopards, wild boars, deer and wild buffalo in this park.

Peacock Island

Peacock Island, one of the smallest inhabited river islands in the world, houses the beautiful Umananda Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva and his consort Parvati. The island is also home to Golden Langurs, a rare species of primate found only in the forests of Assam bordering Bhutan.



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