

COME ABOARD...

# SUNDERBANS

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## The Riverine Nirvana

*"In a spiritual comprehension, people of the Sunderbans know that without the tiger, their human world is incomplete."*

**- Time Magazine**

Sunderbans the riverine nirvana: At the tip of the Ganges is a mystic mangroves forest on the myriad of island. Impenetrable mangrove forests, Winding rivers, Lush Sundari trees, Water changing its colour at very creek from muddy rivers to emerald blue sea, narrow creeks to several miles wide rivers, where the man and man eaters eat fish to survive, crabs climb the tree, tigers swim long distances and mighty crocodile bask in the sun.



The Sunderbans, a biosphere reserve and a UNESCO world heritage site, is the largest forest delta in the world with almost 9630 square kilometers in India and Bangladesh with almost 8 rivers - the notable ones are the Ganga and the Brahmaputra, coming together before entering the Bay of Bengal.

This is a wonderland indeed and to be explored through waterways only. From the north to the south east to west, the cruise transverses the entire area anchoring at the most exotic waters.

# The beach

The journey begins at Kolkata to the land of Mangroves, the Sunderbans. This is where Ganges enters the sea. A vast pristine coastline frames the entire Sunderbans. Most of it is uninhabited and unexplored. The western part of Sunderbans is the sea route to the ships calling at the port of Kolkata. And well known as Ganga Sagar for pilgrimage. The other option for beach tourism at Sunderbans is Kalash.



Both have distinct characteristics; one being inhabited, Paddy field walk, or cycling is possible. Whereas at Kalash, the beach is absolute serene and isolated.



# The fishing village



Fishing and honey collection are the major means of livelihood. At every bend small dinghies to big fishing boats are sights not to be missed. Namkhana is the major fishing harbour and most of the boats come here to unload their catch. Nets being thrown in and woman wading through the water to collect prawn seed are common sights in Sunderbans.



# Wilderness abound

The serenity and tranquility of the forest is most alluring. Thick mangrove swamps coupled with the tidal effect makes the region much more interesting for wild life. There is a saying in Bengali- "Joley Kumir, Dangai Bag," meaning tigers on land and crocs in the water.



Wild life safari is very different from other forest. The cruise through this dense narrow creeks itself is a safari in Sunderbans with visits to watch towers as ingress into the swamps is almost difficult . Although, the Royal Bengal is what Sunderban is known for, it is most elusive and if not difficult to sight. Be it the tigers, Crocs, Dog Sharks, Fishing Cats, Irrawaddy Dolphins, Leopard cat, Wild Boar, Chital or Otters all are expert swimmers.



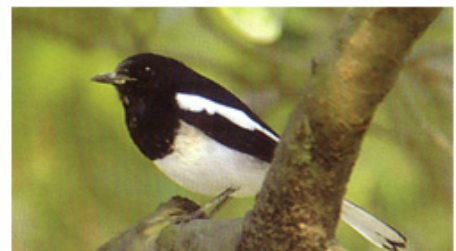
# Birding in the tiger land



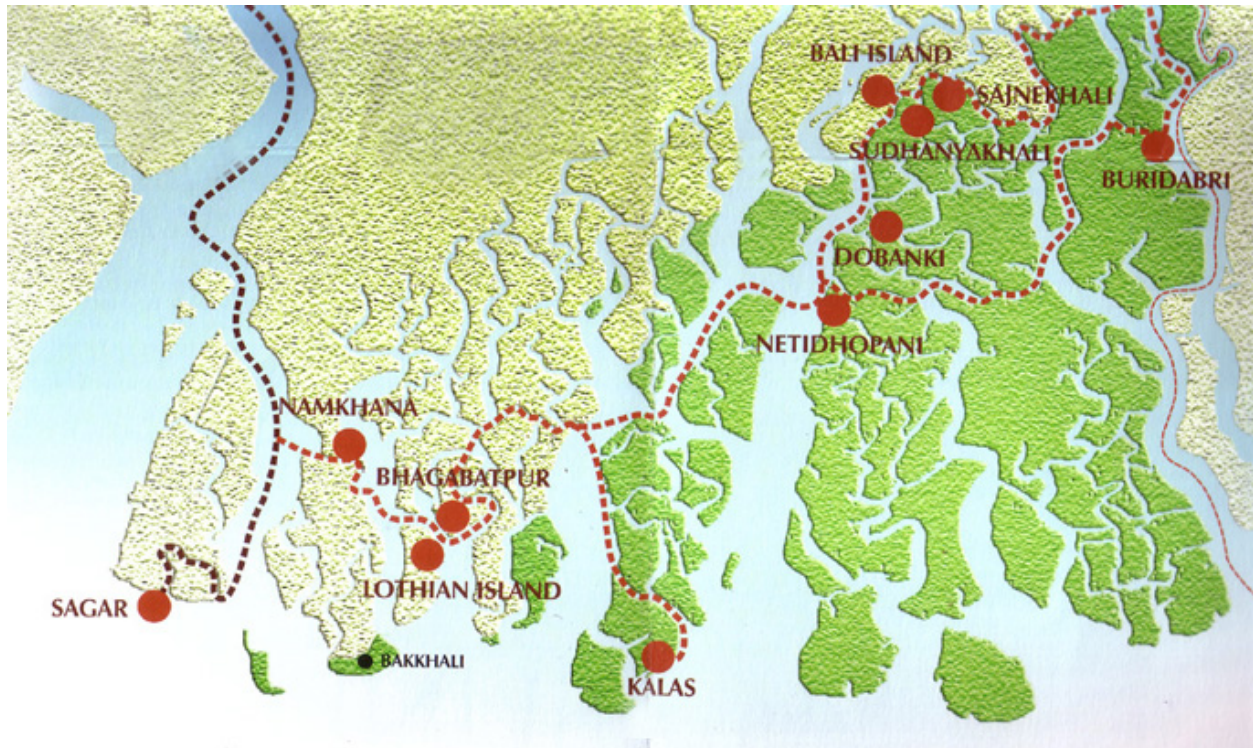
Birding in the tiger land: To quote from "The Sunderbans, Inheritance" by Bittu Sahgal, Sunit Sen, and Bikram Grewal (noted wild life enthusiast and conservationists) - " If it were not so totally identified with Tigers, the Sunderbans would get pride of place as one of the world's most satisfying Birding destination."



About 200 species are spotted here. Masked Finfoot, Eurasian Curlews, Whimbrels, Pacific Golden Plovers, Terek Sandpipers, Lesser Adjutant, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Mangrove Whistlers, Mangrove Pitta, Greater thick knee woodpeckers, Goliath Herons to name a few . Season wise birding details have been documented. Some rare and some have come flying several thousands miles to make Sunderbans their home for few days.



# The Itinerary



## DAY: 01

### Evening:

Embarkation from Millennium Park, this is situated in the centre of Kolkata 30 minutes from airport

Check in before 6:30 pm. The cruise sails for Sunderbans at 7 pm.

Safety and tour briefing.

Evening entertainment classical dance and gala dinner on board.

## DAY: 02

### Morning:

The cruiser will anchor at the mouth of the Chemaghuri channel for a trip to Ganga Sagar for a relaxing day at the beach, with a visit to the Kapil Muni Ashram. This is a four hour excursion.

From the jetty to the beach the journey is through paddy fields and village roads. Guest will be taken by cycle rickshaws to the beach. Guest can opt for bicycle tour also.

Fish Market at the fishermans' Cove and interaction with the fisherman.

**Afternoon:**

Shore excursion to Bhagavatpur crocodile farm walk through the Lothian Island, a thick mangrove forest.

**Evening:**

On board entertainment of local folk dance.

For Groups with more than ten cabins, other options available are:

Option 2: Fish Market at the fishermans' cove and interaction with fishermen.  
Full day Bird Watching Walk through the Lothian Island, a thick mangrove forest.

Option 3: Fish Market at the fishermans' cove and interaction with fishermen.

Shore excursion to Bhagavatpur Crocodile farm.

Walk through the Lothian Island, a thick mangrove forest.

Kalash beach camp

**DAY: 3**

East side of Sunderban at the Indo Bangladesh Border.

**Early morning:**

Visit to Nethidopani watch tower creek ride through the dense mangrove forest

**After Breakfast:**

Creek ride through the dense mangrove forest

Afternoon: Visit to Buridabari Camp

**DAY: 4**

**Early morning:**

Sudhyanakhali watch tower.

**Breakfast/Lunch:**

Whole day village experience at Sunderbans 1 .

**After Lunch:**

Arrival at Goathkhali jetty. Transfer by surface to Kolkata by 6pm.

Departure time for Bali village will be as per the guest convenience, but the recommended time is after Lunch at 3 pm. Guest can also extended their stay in Sunderbans at the Bali village Jungle camp eco tourism centre.

The down itinerary follows the same routine but in reverse order.

Special itineraries for groups available on request.





# Contact Us



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