

NEW



PANDAW

The Kerala Backwaters

KOCHI - THOTTAPALLI - KOCHI



Why Pandaw

For over twenty nine years Pandaw has specialised in exploring the remote and off the beaten track rivers of Asia. Places that few, if any, can navigate with our specially designed ships, offering travellers a truly exclusive and unique experience.

Essentially an outdoor experience, travellers meditate on the unfolding panorama of human and wildlife thriving on these great rivers from the spacious promenade and observation decks. All on board enjoy an informal and friendly atmosphere - the 'Pandaw Spirit' - for which we are renowned. We also have the highest passenger-to-deck space ratio of any cruise ships afloat, offering plenty of spots to relax and take in the panorama or chat with fellow travellers.

Learning about the culture and history first hand, both on board and ashore is a key part of a Pandaw journey. There are active walks and bike rides through the countryside and local villages, speedboat explorations penetrating deeper into the jungle and visits to heritage sites. Passengers have many opportunities to interact with welcoming local communities, including visits to Pandaw Charity projects along the way.

Finished in brass and teak by skilled local craftsmen and in the tradition of the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company. All seventeen of Pandaw's unique fleet are finished to exacting first-class standards with all modern conveniences. Objects of great beauty, these vessels have an ultra shallow draft and can venture where other ships can not.

We are also family friendly, our expeditions are perfectly suited to kids who gain unforgettable life experience from their interactions in the villages along the way.





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The Kerala Backwaters

EIGHT DAYS ON THE KERALA BACKWATERS ON THE NEW KOCHI PANDAW.

The Kerala Backwaters

🌙 7 NIGHTS

📅 Departs November to June

🚢 RV Kochi Pandaw

🌊 Kerala Backwaters

The Kerala backwaters are a network of lagoons and canals lying parallel to the Arabian Sea of the Malabar coast of Kerala state in south-western India. A network of lakes and rivers form a labyrinthine system with more than 900 km (560 mi) of waterways.

In the midst of this wondrous landscape there are a number of towns and cities with a culture unique to the backwaters. Whilst the Arabs brought Islam in the 7th century, Kerala, or Malabar as it was once known, had been visited by St Thomas the Apostle in 52AD and has had a strong Christian minority with many fine old churches, later embellished by the Portuguese in the 16th century. There is no shortage of impressive Hindu shrines.

The Kerala people are highly industrious, and artisanal workshops abound. Boatyards provide a fascinating insight into traditional craftsmanship and one of the joys of exploring the backwaters is to see Kerala life at first hand.

Terns, kingfishers, darters and cormorants abound whilst otters and turtles can be spotted along the verdant banks lined by lush palm trees and leafy vegetation.

Kerelan cuisine is rich in fish and seafood and will be a feature of any expedition on the Kochi Pandaw.





Provisional Itinerary

DAY 1 — ARRIVE KOCHI

Arrive at Cochin International Airport to be met and transfer to Maradu Port (approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes) close to Kochi. Board the Kochi Pandaw and after lunch set off for an orientation tour of Kochi, the exotic capital of Kerala state on the Malabar Coast, known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea occupied by Arabs, Portugese, Dutch and British. In 2024 Conde Nast voted Kochi as one of the best places to go in Asia.

DAY 2 — KOCHI

Visit Fort Kochi, St Louis's church and Jew Town with its old Paradesi synagogue, museums, the Shiva temple, markets and much else. Afternoon sail to a village of coir weavers/shell harvesters and see many indigenous techniques of local fishing by small scale Chinese nets and fish traps.

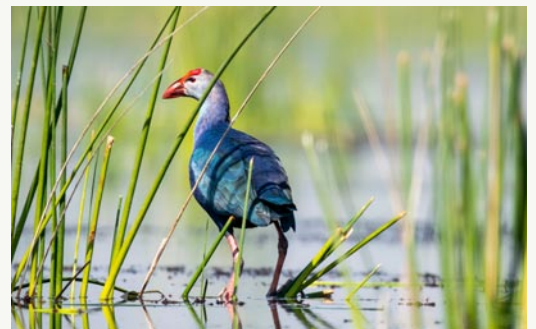
DAY 3 — THE THANNERMEKKOM BUND

The Syrian Village in Kerala showcases a unique blend of traditional Syrian Christian culture and heritage. Explore its distinctive architecture, historic churches, and local customs. This village offers a glimpse into the rich, diverse cultural tapestry of Kerala's Syrian Christian community.

In the afternoon visit Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary followed by the Craft Museum, showcasing Kerala's rich artisanal heritage. Explore traditional crafts, including intricate wood carvings, handwoven textiles, and vibrant pottery. This museum offers a unique glimpse into the region's cultural craftsmanship and artistic traditions.

DAY 4 — NATTAKAM

The Munroe lighthouse for panoramic views of the Kerala coastline. This historic lighthouse, built in 1885, guides ships with its striking beacon. Explore its rich maritime history and enjoy breathtaking vistas of the Arabian Sea and surrounding landscapes.





Pandaw is the leading cruise company in Asia



DAY 5 — KAVALAM

At this fishing village canals meet and here experience traditional Kerala life. Explore the picturesque waterways, bustling fishing activities, and authentic village charm.

After lunch, explore Allapphuza Harbour on foot, a bustling hub of Kerala's backwater network with traditional houseboats and vibrant fishing activities. This lively port offers a glimpse into the local maritime culture and the scenic beauty of the region's interconnected waterways.

Afternoon: Kettuvalom to visit a boat yard where traditional methods of wooden boat building by joining wooden planks using coir, cotton and natural resin.



DAY 6 — ALLAPUZHA TO THOTTAPALLI

Sail the Pampa River and visit ancestral home of Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the birthplace of this revered saint and social reformer, and gain insights into his life, contributions, and Kerala's Christian heritage.

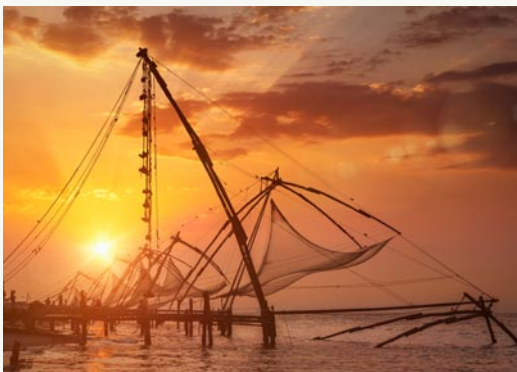
Sail on to Champakulam, and the Kalluorkad St. Mary's Basilica founded in AD427 and is one of the oldest churches in India. Renowned for its impressive Gothic architecture, the basilica features intricate stained-glass windows, soaring spires, and detailed frescoes. The basilica is a major pilgrimage site, drawing visitors for its annual feast of the Virgin Mary. Nearby, is the Karumadi Kuttan, a monumental black stone Buddha that dates to the 9th century, reflecting the region's ancient Buddhist influences.

Evening moor in Thottapalli where it is a short stroll to the glistening white beaches.



DAY 7 — PERUMPALAM

After a morning walk on the beach at Thottapalli return up the Pampa River to re-enter the Venband Lake and on to Perumpalam Bhagavathy Temple, a notable temple with female priests it is renowned for its unique practice of women priests. Then visit the ancient village of Mannar, known for its metal work. Watch the casting of traditional lamps, ornate locks, bells, cauldrons, and various vessels used in temples.



DAY 8 — RETURN TO KOCHI FOR DISEMBARKATION

Disembarkation and transfers to the Cochi International Airport.



The RV Kochi Pandaw

Pandaw are excited to announce a new build vessel for the Kerala backwaters in South India. Launching in October 2025, the ten cabin Kochi Pandaw has been specially designed for this routing whilst maintaining the much loved classic Pandaw cabin and wrap round promenade decks. This will be Pandaw's fourth ship in India and reflects the increasing demand for river cruises in India. It is anticipated that many Pandaw regulars will combine this cruise with a cruise on the Ganges or Brahmaputra, where Pandaw is well established as the premier operator. The Kerala backwaters offer an incredible diversity of culture in addition to breathtaking scenery, beaches and its own cuisine.

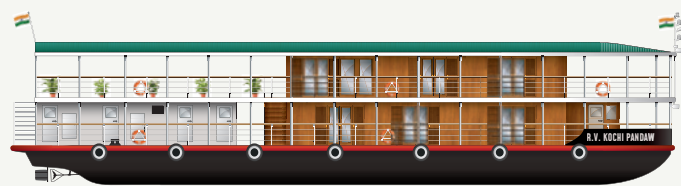


ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

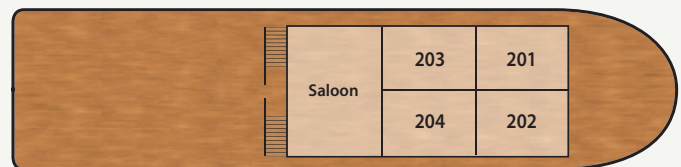
RV KOCHI PANDAW

- 10 deluxe staterooms
- Outside dining
- Cultural performances
- 24hr hospitality bar

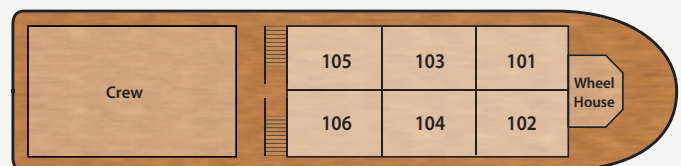
Built:	2025
Length:	30m
Beam:	8.5m
Draft:	0.8cm
Berths:	20 guests



ELEVATION



UPPER DECK PLAN



MAIN DECK PLAN

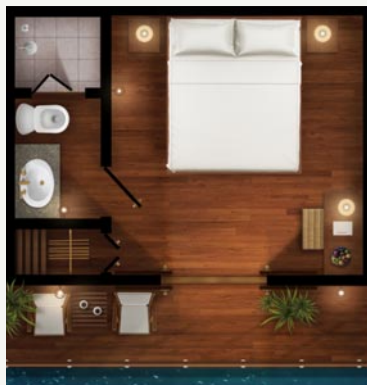
The Pandaw Stateroom

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are a spacious 168 square feet (15.6 sqm), with the exception of the Zawgyi Pandaw which is 150 square feet (14 sqm). As the space is much loved by all our passengers, we have ensured that with each ship we build, the stateroom remains essentially the same. Be advised: our cabins do not have satellite TV's, internet access or telephones. Passengers tend to choose Pandaw in order to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.

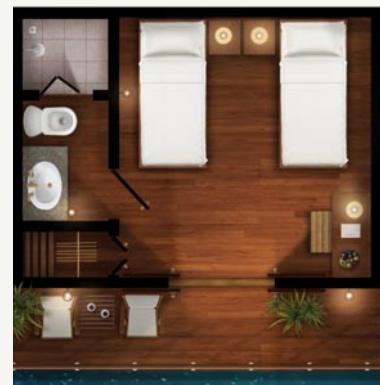


- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

Bedroom	12' x 10'
Bathroom	6' x 4'
Showeroom	2' 8" x 3' 4"
Single Bed	6' 7" x 3' 3"



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION



What's Included

- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Electric mini safe
- Mini bar
- Central AC with individual control
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- Complimentary evening cocktail hour
- Complimentary evening canapés
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Admissions on all excursions
- In-cabin tea and coffee making facilities
- Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes
- Welcome drink on arrival and farewell reception
- Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads & rolls
- Trek mountain bikes on board, most ships
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Cold towel service after excursions
- First aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions





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