



ChaloHoppo

“Of Rivers, Rhinos & the Floodplain Forest”

A MANAS & LOWER ASSAM CHAPTER

(7N/8D)



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INTRODUCTION

There is a different Assam along the northern bank of the Brahmaputra, one that has resisted, quite stubbornly, the tidying impulse of the modern tourism map.

For most travellers, Assam means Kaziranga: the managed spectacle of rhino-sighting, the park gates opening and closing on schedule, the state's most legible wildlife narrative. But westward, where the Brahmaputra floodplain gives way to the foothills of Bhutan and the river system fragments into a dozen tributaries—the Beki, the Manas, the Bholkaduba—a different landscape persists. It is older in character, less administered, and far more quietly extraordinary.

Manas sits at the heart of this country. A UNESCO World Heritage Site that was once nearly lost to conflict, it has been painstakingly restored through years of conservation work, much of it inseparable from the Bodo communities who live alongside the forest. The forests here are not simply fenced spaces set apart from human life. They are working landscapes, where the territories of golden langurs overlap with the grazing routes of wild buffalo, where grasslands are maintained through controlled burning, and where communities have developed their own ways of living alongside an extraordinary concentration of wildlife.



The conservation story of Manas is therefore inseparable from the human story beside it.

This journey begins in Guwahati, among sacred hills that have watched the Brahmaputra change course over centuries. We follow the river westward, through its working waters and floodplains, into Manas and its riverine forests, along the Beki beneath the foothills of Bhutan, and into villages where weaving, food and everyday life remain closely connected to the landscape.

There are two distinct ranges of Manas to explore, each offering a different reading of the forest. There are night safaris, where the forest reveals an entirely different character after dark. There are rivers to drift, forests to walk, and communities to spend time with. And there is Pobitora, where an astonishing concentration of rhinoceros occupies a small and intensely contested patch of Brahmaputra floodplain.



Along the way, we will encounter a landscape where park boundaries, conservation zones and modern administration sit alongside much older patterns of movement, livelihood and human-animal coexistence.

This is not a wildlife tour in the conventional sense. Wildlife is at its heart, but the journey is as much about understanding the landscape that makes that wildlife possible: the rivers that shape it, the forests that hold it, and the people who have learned to live alongside it.

A journey for those willing to sit quietly, look beyond the sighting, and pay attention to what makes this part of Assam what it is.



YOUR BASE IN MANAS

Your stay in Manas is at a Jungle Lodge, a property on the edge of the national park. Set within the forest fringe, surrounded by sal and teak, the lodge offers the particular luxury of proximity to the river, to the wildlife corridors, and to the sounds that begin at dusk and do not fully cease until morning.

The lodge is not an attempt at five-star isolation from the landscape. It is an attempt to sit within it. The hosts bring years of experience in the forests of Manas, and their knowledge of the park's ecology, its restoration and the communities around it becomes part of the experience.

Note: *The lodge featured in this itinerary is our preferred property and is subject to availability. In the event that it is unavailable for your travel dates, we may arrange an alternative property of a similar standard and character in or around Manas. We will ensure that the alternative meets our comfort and service standards and remains aligned with the overall character of the journey.*



WHO IS THIS CHAPTER FOR?

This chapter is for travellers who are drawn to landscapes where nature and human settlement have not been fully separated, where the boundary between a national park and the village beside it is more negotiation than fence.

It is particularly suited to those who find wildlife most compelling in context — not simply the sighting of a species, but the understanding of why it is here, what threatens it, what saved it, and who lives alongside it. If you would rather spend time with a naturalist who knows the forest by sound than tick off a list of species from the back of a jeep, you will find this journey absorbing.

It is also for those who are curious about the quieter forms of conservation — the controlled burns, community involvement and everyday decisions that rarely appear in the tourism brochure but have helped keep these forests standing.

If you are looking for a fast-paced wildlife safari packed with guaranteed sightings, this may not be the right journey. Manas asks you to watch, to wait, and to understand that what you see is only one layer of a far older, more intricate arrangement.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the sacred hills of Guwahati — Kamakhya, Nilachal, Chitrachal, where Shakti worship, Ahom astronomy, and centuries of river-watching converge on a single skyline.
- Drift the Brahmaputra by boat at the hour when the working life of the river, the ferries, the fishermen, the sand-dredgers, is most visible, and the city recedes into something older.
- Enter Manas National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site restored from near-destruction through one of India's most remarkable community-led conservation efforts.
- Safari through two distinct ranges, Bansbari for its mammals and grassland corridors, Bhuyanpara for its dramatic birdlife and forest edges, each offering a different reading of the same ecosystem.



- Drive through the fringes of the forest after dark with a naturalist, when the park's nocturnal inhabitants, civets, owls, flying squirrels reveal the layer of the forest that daytime visitors never encounter.
- Spend an afternoon in a Bodo village near the park, where traditional weaving, seasonal food, and unhurried conversation offer a perspective on Manas that no safari can.
- Drift the Beki River through dense subtropical forest at the foothills of Bhutan, one of the most peaceful and least-visited ways to experience the park's riverine ecology.
- Visit Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, home to the highest density of Indian one-horned rhinoceros anywhere on Earth. A compact, astonishing floodplain where close encounters are near-certain.
- Spot rare birds and Gangetic river dolphins on the Brahmaputra, where the river's braided channels create one of the subcontinent's richest wetland habitats.

DAY WISE BREAKDOWN

Day	Starting Point	Ending Point	Distance - Activity Time (One Way)	Experience	Stay
1	Guwahati	Guwahati	30-45 minutes	- Arrive at Guwahati Airport. - Transfer to Homestay - Introductory dinner and trip briefing. - Evening at leisure.	Homestay
2	Guwahati	Guwahati	City Activities Only	- Heritage temple circuit: Kamakhya, Ugratara, Nabagraha. (Optional) - Lunch at a traditional Assamese restaurant. - Late Afternoon Brahmaputra boat drift. - Heritage bakery visit (est. 1885). - Evening at Pan Bazaar and Fancy Bazaar. - Dinner at one of Guwahati's oldest Bar and Restaurant	Homestay
3	Guwahati	Manas	Driving: 3 Hours	- Drive west to Manas National Park. - Arrive at Jungle Lodge. - Guided night Jeep Safari with naturalist.	Jungle Lodge
4	Manas	Manas	Safari Activities Only	- Morning safari: Bansbari Range (mammals, grasslands). - Return to lodge for lunch. - Evening safari: Bhuyanpara Range (birdlife, dramatic landscapes). - Conservation insights throughout the day. - Dinner at the lodge.	Jungle Lodge
5	Manas	Manas	Safari and River Activities Only	- Morning Beki River drift through subtropical forest. - Birdlife and riverside ecology. - Afternoon Bodo village immersion. - Traditional weaving, seasonal food, conversation. - Final dinner at the lodge.	Jungle Lodge

DAY WISE BREAKDOWN

Day	Starting Point	Ending Point	Distance - Activity Time	Experience	Stay
6	Manas	Guwahati	Driving: 4.5 Hours	• Morning departure from Manas. • Drive to Guwahati. • Afternoon at Sualkuchi • Explore Muga Weaving • Lakeside Lunch at Sualkuchi • Dinner at Homestay	Homestay
7	Guwahati	Pobitora	Driving: 2 Hours each way	• Morning excursion to Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. • Jeep safari: rhinos, wild buffalo, wild boar, birdlife. • Brahmaputra boat ride: rare birds, river dolphins. • Return to Guwahati.	Pobitora Resort
8	Pobitora	Departure	—	• Transfer to airport. • Journey home.	Fly

Seasonal Note: Each experience is shaped by the season. Please refer to the Important Points section for relevant seasonal considerations and adaptations.



DAY 1- ARRIVAL IN GUWAHATI, THE RIVER'S WITNESS

Your journey begins in Guwahati, a city that has, for as long as anyone can trace, defined itself by its relationship to the Brahmaputra. It is a relationship of considerable complexity. The river has given the city its trade, its mythology, its orientation; it has also, periodically, swallowed entire neighbourhoods and rearranged the map. Guwahati has learned to live with this. It is a useful introduction to the sort of landscape you are about to enter. One that does not submit easily to human planning.

Depending on your arrival time, the evening is left free to rest, to absorb the humidity, to take a first, unhurried look at a city where the sacred and the commercial have never been fully separated.

Later, the group gathers for dinner and a briefing on the week ahead. It is a chance to meet your fellow travellers and to begin understanding what lies west of here: a floodplain ecology and a human-animal relationship that has persisted and adapted over generations, in a part of the country where people and wildlife still live unusually close to one another.

A journey for those who understand that the most revealing thing about a place is often how it has chosen to live with its river.

OVERNIGHT IN GUWAHATI AT HERITAGE HOMESTAY



DAY 2- THE SACRED HILLS AND THE WORKING RIVER

A full day given to the city and its remarkable hills, each one a different kind of archive.

The morning begins with a guided heritage walk at Kamakhya Temple on Nilachal Hill, one of the most important Shakti Peethas in India. What strikes the careful observer is not simply the temple's fame but its continuity, how the rituals here have absorbed Buddhist, tantric and tribal influences over centuries without losing their essential character. It is, in a sense, a place that has never been fully legible to any single authority, and is the more powerful for it.

From there, we make our way to Ugratara Temple in Uzan Bazaar, built by the Ahom king Shiva Singha in 1725, where the deity is worshipped not as an idol but as a small pit of water, an object of veneration so modest it defies the conventions of monumental religion.

Then to Nabagraha Temple on Chitrachal Hill, the eighteenth-century Temple of Nine Planets and an Ahom seat of astronomy, where the view over the city and the Brahmaputra is enough to understand why someone once chose this hilltop to watch the stars.



DAY 2- THE SACRED HILLS AND THE WORKING RIVER (CONT.)

Lunch is at a well-loved local restaurant serving traditional Assamese cuisine: river fish, alkali preparations and the greens that the Brahmaputra floodplain produces in such quiet abundance.

In the late afternoon, we take a boat onto the Brahmaputra. This is not a scenic cruise. It is an opportunity to observe the working life of one of the world's great rivers: the ferries that cross it, the fishermen who read its currents, and the sand islands that appear and vanish with the seasons.

Remarkable, when you consider that this single river carries more water than all the rivers of Europe combined, and that communities along its banks have had to develop their own accommodation with its moods.

On the way back, we pause at a heritage bakery dating to 1885, one of those stubborn continuities that makes Guwahati so rewarding.

The evening is then left free to explore the old commercial quarters of Pan Bazaar and Fancy Bazaar, before coming together for dinner and drinks at one of Guwahati's oldest bars and restaurants.

A journey for those who understand that a river is never simply a landscape. It is a way of life.

OVERNIGHT IN GUWAHATI AT A HERITAGE HOMESTAY



DAY 3- INTO THE FLOODPLAIN FOREST

After breakfast, the journey turns west. The drive to Manas takes approximately three hours, and the landscape shifts in a way that is difficult to describe until you have seen it. We move from the dense, noisy compression of Guwahati into a widening floodplain where the Brahmaputra's tributaries fan out into a network of rivers, wetlands and alluvial grasslands. The settlements thin. The trees thicken. Something older begins to assert itself.

Upon arrival at the Jungle Lodge, lunch is served and you are given time to rest and settle in.

The Bodo are one of the earliest inhabitants of the Brahmaputra Valley, and their relationship with Manas is not one of separation park on one side, village on the other, but of deep, continuous entanglement.



DAY 3- INTO THE FLOODPLAIN FOREST (CONT.)

As night falls, we set out on a guided jeep safari along the forest fringe with a naturalist. The forest at night is a different country. The civets emerge, the owls begin their territorial calls, and the sounds of the diurnal world give way to something far more ancient and less reassuring. It is a useful reminder that the forest is not a daytime attraction but a twenty-four-hour system, and that most of its inhabitants prefer the dark.

A journey for those who understand that the edge of a forest is often its most interesting part — the place where human and animal worlds negotiate their boundaries.

OVERNIGHT AT JUNGLE LODGE



DAY 4- TWO RANGES, TWO READINGS OF THE FOREST

Today is given entirely to the forest, in the company of an experienced wildlife guide whose knowledge of Manas has been built over years of attentive, patient observation.

The morning safari takes you through the Bansbari Range, the park's most celebrated corridor for large mammals. Here, if the forest permits, you may encounter the Indian rhinoceros, wild buffalo, elephants, and the extraordinary golden langur, a primate found nowhere else on Earth and confined to a shrinking patch of habitat between the Manas and the Sankosh rivers.

The grasslands here are maintained not by accident but by controlled burning, a practice that local communities understood long before the park service adopted it, and one that creates the mosaic of habitat on which the entire system depends.



DAY 4- TWO RANGES, TWO READINGS OF THE FOREST (CONT.)

The evening safari explores the Bhuyanpara Range, a different landscape entirely, more dramatic in its topography, richer in its birdlife, and wilder in its character. The forest here feels less managed, more self-willed. The transition between the two ranges is itself instructive, a single national park containing what are, in ecological terms, two quite different worlds.

Throughout the day, the conservation story of Manas runs as an undercurrent. This is a park that was nearly destroyed by conflict, by poaching, and by the collapse of the administrative structures that were supposed to protect it. Its recovery is one of the great, underreported conservation successes of the subcontinent, and it owes as much to the communities who chose to defend it as to the official machinery of protection.

A journey for those who understand that a forest is not a single thing but a conversation between many, and that the most important voices in that conversation are often the quietest.

OVERNIGHT AT JUNGLE LODGE



DAY 5- THE BEKI RIVER DRIFT AND THE VILLAGE AT THE FOREST'S EDGE

The day begins on the water. A gentle drift along the Beki River, passing through dense subtropical forest at the foothills of Bhutan, is one of the most peaceful and least-visited ways to experience Manas. The river here is narrow enough that the canopy closes overhead in places, and the birdlife, kingfishers, hornbills and fish eagles is so abundant that the temptation is simply to stop paddling and listen.

There is no destination. There is no schedule. There is only the river, the forest, and the slow accumulation of detail that comes from moving at the speed of the current. It is worth remembering that this was, for centuries, the primary means of transport through this landscape, and that the communities who lived here developed an intimate knowledge of every bend, every sandbar and every seasonal shift in the river's mood.



DAY 5- THE BEKI RIVER DRIFT AND THE VILLAGE AT THE FOREST'S EDGE (CONT.)

The afternoon is spent in a Bodo village near the park. This is not a cultural performance. The community here has lived alongside this river system for generations, and the visit centres on the things that matter to them: traditional weaving, seasonal food and the kind of unhurried conversation that only happens when neither party is watching the clock.

If the morning was an encounter with the forest's ecology, the afternoon is an encounter with its human ecology.

The evening concludes with a final dinner at the lodge a last opportunity to sit at the edge of the forest and listen as it settles into its nocturnal arrangements.

A journey for those who believe that the best way to understand a river is to move at its speed, and the best way to understand a community is to sit down and eat with them.

OVERNIGHT AT JUNGLE LODGE



DAY 6 - RETURN TO THE BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY

After breakfast, you bid farewell to Manas and begin the drive back to Guwahati. The transition is the reverse of Day 3, but you will find that you see it differently now the thickening settlements, the narrowing of the horizon, the gradual reassertion of the administered world.

It is a useful exercise in perspective. The forest you are leaving behind is not a remnant. It is a survivor.

On the way, we stop at Sualkuchi, Assam's historic weaving village, where the tradition of silk weaving has been carried through generations. The narrative here stretches back centuries, from references to silk in Kautilya's Arthashastra to the patronage of the Pala dynasty and the communities who developed the craft into what it is today.

There are three indigenous silks at the heart of Assamese weaving: Muga, golden and distinctive to Assam; Pat, the ivory-white silk traditionally used for ceremonial textiles; and Eri, known for its warmth and the fact that the silk can be produced without killing the silkworm.

But the most interesting part is often the process itself. Designs are drawn out on graph paper before being transferred to punched cards for the loom. A single saree can take six days to weave.



DAY 6 - RETURN TO THE BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY (CONT.)

Much of the knowledge involved remains local and passed down through practice rather than formal instruction. And despite the pressures of mechanisation, many weavers continue to work by hand.

From Sualkuchi, a short drive brings you to a farm shack beside a lake, in the rural margins where the Brahmaputra floodplain transitions between settled land and water.

This is not a restaurant in the city sense. It is a working farm whose kitchen happens to look outward. one that sources what it serves from the ground beneath your feet and the water's edge at your back.

There is something quietly stubborn about the place and the man who built it: a decision to go against the grain and create something on his own terms, where farming, food, the landscape and a way of living remain closely connected.

By late afternoon, we continue towards Guwahati. The rest of the evening is yours to decide.

A journey for those who know that the space between experiences is often where understanding happens.

OVERNIGHT IN HERITAGE HOMESTAY



DAY 7 - POBITORA: THE RHINOCEROS FLOODPLAIN

In the morning, you set out for Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, east of Guwahati on the floodplains of the Brahmaputra.

Pobitora is a remarkable place. Though compact, scarcely 39 square kilometres, it holds the highest density of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros found anywhere on the planet. A jeep safari across its grasslands and wetlands offers an unusually high likelihood of close encounters: rhinos at close quarters, wild buffalo standing in the shallows, wild boar scattering through the elephant grass, and above it all, an abundance of birdlife that reflects the extraordinary productivity of the Brahmaputra's floodplain ecosystem.

What makes Pobitora remarkable is not just the density of its wildlife but its improbability. This is not a vast wilderness. It is a small, intensely contested patch of floodplain that has survived because the people around it decided it should. The rhinos here are not protected by remoteness; they are protected by proximity, by the fact that the sanctuary and its surrounding communities have developed a relationship of mutual, if sometimes uneasy, coexistence.



DAY 7 - POBITORA: THE RHINOCEROS FLOODPLAIN (CONT.)

Following the safari, a boat ride on the Brahmaputra offers a chance to spot rare waterbirds and the increasingly elusive Gangetic river dolphin, a species whose survival, like so much else in this landscape, depends on decisions being made right now by the communities who share its habitat. We retire for the evening at a resort in Pobitora, with the rest of the evening at leisure.

A journey for those who understand that the most astonishing concentrations of life are often found not in the vast reserves but in the small, stubbornly defended places that the world has overlooked.

OVERNIGHT IN POBITORA RESORT

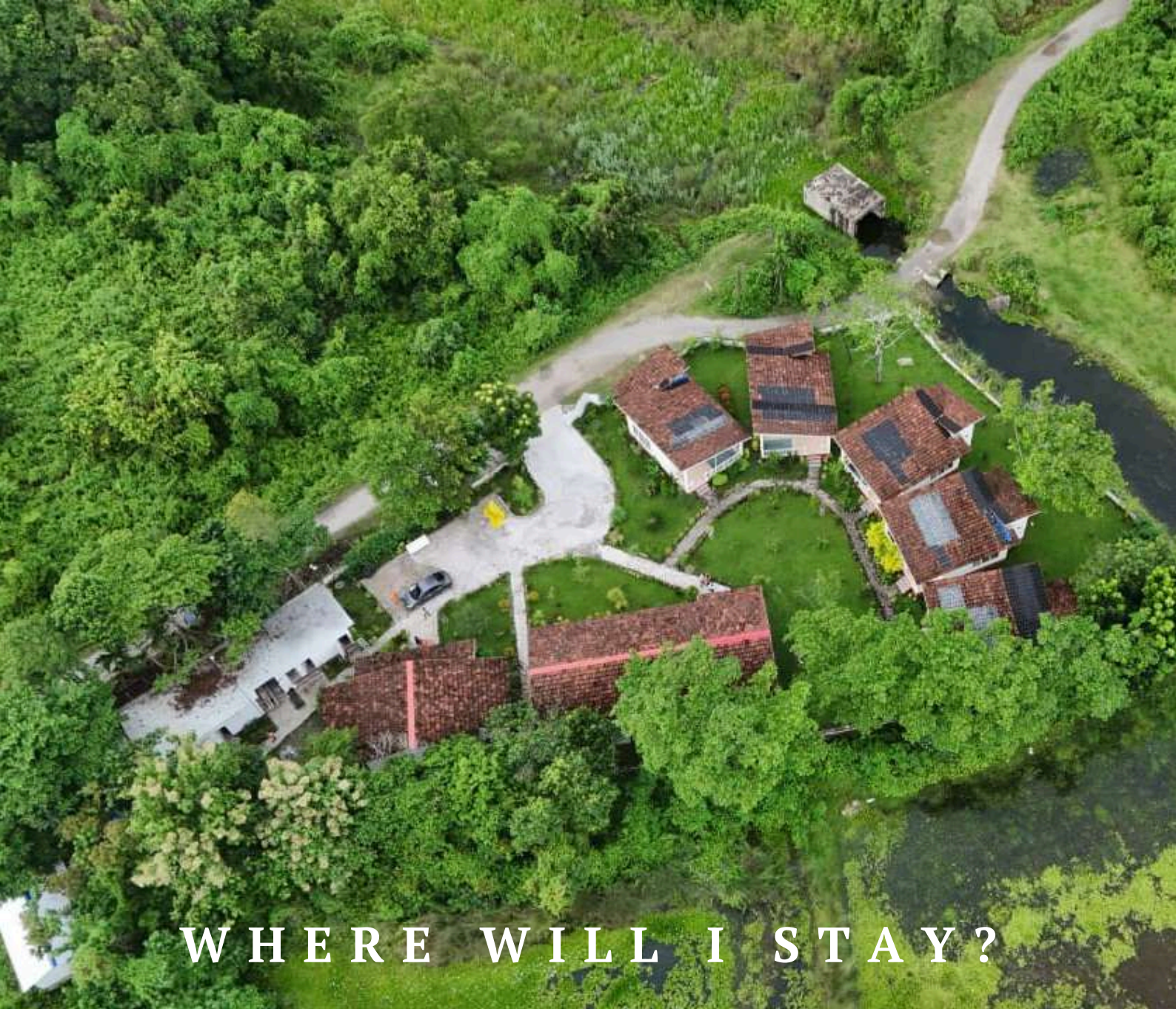


DAY 8 - DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

Perhaps it will be the morning light on the Beki River, the sound of a golden langur moving through the canopy, the taste of an Assamese fish curry prepared with ingredients you watched being gathered, or the quiet conviction of a Bodo weaver explaining a tradition passed down through generations that stays with you the longest.

Some journeys are remembered for the places they visit. Others are remembered for the way they change what you notice. We hope this becomes one of the latter.



WHERE WILL I STAY?

Your stays are divided between two kinds of accommodation, each chosen for what it offers beyond a bed.

In Guwahati, A century-old heritage home on MC Road in Uzanbazar, it was built as the residence of scholar Birinchi Kumar Baruah and now functions as a guesthouse that treats its own history as part of the accommodation. Traditional Assamese architecture, vintage furnishings, rooftop gardens, and homestyle cuisine prepared on-site. Located three minutes from the Brahmaputra River promenade it is a place that remembers how Guwahati was lived in before it became administrable, and chooses to remain itself.



In Manas, A Jungle Lodge is something else entirely. The lodge sits at the forest's edge, and the forest makes its presence felt in the sounds that drift through at night, in the quality of the light at dawn, in the knowledge that the animals whose tracks you will follow in the morning are, at this moment, moving through the trees not far from where you sleep. The lodge is well-run, comfortable, and deeply connected to the ecology around it. It feels less like a hotel that happens to be near a forest and more like a forest that happens to have a few very good rooms.

Expect comfortable rooms, warm hospitality, and a setting that makes the landscape part of the accommodation rather than something you drive to and from.



PRICING

“On Request - We host up to 6 to 8 people maximum”



INCLUSIONS

- Accommodation in carefully selected stays — Heritage homestay in Guwahati and jungle lodge in Manas, on a double-sharing basis throughout the journey.
- Comfortable transportation from Day 1 to Day 8 in a suitable vehicle depending on the group size.
- Daily breakfast from Day 2 to Day 8.
- Traditional local lunch on Day 2, Day 3, and Day 5.
- Full-day safari experiences in Manas National Park on Day 4, including both Bansbari and Bhuyanpara ranges with an experienced wildlife guide.
- Beki River drift experience on Day 5 with naturalist accompaniment.
- Guided Bodo village experience on Day 3 and Day 5, including village walk, weaving demonstrations, and traditional food.



- Guided night safari with naturalist on Day 3.
- Brahmaputra boat drift on Day 2 and boat ride on Day 7.
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary jeep safari on Day 7.
- Heritage temple circuit and city experiences on Day 2.
- Knowledgeable local guides and naturalists during all guided experiences.
- Community support fees, village access contributions, and local experience charges wherever applicable.
- Entry fees and permits for all experiences included in the itinerary.
- All applicable taxes.



EXCLUSIONS

- Airfare, train tickets, or any travel to and from the trip's starting and ending points.
- Meals and beverages not specifically mentioned under Inclusions.
- Any additional food experiences, snacks, or beverages ordered outside the itinerary.
- Tips and gratuities for drivers, local guides, hotel staff, and community hosts (entirely at the guest's discretion).
- Personal expenses, including laundry, telephone calls, shopping, toiletries, medicines, and other incidental expenses.
- Camera, photography, or videography permit fees, wherever applicable.
- Entry fees or activities not specifically mentioned under Inclusions.
- Travel insurance, medical insurance, or evacuation costs.



- Any medical expenses incurred during the journey due to illness, injury, pre-existing medical conditions, or emergencies.
- Any costs arising due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, including but not limited to adverse weather, road closures, natural calamities, political unrest, flight or train delays/cancellations, vehicle breakdowns, or changes in government regulations.
- Any expense arising from changes to the itinerary requested by the guest during the trip.
- Anything not expressly mentioned under Inclusions.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Best time to visit

This journey is best experienced between November and March, when Manas National Park is fully open, the weather is pleasant for safari and outdoor activities. October and April are shoulder months, the park may be partially open, and conditions can be variable but rewarding. October, in particular, offers post-monsoon freshness with fewer visitors.

Accommodation details

Throughout the journey, you will stay at carefully selected accommodations that reflect the character of each location. In Guwahati, heritage, history, comfort and convenience take priority. In Manas, proximity to the forest and the quality of the naturalist experience take priority. Both are chosen for their hospitality, their connection to the landscape, and their ability to make the journey feel coherent rather than patched together.

Rooms are provided on a double-sharing basis, with clean facilities and essential modern comforts. Single occupancy may be available at additional cost, subject to availability.



Road conditions

The drive between Guwahati and Manas is along a well-maintained national highway for most of its length. The final stretch into the park area involves narrower roads that may be uneven or potholed, particularly after the monsoon.

Road conditions within the park itself vary with the season, some sections may involve unpaved or muddy tracks. These are part of the experience and contribute to the sense of entering a landscape that has not been overly tamed. A flexible mindset and allowance for extra time are recommended.

Mobile network availability

Mobile connectivity is generally available in Guwahati, with Jio and Airtel offering reliable coverage. In Manas and within the national park, network availability becomes intermittent or absent, particularly deeper into the forest ranges.



We encourage guests to embrace these moments as an opportunity to disconnect from their devices and connect more deeply with the forest, the river, and the remarkable silence that the modern world has largely eliminated.

Packing recommendations

We recommend carrying:

- Comfortable, muted-colour clothing suitable for safari (avoid bright colours in the forest).
- A warm layer, mornings and evenings in Manas can be cool, especially between November and February.
- Comfortable walking shoes with good grip for forest walks and village visits.
- A reusable water bottle.
- Personal medications and basic toiletries.
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat or cap.



- A small daypack for daily excursions.
- Binoculars and a camera with a decent zoom lens.
- Rain protection, particularly between October and April when late showers are possible.
- A power bank for charging electronic devices.
- A torch or headlamp for night walks and early mornings.

Physical activity level

This itinerary is designed to be easy to moderate and is suitable for most travellers with a reasonable level of fitness. Most experiences involve jeep safaris, boat rides, and leisurely village walks.



Responsible travel guidelines

This journey passes through a national park, wildlife corridors, and communities whose relationship with this landscape is older and more nuanced than any conservation policy. We request all travellers to:

- Maintain silence during safari drives. The animals were here first, and they prefer it quiet.
- Seek permission before photographing people or private spaces.
- Dress modestly while visiting villages and community spaces.
- Respect local customs, traditions, and religious beliefs.
- Avoid littering and minimise the use of single-use plastics.
- Support local artisans and businesses wherever possible.
- Follow the guidance of local guides, naturalists, and park authorities at all times.
- Approach every interaction with curiosity, openness, and respect.

Our aim is not only to show you the forests and floodplains of lower Assam but also to ensure that our presence contributes positively to the communities and ecosystems that so generously accommodate us.



Pace of the journey

This is a journey designed around patience. Not every hour is structured. The afternoons in Guwahati are left open. The evenings in Manas are for sitting, listening, and watching the forest do what it does without human instruction. Some of the most memorable moments on this journey will be the unplanned ones, a bird you were not looking for, a conversation that ran longer than expected, a sunset over the Brahmaputra that nobody scheduled.

The itinerary provides the framework. The floodplain provides the details.

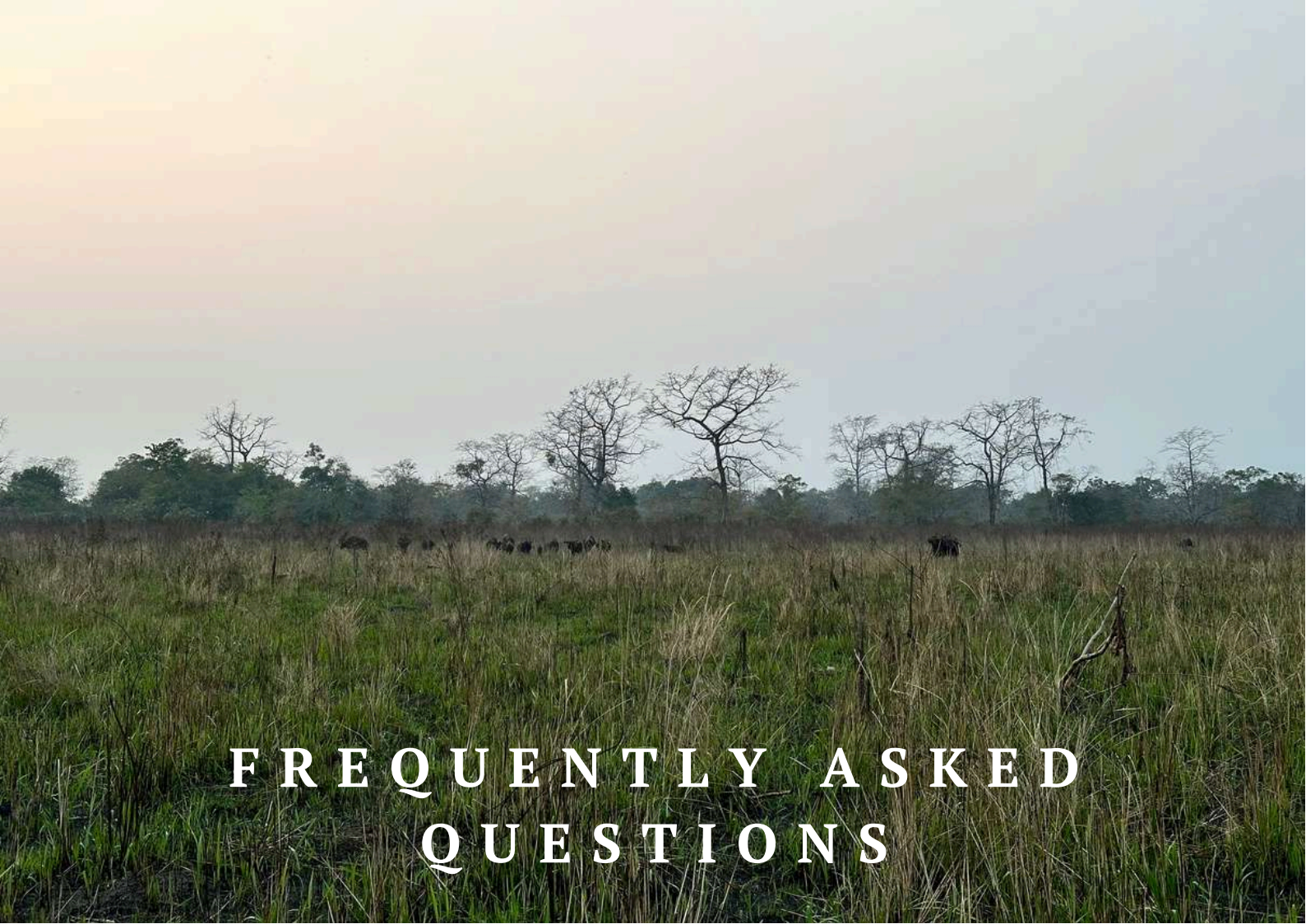


CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

General Refund Policy

- 45+ days prior to starting date of the trip – 100% refund of the total trip cost
- 30-44 days prior to starting date of the trip – 75% refund of the total trip cost
- 15-29 days prior to starting date of the trip – 50% refund of the total trip cost
- 8 -14 day prior to starting date of the trip – 25% refund of the total trip cost
- 7 days or less prior to starting date of the trip – No refund

Note - For Fixed Departures (Group Trips) - If you are able to find a replacement for yourself in the group, we'd be happy to provide you with a 100% refund!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is this journey for me?

This journey has been designed for people who want to understand a landscape rather than merely visit it. If you are drawn to wildlife in context, the forest, the river, the community and if you would rather spend time with a knowledgeable naturalist than race between sightings, you will find this deeply rewarding.

If you are looking for a fast-paced wildlife safari with guaranteed sightings at every turn, this may not be the right fit. Manas rewards patience, not haste.

Is there any age limit for this experience?

This itinerary is best suited for adult travellers who enjoy slow-paced, immersive wildlife and cultural experiences. Most activities involve jeep safaris, boat rides, and moderate walks. Participants should be comfortable with early mornings, outdoor conditions, and forest environments.

What level of fitness is required?

This is an easy to moderate experience. Most activities involve jeep safaris, boat rides, village walks, and short guided walks through natural landscapes. No prior trekking experience is required, but comfortable walking shoes with good grip are recommended.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What kind of accommodation will we be staying in?

In Guwahati, you stay at a heritage homestay. A century-old heritage home in Uzanbazar with traditional Assamese architecture, vintage furnishings, rooftop gardens, and homestyle cuisine. Located three minutes from the Brahmaputra River, In Manas, your stay is at a Jungle Lodge a comfortable property on the edge of the national park, surrounded by forest. The lodge offers well-maintained rooms, good food, and the particular advantage of proximity to the wildlife corridors. It is professionally managed by hosts with deep knowledge of the forest and its ecology.

Accommodation Note: The lodge and heritage homestay featured in this itinerary is our preferred property and is subject to availability. In the event that it is unavailable for your travel dates, we may arrange an alternative property of a similar standard and character. We will ensure that the alternative meets our comfort and service standards and remains aligned with the overall character of the journey.

How does room sharing work?

Accommodation is provided on a double-sharing basis. Single occupancy may be available at an additional cost, subject to availability.

What kind of food can I expect? Are vegetarian meals available?

Food is one of the quiet highlights of this journey. In Guwahati, expect traditional Assamese cuisine, river fish, seasonal greens, alkali-based preparations, and the distinctive flavours of the Brahmaputra Valley. In Manas, meals at the lodge draw on local ingredients and regional recipes. In the Bodo villages, the food is seasonal, home-cooked, and prepared with an intimacy that no restaurant can replicate.

Yes, vegetarian meals are available and can be arranged with prior notice. While the region's cuisine is traditionally meat- and fish-heavy, vegetarian options using local produce can be prepared throughout the journey.

Will there be guides during the experiences?

Yes. The guided experiences are led by knowledgeable local naturalists, wildlife guides, and community members who bring each experience to life through their personal knowledge, lived experience, and deep familiarity with the landscape. The Manas safaris, in particular, are accompanied by guides whose understanding of the forest has been built over years of patient, daily observation.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can weather affect the experiences?

Yes. This is a floodplain landscape, and water, its presence, its absence, its moods shapes everything. The Brahmaputra boat experience may be adjusted during high-water periods. The Beki River drift depends on water levels. Manas National Park closes during peak monsoon (typically May–September). Pobitora may be partially waterlogged during and after the rains.

Any changes are made with guest safety, comfort, and the quality of the experience in mind.

Can this itinerary be customised?

Yes. This Handpicked Itinerary serves as a thoughtfully curated journey and can be personalised for private travellers based on their interests, travel dates, group size, and preferred pace.

Our team will be happy to help tailor the experience while preserving the essence of the journey.

What is your Cancellation Policy?

Our detailed Cancellation Policy is available in the following section of this document. We encourage you to read it carefully before confirming your booking.

Why is this itinerary 8 Days / 7 Nights?

The journey has been intentionally designed around depth rather than distance. Instead of trying to cover all of Assam's wildlife destinations, the itinerary gives you time to settle into Guwahati's remarkable cultural landscape, spend meaningful days in Manas absorbing the forest at its own pace, and experience Pobitora's extraordinary rhino floodplain without rushing.

The additional days allow the journey to unfold at a pace that matches the landscape, one that rewards the patient observer, not the hurried collector of sightings.

Is this a fixed itinerary or can the days unfold differently?

The core experiences of the itinerary are carefully planned, but not every moment is fixed. Wildlife does not operate on a schedule, and some of the most remarkable encounters happen when you are not expecting them. The safari timings follow the park's rhythms. The river drift follows the river's. Part of the character of this journey is allowing space for the landscape to surprise you.

The itinerary provides the framework. The floodplain fills in the details.



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