



— 2026 —

COLOURS OF INDIA

INC. BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER CRUISE

WWW.MAHERTOURS.CO.NZ

COLOURS OF INDIA

inc. Brahmaputra River Cruise

Tour Length: 29 Days **Tour Departs:** 09 October 2026 **Tour Ends:** 06 November 2026

OVERVIEW:

This extraordinary journey blends India's timeless history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking wildlife with the serenity of a luxury Brahmaputra River cruise. From the cosmopolitan gateway of Singapore, we begin our adventure in the bustling capital of Delhi, where Mughal grandeur and colonial elegance meet. We continue on to spiritual Varanasi, one of the world's oldest living cities, where dawn rituals on the sacred Ganges leave lasting impressions. Agra reveals the unparalleled beauty of the Taj Mahal and the architectural wonders of the Mughal dynasty, before we journey to the royal splendours of Jaipur, Jodhpur, and Udaipur, exploring forts, palaces, stepwells, and colourful bazaars in the heart of Rajasthan.

In Kolkata, the former British capital, we uncover colonial landmarks, vibrant markets, and a thriving cultural scene before embarking on an unforgettable 10-night voyage along the mighty Brahmaputra. Aboard the MV Mahabaahu, we sail through shifting landscapes, visiting tribal villages, tea estates, silk weavers, and river islands alive with culture and tradition. Our journey takes us deep into Assam's pristine wilderness, with safaris in Kaziranga, Nameri, and Manas National Parks, home to elephants, tigers, and the iconic one-horned rhinoceros. Along the way, we are immersed in Assamese hospitality, dance, music, and cuisine, complemented by moments of relaxation with yoga, spa therapies, and tranquil river sunsets.

From sacred rituals and royal legacies to untamed wilderness and riverside traditions, this tour offers a rich tapestry of experiences that capture the very soul of India - an unforgettable adventure of history, culture, and natural wonder.

TOUR COST PER PERSON

Superior Cruise Cabin

Share Twin/Double Room
NZD \$23,000.00pp
Total Cost with Single Supp.
NZD \$31,500.00pp

Deluxe Cruise Cabin

Share Twin/Double Room
NZD \$24,500.00pp
Total Cost with Single Supp.
NZD \$33,500.00pp

Brahmaputra River Cruise – 10 Nights aboard MV Mahabaahu: The North is the land of the Maharajas, the beautiful palaces and forts, and the Holy River – the Ganges. We include:

- Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary – Spot India's only ape, the Hoolock Gibbon, and enjoy a tea estate visit with a local family.
- Majuli Island – Experience the world's largest river island, with traditional mask-making, pottery, and cultural performances.
- Mishing Tribal Village – Visit stilted bamboo homes, watch traditional weaving, and try on ethnic attire.
- Bishwanath Chat & Silghat – Meet local weavers, explore temples, visit a cooperative jute mill and tea estate, and enjoy a Bihu dance performance.
- Kaziranga National Park – Embark on safaris to spot elephants, swamp deer, wild buffalo, and the famous one-horned rhinoceros.

Option to Exclude Cruise

You would fly home from Kolkata on Sunday 25 October, via Singapore, arriving Auckland late-night Monday 26 October. Pricing below:

Share Twin/Double Room
NZD \$17,350.00pp
Total Cost with Single Supp.
NZD \$22,300.00pp

- Nameri National Park – Birdwatching, wildlife walks, and optional rafting on the Jia-Bhairali River.
- Manas National Park – A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tiger Reserve, and Biosphere Reserve, offering jeep and elephant safaris.
- Sualkuchi Silk Village – Discover silk weaving traditions, enjoy an Assamese lunch, and shop for local textiles.
- Onboard Experiences – Daily yoga, spa and Ayurvedic treatments, cultural evenings, cooking demonstrations, and relaxing lounge hours.

Tour Highlights:

- Delhi – Explore Old and New Delhi with visits to Raj Ghat, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar, and the Lotus Temple.
- Varanasi – Experience sacred rituals on the Ganges, an evening Aarti ceremony, a sunrise boat ride, and an excursion to Sarnath.
- Agra – Marvel at the Taj Mahal

TOUR COSTS

Included:

- Economy Class travel from Auckland - Upgrade to Premium or Business Class available at additional cost
- Prepaid government and airport taxes, security and fuel surcharges (as at 16/10/2025)
- Superior accommodation throughout
- Choice of Superior (no Balcony) or Deluxe Cabins (with Balcony) on board the cruise
- All entrances, park safaris, boat safaris, lectures, performances, excursions as per the cruise itinerary.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Air-conditioned coach and rail transportation for all touring
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary
- English speaking local hosts and guides as appropriate
- Baggage handling one suitcase pp- where possible
- Tips to local guides and coach drivers
- Fully escorted by a Maher Tours Leader

Excluded:

- Any meals and sightseeing not specifically mentioned in the itinerary
- Travel insurance – advice and assistance offered
- Items of a personal nature such as room service, laundry, drinks, telephone charges etc.

Booking Conditions:

Initial Deposit - Due at time of booking

- NZD \$3,000.00 per person

Second Deposit - Due Wednesday 08 April, 2026

- NZD \$3,000.00 per person

Final Payment - Due Thursday 18 June, 2026

- Balance

To register for this tour please contact us at
0800 500 518 or tours@mahertours.co.nz



DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

Friday 09 October

Auckland – Singapore

We commence our journey with an early afternoon flight to Singapore. On arrival into Singapore late evening, we are met and transferred to our hotel for our overnight stay.

Saturday 10 October

Singapore - Delhi (B,L)

After breakfast, we begin our tour of Singapore, starting with an aerial view from the world's largest giant observation wheel - the Singapore Flyer. Standing at a stunning 165m from the ground, the Flyer offers you breath-taking, panoramic views of Marina Bay, towering skyscrapers, tropical greenery and even the hills of neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia in the 30-minute "flight". We enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, prior to making our way back to the airport in time to join our late afternoon flight to Delhi. We arrive in Delhi late-evening. Delhi – the capital of India – a city of marvellous contrasts, its past and present meshing seamlessly. We are welcomed by our local hosts and transferred to our hotel for a three-night stay.

Sunday 11 October

Delhi (B,L,D)

We commence our sightseeing tour of Old Delhi which dates back to the time of the Mughals. We begin the tour by paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat

– a simple black marble slab where his last words "He Ram" are inscribed in brass. We drive past the magnificent Red Fort or Lal Qila built by Emperor Shah Jahan. Also see the largest and the most elegant mosque in India - the Jama Masjid, ride a rickshaw through Chandni Chowk - the "shopping mall" of the Mughals with its lanes and bylanes selling silks, jewellery, semi-precious stones or brassware, Indian sweets, meats, utensils and more.

Monday 12 October

Delhi (B,L,D)

Today we discover the sights of New Delhi which Edwin Lutyens designed especially for the British in the 1930s. We begin with a drive past the imposing Presidential Palace - Rashtrapati Bhawan. Then visit India Gate, the 42-metre arch & the imposing and elegant Humayun' Tomb. Later, see the Qutab Minar, Delhi's famous landmark, the imposing victory tower 73 meters high built in 1192, with elaborately and intricately tapering storeys. We also see the amazing Iron Pillar of the 4th century - the 7.2 metre pillar which has not rusted through the centuries and visit the Lotus Temple, Mother Temple to the Baha'i Faith on the Indian sub-continent. This evening enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Tuesday 13 October

Delhi – Varanasi (B,D)

This morning, we transfer to the airport in

time to join the flight to Varanasi. On arrival, we are met and transferred to our hotel for a 2-night stay. Picturesquely situated on the crescent shaped left bank of the holy Ganga, Varanasi, one of the ancient seats of learning in India, is said to be a compound of the names of two streams, the Varuna and the Assi, which still flow in the north and south of the city respectively. Varanasi is probably one of the most ancient living cities in India. From time immemorial it has been a great religious centre for Hindus and one of their most sacred places of pilgrimage, being visited by millions of people every year. The Ganga Ghats are full of pilgrims who flock to the place to take a dip in the holy Ganges, which is believed to absolve one from all sins. Tonight, we witness "Aarti", a sacred light ceremony on the banks of Mother Ganga.

Wednesday 14 October

Varanasi (B,L,D)

We start the day with a serene boat ride on the Ganges, joining the moving ritual of floating lamps. Explore Varanasi's winding lanes with our local guide, visiting the sacred Vishwanath Temple (Golden Temple), adorned with gold plating and one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. Continue to the red-hued Durga Temple, also known as the Monkey Temple, and conclude with a visit to the sprawling Banaras Hindu University, a prestigious institution founded in 1916 with a legacy of scholars and freedom fighters. In the afternoon, we enjoy an excursion to

Sarnath – where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon nearly 25 centuries ago!

Thursday 15 October

Varanasi – Delhi – Agra (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we return to the airport for our flight to Delhi. On arrival, we are met by our coach and transferred through to Agra - once the glorious capital of the Mughal Empire. The city reached its peak under the reigns of Akbar, Jahangir, and Shah Jahan, becoming a thriving centre of art, culture, and learning. Today, its narrow lanes still echo with the aroma of Mughlai cuisine and the craftsmanship of artisans who carry forward centuries-old traditions. In the evening, witness the splendour of the Taj Mahal at sunset. This iconic "Monument of Love" was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved queen, Mumtaz Mahal. Taking 22 years and 20,000 artisans to complete, the dazzling white marble mausoleum on the banks of the Yamuna is an unrivalled masterpiece and one of the Seven Wonders of the World — a timeless symbol of devotion and architectural brilliance.

Friday 16 October

Agra (B,D)

After breakfast, we set out to explore the architectural treasures of Agra. We begin at the Agra Fort, commissioned by Emperor Akbar in 1565 and later enhanced by his grandson Shah Jahan. Behind its



DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

formidable red sandstone walls lies a royal city of palaces, mosques, and audience halls. Highlights include the delicate Moti Masjid, the shimmering Shish Mahal, the Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-i-Khas, and the Musamman Burj, where Shah Jahan spent his final days gazing across the Yamuna at the Taj Mahal. We continue to the exquisite Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah, often referred to as the “Baby Taj.” Built between 1622 and 1628, this jewel-box mausoleum marked a turning point in Mughal design, moving from red sandstone to the pure white marble and intricate pietra dura inlay later perfected in the Taj Mahal. Surrounded by serene gardens and elegant pavilions, the tomb is a masterpiece in its own right and a glimpse into the evolution of Mughal artistry.

Saturday 17 October
Agra – Jaipur (B,L,D)

We visit the Taj Mahal again early this morning for a breathtaking sunrise, when the soft morning light gives this marble masterpiece a dreamlike glow. After returning to the hotel for breakfast, we depart for Jaipur, known as the “Pink City” of Rajasthan. Along the way, we stop at the village of Abhaneri to admire the remarkable Chand Baori Stepwell, one of the deepest and most intricately designed stepwells in India, alongside the ancient Harshat Mata Temple, dedicated to the goddess of joy and happiness. On arrival in Jaipur, we check in and the remainder of the evening is free to relax.

Sunday 18 October
Jaipur (B,L,D)

Today, we discover the splendours of Jaipur on our guided city tour. Begin at the magnificent Amber Fort, once the capital of the Kachchwaha Rajputs, where ornate halls and sweeping views of Maota Lake await. Continue to the striking Hawa Mahal, the five-storey “Palace of Winds” with its lattice windows once used by royal ladies to observe life below. Visit the opulent City Palace, still home to Jaipur’s royal family and now housing fascinating museums of art, textiles, and weaponry. Nearby, marvel at the Jantar Mantar Observatory, a UNESCO World Heritage site where massive stone instruments showcase the scientific brilliance of the 18th century. And finally, in the evening, soak up local life at the vibrant Choti Chaupar market, alive with colourful spices, produce, and traditional bustle.

Monday 19 October
Jaipur – Jodhpur (B,L,D)

We make our way by coach to Jodhpur, Rajasthan’s iconic “Blue City,” founded in 1459 by Rao Jodha. The city is divided into the historic walled old town and the newer areas, with blue-painted houses clustered around the majestic Mehrangarh Fort, which rises 150 meters above the city. Upon arrival, we check in to our hotel before setting out to explore the fort, one of Rajasthan’s largest and most magnificent. Wander through its sprawling courtyards and grand palaces, including the ornate Moti Mahal, home to the royal throne of

Jodhpur. We also visit the serene marble cenotaph of Jaswant Thada and the lively Clock Tower market, where local colours and culture bring the city to life.

Tuesday 20 October
Jodhpur – Udaipur (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we depart for Rohet, the fortified desert home of the Rathore clan, whose lineage traces back to the 16th century Champawat rulers. The estate, bestowed upon them in 1622 by the Maharaja of Jodhpur, reflects centuries of Rajput valour, tradition, and aristocratic heritage. Wander through the grounds where peacocks strut beneath carved stone archways, neem trees sway in the breeze, and bougainvilleas add splashes of colour. We experience the local way of life on a jeep safari to a nearby Bishnoi village, meeting villagers and learning about their customs, sustainable living, and deep connection with nature. Enjoy a traditional lunch at Rohetgarh, before we continue our journey to Udaipur, the enchanting “City of Lakes.”

Wednesday 21 October
Udaipur (B,L,D)

Today we embark on an excursion to Ranakpur, a jewel of Rajasthan renowned for its magnificent Jain marble temples. Celebrated for their extraordinary craftsmanship, the temples cover 48,000 sq. ft. and feature 1,444 intricately carved pillars, 29 sprawling halls, and delicate sculptures

of 24 Tirthankaras. The main shrine, open on all four sides, houses the four-faced image of Lord Adinath, radiating serenity and devotion. Each Mandap (hall) is topped with a shikhar (spire) adorned with tiny bells that tinkle softly in the breeze, creating a sense of ethereal harmony. A visit to Ranakpur offers not only a glimpse into the spiritual heart of the Jain community but also an unforgettable encounter with one of India’s finest examples of architectural artistry.

Thursday 22 October
Udaipur (B,L,D)

We explore the regal charm of Udaipur today with a guided city tour. We visit the majestic City Palace, a marble marvel built by Maharaja Udai Singh, offering breathtaking views of Lake Pichola and the city below. Discover the Crystal Gallery, home to one of the world’s finest private crystal collections, including the only crystal bed in existence, each piece etched with the Crest of Mewar. Stroll through the serene Saheliyon ki Bari, a historic garden adorned with fountains, lawns, and shaded walkways once created for the princess’s attendants. In the evening, we enjoy a boat ride on Lake Pichola, passing the stunning island palaces of Jag Niwas (Lake Palace) and Jag Mandir, the latter steeped in history as a refuge for Mughal royalty and later, during the 1857 uprising, European women and children. Cradled amidst hills, gardens, and temples, Lake Pichola offers a picture-perfect conclusion to a day of Udaipur’s timeless splendour.



DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

Friday 23 October

Udaipur – Jaipur – Kolkata (B,L,D)

Today we fly to the vibrant “City of Joy” – Kolkata, via Jaipur. Once the capital of British India and today the cultural heart of West Bengal, Kolkata is located on the banks of the Hooghly River, it is India's third-largest city and a fascinating blend of colonial heritage, artistic spirit, and modern growth. From its grand architecture and literary legacy to its bustling streets and thriving culture, Kolkata offers an unforgettable introduction to eastern India. On arrival, we check into our hotel before we meet for dinner this evening.

Saturday 24 October

Kolkata (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we set out on a guided tour of Kolkata. Drive past the grand colonial landmarks of Dalhousie Square, including Raj Bhawan, Writers' Building, and the iconic Eden Gardens. Wander through the vibrant Flower Market with views of the famed Howrah Bridge, Kolkata's engineering marvel spanning the Hooghly River. Visit Kumortuli, the traditional potters' quarter where artisans craft exquisite clay idols, many destined for festivals across India and abroad. Continue to the majestic Victoria Memorial, a stunning marble monument surrounded by gardens, before heading to College Street, the city's hub of books, ideas, and the legendary Indian

Coffee House, long a gathering place for scholars and thinkers.

Sunday 25 October

Kolkata – Jorhat – Join Brahmaputra Cruise (B,L,D)

We check out of our hotel this morning and transfer to the airport for our flight to Jorhat. On arrival we transfer to our ship. Our journey aboard the MV Mahabaahu begins with a light lunch, followed by an afternoon safety briefing and an engaging introduction to the rich wildlife of Assam. We learn about the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Kaziranga and Manas National Parks, the Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, and the historic Ahom stronghold of Sivasagar. As the sun sets, we set sail on the mighty Brahmaputra River, enjoying a welcome dinner.

NB: For those departing home today, a late check-out has been arranged. You will be transferred separately to Kolkata Airport for your late-night flight to Singapore, connecting with your flight to Auckland.

Monday 26 October

Cruising – Hollongapar / Kaziranga National Park (B,L,D)

We begin our day with an early morning visit to the Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, home to India's only ape - the Hoolock Gibbon - as well as the Bengal Slow Loris

and an extraordinary variety of primates. Accompanied by expert naturalists and guides, enjoy a fascinating walk through the lush evergreen forest canopies alive with bird calls and wildlife. Continue to a tea estate for a home-hosted Assamese lunch with a planter's family, where we'll learn about tea cultivation, enjoy tastings, and stroll through the scenic gardens. In the afternoon, embark on a jeep safari in Kaziranga's Eastern Range (Agoratoli), famed for its rich biodiversity and spectacular wildlife. Return to the ship at dusk for an evening of relaxation in the lounge, followed by dinner.

Tuesday 27 October

Cruising – Majuli Island (B,L,D)

Wake up to the tranquil sounds of birdlife on a morning walk along the bund at Neamati Ghat, where village life unfolds before your eyes - gardens being tended, fishermen casting nets, and children making their way to school. After breakfast on board, sail to Majuli, the world's largest inhabited river island, with its vibrant neo-Vaishnav culture. Witness traditional performances such as Gayan Bayan, Dashavatar, and Mukha Bhavana, while also discovering the island's renowned mask-making and pottery. Bird enthusiasts will delight in spotting storks, geese, and whistling ducks across the island's wetlands. In the evening, sail downstream to a deserted island, where we'll gather around

a bonfire on silver sands, enjoy barbequed snacks, and gaze at a star-studded sky - a perfect close to an enriching day on the Brahmaputra.

Wednesday 28 October

Cruising – Mishing Tribal Village & Agoratoli Range (B,L,D)

Start the morning with yoga on a deserted island or a refreshing walk along the Brahmaputra's edge. After breakfast, step into the world of the Mishing people, visiting their stilted bamboo homes known as Chang Ghars. Discover their unique architecture, traditional weaving of vibrant cotton textiles, and join in the joy of trying on their colourful ethnic attire. Returning to the ship, enjoy a scenic sail towards the Eastern Range of Kaziranga. In the afternoon, explore the Agoratoli Range by tender, where shifting riverbanks reveal the raw power of nature. Keep watch for elephants, wild buffalo, water monitors, and a variety of birdlife along the shores. Back on board, unwind with a cooking demonstration by the chef, followed by lounge hour and a delicious dinner.

Thursday 29 October

Cruising – Bishwanath Ghat & Silghat (B,L,D)

This morning, the ship glides along the Kaziranga stretch of the Brahmaputra towards Bishwanath Ghat, a charming



DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

riverside village alive with weavers, fishermen, and temple spires. Stroll past country boats, meet the local weavers, and admire the colourful textiles they proudly display beneath the shadow of an ancient Shiva temple. Continue sailing to Silghat, where a visit to a cooperative jute mill reveals the fascinating journey of the “golden fibre,” followed by an excursion to a tea estate to witness the plucking and processing of Assam’s world-famous tea. The day ends with a lively Bihu dance performance, an orientation to upcoming safaris in Kaziranga, and a relaxed evening on board with dinner.

Friday 30 October

Cruising – Kaziranga National Park (B,L,D)

After a hearty breakfast of both continental and traditional Indian delicacies at a local resort, we set off on a jeep safari through the park’s ranges in search of elephants, big cats, and Kaziranga’s iconic one-horned rhinoceros. A second jeep safari after lunch deepens our exploration before returning to the ship via scenic paddy fields and winding Karbi Anglong roads. In the evening, we immerse ourselves in local culture with an Assamese theme night featuring traditional music, dance, attire, and a feast of authentic Assamese cuisine.

Saturday 31 October

Cruising – Nameri National Park & Tiger Reserve (B,L,D)

Begin the day with a pre-dawn breakfast

before heading to Nameri National Park for an early morning walk with guides. Discover the park’s incredible biodiversity, from Bengal tigers, Asiatic elephants, and leopards to rare birds such as the white-winged wood duck, hornbills, and blue-bearded bee-eaters. For adventure seekers, a rubber-boat ride along 13 miles of gentle rapids on the Jia-Bhairali River offers stunning riverside scenery. Return to the ship for a hot lunch and a relaxing afternoon. The day concludes with another Assamese-themed evening, celebrating local culture through traditional attire, music, dance, and a themed dinner.

Sunday 01 November

Cruising – Sailing to Dungan Ghat (B,L,D)

Enjoy a relaxed morning on board, with the option of yoga on the Sun Deck as the ship sails towards Guwahati. Spend the day taking in picturesque river villages, rolling hills, and the narrowing Brahmaputra, passing by Peacock Island, the world’s smallest inhabited river island. Indulge in the ship’s spa, Ayurvedic treatments, massages, and Jacuzzi, or lounge by the pool. Savour lunch on board and watch the sunset over the Brahmaputra from the Sun Deck before gathering for an evening lounge hour and dinner.

Monday 02 November

Cruising – Manas National Park & Tiger Reserve (B,L,D)

Wake up before dawn to the calls of golden langurs and hornbills and enjoy a light

breakfast at a resort, before heading to Manas National Park. Begin the day with a jeep safari through the forest, spotting wildlife in this UNESCO World Heritage Site and Tiger Reserve. After a lavish breakfast, continue with another jeep safari in the Bansbari Range, bordered by the Bhutan Hills and the Manas-Beki River system. Return to the resort for lunch before we re-board our vessel, sailing upstream. The day concludes with a relaxed lounge hour and sit-down dinner, reflecting on an unforgettable wildlife adventure.

Tuesday 03 November

Cruising – Sualkuchi – Guwahati (B,L,D)

Enjoy a lazy morning as the ship sails past the lush villages of lower Assam, followed by a leisurely breakfast. In the afternoon, we visit Sualkuchi, Assam’s silk village, where tribal performances welcome us and an e-rickshaw ride takes us to the weaving and silk-processing centres. Savour an authentic Assamese lunch, explore local shops, and return to MV Mahabaahu for the final sail to Pandu Port in Guwahati. End the journey with a sunset sundowner, lounge hour, and a memorable farewell dinner—“Alvida Bhoj.”

Wednesday 04 November

Disembark Guwahati - Kolkata - Singapore (B)

Sadly, we disembark after breakfast and make our way to the airport, to join our lunchtime flight to Kolkata. We then

transfer on to our late-evening flight to Singapore.

Thursday 05 November

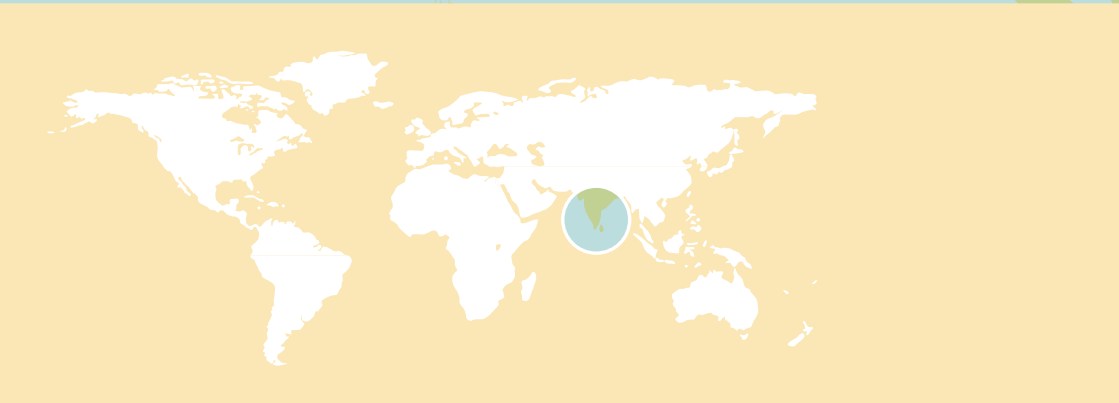
Singapore – Auckland

We arrive in Singapore early morning (approx. 6.00am). Our connecting flight to Auckland, departs just before 9.00am.

Friday 06 November

Arrive Auckland

Arrive Auckland late evening. For those based outside of Auckland, overnight accommodation will be required.



FULLY ACCREDITED



2026 COLOURS OF INDIA INC. BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER CRUISE

WANAKA, NEW ZEALAND

P: 0800 500 518

E: tours@mahertours.co.nz

W: www.mahertours.co.nz