

Bandel, West Bengal, India

A quiet bend in the Hooghly holds centuries of history — Portuguese basilicas, Mughal shrines, and terracotta temples crowd a riverbank most travellers speed past.

River mooring (ghat) Typical call: 5–7 hrs Indian Rupee (INR) Bengali / Hindi Best Oct–Feb

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: River mooring at Bandel Ghat; small vessels tie up directly, larger ships may anchor and tender

Best For: Colonial history, Indo-Portuguese architecture, river scenery

Walk to centre: Bandel Church is ~500 m from the ghat; town market ~5 min walk

Don't Miss: The ship's mast relic inside the Basilica of the Holy Rosary

Getting around: **Taxi** ₹50–₹150 · **Rideshare** Uber, Ola

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Basilica of the Holy Rosary** — One of the oldest churches in India, the Basilica was founded by Portuguese Augustinians in 1599 and rebuilt in 1660.
- Hooghly Imambara** — A short ride downriver in Chinsurah, this grand Shia Muslim shrine features a clock tower whose twin towers — about 150 ft (46 m) high, with 152...
- Bansberia Temples — Hangseshwari & Ananta Basudeb** — In nearby Bansberia, the Hangseshwari Temple is a riot of 13 slender spires dedicated to the goddess Hangseshwari, while the adjacent Ananta Basudeb...
- Hooghly River Boat Ride** — Local wooden boats leave from Bandel Ghat for leisurely river rides past riverside ghats, temple spires, and colonial bungalows.
- Chandannagar Day Visit** — The former French enclave of Chandannagar, about 7 km south, preserves a Strand promenade, the Institut de Chandernagore, and crumbling French...

BEST WALKS

- Ghat to Basilica Walk** 0.5 km · 10 min · Flat — Follow the main road north from Bandel Ghat to reach the Basilica of the Holy Rosary.
- Riverside Stroll** 1 km · 20 min · Flat — A leisurely walk along the riverbank from the ghat northward reveals fishing boats, dhobi ghats, and locals bathing — quintessential Hooghly life that most visitors miss.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:39AM–6:14PM · Jun 5:18AM–6:36PM · Aug 5:37AM–6:25PM · Sep 5:44AM–5:59PM · Oct 5:51AM–5:33PM	
Apr	96°	73°	8d		
Jun	89°	76°	22d		
Aug	83°	73°	26d		
Sep	83°	72°	25d		
Oct	83°	69°	13d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Carry rupees from Kolkata. There are no ATMs at or near the ghat. Small denominations are useful for rickshaws, boat rides, and market stalls.
- Dress modestly for the Basilica. Shoulders and knees should be covered. Mass is held until around 12:30 PM — arrive before or after to enter the main sanctuary.
- Visit October to February. The monsoon (June–September) brings heavy rain and high river levels. Summer heat (April–June) is intense. The cool, dry winter months are ideal.
- Agree fares before boarding. Cycle-rickshaws and auto-rickshaws don't run meters. A fair rate to Bansberia temples is around ₹50–80 by auto; confirm before you go.
- Bandel is a half-day stop. The church, a boat ride, and a market wander fill three to four hours comfortably. Add Bansberia temples or Chandannagar if your itinerary allows more time.

Bandel, West Bengal, India — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Landmark Founded in 1599 by Portuguese Augustinian friars, this is one of the oldest Christian churches in West Bengal, elevated to a minor basilica in 1988.

P Cruise port / terminal

2 Landmark A 19th-century Shia congregation hall in nearby Chinsurah with twin 85-foot clock towers housing a giant clock built by the makers of Big Ben.