



# Access Water Expedition: Ganges

## Field Study: Education/ Conservation

**Summary:** The Access Water Expedition Series is a seven-continent multi-year journey led by WINGS Fellows Ann Bancroft and Liv Arnesen. With an international team comprised of six women from six continents who represent the key water challenges of their own continents, they aim to raise global awareness of the need for clean and safe water. By connecting students, businesses, and government initiatives, the Access Water team seeks to consolidate collective knowledge and formulate an agenda for action.

### THE EXPEDITION

In October 2015, the Access Water Expedition Series kicked off in the Ganges River Valley. Over 400 million residents rely on the Ganges for food, water, bathing and worship. The team followed the River Ganges for 60 days and for 1,569 miles to the bay of Bengal.



(Top R to L) Olfat Haider, Liv Arnesen, Krushnaa Patil, Marcia Gutierrez, Lisa Te Heuheu (Bottom R to L) Cindy Hu, Kim Smith, Ann Bancroft,

Along the way the team visited with local schools, farms and industrial businesses that are working to improve water conditions in their communities. The team worked with educators and non-profit organizations to learn and share knowledge about the actions they are taking, progress they are making, and the challenges they are facing.



The Access Water Team rafting the Northern Part of the Ganges

### EXPEDITION GOALS

The goal of this expedition series was to lead a conversation with millions of youth around the world to raise awareness, incite advocacy and inspire future leaders of the world to demand a safe and abundant world, starting with access to clean water.

## CHALLENGES FACED

Fresh water is more crucial for human survival than any source of fuel, and it is becoming scarce. One in eight people lack access to clean water and more than three million die each year from water-related health problems. The Access Water team is working to bring this issue to the forefront of the global agenda by promoting resource efficiency and cooperation.



Olfat Haider connecting with local villagers

## EXPEDITION RESULTS

Along the journey, the Access Water team built a network of partner organizations including TERI, WAGGGS, UNESCO, & Young Pioneers of China. The team also utilized local and international media outlets to amplify their message and findings.



The Access Water Team trekking to the Gangotri Glacier



## WHO

Ann Bancroft

## WHAT

To lead a conversation with youth that will inspire future leaders of the world to create a plan to address the global water crisis

## WHEN

October 2015 - Dec 2015

## WHERE

The Ganges River, India

## WHY

The Ganges River is one of the most important and sacred rivers in the world, and water has a major impact on the human and animal inhabitants living alongside it.



From Gomukh in the mountains to Kolkata near the sea, the team visited schools, shared life on the river, and learned what the students were discovering about the various water issues in their region. Eight key stops were visited after month of working on the Access Water provided curriculum. In addition to the scheduled stops, the team was welcomed at dozens of unscheduled points of interest. The Access Water team also visited colleges and Universities, villages of all sizes.



The educational component of this expedition was critical. The Access Water Team provided teachers with online educational materials and curriculum. Focused on global fresh water, the importance of cross-cultural communication and understanding, and encouraging women and girls to pursue their goals.

The team is producing a documentary about their expedition. Check our website, [www.wingsworldquest.org](http://www.wingsworldquest.org) for a sneak preview.

## THE EXPEDITION | OVER 1,500 MILES (2510 KILOMETERS) IN 60 DAYS





## Contact/Info Here:

<http://www.yourexpedition.com/contact/>

## ABOUT THE FELLOW

Ann Bancroft is one of the world's preeminent polar explorers and an internationally recognized leader who brings decades of experience and leadership to this expedition. She is the first woman to have stood at both poles of the world. She has been the first to led teams of women across Greenland and the Antarctic. Currently, through her various roles as an educator, sought-after speaker, and nonprofit leader, she is dedicated to inspiring women and girls around the world to pursue their dreams.

In the 1990s, Bancroft became the first woman to reach the North Pole on foot. She led a grassroots fundraising initiative for her successful 660 mile journey across Antarctica, leading a team of women. In 2001 she teamed up with another WINGS Fellow, Liv Arnesen, to become the first women to complete a transcontinental crossing in Antarctica. In recognition of her achievements, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1995.



## EXPEDITION TEAM



### Leaders:

Ann Bancroft  
Minnesota, USA

Liv Arnesen  
Oslo, Norway

### Supporting Members:

Krushnaa Patil  
Mountain Climber  
India

Ulfat Haider  
Geographer  
Israel

Marcia Gutierrez  
Safety Engineer  
Chile

Lisa Te Heuheu  
Environmental Scientist  
New Zealand



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### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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