WAYFARER

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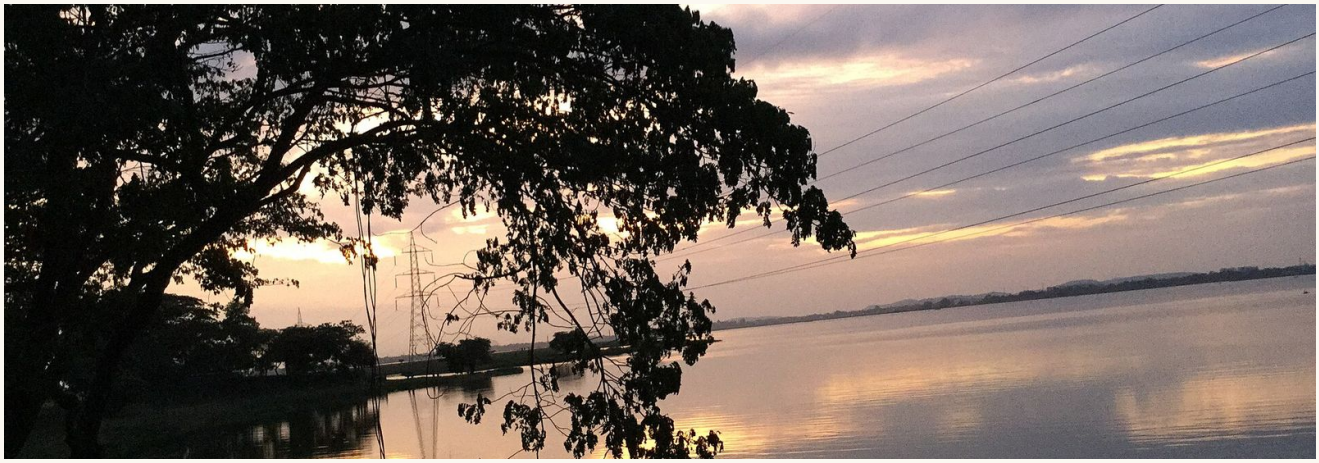
EDITOR'S DISPATCH

Every place we love has a river somewhere nearby, even if it is hidden under a road. This month we decided to follow the real ones, from a muddy ferry ghat in Assam to a rope bridge in the Andes, and to ask the people who work on them what the water asks of them.

April is also a month of new years. Bihu in Assam, Songkran in Thailand, Vishu in Kerala: communities mark the turn of the season with food, noise and a good deal of generosity. We have tried to write about these as invitations rather than spectacles, and to say plainly where dates and rules may change.

- Gitanjali Gautam

LEAD STORY



The Brahmaputra, mile by mile

A river that crosses a plateau, a mountain range and a valley before it meets the sea. How to travel on it, beside it and with the people who depend on it.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Rongali Bihu: Assam's new year, on the drums

Mid-April brings seven days of music, food and gifts across Assam. Here is what to look for, how to join in, and how to go with respect.

Kumaon's quiet hill towns: Kausani, Chaukori and Binsar

Three places in Uttarakhand's Kumaon hills that suit slow walkers, tea drinkers and anyone who prefers a mountain view to a mall road.

Songkran, and the slower north of Thailand

Thailand's new year is famous for water fights. Beneath the splashing there is a quieter ritual, and in the north it lasts longer.

Keukenhof and the bulb fields, without trampling them

A spring garden that opens for only seven weeks, and the working fields outside it that deserve even more care.

The Changeable-Weather Packing List

April weather in the Netherlands, the Kumaon hills and the Peruvian Andes has one thing in common: it changes by the hour.

Prices, timings, permits and visa notes are approximate - please verify before booking.

COMING UP (DATES APPROXIMATE - VERIFY)

Rongali (Bohag) Bihu
Assam · 14 April (Goru Bihu) and 15 April (Manuh Bihu) 2026; festivities continue for several days

Shad Suk Mynsiem
Weiking Ground, Shillong, Meghalaya · 13 April 2026 (state holiday in East Khasi Hills)

Thrissur Pooram
Thrissur, Kerala · 26 April 2026 (main day), with rituals before and fireworks into the early hours of 27 April

Moatsu Festival
Ao Naga villages and Mokokchung, Nagaland · 1–3 May 2026

ONE PRACTICAL TIP

If you are going to Keukenhof, book a fixed time slot as early as you can, and see the bulb fields from the cycle paths, not by stepping into them.

YOUR TURN

Which river is yours? Reply and tell us — we may feature your answer.

Read the full issue: travaah.com/magazine/2026-04/