

# Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir is the northernmost state of India. It is situated mostly in the Himalayan mountains.

Jammu and Kashmir shares a border with the states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to the south and internationally with the People's Republic of China to the north and east and PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan, to the west and northwest respectively.



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Formerly a part of the erstwhile Princely State of Kashmir and Jammu, which governed the larger historic region of Kashmir, this territory is disputed among China, India and Pakistan. Pakistan, which claims the territory as disputed,[1] refers to it alternatively as Indian-occupied Kashmir or Indian-held Kashmir, while some international agencies such as the United Nations[2] call it Indian-administered Kashmir. The regions under the control of Pakistan is referred to as Pakistan-occupied Kashmir or PoK within India and Pakistan-administered Kashmir generally.

Jammu and Kashmir consists of three regions: Jammu, the Kashmir valley and Ladakh. Srinagar is the summer capital, and Jammu is the winter capital. While the Kashmir valley is famous for its beautiful mountainous landscape, Jammu's numerous shrines attract tens of thousands of Hindu pilgrims every year. Ladakh, also known as "Little Tibet", is renowned for its remote mountain beauty and Buddhist culture.



## What To SEE



5 Sights

<http://www.ixigo.com/places-to-visit-see-in-jammu-and-kashmir-ip-1491435>

### 1 Nubra Valley



Located at a distance of 160 kms from Leh, the Nubra Valley is a place of beauteous scenery, with the lush green valley standing in sharp contrast to the lofty barren mountains. The meeting place of Nubra and Shyok rivers, this valley divides the Karakoram Ranges and Ladakh. It is the irrigation of these rivers that the villages located nearby achieve their swaying fields in this area which is otherwise a mountain desert. A Buddhist dominated society, one can visit Samstanling Monastery and Diksit Monastery when here. The 35 meter tall statue of Maitreya Budhdha is intricately decorated and with the barren colourless

hills in the background, it is a divine sight.

The grand majesty of the Siachen glacier is not visible but is a haunting presence in the background — Nubra River is locally called the Siachen since she arises from that glacier — and all the mountains you see are a fitting tribute to it. Here, you can either go along the Shyok and visit Diskit Gompa and Hundar village and its sand dunes. And you can cross over to visit the friendly Tegar village and monastery, as well as Panamik's hot springs, by the side of the Nubra.

### 2 Gulmarg



A picture perfect landscape, sprawling valleys, beautiful snow capped sky high mountains, serene lakes and lovely people describe Gulmarg at its best. It offers a perfect blend of adventure and serenity for its guests. The hill station is specially famous for its ski resorts and ski slopes as it witnesses heavy snowfall during winters. The adventure doesn't stop at skiing - Gulmarg boasts of the highest and longest cable car project in the Asian subcontinent.



As the history goes, the place was a preferred summer retreat for the Kings and later on the Britishers. Although people visit this place during summers, it is equally enchanting during the winters as the place is fully covered with snow, which adds a different dimension to its charm. So whether you want a tryst with adventure or a quiet and relaxing vacation, Gulmarg is the place to be.

### 3 Pahalgam

Surrounded by the stunning Himalayas and blessed with a rugged beauty, Pahalgam has the potential to be the most cherished and memorable vacation of your life. It is also the place to enjoy some exciting and adventurous options like trekking, horse riding, golf and other water sports. Snow-capped mountains, unexplored hilly terrains, Lidder River and verdant pine forests form much of the landscape in the area. Aru Valley, Tulian Lake and Baisaran (a beautiful meadow) are some of the popular attractions.

Always loved the house where Sunny Deol and Amrita Singh lived in the movie "Betaab"? Well, that was in Pahalgam. A favourite with filmmakers, the picturesque hill station has played a host to a number of blockbusters including Bajrangi Bhaijan, Highway (some portions), Jab Jab Phool Khile, and Rockstar (some portions).

### 4 Sonamarg

Surrounded by awe-inspiring glaciers, Sonamarg is a meadow of greenery and flowers wrapped in snow-capped mountains. Decked in a coat of white snow in most of the summers, and inaccessible in the winters, don't be surprised when you find yourself standing in an unexpected drizzle here. The Sindh river meanders through the valley and is fully stocked with snow trout- an excellent chance for fishing. The Kolhoi Glacier and Machoi Glacier located here make for magnificent sights and are the ideal sites for sledge glides and trekking. In recent times Sonamarg has started to suffer the disadvantages of being a popular hideout finding its pristine environs polluted by tourists, but it still holds the promise of a mesmerising getaway.

### 5 Vaishno Devi Mandir



Katra, Jammu & Kashmir 182301,

#### India

One of the holiest and most revered pilgrim centres in the country, Vaishno Devi Mandir in

Katra is the second most visited temple in India. Dedicated to Goddess Shakti (also called Mata Rani and Vaishnavi), the shrine is visited by more than 8 million pilgrims every year and has a number of mythological legends associated with it.

One of them is as follows--known as Trikuta, during young age, she gradually began being called Vaishnavi as it was believed that she was a divine child and belonged to Lord Vishnu's lineage. Years later in an act of penance, she prayed to Lord Rama (incarnation of Lord Vishnu). Rama came upon her during his search for Sita, his wife, and was impressed with her dedication, granting her a boon, to which she asked him to take her as his wife. Being already devoted to Sita in that life, Rama promised her that in his final human incarnation on earth as Kalki, he will marry her.

Before leaving, he asked her to continue her meditation up on the Trikuta mountain cave (the site of the present shrine) and gave her a bow, arrows, an army of monkey and a lion for her protection. She went to the cave to meditate and took the shape of a three-headed rock (pindis). The rock is still present at the site and is believed to be the goddess, still in the act of meditation. Unlike the usual Hindu temples, the sanctum sanctorum (the cave) has no idol or picture of Gods and Goddesses, but only the three-headed rock formation, representing, Goddess Kali, Goddess Laxmi and Goddess Saraswati. The way to this shrine (Bhavan) is very steep and is a hard walk. However, palanquins, ponies and helicopters are available to carry pilgrims up to the shrine. The pilgrims of Vaishno Devi Mandir also believe that the Goddess herself calls to her children (devotees), and if she wishes they are pulled to her, no matter where they are. Conversely, it is also believed that no matter how high and mighty you may be, or how keen you are to take darshan of the devi, you will not be able to succeed in your journey, unless you get the call of the Goddess. On your way to the cave, you will pass the original entrance to it (closed for most of the year), which is a small and narrow hole through which one has to crawl for several minutes to reach the Pindis. Due to easier access and more efficient management of the darshan line, an entry and exit tunnel has been

created. Once you enter the tunnel, absolute silence is to be maintained. The walls of the tunnel are lined with pictures and photographs which explain the history of the shrine and act as guidance for the final darshan.&nbsp;

However, going through the original cave entrance to reach the natural rock formations (Pindis) is an experience by itself. This entrance is opened only during lean seasons and festive occasions. The temple management board also offers free and rented accommodation and a subsidised 'no-profit' vegetarian eatery.&nbsp;

The&nbsp;

Vaishno Devi Mandir

&nbsp;is believed to be the most important Shakteepeetha (place where the eternal energy of the Goddess has concentrated and taken abode, as many claim that the skull of Mata Sati fell at this place during her self-immolation, while others believe that it was her right arm that fell here. Indeed, one does find a stone hand in the cave, which devotees call as 'the hand that grants boons and blessings'.

Where To  
Eat



**5 Places**  
<http://www.ixigo.com/foods-in-of-jammu-and-kashmir-ip-1491435>

### 1 Tenzin Dickey Tibetan



Ford Road, Leh, Jammu and Kashmir, 194101, India

Tenzin Dickey Tibetan, a cozy little restaurant, awaits you if all you want is a scrumptious bite of vegetarian Tibetan delicacies at pocket friendly prices.&nbsp;Veg cheese fried momos, Thukpa, potato cheese momos, thenthuk and noodles are some of the must try dishes at Tenzin Dickey Tibetan restaurant. The chefs here leave no stone unturned in preparing the meal with love and desire to make your taste buds happy. You simply can't resist the delicious offerings amidst an inviting and relaxing ambience. Be aware that vegetarian food in Tibetan dishes includes egg if the dish calls for it, so check with the staff before placing your order.

### Punjabi Haveli



Katra Jammu Road, Katra, 182301, India

Located on the Katra - Jammu highway, this inviting restaurant offers not only great food but a rejuvenating and relaxing experience. As the name suggests, Punjabi Haveli, is your one stop for mouthwatering Punjabi food. From the good old dal makhni, laccha parantha to the wide variety of paranthas, the restaurant is a pure delight. Spacious and comfortable, the restaurant is a welcome change from other crowded eating joints. A pleasant experience awaits you at Punjabi Haveli.

### 3 Hat Trick Restaurant



Hat Trick Complex, Near Abdullah Bridge, Rajbagh, 190008, India  
 +91-194-2451422

The biggest restaurant chain in Srinagar, Hat Trick Restaurants offer the best of cuisines. From delicious wazwan to delightful Chinese to mouth-watering Italian, this restaurant has almost every item you might wish for. The restaurant has its chains across the city with the main restaurant in the heart of the city at Rajbagh. &nbsp;

Apart for the main course delicacies, the snacks served here are a treat too. Don't miss out on the yummy chicken drumsticks or the delectable paneer pakoras.

### 4 KC Garden Cafe



 Changspa area, Leh, Jammu and Kashmir, India

 +91-1982-254499

KC Garden Cafe is where you can indulge in scrumptious pizzas, pastas, falafels and more underneath the cold open sky with the bonfire's glow to keep you company.

## 5 Troutbeat



 Main Market, Pahalgam,Jammu and Kashmir 192126, India

 +91-1936-243252

Craving for some yummy seafood on the streets of Pahalgam? Make your way to;

Troutbeat, the name is itself explanatory.

The menu here offers a world

of varieties of trout fish, Trout Masala, Fried Trout, trout in lemon butter, tandoori;

spaghetti and orange trout.

Everything about this restaurant is impeccable, be it the service, food or decor!

The staff here is more than happy to help

you with the best choices on menu which also has other delicious options including north Indian and Chinese dishes.&nbsp;