

Kashmir Travel Itinerary

Nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, Kashmir is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, serene lakes, and rich cultural heritage. Often called "Heaven on Earth," it captivates travelers with its pristine beauty, offering a harmonious blend of nature, adventure, and tradition.

Budget-Friendly Stays

- **Hotels**

- Hotel Sterling
- Hotel Holiday Villa
- Hotel Adhoos
- The Grand Mamta
- Clark Inn

- **Hostels**

- Zostel Srinagar
- The Shelter Group of
- Houseboats
- Kashmir Vintage
- New Urban Den Cottage
- Irbab Den Hostel
- GoStops Srinagar

Day-to-Day Schedule

- **Day 1: Exploring Srinagar**

1. Morning: Visit Shankaracharya Temple
2. Midday: Dal Lake for a Shikara ride & Nigeen Lake
3. Afternoon: Visit Jama Masjid & Hazratbal Shrine
4. Evening: Shop at local markets

- **Day 2: Gardens and Heritage**

1. Morning: Traditional Harissa breakfast
2. Day: Visit Nishat Garden, Pari Mahal, Mughal Garden, Shalimar Bagh, Chashme Shahi

- **Day 3: Gulmarg**

1. Morning: Stop at Tangmarg, visit frozen waterfall
2. Day: Experience Gondola Ride (Phase 1 & 2)
3. Evening: Admire Apharwat Peak

- **Day 4: Pahalgam**

1. Morning: Visit Betaab Valley, Aaru Valley, and Chandanwari
2. Optional: Extend stay for Amarnath Yatra

- **Day 5: Sonmarg**

1. Day: Explore Zojila Pass, Zero Point, Gangbal Lake, Yusmarg, Thajiwas Glacier

Adventurous Activities

- **Gulmarg:** Skiing, Snowboarding, Snowmobile Ride, Hot Air Balloon
- **Sonmarg:** Trekking & Camping, Horse Riding
- **Pahalgam:** White Water Rafting
- **Srinagar:** Shikara Ride

Tourist Places

- Dal Lake
- Lal Chowk
- Pahalgam
- Gulmarg
- Sonmarg
- Yusmarg
- Nishat Garden
- Jama Masjid

Offbeat Destinations

- Baisaran
- Aharbal
- Gurez Valley
- Doodhpathri
- Sinthan Top
- Kokernag

Local & Instagram-Famous Cafés

- **Traditional Kashmiri Cuisine:**

- Wazwan: J&J Food, Mughal Darbar
- Mutton Harissa: Mysuma

- **Cafés & Restaurants:**

- Chai Jai Café
- Café Liberty
- Café Ababeel
- Floating BBQ
- Kareema Restaurant

- **Vegetarian Options:**

- Kake Di Hatti
- Vaishno Dhaba
- Krishna Dhaba

Secret Tips

Friendly Locals & Tourist Scams:

- The people in Kashmir are known for their kindness and hospitality. However, tourist areas often have overpriced souvenirs, rides, cabs, and shikaras—up to 5 times the usual rate. Bargain hard to avoid getting overcharged.

Gondola Ride Costs:

- Phase 1: ₹800
- Phase 2: ₹1,100
- It's a must-do in Gulmarg for breathtaking views of the Himalayas.

Verify Tour Guides & Hotels:

- Ensure you check the credibility of guides and hotels before booking to avoid any last-minute surprises.

Long Travel Distances:

- Many attractions are 2-4 hours apart on winding roads. Be prepared for long journeys and plan extra time to avoid fatigue.

COVID Guidelines:

- RTPCR not required if fully vaccinated, but confirm with your airline before travel. Carry ID proof at all times.

Drone Restrictions:

- Drones are not allowed in Kashmir. Avoid carrying one. Fake drone shots are your best bet!

Alcohol & Cigarettes:

- Alcohol is limited to select shops and restaurants in Srinagar. Cigarettes are more accessible through locals.

Cash is King:

- ATMs are scarce, so keep enough cash on hand for emergencies.

Group Travel Advantage:

- For trips to Gulmarg or Pahalgam, traveling in groups is more cost-effective. Solo travelers may face inflated cab charges.

Unique Shopping Stops:

- Dry fruit markets, saffron fields, and bat-making factories near Pahalgam are must-visit spots for authentic souvenirs.
- Don't miss the copper market for traditional Kashmiri copperware.

Snow Update:

- Check snowfall predictions on AccuWeather for real-time updates if you're visiting during winter.

Final Tips:

- The locals are very protective of their culture and homeland. Be respectful and mindful of your words when discussing Kashmir.
- Kashmir's beauty lies in its serenity, so immerse yourself fully in its charm.

Best Time to Visit

- **October to February:** Snow lovers
- **March to May:** Blooming gardens
- **June to September:** Pleasant weather

Phone Connectivity

- 4G network is available in most areas, ensuring connectivity throughout your trip.

Must-Pack Essentials

1. Winter Wear: Thermals, fleece, jackets, warm socks.
2. Shoes: Waterproof and sturdy.
3. Documents: ID proof & vaccination certificate (check airline requirements).

Roadmap

