



Kashmir: Dal Lake, Gulmarg & Pahalgam - 6 days

Trekking from Pahalgam to Lidderwat and the Kolahoi Glacier

Tour JTT-K01: Srinagar - Gulmarg – Sonamarg - Pahalgam - Srinagar



Thinking of a leisurely holiday in Kashmir? Then you should definitely stay at the family-run houseboat, 'Ambassador.' We've been working with this family since 1988, and all our clients have been taken care of in the most hospitable way. Quite simply, this is the best place to stay on Dal Lake. You can stay just a couple of days or many weeks, as you like.

On this 8-day program, you'll be taking shikara rides on Dal Lake, as well as being taken to several hill stations around the Kashmir Valley. There you can truly experience the Himalayan setting of Kashmir. 'The Valley' is dotted with rushing rivers, lakes, snow-capped mountains and dense forests. In winter and early spring, you can also enjoy skiing at the high meadows of Gulmarg.

Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival Srinagar.

You will be met by our representative at Srinagar airport. He will assist and transfer you to Ambassador Houseboat. In the afternoon, you will take a *shikara* ride on Dal Lake, where you visit the floating vegetable gardens.

While riding in the *shikaras*, there will many opportunities for birdwatching with plentiful species including three kinds of kingfishers, little bittern, common pariah kites, grebes etc. Overnight on the houseboat.



Day 02 : Srinagar - Gulmarg – Srinagar

In the morning, we leave for Gulmarg (Meadow of Flowers) at 2730 m above sea level. It is about one and a half hour drive to Gulmarg.

Gulmarg has one of the best ski slopes in the world, and the highest golf course with 18 holes. If weather permits, one can also have views of Nanga Parbat - the naked mountain of 26,6657 ft (8126 m) that dominates the entire region - and enjoy a cable car (gondola) for a mountain ride up to Khilangmarg.

In the evening, we drive back to Srinagar. Overnight on the houseboat.



Day 03: Srinagar - Sonamarg - Srinagar

Full day excursion to Sonamarg (Meadow of Gold). The distance of 83 kms will be covered in about 3 hours.

Sonamarg lies in Sindh Valley streamed with flowers and surrounded by mountains. Sonamarg is also the base for some interesting treks to high altitude Himalayan Lakes. Depending on the interest, we make a short or longer walk in the surroundings. For instance, a very rewarding 2-hour walk

brings you to the foot of the nearby Thajwas Glacier.

Late evening, we drive back to Srinagar. Overnight on the houseboat.

Day 04: In Srinagar - half day sightseeing

After breakfast, we go for a visit to the Mughal gardens, visiting Nishat Bagh, built by Asif Khan, the brother-in-law of Jehangir, in 1632 AD; and Shalimar Bagh, built by Jehangir for his wife, Empress Nur Jahan. All the gardens are situated on the banks of Dal Lake with the Zabarwan Hills in the background.

Later, we drive to the hillside temple of Shankaracharya. Built in the 11th Century, this Shiva temple is constructed of rock stone and overlooks Dal Lake. Afternoon will be at leisure for individual activities. Overnight on the houseboat.

Day 05: Srinagar – Pahalgam – Srinagar

After breakfast, we drive to Pahalgam (The valley of shepherds).The total distance is about 96 kms, which will be covered in about 3 hours.

En-route, we visit the saffron fields of Pampore, the Awantipura Ruins (1100 years old temple of Lord Vishnu built by the King Awantivarman), and enjoy the beautiful countryside. Higher up we drive through pine forests, before we arrive at Pahalgam on the banks of the rushing Lidder River.

We'll make a 2 hrs walk in the area along pony trails with a magnificent view of the mountains. In the evening, we drive back to Srinagar. Overnight on the houseboat.



Day 06: Departure and transfer to airport, bus or railway station

After breakfast, our *shikara* will take you to the shore, where the taxi for the airport, bus or railway station will be waiting.

Tour Price

P.M.

Price includes: Accommodation on twin share basis; MAP in Srinagar (breakfast, dinner and stay); shikara crossings, all transfers and sightseeing as per itinerary; all meals while trekking, accommodation in 2-person trekker's tents on the trek; local guide/assistance throughout the tour.

Not included: Air fare; tips; drinks; laundry; telephone calls; travel/ personal insurance; expenses of personal nature.