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FREE 2026 TRAVEL RESOURCE

The Kashmir Trip Planning Guide

Seasons, routes, packing, costs and booking decisions made simple.

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START HERE

A better Kashmir trip begins with five decisions.

Kashmir rewards thoughtful planning. Choose the season you actually want, allow realistic travel time, match the route to your group and confirm every important inclusion before payment.

1. Choose your season. Decide whether your priority is snow, spring flowers, green valleys, autumn colour or quieter travel.
2. Allow enough nights. Three nights can introduce Kashmir, while five to seven nights usually creates a more comfortable Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam experience.
3. Select your travel style. Honeymoons, family holidays, senior-friendly journeys and adventure routes need different pacing.
4. Separate fixed and optional costs. Confirm hotels, meals, vehicles, sightseeing, tickets and activities in writing.
5. Keep flexibility. Weather, road conditions and operating restrictions can change mountain plans.

> A strong first-time route is Srinagar → Gulmarg → Pahalgam → Srinagar. It combines Dal Lake, alpine scenery and river valleys without turning every day into a transfer.

Inside this guide

01	Choose the right season	05	Packing checklists
02	Essential destinations	06	Booking safeguards
03	Recommended itineraries	07	Family, honeymoon and senior advice
04	Inclusions and exclusions	08	Quotation checklist

1. Airports Authority of India, Srinagar passenger facilities: https://www.aai.aero/en/node/92509
2. Jammu & Kashmir Cable Car Corporation, official Gondola information: https://www.jammukashmircablecar.com/
3. Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation, Pahalgam: https://www.jktdc.co.in/pahalgam.aspx

PLAN BY EXPERIENCE

Choose the right time to visit.

There is no single best month for everyone. Kashmir changes through the year, so start with the experience you want rather than a generic peak-season recommendation.

Spring · March to early May

Best for: blossoms, gardens, couples and photography.
Early spring can still feel cold. Blooming periods depend on weather and cannot be guaranteed.

Summer · May to August

Best for: families, green landscapes and longer sightseeing days.
School-holiday demand can raise hotel prices. Higher areas may remain cool.

Autumn · September to November

Best for: changing colours, couples and a calmer pace.
Expect noticeable temperature changes between daytime and evening.

Winter · December to February

Best for: snow, skiing and winter honeymoons.
Keep flexibility for road conditions and confirm heating and winter transport.

Winter planning essentials

- Build buffer time into the itinerary because snowfall can affect roads and transfers.
- Confirm hotel heating, hot water, snow-chain or local-vehicle arrangements before payment.
- Carry waterproof footwear, thermal layers, gloves, warm socks and a weather-resistant jacket.
- Treat Gondola and outdoor activities as weather-dependent rather than guaranteed.

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BUILD YOUR ROUTE

Kashmir's essential destinations.

Each place adds a different rhythm. Use them as building blocks, then remove anything that makes the route rushed.

Srinagar

Dal Lake, shikara time, a carefully selected houseboat, gardens, local crafts and a gentle first or final day. Srinagar Airport lists prepaid taxis outside arrivals.[1]

Gulmarg

Mountain scenery, meadow landscapes, winter sports and the Gondola. Confirm ticket dates, phases, weather risk and local transport. Book only through the official Cable Car Corporation portal.[2]

Pahalgam

River views, relaxed stays and local valley excursions. JKTDC places Pahalgam roughly 95 km from Srinagar.[3] Ask which inner-valley transport is included.

Sonamarg

A rewarding addition to a longer circuit when seasonal access permits. Decide whether it is a day trip or an overnight stay and protect the next transfer with buffer time.

Gurez and Lolab

Best for travellers seeking remote scenery and quieter routes. Confirm accommodation, connectivity, permits, road contingencies and emergency rerouting before payment.

> Smart route rule: fewer hotel changes usually means more time experiencing Kashmir and less time repacking.

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READY-MADE STARTING POINTS

Choose a route that fits your time.

These are flexible planning templates. Final routes depend on flights, season, hotel category, group composition and current operating conditions.

Kashmir Express · 3N / 4D

Srinagar arrival · city and Dal Lake · Gulmarg excursion · departure.
Best for: a short first glimpse.

From ₹13,999 per person · twin sharing

Kashmir Golden Triangle · 5N / 6D

Srinagar · Gulmarg · Pahalgam · Srinagar.
Best for: couples and first-time visitors.

From ₹21,999 per person · twin sharing

Kashmir First Journey · 6N / 7D

Srinagar · Gulmarg · Pahalgam with a relaxed local day and final Srinagar night.
Best for: families.

From ₹24,999 per person · twin sharing

Grand Kashmir Circuit · 7N / 8D

Srinagar · Gulmarg · Pahalgam · Sonamarg · Srinagar.
Best for: a fuller valley experience.

From ₹29,999 per person · twin sharing

Explore full package details at azlantravelsindia.com/#packages.

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TRAVEL STYLES

Routes designed around people, not only places.

Romance on the Lake · 5N / 6D

Private transfers, selected stays, unhurried sightseeing and a houseboat experience.

From ₹22,999 per person · twin sharing

Gulmarg Snow Escape · 4N / 5D

A Srinagar and Gulmarg plan centred on winter scenery and optional snow activities.

From ₹17,999 per person · twin sharing

Senior-Friendly Kashmir · 6N / 7D

Shorter sightseeing blocks, measured transfers, rest time and access-conscious stays.

From ₹25,999 per person · twin sharing

Tailor-made Kashmir

Build the route around your dates, preferred pace, accommodation level and interests.

Ask for a personalised quotation

A comfortable six-day sequence

1. Arrive in Srinagar and keep the evening light.
2. Explore Srinagar and enjoy Dal Lake.
3. Take a full-day Gulmarg excursion.
4. Transfer to Pahalgam with suitable stops.
5. Explore Pahalgam at an easy pace.
6. Return or transfer to the airport according to flight timing.

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COMPARE CORRECTLY

What a good quotation should state.

Do not compare Kashmir packages using price alone. Compare the exact accommodation, meals, transport, experiences and financial terms.

Accommodation	Hotel and houseboat names · Room category · Sharing basis · Dates · Heating · Child and extra-bed terms
Meals	Exact meal plan · Arrival and departure-day meals · Child meals · Compulsory festive dinners
Transport	Airport transfers · Vehicle type · Private or shared basis · Route sightseeing · Tolls · Driver allowance · Local vehicles
Experiences	Shikara duration · Gondola phase · Entry tickets · Skiing · Pony rides · Guides · Equipment · Special arrangements
Financial terms	GST · Advance schedule · Cancellation · Amendments · Weather disruption · Direct-pay items

Golden rule: if a service matters to you, ask for it to be written into the dated quotation. Do not rely only on a telephone promise.

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KNOW THE BOUNDARIES

Typical inclusions and exclusions.

Every quotation is different, but these two lists reveal where misunderstandings most often begin.

OFTEN INCLUDED

- Confirmed hotel or houseboat accommodation
- The stated meal plan
- Airport transfers
- Private route vehicle for listed travel
- Sightseeing specifically named in the itinerary
- Basic itinerary coordination and on-trip assistance

OFTEN EXCLUDED UNLESS WRITTEN

- Flights or train tickets and GST
- Travel insurance, lunch and snacks
- Gondola and activity tickets
- Pony, palki, sledging, skiing or equipment
- Local union sightseeing vehicles
- Shopping, tips, porterage and laundry
- Extra nights or rerouting caused by weather

When asking about transport

- Confirm the vehicle model or category and whether it is private.
- Check whether luggage fits comfortably with every passenger.
- Ask which sightseeing zones require local union vehicles.
- For winter, confirm snow-chain or local chained-vehicle charges.

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PREPARE WELL

The practical packing checklist.

Every season	Photo ID · Tickets saved offline · Hotel and driver contacts · Medicines and prescriptions · Walking shoes · Rain protection · Sunscreen · Sunglasses · Lip balm · Power bank · Day bag
Add for winter	Thermal layers · Insulated jacket · Waterproof shoes with grip · Warm socks · Gloves · Cap · Scarf · Moisturiser · Extra medication for possible delays
Add for children	Familiar snacks · Refillable bottle · Spare clothes · Child medicines · Warm layers · Entertainment for road journeys
Add for seniors	Medicine schedule · Extra prescriptions · Mobility support · Walking aid · Accessible-room request · Planned rest and washroom stops

Carry essentials in your cabin or day bag. Checked baggage, hotel rooms and vehicles may not always be immediately accessible.

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PROTECT YOUR BOOKING

Before you pay an advance.

A few written checks protect both the traveller and the travel company.

- Confirm the legal business name on the quotation.
- Match dates, passenger count, room count and meal plan.
- Verify whether the price is per person, per couple, per room or for the full group.
- Ask whether the price is based on twin sharing.
- Confirm child, extra-bed and single-room charges separately.
- Check what happens if weather affects a road, flight, Gondola or activity.
- Read the cancellation and refund policy.
- Pay only through an agreed business payment method.
- Keep the quotation, vouchers, payment proof and important messages together.

Read the current Azlan Travels refund and cancellation policy before confirming a booking.

Common mistakes to avoid

- Covering too many destinations in too few nights
- Booking flights before checking whether the land route fits
- Assuming Gondola or activity tickets are automatically included
- Ignoring local transport rules in restricted sightseeing zones
- Choosing a hotel from photographs without checking its location
- Planning every day without a weather buffer

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TRAVEL YOUR WAY

Small adjustments make a major difference.

Families

- Keep the first evening light after a late arrival.
- Confirm room configuration before comparing prices.
- Choose a vehicle that fits both passengers and luggage.
- Keep snacks, water and medicines accessible.

Honeymooners

- Prioritise privacy and location over covering too many places.
- Ask which romantic inclusions are actually confirmed.
- Consider one memorable houseboat night.
- Leave an evening free instead of scheduling every hour.

Senior travellers

- Reduce same-day driving and rushed hotel changes.
- Request lifts, lower-floor rooms and minimal walking in writing.
- Keep departure day simple with a generous airport buffer.
- Treat high-altitude extensions as a separate health decision.

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SAVE THIS PAGE

Ten questions to send your travel planner.

Copy this checklist into WhatsApp before requesting a quotation.

1. What route do you recommend for my dates?
2. Which exact hotels and room categories are included?
3. What meal plan is confirmed?
4. Which private vehicle category is included?
5. Which sightseeing is included?
6. Are Gondola and activity tickets included?
7. Which local union vehicle charges remain separate?
8. Is GST included in the total?
9. What are the cancellation and weather-disruption terms?
10. What is the payment schedule and emergency contact?

Information Azlan Travels needs

- Travel dates or preferred month and departure city
- Number of adults and children, including children's ages
- Rooms required and preferred hotel level
- Honeymoon, family, group, senior-friendly or adventure style
- Places you most want to visit and approximate total budget
- Flight or train details, if booked
- Medical, mobility, meal or accessibility considerations

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YOUR JOURNEY, YOUR PACE

Turn this guide into your Kashmir itinerary.

Share your dates, group size, travel style and budget. Azlan Travels will prepare a personalised route and dated quotation around what matters to you.

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Important notice

This guide is for general trip planning and is not a booking confirmation or final quotation. Routes, access, weather, transport rules, hotel availability, operating schedules, fares, taxes, permits and activity conditions can change.

Prices are indicative starting prices per person on twin sharing. Final pricing depends on dates, accommodation, transport, group size, inclusions and availability. Confirm every service through a dated written quotation before payment.

For current official information, consult the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation and the Jammu & Kashmir Cable Car Corporation.

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