



Shikaras on Dal Lake, Srinagar

HAND-CRAFTED AROUND YOU

Kashmir: Lakes, Gardens & Valleys

Srinagar, Pahalgam, Gulmarg and the mountain landscapes

12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS

Recommended travel window

May-June or September 2027 | planning route

Private dates and personalised quotation on request.

A JOURNEY WITH TIME TO ENJOY IT

The experience

Kashmir deserves time for its everyday details as well as its mountain scenery. This twelve-day route includes Srinagar's lakes, gardens and craft traditions, two nights in the Lidder Valley and two nights around Gulmarg. Explore by shikara and on foot, meet skilled makers, and enjoy short walks chosen for your comfort. The route starts and ends with a night in Delhi, creating a sensible separation between domestic and international flights. It is presented for advance planning, with the final decision to operate based on current official advice, local access and the suitability of arrangements for your party.

What makes this journey special

- A private shikara outing on Dal Lake
- Srinagar's Mughal gardens and old-city heritage
- Meetings with papier-mache or textile artisans
- Two nights in the Pahalgam area
- Gulmarg's meadows and a first-stage gondola ride
- A scenic day in the Sonamarg valley

Best time to travel. May-June offers green valleys and comfortable daytime exploration. September is another appealing weather window for the valley circuit; access is reviewed before any booking.

Designed for. Landscape lovers, couples, photographers and walkers

Pace and activity. Easy to moderate; optional mountain walks and a gondola ascent to around 3,050 m.

Planning status. As checked on 9 September 2026, the U.S. Department of State advises Do Not Travel to Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam. This requested itinerary is for planning only; review official advice, insurer acceptance and local access before booking.

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

12 days, thoughtfully arranged

DAY	EXPERIENCE	OVERNIGHT
01	Arrive in Delhi	Delhi
02	Fly to Srinagar	Srinagar
03	Dal Lake and old Srinagar	Srinagar
04	Gardens and Kashmiri craftsmanship	Srinagar
05	Srinagar to Pahalgam	Pahalgam
06	The Aru Valley	Pahalgam
07	Across the valley to Gulmarg	Gulmarg
08	Gulmarg from the mountain slopes	Gulmarg
09	Return to Srinagar	Srinagar
10	A day in the Sonamarg valley	Srinagar
11	Fly to Delhi	Delhi
12	Depart Delhi	Journey ends

Road distances and travel times in the programme are approximate, excluding major visits. Flight and rail timings are confirmed for your selected dates.



Days 01-02 | Jama Masjid, Old Delhi

DAY 01

Arrive in Delhi

Your representative meets you at Delhi airport and accompanies your transfer to the hotel. Rest after your international journey and meet the Midasia team for an introduction to the valley itinerary. This first night gives you time to recover before the domestic flight north. The team reviews the latest arrangements and your preferred balance of walks, cultural visits and relaxation. Enjoy an included welcome dinner and an easy evening in the capital.

Travel: Private airport transfer; 45-90 minutes.

Meals: Dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

DAY 02

Fly to Srinagar

Fly to Srinagar and meet your local guide and driver. After settling into your hotel, enjoy a light orientation beside Dal Lake. The first afternoon is kept gentle, allowing time to appreciate the setting without a demanding programme. Your guide introduces the valley's geography and explains how the city's waterways connect with its gardens, residential neighbourhoods and craft traditions. If conditions are suitable, make a short garden visit before returning to your hotel for dinner.

Travel: Domestic flight around 1.5 hours; local transfers additional.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Srinagar



Days 03-04 | Shikaras on Dal Lake, Srinagar

DAY 03

Dal Lake and old Srinagar

Take a private shikara ride through an accessible part of Dal Lake, observing the waterways and residential life from a respectful distance. Timing is chosen for pleasant light and local activity rather than a staged performance. Later, explore selected areas of Srinagar's old city with a guide, looking at timber architecture, bridges and the permitted visitor areas of important religious buildings. The day balances the lake's quieter spaces with an introduction to the city's living cultural heritage.

Travel: Private shikara ride and guided city visits.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Srinagar

DAY 04

Gardens and Kashmiri craftsmanship

Visit selected Mughal gardens, such as Nishat Bagh and Shalimar Bagh, to understand how water, terraces and distant views were used in their design. Continue to a pre-arranged artisan meeting focused on papier-mache, wood carving or textiles, according to your interests. Watching a maker at work gives a more personal understanding of objects often seen only in shops. Leave time for questions and conversation before returning to your hotel for a relaxed afternoon.

Travel: Private local touring and a pre-arranged artisan meeting.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Srinagar



Days 05-06 | The Lidder Valley near Pahalgam

DAY 05

Srinagar to Pahalgam

Drive into the Lidder Valley, passing changing patterns of settlement and cultivation before reaching Pahalgam. Settle into your mountain hotel and enjoy an easy walk beside the river or in an accessible meadow. The afternoon is intended for appreciating the setting, with no obligation to undertake a longer trek. Your guide discusses tomorrow's options and selects a route suited to your fitness and interests. Two nights here make it possible to explore without rushing onward.

Travel: Approximately 90-100 km; 2.5-3.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Pahalgam

DAY 06

The Aru Valley

Travel to the Aru Valley using the locally required vehicle arrangements. Choose a gentle village-and-meadow walk or a longer guided outing on an established trail, with the distance agreed in advance. The focus is the mountain landscape, riverside scenery and the small details that are easily missed from a car window. Bring time for photographs and comfortable breaks. Return to Pahalgam for an unhurried afternoon, with the remainder of the day free to enjoy your hotel and its surroundings.

Travel: Local authorised vehicle excursion; optional 1-3-hour walk.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Pahalgam



Days 07-08 | The meadows of Gulmarg

DAY 07

Across the valley to Gulmarg

Travel across the valley to Gulmarg, taking breaks along the route before the road climbs into the surrounding hills. After checking in, enjoy a short orientation around the meadows and the town's historic setting. The change in elevation and landscape makes this a day to take gently. Your guide reviews the forecast and operating arrangements for the following day's gondola visit, leaving the rest of the afternoon free for a relaxed walk or time at the hotel.

Travel: Approximately 140-160 km; 4.5-5.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Gulmarg

DAY 08

Gulmarg from the mountain slopes

Ride the first stage of the Gulmarg gondola to Kongdoori when it is operating, enjoying the changing views as the cabin rises above the slopes. Keep activity gentle at the higher elevation and return according to your comfort. The programme does not require an ascent to the much higher second-stage station. Back around Gulmarg, take a short guided meadow walk or enjoy a leisurely afternoon. The day is shaped by weather, visibility and your preferred level of activity.

Travel: First-stage gondola and optional short walks; around 3,050 m at Kongdoori.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Gulmarg



Days 09-10 | Mountain scenery near Sonamarg

DAY 09

Return to Srinagar

Drive back to Srinagar after a relaxed start, with time to enjoy the morning scenery before leaving Gulmarg. The afternoon offers a chance to return to a favourite garden, visit a further craft workshop or rest beside the lake. Your guide can focus on one experience that particularly interested you earlier in the journey. This return to Srinagar also provides a comfortable base for tomorrow's scenic outing and keeps the final domestic flight arrangements simple.

Travel: Approximately 50-60 km; 1.5-2.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Srinagar

DAY 10

A day in the Sonamarg valley

Follow the valley road towards Sonamarg, stopping at suitable viewpoints along the way. Spend time in accessible meadow and riverside areas, with a short guided walk chosen according to local access and the weather. The excursion focuses on the landscape of the main valley rather than a demanding glacier trek or high pass. Enjoy a picnic-style lunch or an arranged local meal, then return to Srinagar with comfortable breaks on the drive.

Travel: Approximately 160-180 km return; 5-6 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Srinagar



Days 11-12 | Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

DAY 11

Fly to Delhi

Transfer to Srinagar airport with the time required for local formalities and fly to Delhi. Your representative meets the flight and accompanies the hotel transfer. The final overnight in the capital separates the domestic journey from your international departure and leaves space to relax. Enjoy an included farewell dinner and a final conversation about the landscapes, gardens and craft encounters of the trip. Your Midasia team confirms tomorrow's transfer time before the evening ends.

Travel: Domestic flight around 1.5 hours; transfers and airport formalities additional.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

DAY 12

Depart Delhi

Enjoy breakfast and checkout according to your flight schedule. Your private driver and representative assist with the final transfer to Delhi airport. If your plans continue elsewhere in India, onward arrangements can be coordinated instead. This itinerary remains a planning route until the travel-advice review, local operating arrangements and your written quotation have been completed; no departure or availability is represented as confirmed by this brochure.

Travel: Private airport transfer.

Meals: Breakfast | **Journey concludes today**

PRIVATE TRAVEL WITH MIDASIA ROUTES

The details, taken care of

Your accommodation. 11 nights in individually selected accommodation. Luxury city hotels, heritage stays and suitable resorts or lodges are chosen to match the route. Exact properties and room categories are confirmed in your quotation.

Arrival and transport. Airport meet-and-greet after customs, baggage assistance, private transfers, a suitable air-conditioned touring vehicle and driver, fuel, parking and road tolls. Domestic flights and reserved air-conditioned train journeys described in this programme are included.

Guiding and visits. English-speaking local specialist guides, the scheduled visits, entrance fees and activities described. Your private travelling party is guided at an agreed pace; park excursions and resort activities follow their operating arrangements.

Meals and practical support. All meals shown each day, drinking water and standard tea or coffee. Vegetarian and other dietary preferences are arranged in advance. Standard tourist-visa application support and government fees for eligible travellers, applicable local taxes, and customary local-guide and driver gratuities are included.

Your journey extras. The proposed package includes Delhi-Srinagar return domestic flights, a private shikara outing, authorised local vehicles where required and first-stage gondola tickets, when operating.

Personal coordination. Pre-travel planning, a detailed arrival briefing and Midasia Routes support throughout your journey. Prices are quoted privately for your dates, room requirements and travelling party.

Not included

International flights; travel and medical insurance; personal shopping and laundry; premium or alcoholic drinks; and optional activities, treatments or extra nights outside the agreed programme.

Let us plan your India journey

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A FEW USEFUL DETAILS

Planning your journey

As checked on 9 September 2026, the U.S. Department of State advises Do Not Travel to Jammu and Kashmir, including Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam. This requested itinerary is for planning only; review official advice, insurer acceptance and local access before booking.

Visa issue is subject to government approval and traveller eligibility. The programme is personalised when your dates are agreed; no hotel, flight or departure is held by this brochure. Travel windows describe typical seasonal conditions, rather than a weather forecast.

U.S. Department of State - current India advisory | Planning checked 9 September 2026.

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