

Kashmir 12 Nights / 11 Days Travel Itinerary

Style: Nature | Mountains | Culture | Relaxation

Start & End Point: Srinagar (Sheikh ul-Alam Int'l Airport)

Travel Mode: Private cab recommended for flexibility

Day 1: Arrival in Srinagar – Dal Lake & Old City Vibe

- **Arrive** in Srinagar; transfer to hotel or houseboat.
- **Explore:**
 - Shikara Ride on **Dal Lake** – iconic Kashmir moment.
 - **Hazratbal Shrine, Jamia Masjid**, and old Srinagar markets.
 - Sunset view from **Shankaracharya Hill Temple**.

Stay: Srinagar (houseboat or lakeside hotel)

Tip: Dress modestly in Old City, carry a light jacket.

Day 2: Srinagar Mughal Gardens & Culture Day

- **Visit:**
 - **Nishat Bagh, Shalimar Bagh, Chashme Shahi** – classic Mughal gardens.
 - Local handloom centers for pashmina & carpets.
 - **SPS Museum** (optional) to explore Kashmiri history.

Evening: Relax at café by Dal or do another shikara sunset ride.

Stay: Srinagar

Day 3: Srinagar – Sonamarg (80 km | 2.5 hrs)

- Scenic drive to **Sonamarg**, meaning “Meadow of Gold”.
- **Visit:**
 - **Thajiwas Glacier** trek or pony ride (easy-moderate level).
 - Optional pony ride to Zoji La (if open).

Stay: Sonamarg (limited hotels, book in advance)

Tip: Even summer nights are cold – carry thermals.

Day 4: Sonamarg – Gurez Valley (150 km | 6–7 hrs)

- Early morning drive to the **remote paradise of Gurez**.
- **Cross:**

- **Razdan Pass** – panoramic Himalayan views.
 - Reach **Dawar**, the main village of Gurez.
- Explore:
 - Habba Khatoon Peak & Spring, Kishanganga River views.
 - Stroll through picturesque Dard villages.

Stay: Gurez (homestay or JKTDC guesthouse)

Note: Internet and ATM limited here – carry cash & backup power.

Day 5: Gurez – Back to Srinagar

- Return drive to Srinagar. Stop midway at Bandipora or Manasbal Lake.
- Evening leisure at boulevard road or cafés near Nigeen Lake.

Stay: Srinagar

Optional: Try trout dishes at Ahdoos or Krishna Dhaba.

Day 6: Srinagar – Gulmarg (50 km | 2 hrs)

- Drive to **Gulmarg**, the meadow of flowers.
- Highlights:
 - **Gulmarg Gondola Ride** – 2nd highest cable car in the world.
 - Phase 1: Kongdoori | Phase 2: Apharwat (if open).
 - Try short hikes or snow activities (skiing in winter).

Stay: Gulmarg (in forest-view hotel or hut)

Day 7: Gulmarg – Doodhpathri Day Trip (Optional)

- Either relax in Gulmarg or take a **day trip to Doodhpathri** (Valley of Milk).
- Meadows, pine forests, and river views make it perfect for a picnic or walk.
- Less crowded and very scenic – offbeat but worth it.

Stay: Return to Srinagar OR stay in Doodhpathri (limited stays).

Day 8: Srinagar – Pahalgam (90 km | 2.5 hrs)

- Drive to **Pahalgam**, one of the most scenic valleys of Kashmir.
- On the way: Visit **Avantipura Ruins** and saffron fields.
- In Pahalgam:
 - Stroll by **Lidder River**.

- Shop for local woollens and wooden crafts.

Stay: Pahalgam (near river or in pinewoods)

Day 9: Pahalgam – Aru & Betaab Valley Excursion

- Hire a local cab for these stunning nearby spots:
 - **Aru Valley** – lush, green, and quiet.
 - **Betaab Valley** – named after a Bollywood movie; postcard beauty.
 - Optional pony ride to **Baisaran (Mini Switzerland)**

Stay: Pahalgam

Tip: Great for photo walks and solitude seekers.

Day 10: Pahalgam – Yusmarg (150 km | 4–5 hrs)

- Drive to **Yusmarg**, a hidden gem in Budgam.
- Enjoy rolling green meadows, horse rides, and peace.
- Perfect for nature photography and slow travel.

Stay: Yusmarg (JKTDC huts or guesthouse)

Optional: Trek to **Nilnag Lake**

Day 11: Yusmarg – Srinagar (50 km | 2 hrs)

- Return to Srinagar for final relaxation.
- Optional: Do a **Kashmiri cooking class**, **sufi music night**, or café crawl.
- Do last-minute shopping at **Lal Chowk**, **Polo View Market**, or **Zaina Kadal**.

Stay: Srinagar (houseboat for a perfect last night)

Day 12: Departure from Srinagar Airport

- Say goodbye to paradise with rich memories and lighter baggage (thanks to shopping 😊).
- Airport transfer with buffer time for security checks.

Trip Ends ✨

Kashmir Travel Essentials

Item	Details
Best Time	April–June (spring), Oct (autumn), Dec–Feb (snow)