

Essence of Kashmir 10 Days

Srinagar 1nts, Srinagar 4nts, Gulmarg 1nts, Pahalgam 2nts, Sonmarg 1nts

Itinerary Brief:

Cradled in the lap of majestic mountains of the Himalayas, Kashmir is the most beautiful place on earth with snow-capped mountains, sunny gardens, romantic houseboats.

Daywise Itinerary:

Day 01 DEPART FOR MUMBAI / DELHI TO CHENNAI

Board the flight to Delhi / Mumbai.

[X] Breakfast [X] Indian Lunch [Y] In flight Dinner

Day 02 ARRIVAL SRINAGAR

Depending on your connection you will fly from Mumbai /Delhi to Srinagar. Upon arrival at Srinagar airport, meet & greet your local representative and head towards your hotel (check in after 3 pm). Rest at leisure. Later enjoy a Shikara ride on Dal lake. Shikara are like the Venetian gondolas and a cultural symbol of Kashmir. Overnight at hotel.

[X] Breakfast [X] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 03 SRINAGAR

Today we start with a visit to Chashme Shahi (The Royal Spring). It is one of the Mughal gardens built in 1632 AD around a spring by Ali Mardan Khan. Later we visit Nishat Bagh (The Garden of Pleasure), Shalimar Bagh (The Abode of Love) and famous Shankracharya temple. Tonight, you have the opportunity to stay in a houseboat.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 04 SRINAGAR - GULMARG (56 KMS / 2:00 HOURS APPROXIMATELY)

After breakfast, proceed to Gulmarg "Meadow of Flowers" 2730m above sea level. Gulmarg has one of the best ski slopes in the world and highest golf course of the world with 18 holes. Weather permitting, the view of Nanga Parbat is breath-taking. The view en route from Tangmarg to Gulmarg is also fascinating. One can have a short trek up to Khilangmarg which can be covered in about 3 to 4 hrs or an optional cable car (gondola) to enjoy the scenic view of Kongdori. Overnight at hotel.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 05 GULMARG - PAHALGAM (156 KMS / 4:30 HOURS APPROXIMATELY)

Today morning at leisure to explore the place. After lunch we drive to Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination and hill station. On the way we visit the local crafts market and see the fine carved hand-made articles from paper Mache & wood of a walnut. Overnight at hotel.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 06 PAHALGAM

After breakfast we explore the outskirts of Pahalgam by visiting Chandanwari (starting point of the annual Amarnath Yatra), Betab Valley (name derived from the Sunny Deol – Amrita Singh hit debut film Betaab) and Aru. Overnight at hotel.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 07 PAHALGAM - SRINAGAR (95 KMS / 2:00 HOURS APPROXIMATELY)

Today you have relaxed morning at leisure and enjoy the serene of the valleys around you. After lunch we drive back to Srinagar. Overnight at hotel

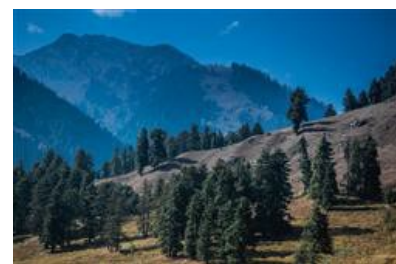
[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 08 SRINAGAR



After breakfast, visit old and new city of Srinagar - Jama Masjid, Hazratbal Masjid, and Badamwari etc. Overnight at hotel.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner



Day 09 EXCURSION TO SONMARG (94 KMS / 3:30 HOURS APPROXIMATELY)

After breakfast, drive to Sonmarg situated at an altitude of 9000 ft. Sonmarg is at a distance of 94 Kms from Srinagar and is also called "the meadow of gold". Sonmarg lies in Sindh Valley streamed with flowers and surrounded by mountains. The place is also the base for some interesting treks to the high altitude of Himalayan Lake. Ponies can be hired for the trip up to Thajiwas glacier, which is a major local attraction during the summer. Evening back to Srinagar. Overnight at hotel.

[Y] Breakfast [Y] Lunch [Y] Dinner

Day 10 SRINAGAR - UK

After breakfast, depending on your time of your return flight, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight.

[Y] Breakfast [X] Lunch [Y] In Flight Dinner

Return with the Happy Memories of the Tour!!!

Travel Mode:

From	Via	To	By
UK		Srinagar	Flight
Srinagar	Gulmarg	Pahalgam	Coach
Pahalgam	Srinagar	Sonmarg	Coach
Sonmarg		Srinagar	Coach
Srinagar		UK	Flight

Inclusions:

- * All nights in a 4* / 5* star hotels with breakfast
- * Meal plans as indicated in the itinerary
- * Entrances to sightseeing's and excursions as per the itinerary
- * All transportation in executive coaches, cruise liners, trains and some places in A/C Cars
- * Services of local tour guides

Exclusions:

- * Travel insurance
- * Transfers – hotel to excursion pick up point
- * Items of personal nature viz. telephone calls, drinks (beverages), laundry, other meals, potter service, other personal expenses, etc..
- * Any cost of beverages, alcohols with the set meals.
- * Other services not listed in inclusive item & the itinerary

Cancellation Policy:

- * More than 56 days prior to departure date 50% of Total Holiday Cost for International Flight Tours
- * 55 - 42 days prior to departure date 75% of Total Holiday Cost for International Flight Tours
- * 41 - 0 days prior to departure date 100% of Total Holiday Cost for International Flight Tours



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Call: +44 (0) 2089510111

Email: info@sonatours.co.uk

Services:

Q: What essentials do I need to carry with me on the journey?

A: Passports with relevant visas, travel insurance policy, appropriate currencies. Long journeys are unavoidable, and we recommend you wear comfortable clothing and carry essentials such as a jacket or jumper, tissues etc., as access to the luggage hold may not be possible until a comfort stop or arrival at your destination.

Q: Do I need to carry a passport, apply for Visa and what vaccinations?

A: All passengers require a passport for travel outside your country of residence. Please ensure you have a passport that is valid for 6 months from the date of completing the tour. Always advisable to have passport copy in your main luggage.

We request you to see the following websites for the latest updates on travel to your destinations.

For UK Residents: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

For USA Residents: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html>

You are responsible for ensuring that you have correct visa prior to travel. Sona Tours is not responsible or liable in any way should you be denied travel due to incorrect documentation.

For further information on vaccinations please check the above websites or <https://www.iamat.org> or contact your medical doctor for recent updates.

Q: What happens to me if stopped at customs & Immigrations?

A: Sona Tours cannot be held responsible if passengers are stopped or held by any government departments, e.g. Police, Customs, Immigration or any other authorities. We are sorry to say that the tour will continue and no financial or any other kind of responsibility will be accepted by Sona Tours.

Q: Should I bring all my medicaments with me?

A: Please note, that in airport your luggage will be checked. You should keep only minimum amount of medicament on you. In case, please bring report from your doctor, confirming the need of medics.

Q: What clothes shall I wear or pack?

A: During the lovely summer months, it is advisable to wear light garments during the day, but keep a light jacket or sweater in your hand luggage as evenings can get chilly. Also, highly recommended are a family sized umbrella, rain wear, pair of sunglasses, pair of trainers or comfortable walking shoes. Smart clothes will be required if you wish to go to a Casino or Nightclub. You may also be required to be 'covered' up when visiting certain countries or religious places.

Q: What are the luggage requirements on the aeroplane and private car / coach?

A: Different airlines will have different requirements on the weight allowance. It can range from 20 - 30kg for your main luggage and 5kg for hand luggage. We do advise you to travel light. This information will be on your e-ticket once the tickets been issued. Local and domestic flights in India will have only luggage allowances of 15- 20kg, this information will be sent on your final confirmation document.

In the private car / coach once you arrive at you first destination, maximum weight allowed for luggage of each passenger occupying a seat is 20 kg. Please make sure that you can carry your luggage from the private car / coach to your rooms as porter service is not provided on the holidays. Some tours you may have to pack a small bag for overnight stay for logistics purpose.

We also recommend that children or family members not sharing a room have separate luggage as rooms cannot be guaranteed adjoining or nearby. It is advisable to put your name and address on each piece of luggage as many passengers have similar bags to avoid delays and confusion. Should there be any reasons your baggage or personal valuable is lost or stolen, you must report it to the tour guide, or in the absence of a tour guide to the local police or hotel. Sona Tours cannot accept any responsibility for your personal belongings.





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Q: Will I travel with people from other countries?

A: As this been a private tour you will have your party members in this tour.

Q: Will I have free time?

A: Each itinerary offers the perfect balance of downtime and discoveries. We also give you the opportunity to tailor your trip with optional experiences.

If you decide to venture on your own during your free time, preferably you go in a group, keep the guide contact and the hotel address handy. Please do inform the tour director. We recommend you download an offline map too.

Q: What type of private car will I be travelling in?

A: We pride ourselves on having the finest fleet of fuel-efficient, most will have armrests & fully air-conditioned or air-cooled cars. There are no on-board restrooms (W.C.), we will try and make sufficient stops to ensure comfort for passengers.

For 1 to 2 passengers we generally provide Medium Sedan car like Maruti Swift Dizire or Toyota Etois. For 3 to 4 passengers, SUV Toyota Innova and for 4 to 9 passengers - Tempo traveller (Micro Van). 9+ a Deluxe coach.

On a touring holiday there are some long journeys which are unavoidable especially when travelling from city to city.

Q: Can I join India tours from other pick up point or destination?

A: Yes, you can fly over to our first point of destination of the tour preferably a day earlier. Please do enquire the office to arrange your logistics for both your arrival and departure.

Kindly note that there will be no reduction to the cost of your holiday in this case.

Q: Can I select my seats on the aeroplane?

A: Yes, you have the option to select the seat number when making a booking with an additional cost and provided there is availability. Flight bookings are on a group basis and the airlines will allocate the seats. Should you have a specific request it will be forwarded to the airline but cannot be guaranteed.

Q: What time do I need to be at my point?

A: It is imperative that you are at the pick-up point at least 15 minutes before the departure time. Also, for those who are arriving at the pick-up via taxi, we recommend that you book the taxi the night prior to departure day as trying to get one on the day may be difficult. In the event that you miss the pick up at the appointed time, you would need to get to the next destination on your itinerary at your expense. We will not be able to provide any refunds in any circumstances if you do not continue with the tour.

All flight tours require that you be at the airport for your flight at least 3 hours prior to your flight time. Your final itinerary confirmation will confirm the time you need to be at the airport. Should you miss your flight Sona Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred for you to join the tour. The office will make every effort to assist you in such circumstances.

Please be on time as we cannot be held responsible or liable for any loss or expense suffered if you miss the flight.

Q: When does my day start?

A: The day usually starts between 8 & 9am. Further instructions you will be given the night before. However, this may differ when having an early flight.

Q: Can I travel with my child or infant?

A: Sona Tours welcomes children and infants. The rates for children and infants for all the tours are available in the brochure and on the website. If your child requires a booster/child seat, please carry one.

Q: Do hotels have hot water for my baby?





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A: Please also note that not all hotels provide a kettle so if hot water is required for warming milk etc. in the hotel then it is advisable to carry a bottle warmer /kettle (do not forget your adapter).

Q: Are wheelchairs provided?

A: Sona Tours does not provide special tours for the disabled. It is possible to bring along a folding type wheelchair which may be kept in the baggage hold of the private car. The driver will load and unload the wheelchair from the private car for the passenger however they will need to be physically fit enough to be able to embark and disembark the private car on their own. It is also essential that a capable person is accompanying such a passenger on the tour to push their wheelchair. Please note that not all sightseeing's in India will be disable friendly. It is anticipated that we will walk longer distances at certain sightseeing / city tours therefore we request cooperation and team work when walking in a group.

Sona Tours will also request hotels for suitably equipped rooms. However, this is only on a request basis and cannot be guaranteed. Should you require the above please advise at the time of booking to avoid inconvenience.

Q: Is there a tour guide on the tour?

A: As it been a private tour you will be accompanied by driver. English speaking local guide will be provided at certain destination where required. Accompanied guide/escort can be arranged on additional cost.

Q: Where will I stay?

A: The hotels on our tours are carefully selected and of good quality. These can be located either in the city you are visiting or on the outskirts. Facilities vary from hotel to hotel and include en-suite bath or shower and generally a TV and telephone. Some of the rooms may have mini bars and 24-hour room service, use of these facilities will be charged to your account and payable by you on departure (Most hotels may require a credit card to cover your extras or cash deposits). Please remember that some hotels have small rooms unlike many other countries and also not all hotels will have air-conditioning or lift as standard. (If you have difficulty with stairs please advise us so we can try and request a room on a low floor). Rooms are also allocated as 'run of the house' so some guests may get larger or different type of rooms -we do not have control over this.

Sona Tours reserves the right to substitute hotels whilst passengers are on tour to a similar standard due to unforeseen circumstances. Please note that hotel's normal check-in times are from late afternoon, e.g. 3 pm, and check out around 11 am, but it does vary from hotel to hotel.

Q: Should I bring any electric outlet adapter?

A: Electrical currents vary between Britain and India. We suggest you carry a converter for your appliances such as electric shaver, travelling iron, hair dryer and other personal appliances. We recommend that you purchase a universal electrical travel adapter to help prevent accidents and damage to your appliances

Q: What will I eat?

A: Breakfast is normally either continental or buffet and is taken at the hotel that you will be staying in. All other pre-booked meals will be either in the hotel's own restaurant or at an outside restaurant and is not changeable. Available meal options are vegetarian, Jain or non-vegetarian (where possible Halal). Please let us know the time of your booking what your dietary requirements are.

The meals are pre-set buffet and a choice of menu is not available. The meals will only include the food; all extras i.e. alcohol, beverages or any extra items requested by you will need to be settled by you directly with the proprietor. Any meals not taken will not be reimbursed.

Note: We endeavour to book Indian meals for dinner wherever possible, however due to local constraints if we are unable to do so, we will offer local cuisines. This will give you an opportunity to try their local cuisine. If you have any specific dietary needs or allergies you must inform us at time of booking, so we can inform the caterer. Passengers with severe food allergies are advised to make appropriate arrangements prior to commencing their tour. Sona Tours reserve the right to change meal arrangement in circumstances which are beyond our control.

Q: Can I have a special request?

A: Sona Tours works at times with intermediary agents (Airlines, Hotels, Transport Companies, Other Suppliers, etc.) to arrange your holiday. If passengers have special requirements with regards to the service provided by the intermediaries such as a rooming request, seating request or a special meal request etc., then they should advise Sona Tours at the time of booking and we will endeavour to ensure the intermediary is advised of the request. It is important to note that we cannot guarantee the request and that Sona Tours are not liable in case the request cannot be fulfilled.



Q: What do I do if I have left something in the hotel?

A: Every effort is made for your safety. Please note that you are responsible for looking after your valuables and property when on vacation. If an item has been left in a hotel you will need to call the hotel and arrange with them directly for the return of your item.

Q: What happens if something is lost or stolen?

A: In case of theft you will need to advise your Tour Director immediately and report the theft to the nearest police personnel who will provide you with a police report or crime reference number. You are advised not to carry unnecessary valuables and to be vigilant at all times as tourist spots are well known targets for pickpockets.

Q: How does tipping work?

A: Tips are not included in India tours and it is at your discretion. However, as a guideline it is INR600 per day.

Q: What about porter service?

A: Since there is no porter service provided on any of our holidays, passengers will be required to carry their own luggage throughout their entire holiday. If local porter service is available and you use this service, then tips for this will need to be settled directly by yourself.

Q: Should I take a credit card with me?

A: We recommend that you take a credit or debit card on holiday with you, as it provides extra financial flexibility. Major international credit cards, such as Visa or MasterCard are accepted by many restaurants, shops and hotels. It is also possible to draw cash with your credit or debit card at some banks and cash machines, though this will incur a fee charged by your card provider.

Advise your bank which countries you are visiting prior to travel so that you don't run the risk of your card being refused and subsequent expensive phone calls to unlock it.

Q: What about local currency?

A: Currency varies to which country you travel to, but all countries do accept all major currencies (US\$, EUR€, GBP£). It is advisable to carry some small change of local currency especially when you intend to shop in the market / small shops. If you need assistance in identifying what currencies you would need whilst travelling, please feel free to ask us. If you need more local currency when abroad, we recommend that you exchange money at a bank rather than at hotels as they will charge high commission rates. You may also need your passport for identification as you would for traveller's cheques. Even though in India credit and debit cards are widely accepted, keep in mind the exchange rate may be poor and commission will be charged.

Q: How can I check the local weather?

A: You can check the local weather to your destinations here: <http://www.accuweather.com>

Q: What if I arrive late and miss a part of the trip?

A: We regret that no refunds can be made for absences from a trip, including experiences such as missed meals or sightseeing.

Q: What if I become ill on my trip and am unable to continue?

A: We regret that no refunds can be made for absences from a trip, including experiences such as missed meals or sightseeing.

Q: Can I drink the water in the countries I visit?

A: In most of India countries it is advisable to ask the hotel reception or the local guide. Else advisable to drink bottled water. Make sure you avoid tap water and if bottled water is not available stick to soft drinks. Many foreign tourists while drinking only bottled water get careless when they add ice to their drinks. Ice is usually not made from bottled water. Be selective also as to where you buy your bottled water as people have been known to refill bottles and sell them to unsuspecting travellers. Check the seal on the water bottle and buy water from reputable stores.

Q: Can I smoke on the car?

A: There is a strict policy of "no smoking, no alcohol and no smelly food" on all of our cars. We do, however, make plenty of comfort stops.

Q: What if I need to cancel my tour?

A: Please note that if you for any reason need to cancel your tour, please let us know as soon as possible, this will help reduce the amount of cancellation charges you may have to pay. Cancellation charges will be as per the terms and conditions which you can find on our website.

Terms & Conditions :

* Please refer to the full Terms and Conditions on our website