



KASHMIR COMPLETE QUICK TOUR GUIDE

COME TO VISIT **K**ASHMIR

With “**NAYAB HOLIDAYS**”

Kashmir, known for its pristine beauty, snow-clad Himalayan peaks, flushing meadows, gurgling brooks, and cascading waterfalls, besides being an attraction for the **tourist's** world over, has been an abode of Sufi saints for centuries. The Sufi shrines dotting Kashmir's landscape explain their importance to Kashmir's culture, social fabric and rich tradition of spirituality. The great religions including **Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam**, all flourished in Kashmir. Kashmir is one of the most sought-after adventure tourist destinations of the world! The fast-flowing rivers provide an opportunity for water sports like whitewater rafting, angling, cruising, and staying in houseboats. Being situated at high altitudes, amidst the snow-capped mountains, Kashmir has the privilege of offering both land adventures like trekking, mountaineering, skiing and aero-sports facilities like paragliding and aero-ballooning. Adventure in J&K is an experience that nothing else can compare to; it is unbelievably diverse with a beauty that remains unparalleled. Gulmarg, **Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Dal Lake, Mughal Gardens** etc are our landmarks and natural wonders that are internationally recognisable as iconic tourist attractions. **Verinag, Kokernag, Naranag, Sukhnag, Cheshma Shahi, Achabal...** for centuries, natural springs have crisscrossed Kashmir. These are mostly found on the foothills of mountains and in forests, providing clear mountain water. Kashmiri culture has many distinct features, which is clearly reflected in its arts, ranging from tiles and wood carvings, metal utensils to textiles and jewellery. The Arts and Crafts of Kashmir are a profound expression of the emotional life of Kashmiris, and an important part of its rich cultural heritage.



Kashmir handicrafts hold a rich history of craftsmanship and residents of the Valley have beautifully nurtured their cultural legacy since times immemorial. The pleasurable Kashmiri food is believed to have evolved in the 15th century AD when thousands of expert cooks from Samarkand immigrated to Kashmir. They offered the kings a grand feast, which is traditionally known as '**Wazwan**' and is still thriving in Kashmir. Those master cooks called '**Wazas**' work under the guidance of '**Voasta Waza**', the master chef. The special grand feast is famous for having **36** different kinds of banquets, mostly the varieties of meat. Today, Wazwan is not only a ritual but also a celebration.



LAND AND PEOPLE

- **Srinagar's Sobriquet: Venice of the East**
- **Main Crops: Paddy, apple, almond, walnut, saffron**
- **Staple Diet: Rice**
- **Famous beverages: Noon Chai, Kahwa**
- **Kashmir cuisine: Wazwan**
- **Occupation: Agriculture and handicrafts**

Kashmir valley has rich alluvial soil irrigated by rivers which yield rice, vegetables, a variety of fruit, and saffron - the world's costliest spice. The mighty **Pir Panjal** range acts as a barrier to the yearly monsoons that wet the rest of the country. Resultantly, it bears the brunt and its slopes receive more rains than Kashmir valley. The rainfall received in the Valley is different from monsoons though. The National Highway from Jammu to Srinagar passes through the long 'Jawahar Tunnel' in the same Pir Panjal range and opens to the beautiful Vale of Kashmir. The Valley on the northeast is linked to Ladakh through another road which remains closed in winters due to heavy snowfall. River Jhelum - the lifeline of Kashmir - around which the Valley is settled originates from **Verinag** in the south, passes through central Kashmir,



then north Kashmir's Baramulla, then Pakistan, and finally into the Arabian Sea. Paddy is the main crop cultivated in the Valley with wheat and maize being the cereal **crops**. **Apple, almond and walnut are famous high-quality fruits** grown here and exported to the rest of the country. Saffron is the rare cash crop which indeed is the Valley's pride. The climatic condition of Kashmir also helps in cultivation of crops. The occupation of majority of Kashmiris is agriculture, and handicrafts of Kashmir that include **shawls, carpets, and papier-mâché**, also bring the Valley a handsome foreign exchange.



Rice is the staple diet for lunch and dinner with collard greens (saag) and lotus-stem (**nadru**) also adding to the dietary food style. In beverages, Kashmiris consume the famous



Nun Chai which is the pink salt milk tea, sometimes topped with cream. Apart from this, Kashmiri cuisine is famous for **Wazwan**,



a multi-course non-vegetarian meal. The flora and fauna of the Valley includes beautiful plants, and tall-sprawling trees life in Kashmir as it is only found in Kashmir. Leopards, bears, musk deer and Langur also including the famous **Chinar** and **deodar**. Hangul or Kashmiri stag is the crown of animal contribute to the fauna of wildlife.

The Valley has distinctive language groups with majority speaking Kashmiri. Historians advocate that Kashmiri is an off-shoot of Sanskrit language. About 90 percent of the total population of Kashmir valley professes Islam as their religion while the rest are Kashmiri Pandits and Sikhs. The costumes of Kashmir indicate culture and lifestyle. Most of the costumes of Kashmiri people are loose gowns varying in the quality of fabric according to weather. The traditional Kashmiri dress is '**Pheran**' which is a unisex long cloak worn usually during the winters. Women's Pheran is decorated with colourful patches and embroidery work. The summer attire for men is Kurta Shalwar. Women wear Shalwar Kameez, which makes them comfortable during the hot season, with gorgeous jewellery like bangles, earrings , necklaces and sometimes even nose rings worn on special occasions. On the basis of region, 'Gujjars' also contribute a



small part to the ethnicity of the Valley. They are Muslims and speak 'Gojri' and their sub-group '**Bakerwal**' are usually associated with sheep rearing that migrate annually in search of greener pastures along trails running in the inner Himalayan region. Their women's costume consists of the normal Shalwar Kameez with crewel worked skull cap under the scarf, and nose rings while their men are always seen wearing Kurta Shalwar. A cotton turban, which men wear to avoid excessive heat during cattle grazing, has also become a part of their costume culture.



PLACES TO GO IN KASHMIR

PAHALGAM

- Distance from Srinagar: 100 km
- Attractions: Lidder River, Rainbow trout, Pahalgam Golf Course, Children's Amusement Park, Pahalgam Club



- Nearby Destinations:

Amarnath Cave , Chandanwari, Aru,

Sheesh Nag, and Tar Sar, Kolahoi Glacier,

Overa Wildlife Sanctuary

PAHALGAM

PAHALGAM is the **most famous** tourist destination in Kashmir. It lies in the lap of Lidder Valley and offers a variety of leisure to the visitors: The gushing Lidder River, picturesque mountains and pine trees. Lidder River which passes through the middle of the anglers. Pahalgam is most famous among the Indian tourists, particularly Hindus ,Pahalgam has rainbow trout in abundance, making it a perfect and easy fishing spot for as it paves way to Chandanwari, the basecamp for the famous **Amarnath yatra**, a Hindu pilgrimage where thousands of devotees trek to the Amarnath cave every year in July.



The cave is in a gorge of glacier at an altitude of **13,000** feet above the sea level. The trek requires a huge effort and pilgrims are provided with **ponies** run by locals. Apart from it having



religious significance, Pahalgam is a camping ground for trekkers. Places like Aru, Sheesh Nag, and Tar Sar, a mountain lake, which all can be accessed via Pahalgam, are favourite among them. However, the most famous place to trek is **Kolahoi Glacier**, which covers the whole mountainside. A wildlife sanctuary - Overa Wildlife Sanctuary is also situated there which provides experience of wildlife and the fauna of the Valley. Pahalgam also boasts of a golf course at about 7900 feet above the sea level which offers a luxurious sport feeling. A children's amusement park is an added advantage to the visitors. The Pahalgam Club which serves as a MICE destination for businessmen has also been built.

GULMARG

- **Distance from Srinagar: 50 km**
 - **Altitude above the sea level: 9000 feet**
 - **Activities: Skiing, snowboarding**
 - **Attractions: Highland Golf Course, Mountaineering and Skiing Club**
- **Nearby places: Kongdoori and Apherwat**

GULMARG

Known for its unparalleled beauty and rated as one of the matchless tourist spots of the world, Gulmarg is situated at an altitude of **9000** feet in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Gulmarg or '**the meadow of flowers**' provides eye-soothing holidays to its visitors. It is also a favourite spot for the golfers. Gulmarg is surrounded by tall conifers and the lush green carpet of fresh grass takes its look to an entirely different level



The Gulmarg meadows turn white in winters when they are covered under a blanket of snow. Being a center of attraction in winters, during snowfall, Gulmarg is a one-stop for adventure activities like skiing and snowboarding. The Mountaineering and Skiing Club is also situated there to impart tutoring to enthusiastic people. **The cable car 'Gondola'** takes people from Gulmarg to the upper phases **Kongdoori** and **Apharwat** from where visitors can overlook the bowl of Gulmarg. Apart from this, it is famous for its beautiful Highland Golf Course, which boasts of its beauty and is considered the highest golf course in India.

SONAMARG

SONAMARG

- Altitude above the sea level: 9000 feet
- Attraction: River rafting, Thajiwas Glacier
- Nearby destinations: Gadsar, Satsar, Zojila Pass



The **golden meadow** or Sonamarg is situated at an altitude of **9000 feet** on the plateau of Sindh Valley's mountains and acts as access to **Ladakh** via Kashmir. Sindh Valley is the largest tributary to the Valley of Kashmir. The gushing waters flowing in it provide great opportunity for river rafting, an adventure sport very famous during the summers. Surrounded by sycamore forests, alpine flowers, silver birch, fir and pine trees, Sonamarg is a place of enthralling beauty. This destination provides a magnificent view of golden shined mountains that are as high as **16,500** feet. The metaled road passes through massive mountains laden with dense forests. Sonamarg has a string of shimmering waterfalls and the famous **Thajiwas Glacier** is a loved trekking destination. The mountain range **Harmukh** which can be seen from Sonamarg is magnificent and its splendour has been mentioned in Kashmiri poetry. Two lakes **Gadsar** and **Satsar** are on Sonamarg's periphery. It also acts as a basecamp for trekkers going on adventure trekking to **Korakoram peaks**.

DAL LAKE

DAL LAKE

- Area: 18 sq km



- Attractions: **Houseboats, Shikaras, Boulevard, Floating Gardens**



The word '**Dal**' means **expansive** and the lake is true to its name. It is the second-largest lake of Kashmir after **Wullar Lake**. Dal Lake is situated close to Srinagar city, almost at its door, making it convenient for the tourists and the locals to visit. With various inlets making Dal a water body of huge capacity, the chief source of Dal is believed to be the **MarSar Lake**, an alpine lake situated on the upper reaches of **Dachigam** that empties itself in the **Harwan** water reservoir first and in the Dal at the last. Dal Lake offers a beautiful view to the tourists in all seasons, but the snowcapped **Zabarwan** mountain range which surrounds the Dal makes the overall look of Dal extraordinary in the winters. Dal is also worth watching in the summer season, with lotus flowers growing in the lake and covering major areas of the lake's surface which turn part of Dal '**pink**'. The insides of the Dal are blessed with unique floating **gardens**, the land patches on water where vegetables are grown. The Dal on the right side is lined with the beautiful **houseboats**, offering luxurious stay to the tourists. Shikaras are the main attraction for the tourists who hire these boats to rove through the Dal. There is also a huge floating market in the Dal interiors where daily essentials, particularly vegetables from the same floating gardens, are sold in boats. Boulevard, the road around the Dal, with huge poplars lined along, provides refreshing walks and drives to commuters.



MUGHAL GARDENS

MUGHAL GARDENS

The Mughal Gardens count amongst the best gardens in Kashmir valley. Most of them are situated on the shores of Dal Lake with **Nishat** and **Shalimar** on the immediate shores and **Cheshma Shahi** and **Pari Mahal** at some distance from the lake, on the foothills of Zabarwan mountain range. The Mughal Gardens have served as a retreat for the visitors like they did for the Mughals.

Prominent Mughal Gardens in Kashmir include:

NISHAT

- **Built in : 1633 AD**
- **Distance from Lal Chowk: 10 km**



If there is a representation of Mughal legacy in Kashmir, it is the **Nishat garden**. It is the largest Mughal gardens in Kashmir. Situated on the banks of the picturesque Dal Lake and **Zabarwan** Mountains forming its backdrop, it was built by **Asaf Khan**, a Mughal ruler who was the brother of Empress **Nur Jahan**. The garden has **seven stair**-typed shallow terraces with a water canal flowing in the middle which has a spring as its source in the Zabarwan hill. The charming marble



pavilions offer a view of lower gardens of Nishat and Dal Lake. In the middle of the water canal, are numerous fountains in a sequential order that add to the garden's beauty. The huge Chinars lined in large numbers in the latter portion of the garden are a visual treat in the autumn as the colours of the fall make everyone 'fall' in love with it. Colorful flowers and trees also amplify the overall beauty of the garden.

SHALIMAR

- **Built in: 1616 AD**
- **Distance from Lal Chowk: 15 km**
- **Distance from Nishat: 5 km**
- **Area: 1800 feet by 600 feet**



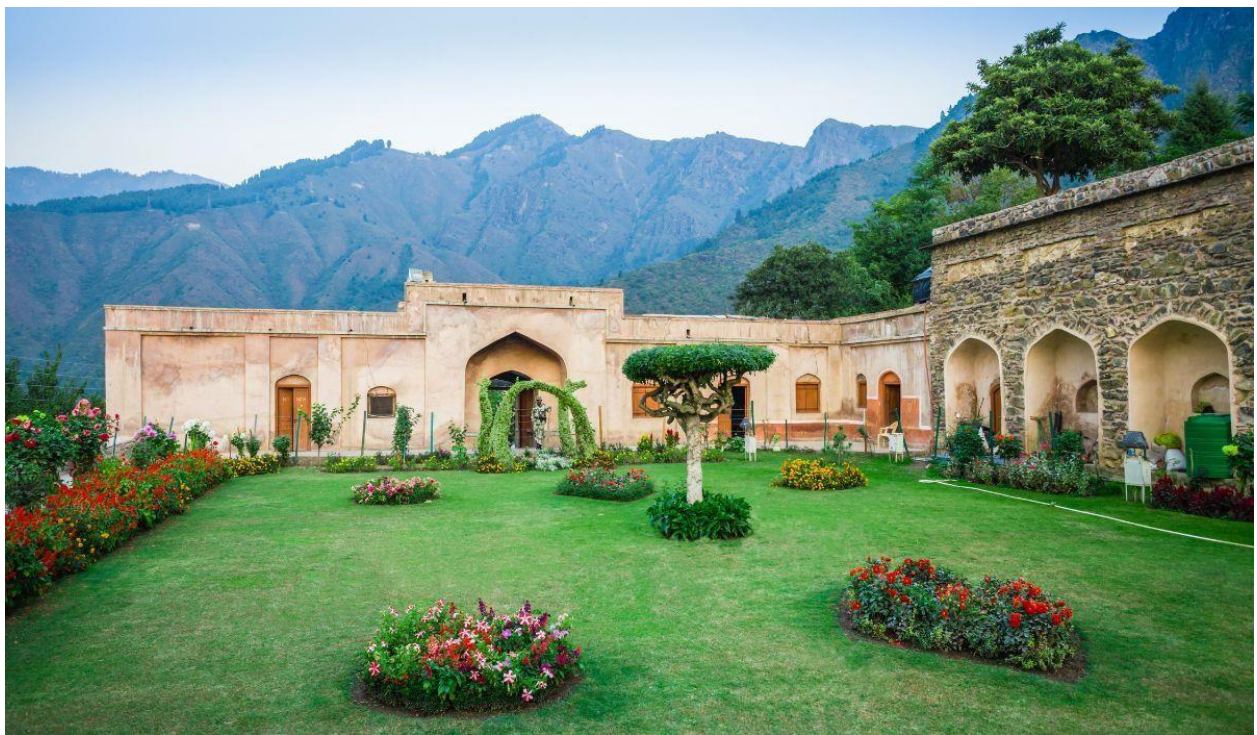
Shalimar garden is also reminiscent of the Mughal era and is located near **Nishat garden** on the banks of Dal Lake. Shalimar was built by Emperor **Jehangir** for his beloved wife, Empress **Nur Jahan** and for this reason is also called an '**Abode of Love**'. It is enclosed by huge stone walls with watch towers as it acted as the summer residence of the Mughals. Shalimar is built on the same pattern as Nishat, however, the terraces which are also shallow, are only **four** in number but the canal flowing through the middle of the garden is same as Nishat. Shalimar garden's



upper terrace is believed to be made exclusive for the empress from where she could get an amazing view over the lower terraces, and the Dal Lake. No tourist visiting Kashmir would have omitted a visit to the **twin gardens of Nishat and Shalimar**, the gardens made of stones and love.

PARI MAHAL

- Distance from Cheshma Shahi: 2 km



Uphill from Cheshma Shahi, a curvy road, tunneled with dense trees which make the road green, pure and silent, ends at the final Mughal garden of Srinagar city: Pari Mahal. Pari Mahal also has six shallow-terraced gardens built above each other. However, the absence of water canal in this garden makes it different from other gardens. However, its absence does not make it inferior as its other features make it matchless.

Pari Mahal resembles both a palace and a garden. It has a set of half-ruined terraces supported by stone-concrete walls, which are provided with wide-arched spaces. The access to the upper terraces is of **tunnelled stoned stairs**. In the beginning, Pari Mahal used to be the royal observatory. Then, during the Buddhist era in Kashmir, it served as their monas- tery, and during the Mughal era, it was converted into a school of astrology by the orders of Dara **Shikoh**,



the eldest son of Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan. This Mughal prince, also called the philosopher prince, used to come to this place to have philosophical discussions with his tutor **Akhood Mullah Shah**. Myths are also attached to it being the abode of **fairies**, hence the name: Pari meaning fairy and Mahal meaning palace.

CHESHMA SHAHI

- **Built in: 1632 AD by Shah Jahan**
- **Area: 350 feet by 125 feet**



A road to the right of the famous **Boulevard** leads to the hillside of Zabarwan range where two more gardens of the Mughal era are situated: **Cheshma Shahi**, the first one and **Pari Mahal** at the end of the road. Cheshma means **spring** and Shahi means **royal**. It is a single but giant spring around which the garden, on the pattern of Nishat and Shalimar, has been built. The garden was laid by **Ali Mar- dan Khan**, a Governor of Mughals and then built by the famous Mughal ruler **Shah Jahan**. The spring which oozes cold, crystal water is housed in the arch on the uppermost terraces. The spring is generally considered to be the purest form of water, and thousands of visitors, both locals and tourists throng Cheshma Shahi to drink it there and also collect it. The water gushing out of it is of great medicinal significance.



HARWAN

- Distance from Shalimar: 6 km
- Distance from Nishat: 11 km
- Distance from Lal Chowk: 21 km



Harwan is known to the people as one of the Mughal Gardens but the pattern of the garden and the assessments of the historians suggest it may not be one among them. The garden is **vast** and **flat** and a canal runs in the middle provided with fountains at intervals. The lowlying Harwan garden at the doorway of the famous **Dachigam National Park** lies on the same track as **Nishat** and **Shalimar**. This garden is big in size and has flowerbeds and trees lined all over, with massive Chinars gracing the look. On holidays, the green velvety lawns of the garden are filled with locals and tourists to lei- sure under the cool shade of Chinars. A beautiful water canal has its source as **Sarband** water reservoir which was built in **1901** and lies in the back of the garden which itself gets the water from the mountain lake **Mar Sar**. Harwan is famous for two more places: the remains of the Fourth Buddhist Council, an archeological site, when Buddhism was prevailing in the Valley, lying just above the **Harwan road** and the hatchery established by the Department of **Fisheries** for **breeding trout**.



YOUSMURG

- Distance from Srinagar: 47 km • Altitude above the sea level: 7500 feet
- Nearby tourist destinations:
Doodhpathri, Nilnag, Bargah and Tosa Maidan,
Sang-e-Safed, Charar-e-Sharief shrine and Pakharpura shrine

YUSMARG



Situated in central Kashmir's Budgam district, Yusmarg is graced with outstanding valleys, **meadows** and **peaks**. It is the perfect getaway to experience the untouched beauty of this part of the Valley. Yusmarg is an alpine valley covered with snow- clad mountains with meadows graced with forests of **Pine** and **Fir**. It lies in the **Pir Panjal mountain range**. Tourists can avail facilities like **huts**, **public conveniences**, **kiosks**, and **cafeterias**, provided by the Yusmarg Development Authority. The **pony service** is also available for those who want to witness the beauty of Yusmarg while horse riding. A few parking lots have also been constructed to facilitate the vehicles of visitors. Equipped



with such facilities, Yusmarg is pacing fast to become one of the most sought after tourist destinations in Kashmir.

DOODHPATRI

- Distance from Srinagar: 45 km
- Time to reach the destination: 2 hours
- Altitude above the sea level: 9000 feet
- Best time to visit: Summers

DOODHPATRI



Famous Kashmiri saint, Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani was looking for water to perform ablution before praying. He pierced a little part of the ground with his **stick** and **milk oozed out**. However, he refused to use milk for performing ablution as milk should only be used for drinking, not performing ablution. His refusal changed its state to water and the place got named Doodh pathri or The Valley of **Milk'**.

Doodhpathri or the The Valley of Milk' gets its name from the **milky appearance of the stream** which flows through the meadows. **This bowl-shaped valley**, is a secluded and serene hill station. Perched high on the deep mountains of central Kashmir's **Budgam district**, Doodhpathri is a grazing pasture for the **Gujjar community** who's wood and



stone huts dot the meadow here and there. Their herd of sheep can be seen scattered among the lush green meadows which look like tiny bright points, presenting a composed look of the spot.

A river also gushes through the meadow with its water being ice-cold even in summers. One falls in love with its secluded feel. It is a huge expanse of greenery where one can relax with little disturbance. However, one can find lots of sheep grazing under the watchful eyes of the local shepherds.

Doodhpathri is a must visit place for those who wonder what it feels like to be surrounded with **emerald green meadows** that stretch infinitely. It should also be on the bucket list of everyone who wishes to spend quality time near a crystal-clear flowing river while breathing fresh air blown from **sky-high pine trees**. Make sure to walk on the icy pebbles of different sizes surrounding this river and soak your feet in its cool waters.

ACHBAL

ACHABAL

- **Altitude above the sea level: 5500 feet**
- **Area: 77 kanal**

Achabal served as the pleasure retreat of the Mughal Empress, **Noor Jehan**. With its abundant Chinar trees and roaring water channels, it is yet another embodiment of the Mughal landscape genius demonstrated in Kashmir



Achabal is a visual treat for the eyes. The garden is trapezoidal in shape and follows the traditional shallow terrace concept. It is developed on the base of a forested mountain. Achabal may seem similar to other Mughal gardens of Kashmir in terms of layout but it is unique for its remote location and natural setting.

VERINAG

VERINAG

- Distance from Srinagar: 80 km

Built around a spring which is the acknowledged source of River **Jhelum**, Verinag is an **octagonal pavilion garden**. The garden was constructed by **Mirza Haider**, an able engineer of the Mughal court at the behest of **Emperor Jahangir**.



The spring is believed to be at its deepest around **50 feet** and has abundant trout fish. The outstanding quality of Verinag is the blend of the surrounding landscape with the formal geometry of the garden. The abrupt rise of the dense-forested hills creates a distinctive background to the arcaded pavilion around the spring. While the forests are rich in deodars, the blue-green waters of the spring are replete with fish. Verinag was the **personal favorite** of Emperor **Jahangir** and it was **his great wish to be buried here**.

KORENAG

KOKERNAG

- Distance from Srinagar: 70 km
- Altitude above the sea level: 6600 feet



Kokernag is one of the most beautiful destinations of south Kashmir and consists of Kashmir's **largest fresh water springs** around which lie its sprawling gardens perfumed with the bloom of thousands of flowers. Blooming gardens surround these springs which bubble at seven places. These springs are at the foot of the forested mountain. This collection of, though small but many, springs sprouts water which flows down into different channels over a hill, the appearance of which resemble the claw of a fowl or '**koker**' in Kashmiri.

DAKSUM

DAKSUM

- Distance from Kokernag: 16 km
- Altitude above the sea level: 8000 feet



Driving past the **Mughal Gardens** of Achabal, one comes across the picturesque Daksum. Situated amidst the magnificent grandeur of **Kokernag springs**, it presents an awe-in- spiring sight. Half a kilometre upstream, Daksum lies in a densely forested gorge, offering peace and tranquility. The area forms a narrow 'Y' shaped valley. The surrounding area is mountainous with steep slopes. The tourist spot is relatively free of any structure. How- ever, besides a rest house, some **Gujjar huts** can be seen, making the resort rich in its **environmental character**.

GUREZ VALLEY

- Distance from Srinagar: 145 km
- Altitude above the sea level: 8000 feet

GUREZ



An alpine **Shangri La** with dazzling fields of **wildflowers**, Gurez is one of the most fascinating parts of **jammu and kashmir** . The beauty of picturesque valley of Gurez can rival even the Swiss Alps. Beautiful and weird, idyllic and surreal, it is a deeply isolated place. Serene and verdant, a paradise of explorers, naturalists, trekkers tourists alike, Gurez Valley in north Kashmir is a fertile, **80-km cleft carved** through the Himalayas by the mighty **Kishenganga River**. The untouched pristine beauty and magnificent landscape mesmerises the visitors. From **Bandipora**, the district headquarters , one has to undergo a four-hour drive crisscrossing the mighty **Himalayas** to reach Gurez

This unique valley remains cut off from the world for more than seven months after the **onset of winter as the only road connecting it to rest of J&K remains closed.**

The 19th century British historian, **Sir Walter Lawrence**, who investigated this old tributary of the **Silk Road**, called **Gurez** a "**valley** "of unexplored treasures" framed" by mountains of "**indescribable grandeur**". A century later, the awe-striking scenic beauty of Gurez, its forests and wildlife are literally unchanged

Besides heritage, cultural and medicinal plant tourism, the valley has the potential To offer many **adventure** outdoor pursuits like **ski-touring, paragliding, parasailing and mount biking.**



Gurez's Tilel Valley is home to a magnificent wildlife including the endangered **Snow Leopard, Hangul Deer, Ibex and Monal pheasant**. There is serenity in this Valley of Mountains change their colour with the intensity of sunlight, forming a perfect confluence of **beauty** and **hardships**.

LOLAB VALLEY

- **Distance from Srinagar: 120 km**
- **Sobriquet: A paradise within a paradise**
- **Best time to visit: Before July or after August**
-

LOLAB VALLEY

Lolab is one of the most beautiful valleys of Kashmir. A three-hour drive through some of Kashmir's famed **apple orchards** brings one to this enchanting Lolab Valley. Lolab is a tranquil destination with verdant forests, musical brooks, breathtaking valleys, beautiful hill ranges, blue waters, natural caves, adventure, virgin lands, rich tribal that starts just outside the busy frontier town of **Kupwara**. culture and splendid surroundings covered all over with hues of green. of the unexplored destination - is home to many ancient springs, and is covered with Lolab, an oval-shaped valley means 'Loveful' Water' - signifying the love and the beauty dense forests of **pine** and **fir**.



For those desirous of visiting the heaven, a visit to this charming valley smitten with the green hills and white frosty waterfalls fulfils the cravings.

Lolab is also home to many Himalayan wild animals including the Himalayan Black Bear, Himalayan Brown Bear, Snow Leopard, Ibex, Markhor, Hangul and Musk Deer.

flows down the surrounding hills and is fed by numerous tributaries clothed by dense One of nature's extravagant gifts, the valley is traversed by stream Lalkul Lahwal, which Deodar forest. Lolab Valley is the fruit bowl of Kashmir and produces most of the exotic and famous fruits of Kashmir including **apple, cherry, peach, apricot and walnut**. There are good camping sites all along the way from **Patalnag, Kambrial** and **Magmarg** to Drass. The valley also has well laid-out routes to facilitate the trekkers. It has **11** ponds with an average depth of 7 feet to 15 feet.

Lolab has many lush green pastures and a rich forest cover.

An ideal model of ecotourism, Lolab Valley is all set to dazzle nature lovers with its green deodar and pine trees, ice-cold gushing streams and snow-covered majestic mountains and a breathtaking landscape. Spectacular, beautiful, awe-inspiring, experiencing Lolab Valley is a rare joy in today's world.

Travelers visiting Lolab sometimes visit the resting place of the saint Kashyap Reshi, 1 km from village Lalpora. A spring called Lavnag can be found nearby. The spring is



3-feet deep and has crystal clear water. Gauri spring is another major spring in the area. The Poet of the East, Sir Muhammad Iqbal, described Lolab in his verses as:

Pani tere sene main tadapta howa seemab aye;

Wadiye Lolab aye, wadiye Lolab aye

BUNGUS VALLEY

- **Distance from Srinagar: 72 km**
- **Altitude above the sea level: 10,000 feet**
- **Area: 300 sq km**

BANGUS VALLEY

Set your foot in Bangus Valley and feel elevated with a supreme bliss. Bangus Valley, if not heaven, is certainly its mirror image. Located 72 km from Srinagar in north Kashmir's frontier **Kupwara** district is the gorgeous Bangus Valley. The Himalayan linear elliptical bowl aligned along the east-west axis and is surrounded by Rajwar and sub-valley is popular among the locals as Bod Bangus or Big Bangus. It consists of a Mawar in the east, Shamasbury and Dajlungun Mountains in the west and Chowkibal and Karnah Guli in the north and **Kazinag Range** in the south. A smaller valley known as 'Lokut Bangus' or Small Bangus lies on the northeastern side of the main valley. Surrounded by mountains and covered with grasslands, this beautiful valley has become an offbeat destination for every traveller. Owing its popularity to offbeat travellers, it has become a sure-shot weekend destination for everyone looking forward to escaping the crowd of tourists in Kashmir.

During summers, Bangus Valley looks like a new bud blossoming into a heavenly flower. Every corner of the valley seems to erupt out of bliss and rapture. The presence of streams and seasonal rivers magnify the beauty of the valley. During the winters, the entire Bangus Valley is covered with a white carpet of snow, consequently, turning the valley into a world of white beauties. The splendours of Bangus Valley make the visitor feel the presence of the quintessential world.

The natural setting of beautiful hills surrounding the squashy grasslands and rich vegetation is exotic. Several streams and seasonal rivers traversing the lands of Bangus Valley make it look more alluring and majestic.



Bangus Valley is traversed by many small streams with nearly 14 tributaries, including the Roshan Kul, Tilwan Kul and Douda Kul. The Qazinig spring is said to be the source of the various springs and streams in Bungus. The Dodkol has sweet and cold water. It emerges from the Dudi hill and merges with the Tilwan Kul at the Baddi Behek meadow. Roshan Kol, Satkol Nag, and its seven streams, are some other streams and lakes of the valley.

Bangus is replete with a diverse variety of flora and fauna. The meadows and the slopes of the side plateaus are covered with a vast range of flowers and medicinal plants. Freshwater fishes of moderate size and their fingerlings inhabit the streams. The wildlife includes about 50 species of animals and about 10 species of birds. The animal species include the musk deer, antelope, snow leopard, brown bear, black bear, mon- keys, and red fox. The prominent resident birds include **pheasants, tragophan, monal pheasant, black partridge, bush quail, and wild fowl**. The large pasturelands of the area produce some of the finest grass in the state. Bungus has more than a hundred meadows. A little more than half of these are on top of plateau while the rest are in the plains. The meadows have a great cushioned fee as the grass is soft. The grass has a tremendous nutritional and medicinal value for the cattle.



THANK YOU FOR VISITING

"NAYAB HOLIDAYS"

ABOUT US

Nayab Holidays invites you to embark on a captivating journey through the enchanting valley of Kashmir. Renowned for exceptional services, we have been serving guests for almost a decade. We are dedicated to providing quality service driven by passion. Your satisfaction is our priority, and we assure you of our presence throughout your tour. Thank you for choosing Nayab Holidays as your journey guide.

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Thanks & Regards

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