

Kashmir-Leh Pashmina Road

Join us on this *discovery style* journey along the historic Pashmina road from picturesque Kashmir to spiritual Ladakh. A houseboat sojourn on Srinagar's tranquil Dal Lake will be our first port of call with time to visit the famous Shalimar gardens and Moghul era sites before heading up country for a fully supported moderate grade four day trek to TarSar Lake. Then we are off by road over the Zoji La to cross the Himalaya Mountains and follow the Indus River upstream to Kargil, Alchi and Leh, the historic capital of Ladakh with its imposing Tibetan style castles and monasteries.

Visit Delhi, Srinagar, Lidderwat, Tar Sar Lake, Sonamarg, Kargil, Alchi, Leh



Starting point Finishing point

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Length of trip | 15 days |
| Accommodation | Hotels, tents, guest-houses, houseboat. |
| Meals included | Yes |
| Travel Style | Coach, 1 domestic flight. Porter supported trek. |
| Escort | SRA tour leader for more than 6 travellers. Local English speaking escort for 6 or less travellers |
| Maximum group | 12 |
| Sightseeing and entry fees | Included |
| Commences | Delhi 26th August 2012 |
| Concludes | Delhi 10th September 2012 |
| COST | NZ\$5,500 based on twin share. Single Rm Sup NZ\$725 (prices subject to change) |

Make voyages! Attempt them...
there's nothing else.

- Tennessee Williams



Itinerary at a Glance :

Sunday, 26 August 2012 Arrive Dehli to Srinagar
Arrive in Dehli to connect with morning flight to Srinagar. Transfer to Chinar Ghat then by *Shikara* (boat) to Dal Lake houseboats. Evening *shikara* ride through floating gardens.

Monday, 27 August 2012 Srinagar Sightseeing
Morning visit Mughal Gardens at the foot of Zabarwan Hills. Also visit Pari Mahal, Cheshmashahi and Nishat Garden. Picnic lunch in Shalimar Garden, followed by visit to Shankaracharya Temple .

Tuesday, 28 August 2012 Srinagar Sightseeing
Early morning by *Shikara* to the vegetable market. Hot breakfast served on the boat. Return to houseboat, late afternoon visit Dachigam National Park for nature watching.

Wednesday, 29 August 2012 Srinagar to Aru (2410m)
Drive to Aru (3 hrs), en route visit Awantipura temple. Overnight in fully supported camp site. Dinner and campfire.

Thursday, 30 August 2012 Aru to Lidderwat (3050m)
TREK 1 Trek time 4 hours. A superb walk through cedar forest initially uphill to a beautiful alpine meadow. Walk through the meadow to our camp site on the banks of the Lidder River. Overnight tents.

Friday, 31 August 2012 to TarSar Lake (3800m)
TREK 2 6—7 hours. A steep ascent this morning to the meadow of Seikwas (3450m). There are stunning views of the Kashmir Himalayas and meadows with late flowering wildflowers on the way to TarSar Glacier Lake. enclosed on three sides by snowy ridges. Overnight in tents.

Saturday, 1 September 2012 to Sikawas Pass (4100m)
TREK 3 Trek time 6-7hrs. After breakfast gradually descend to Seikwas, then a steady ascent to the Pass with superb views of the Sind valley. Lunch on the Pass then descend for 2 hrs to the Sonamous Plateau (3350m) with a bird's eye view of the surrounding countryside. Overnight in tents.

Sunday, 2 September 2012 to Sumbal (2130m)
Descend for 4 hours through the dense forest passing Guijar villages and finally through terraced rice fields to the road head where we re-join the jeep for a 1 hr drive to Sonamarg (Meadow of Gold). Overnight tents.

Monday, 3 September 2012 to Kargil

It takes about 7 hours to drive to Kargil crossing Zoji La (3540m). The spectacular mountain road passes over the main Himalayan range. We follow the Drass River to its confluence with the Suro River to Kargil. Overnight simple hotel.

Tuesday, 4 September 2012 to Alchi

First stop is the Buddhist settlement at Mulbekh, cross the 3720m Namika La and the 4100m Fatu La, the highest point on the road. We'll also make a brief stop at the 1,000 year old Lamayuru monastery. From Lamayuru, its 2 hours to Alchi. Overnight guest house.

Wednesday, 5 September 2012 to Leh (3500m)

Visit the architectural marvel of Alchi Gompa and the village then drive along the Indus River to Leh. (2 hrs). This afternoon stroll round the Tibetan market or visit Shankar Monastery. Overnight hotel

Thursday, 6 September 2012 Leh sightseeing

Sightseeing today along the Indus Valley to the three most important monasteries of Ladakh—Hemis, Thiksey and Shey.

Friday, 7 September 2012 Leh—Khurdungla

A jeep ride up the highest motorable road in the world—Khurdungla. Views of the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges from the top are superb. Afternoon free to wander around the Tibetan bazaar in Leh.

Saturday, 8 September 2012 Leh to Delhi to Agra

Early morning flight to Delhi across the Himalayan ranges—a fitting way to leave the high mountainous area. Arrive in Delhi and transfer to Agra (5 hrs) En route, we will visit the Tomb of the great Moghul King Akbar. This evening time to relax around the pool. Dinner and overnight hotel.

Sunday, 9 September 2012 Agra to Delhi

Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal set in the paradise garden. Back to the hotel for breakfast. Continue sightseeing to the Red Fort. After lunch, drive back to Delhi. We've arranged a hotel near airport to freshen up before midnight transfer to international airport.

Monday, 10 September 2012 depart

Very early morning departure flight.