

# Places of Interest in Kashmir-I

# Srinagar

- Srinagar is located in the heart of the Kashmir valley at an altitude of 1,730 m(1530 feet) above sea level, spread on both sides of the river Jhelum. The Dal and Nagin lakes enhance its picturesque setting, while the changing play of the seasons and the salubrious climate ensures that the city is equally attractive to visitors around the year.
- At Pandrethan , nearly 8 kilometers from Srinagar, Ashoka the Empreror founded the Srinagar city in 3rd Century BC as recorded in the Rajtarangni of Kalhana. Until 630 AD Srinagar remained the capital city of Kashmir when Parvarasana II established the new city called Parvarapura near Kohi-i-Maran (Hariparbat hill) - the present city which later came to be called as Srinagri. The present city of Srinagar is the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir State situated at an altitude of 1590 mtrs (5209 ft) having latitude 23-04' North and longitude 74-48' East.
- With its almost medieval charm the city of Srinagar has sights, smells and sounds to enchant the most jaded traveller. Its typical roads and bustling bazars are a photographer's delight. A Mughal fort, developed to its full size in the late 18th century by an Afghan governor named Atta mohammed Khan around and atop Kohi-i-Maran dominates the city. The low wall enclosing the upper part of the hill was constructed by Emperor Akbar. Sprawling from the southward from the base of the Hill, the old city is the nerve centrer of Srinagar. In Persian chronicles, it is called "Shehr-e-Khas" or Main City of Kashmir.

- In Persian chronicles, it is called "Shehr-e-Khas" or Main City of Kashmir. Srinagar has long been Kashmir's most important commercial town. Boats have been a primary means of conveyance in the past. On the banks of river Jehlum, an arterial waterway, the city is formed over a dozen of bridges which span the River and include Zero bridge, Abdullah bridge, Amira kadal, Budshah kadal, Habba kadal, Fateh kadal, Zaina Kadal, Ali kadal, Nawa kadal & Safa kadal. Old brick buildings line the banks with distinctive look.
- Srinagar is a unique city with breathtaking physical environment, lakes, mughal gardens, springs, golf course, hills & mountains, cycling tracks, trekking opportunities, angling, water sports, indoor sports, world class hotels and an international conference centre, restaurants, traditional and continental foods. Besides, it is endowed with spiritual places, exquisite arts and crafts and rich heritage. Neolithic age ruins (Burzhama site) & Budhist era ruins (Harwan) are an archeologist's delight.

- Sightseeing in Srinagar is commonly done by bus or taxi. Another way of seeing the city, especially the lake area, is by **shikara**. It is particularly pleasant to row over the waters of the Dal Lake to visit the Mughal Gardens and other lakeside sites, including the famous Hazratbal mosque.
- The well-known sights in the city are Shankaracharya Temple atop the hill called Takht-e-Suleiman, a 5 km climb from Nehru Park on a metalled road. The prominent spiritual places include: shrines of Makhdoorn Sahib, Dastgieer Sahib, Shah i Hamdan, Naqashband sahib, Harzratbal Mosque, Jama Masjid, Immam Baba Zadibal & Hassanabad, Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi, Sharika Temple atop Hariparbat, Raghunath Temple, All Saints Church & Holy Family Church. Besides, Badh Shah's Tomb , a Royal Mosoleum & Graveyard,(Mazar e Salatain), Christian Cemetery (Sheikh Bagh), Aaraam Gah, a Zoroastrian cemetery (Badam i Bagh) & Malakhah Graveyard are prominent cemeteries. SPS Museum Lal Mandi has excellent collection.



# Gulmarg

- Gulmarg reinforces its position as a Prime Winter Destination( 2,730 m/56 km) from Srinagar. Gulmarg's legendary beauty, prime location and proximity to Srinagar naturally make it one of Asia's premier hill resorts. Originally called 'Gaurimarg' by shepherds.
- Gulmarg was discovered in the 16th century by Sultan Yusuf Shah, who was inspired by the sight of its grassy slopes emblazoned with wild flowers. It was also a favourite resort of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir. Today, Gulmarg is not merely a mountain resort of exceptional beauty but also the country's premier ski resort in winter when it is covered in snow and takes on the appearance of a picture postcard.
- Gulmarg was first established as a ski resort by the British who had set up the Ski Club of India here in 1927. Skiing at Gulmarg had become very popular during the pre-independence years. The resort used to host two major skiing events, one each during Christmas and Easter. In 1938-39, about 500 skiers are said to have participated in Christmas and Easter ski races. Gulmarg's atmosphere was identified with European ski resorts of the 1940's and 50's - the 'Alps of good old days'. It has good sunshine as well as good snow.





# A Tree House In Gulmarg



# Winter in Gulmarg



# Christmas in Gulmarg



*END*