

# JAN Treks & Travels

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Journeys into Adventure and Nature

## **Dal Lake & Gangobal Trek - 10 days**

Trekking from Sonamarg along Vishansar and Krishansar Lakes to Naranag

**Tour JAN-KT03:** Srinagar - Sonamarg – Vishansar & Krishansar Lakes – Gangobal – Naranag - Srinagar



The Gangobal trek is one of the best high altitude treks you can do in Kashmir. You'll walk up with the proud Gujar, semi-nomadic herdsmen that move up from the plains to the high alpine pastures in spring time and stay there in simple wood and stone huts. You'll ascend far beyond the tree line, watch marmots, golden eagles and jumping trout at the beautiful lakes Vishansar and Krishansar, and cross a glaciated pass of 4180 m high. After a leisurely day at the high glacial lake of Gangobal, where some extra climbing with very good views of Nangaparbat in Pakistan, you'll descend and return to Dal Lake.

### ***Itinerary***

#### **Day 01 : Arrival Srinagar.**

On arrival at Srinagar, you will be met by our representative at the airport and transferred to Houseboat Ambassador.

In the afternoon we make a *shikara* tour on Dal lake. A shikara is small Kashmiri wooden boat that is rowed by a *shikari* with a heart-shaped peddle). Overnight at Houseboat.

#### **Day 02: Srinagar - Sonamarg - Thajwas Glacier (84 Kms; 1 hr walking)**

We leave Srinagar and drive through picturesque villages up to Sonamarg at 2800 m. Today's walk is a short one but one that leads us right into a majestic mountain scenery. We trek three km upto the foot of the Thajwas Glacier. Here we make camp at 3000 m altitude. Overnight in Tents.

### **Day 03: Thajwas Glacier - Nichinai (13 Kms, 4-5 hrs walking).**

We trek up the steep slopes east of Sonamarg along meadows where Gujjar herd their animals. We get very good views of Sonamarg behind us and the Great Himalayan Range that separates Kashmir from Ladakh. We also get good views of the Thajwas and other glaciers. We reach a lush green campsite at Nichinai – 'Shepherds Valley' – where sheep and Himalayan marmots abound. Overnight in Tents.



### **Day 04: Nichinai – Vishensar Lake (15 Kms/5-6 hrs walking)**

Leaving in the morning we immediately start ascending to Nichinai pass (4140 m) and then descend into a wide, tree-less valley with impressively dented slate walls as a back-drop. Vishensar Lake is reached after walking through this beautiful valley with many different wild flowers and crossing a big stream at the end. Overnight in Tents.

### **Day 05: Krishansar - Gadsar (16 Kms/6-7 hrs walking)**

It is a long day trekking towards Gadsar, known as a botanist's paradise. First we trek pass Vishensar and the slightly higher situated Krishensar Lake. A 'forest guard' here makes sure that no trout is caught, unless you pay him a bribe. After a steep ascend up to Krishansar Pass (4080 m) we reach Gadsar. Overnight in Tents.

### **Day 06: Gadsar - Gangobal Lake (19 Kms/6-7 hrs walking)**

The first part of the day we climb up gently to Poshpatri (the valley of flowers), followed by a gradual walking upto Megandub. From here it's a steep and difficult stretch to Zagibal Pass (4180 m). This is the highest and most tiring pass on this trek. Once there, you get beautiful view of the Gangobal Lake and Harmukh peak. A steep descend brings us to the shore of the shimmering glacial lake. Overnight in Tents.

### **Day 07: Gangobal**

Day for leisure or trout fishing at Gangobal Lake. We can also make a full day trip to Lul Gul pass where you getsplendid views of Nanga Parbat. Overnight in Tents.

### **Day 08 : Gangabal Naranag - Srinagar.**

Leaving Gangobal, we embark on a very long and steep descent through dense forest - said to be home to many Himalayan black bears - towards Naranag. On the way we pass Trunkol and Nunkol, two small villages whose inhabitants are semi-nomadic.



At Naranag you can visit a Buddhist monastery. It is said that 3rd world Conference of Buddhism was held somewhere around this place in the 3d century AD. It is a 2 hours drive to Srinagar, where will check in tot the houseboat on Dal lake.

### **Day 09: Mughal Gardens & Srinagar**

Today we'll spend a full day seeing the sights of Srinagar. We'll visit the famous Mughal Gardens and a number of other heritages places: Cheshmashahi Garden (built by Shah Jehan in 1632 AD.), Pari Mahal (built by Dara Shikoh), Nishat Garden (built by Asif Khan in 1633 AD.), Shalimar garden (built by Shah Jehangir in 1616 AD.) and Hazratbal Mosque. After seeing the old city of Srinagar, we'll return by mid afternoon to the houseboat for a rest and a relaxed farewell-dinner. Overnight stay at the houseboat.

### **Day 10: Departure and transfer to airport, bus or railway station**

After breakfast our shikara will take you to the shore, where the taxi for the airport, bus or railway station will be waiting.

### **Tour Price**

P.M.

*Price includes:* Accommodation on twin share basis; MAP in Srinagar (breakfast, dinner and stay); shikara crossings, all transfers and sightseeing as per itinerary; all meals while trekking, accommodation in 2-person trekkers tents on the trek; local guide/assistance throughout the tour.

*Not included:* Air fare; tips; drinks; laundry; telephone calls; travel/ personal insurance; expenses of personal nature.