



MYSTIC KASHMIR & GOLDEN TEMPLE TRAIL

4th June 2026 – 17th June 2026



Kashmir is the northernmost geographical region of the Indian Subcontinent. Until the mid 19th Century, the term 'Kashmir' denoted only the Kashmir Valley between the Great Himalayas and the Pir Panjal Range. Today it denotes a much larger area, 'Jammu' and 'Kashmir' as well as the Pakistani administered areas of 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Gilgit-Baltistan' and additionally the Chinese administered territories of 'Aksai Chin' and the 'Trans-Karakoram Tract'. In the first half of the first millennium, the Kashmir region was a very important centre of Hinduism and later, Buddhism. In 1339, Shah Mir became the first Muslim ruler of Kashmir. From 1586 to 1751 Kashmir was part of the important Mughal Empire and thereafter, until 1820, part of the Afghan Durrani Empire. The British later sold the region under the Treaty of Amritsar and the Raja of Jammu, Gulab Singh became the ruler of Kashmir. With tutelage in place from the British Crown, the reign lasted till partition in 1947 when the former princely state of the British Raj was claimed by both India and Pakistan.

The infamous lakes of Kashmir will entice and delight whilst you drift along in your own luxury 5-star traditional Indian houseboat enjoying traditional foods prepared just for you. The valleys of the Kashmir region hold beauty the likes of which you will never see again. Visit Sonmarg to visit the paddy fields, and the famous Thajwas Glacier. And in Leh, visit the array of Buddhist Monasteries with some dating as far back as the 10th Century. You will embrace the Nuba Valley and Khardung la Pass, the highest road in the world at 5600 metres. Visit relaxing sulphur hot springs, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, in Amritsar visit the exquisite Golden Temple made with 750KG of solid gold and visit the largest kitchen in the world feeding approx. 100k people daily!

Program

Delhi

2 nights

4 & 5 June

On arrival into Delhi, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your glamorous 5-star hotel. We have selected the special 'cocktails & canapes' package for you, so join us from 6pm – 8pm in the Horizon Club Lounge on the top floor of this remarkable hotel and join all other guests alongside Kehren & Rakesh for a night of fun and frivolity.

Have a good night's sleep, you deserve it and wake up refreshed and 'ready to go'.

This is your day to recuperate from your flight, and last night's event..... Your driver will be on hand to take you to any of a wide selection of tourist attractions/ or shopping, at your selection. Please don't hesitate to ask Kehren or Rakesh the best places for you to experience.

Hotel

'Horizon Club King Room' at [Shangri-la Hotel New Delhi](#) *with unlimited evening cocktails and canapes in Horizon Club Lounge (6pm – 8pm)

Amritsar

2 nights

6 & 7 June

Let's take the comfortable Vandhe Bharat train to Amritsar, First Class of course, and once in Amritsar, rest up in your beautiful Taj Hotel. After breakfast next day, experience the most blissful visit to the Famous Golden Temple and enjoy this sacred time. The Golden Temple is located in the city of Amritsar, Punjab, India. It is one of the most revered spiritual sites of Sikhism. The construction of Harmandir Sahib was intended to build a place of worship for men and women from all walks of life and all religions to worship God equally. Partake in the free community kitchen and meals, servicing over 100k meals per day and regardless of any distinctions, a tradition that is a hallmark of all Sikh Gurdwaras.

Experience the morning prayer at the Golden Temple, then proceed to JalionWalan Bagan, the very place where the massacre of so many people occurred. The crowd gathered were non-violent Indian nationalists, protesting British conscription of Indians and heavy war tax, and pilgrims celebrating the holiday of Baisakhi. Fifty British soldiers, under the leadership of Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, opened fire on the gathering; Dyer told his men to shoot to kill and they did. This massacre set the tone for British/Indian relations.

Early evening, we will head out for a real time experience of visiting the Wagah Border of India and Pakistan. The lowering of the flags ceremony at the



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Wagah border is a daily military practice that the security forces of India and Pakistan have jointly followed since 1959. The drill is characterized by elaborate and rapid dancelike manoeuvres. It is alternatively a symbol of the two countries' rivalry, as well as brotherhood and cooperation between the two nations.



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Hotel

'Luxury King Room, City View' at [Taj Swarna Hotel](#) or similar

Kashmir

3 nights

8, 9 & 10 June

After breakfast this morning you will be driven to the airport for your flight to Srinagar in beautiful Kashmir. Upon arrival in Srinagar our driver will meet us and take us to our houseboats. These are THE BEST houseboats available, Indian design out of traditionally carved wood. On the houseboat you will be offered traditional Kashmiri tea called 'Kehwa'. Enjoy an extravagant home-made food upon your house boat and spend time floating through the lakes of Kashmir. Early evening enjoy a Shikara ride and later, dinner is served on your boat too. The backwaters of Srinagar are superb and you will visit the floating gardens on the backwater which is a real treat also. The food is fragrant and delicious! After breakfast on 25/12 we will go on a tour of the Nishat Gardens and the Shalimar Gardens. A MUST SEE is the Shahi Hamadam Mosque built in 1395 of beautiful proportions and history. If you desire, we can go to a silk and carpet factory where we will see weaving in progress after which we will return to the houseboats in time for early evening drinks and a sumptuous dinner on the second and third nights on the houseboats.



Click me

Houseboat

'Super Deluxe' Room at [Naaz Kashmir](#) or similar



Sonmarg

2 nights

11 & 12 June

After breakfast on the houseboats we will drive to Sonmarg, a simple 3.5 hour drive, taking in the paddy fields en-route and stopping at local villages. On arrival into Sonmarg we will visit the very famous Thajwas Glacier and enjoy the snow and the ice. Enjoy sledging as you desire as time will permit. Afterwards, relax into the hotel and soak up the warmth and the local cuisine. Awake the next day by the river and there will be as many walking expeditions or relaxing experiences as you wish within the local area.



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Hotel

'Deluxe King Room' at [Four Points by Sheraton Sonmarg Resort](#) or similar

Kargil

2 nights

13 & 14 June

Our next day we have an early start as we have a reasonable drive to Kargil. On the way we will experience the most scenic views through amazing passes with extravagant views. Once we reach Kargil we will do a quick check in and move to the town to discover the quaint and rich historical town. Surrounded by mountains all round and some of the most arid and barren landscapes through India, Kargil is unique and offers you the amazing Mulbekh Monastery.



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Hotel

'Deluxe Room' at [Highland Mountain Resort & Spa](#) or similar

Leh

2 nights

15 & 16 June

After breakfast we begin our wondrous drive to Leh via Lamayuru and Alchi. Once we hit Lamayuru you will be able to see the monasteries this town is famous for, some of the monasteries dating back as far as the 10th Century AD! After the monasteries visit, proceed to Alchi, a very old village by the Indus river, famous for its 'Gompa' which is approximately 1000 years old and which has original paintings of Buddha of varying scales. Arrival in Leh is in the mid to later afternoon and we will relax in the hotel and enjoy a traditional Indian meal together. For those that are interested (and I am for sure) we can watch one of the most famous Indian videos '3 Idiots' which we will reference the next day. Next morning we will track with our 4 wheel drives for a full day's excursion to the most renowned monasteries in the area of the Ladakh region. We will visit the Thiksey Monastery and the Hemis Monastery and on the way back to Leh see the Shey Palace and Rancho School of '3 Idiots' fame (last night's reference). The final day in Leh will allow you time for relaxation or adventure at your leisure.



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Hotel

'Suite' Room at [Stok Palace Heritage Hotel](#) or similar

Delhi
1 night
17 June

Our driver will take us this morning to the Airport, where you will board your flight to Delhi. Do last minute shopping in Aerocity, only 1KM from the airport. Or simply luxuriate in this most splendid 5-star hotel.

Leave for Delhi International Airport for your flight back to Australia on 2/1. You will be dropped at the airport for your flight back home with (very) sweet memories, courtesy of Pillow Menu Tours.



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Hotel 'Deluxe Room' at [Roseate House](#) or similar

Flights to India and back home again

As your itinerary may vary from this tour, your flights and carrier is at your selection.

Hosted Tour Experience

AUD \$5,982.00 full experience including accommodation (excluding airfares)

- Price based on per person twin-share, flexibility with dates may be able to be accommodated.
- Luxury 8 to 10 guests private tour, highest quality accommodation, fine cuisine.

Land Only Costs Include

- Accommodation on bed and breakfast basis as per mentioned above hotels or similar
- Early hotel check-in and late check-out, where possible, subject to availability
- All sightseeing, excursions; transfers using A/C Minibus (8-10 pax) as per program
- Parking, permits, gasoline, border taxes for the vehicle
- Services of accompanied English speaking escort for the entire duration of the program
- All Monument/Temple entrance fees as noted
- English speaking guides

Land Only Costs Exclude

- Any additional activities/unique experience in the program on direct payment basis
- Any item of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls, etc.
- Camera fees (still/video) at any monuments
- Visa fees
- Any additional meals (unless specified)

Terms and Conditions

Land only prices exclude flights from Melbourne. \$2000 per person non-refundable deposit required at time of booking. Deposit is only refundable should [DEAT](#) issue a 'Do Not Travel' alert on their website within 30 days of departure. Otherwise, booking is non-refundable & dates are non-changeable once booking is confirmed. Please note above pricing is correct at time of printing. Pricing can change due to fluctuations. You are responsible for all visas, entry, health and other requirements and any documents required by laws, regulations, orders and/or requirements of countries visited. Pillow Menu Tours is not responsible for passport and visa requirements or for any loss you sustain for failing to comply with laws, regulations, orders and/or requirements of countries visited.

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