

**Hello Sir/Madam,
Greeting From Globetrot Holidays!!!**

Please check the below details for **Kashmir Great Lakes Trek – Kashmir (9 Days 8 Nights)**

For booking & any queries call us on **+91 9969625616 / +91 8779036988**

**Srinagar(1N)-Sonamarg(1N)-Nichnai(1N)-Vishansar(1N)-
Gadsar(1N)-Satsar(1N)-Gangabal(1N)-Srinagar(1N)**

Region: - Kashmir

Grade: - Difficult

Max. Altitude: - 13,800 ft. (4,200 m)

Approx. Trekking Km: - 75 km

Best Time to Visit: - June to September

The trek to the Kashmir Great Lakes will provide the trekkers a perfect flavour of all hues of terrain- innumerable meadows, snow clad glaciers and pinnacles, passes, rocky barren lands, struggling streams. The trail to the Great Lakes is worth trekking. It is a path to heaven and its virgin serenity. Trek to the Kashmir Great Lakes offers a lifetime experience of vintage memories that are so wonderfully tiring.

TREK ITINERARY:

- **Day 01: Arrive Srinagar (Altitude 1,600 m / 5,300 ft.) (D)**

On your arrival at Srinagar Airport, meet our tour representative & then proceed towards your pre-booked hotel in Srinagar. Check-in at the hotel. SRINAGAR sheltered by the snowy White Mountains, popularly known as “Paradise on Earth” and “Venice of the East”, is situated in the beautiful valley of Kashmir. Today you can visit Jama Masjid, Hazratbal Shrine Mosque, Shankaracharya Temple, Mughal Gardens (Shalimar, Chashme Shahi, Nishat), Pari Mahal Garden, Hari Parbat Fort, Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, Dal Lake. Relax for the rest of the day.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Srinagar.

- **Day 02: Srinagar – Sonamarg (Drive 100 km / 3-4 hrs) (Altitude 1,600 m / 5,300 ft. to 2,400 m / 7,800 ft.) (B,L,D)**

After having an early morning Breakfast check-out from the hotel. Later proceed the journey to Sonamarg. Since there are no shops around, ensure that you have everything that you need on the trek, already with you. Your campsite will be near the Sindh River (Shitkadi Village). Check-in at the camp. Relax for the rest of the day.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Sonamarg.

- **Day 03: Sonamarg – Nichnai via Shekdur (Trek 11 km / 8-9 hrs)
(Altitude 2,400 m / 7,800 ft. to 3,500 m / 11,500 ft.) (B,L,D)**

After having an early morning Breakfast check-out from the camp. Today you'll proceed to Nichnai via Shekdur. Trek starts 3 km out of Sonamarg, on the Srinagar road. Exactly at the 3 km mark, spot a lone Dhaba on the right. The place also sells packaged water, biscuits & it is your last place to pick up eatables. The next trace of dwelling civilization is only at Naranag at the end of the trek. A jeep track diverts to the right off the main road at the shop. The track goes down to the level of the Sindh River flows in between mud track & main road. Trekking trail starts along the track but quickly diverts higher up. Half an hour into the trek, the trail bends left & enters a green meadow. The meadow directly overlooks the Sonamarg town. In another half an hour you are at the top of the meadow where Maple & Pine trees start. At the tree line, the trail quickly descends to a tiny brook & then climbs again. What follows next is a lovely dense forest of Maple trees. Walking on the green bed of grass amidst the Maples is an experience unique to Kashmir. For the next hour and half, the trail winds up through the Maple trees. Stick to the trail heading uphill as the ones going down head to some of the nearby villages. The trees give way to clearings in between. Turn around & see the view of the Sonamarg Valley & Thajiwas Glacier which gets better as you gain height. The Maple forest ends at the top of the ridge & the other side a meadow gently slopes down. Spend a few moments at the ridge capturing the views of Sonamarg & its neighbouring valley. The streams, the meadows, the pines & the town nestled make a wonderful picture. The climb is now over & the trail slopes down into a meadow. The meadow is lined on the left by Silver Birch trees & a few shepherd huts. The carpet of green rolls down from the trees to the end of the 40 feet wide meadow. Small brooks which cross the meadow serve as water sources. On the right are small peaks with snow powdered on top of them. This place is Shekdur. If you plan to have a short days trek on day one, this is where you pitch your tents for the day. It takes an average trekker about two & half hours to reach the meadow from the road head & add another half an hour if you decide to break the days trek at the end of the meadow. Shekdur is a beautiful campsite surrounded by Bhoj trees. This is the only campsite with trees on this trek & therefore adds a good variety to your photographs. Have lunch at the meadows in Shekdur & move ahead to Nichnai. The meadow of Shekdur stretches for half an hour. The gentle descent on the meadow ends in a forest of Bhoj or Silver Birch. Take the trail that goes in the middle of the forest & continue to descend gently. Watch out for the sun rays making their way in between the thick foliage making it a nice show of light & dark. In an hour, you'll reach the end of the Birch trees & the trail goes down & climbs back into a river valley. The river valley is the beginning of Nichnai. The trail now is along the right bank of the river going upstream. Look behind to see snow clad peaks from Sonamarg Valley. You are now in wide valley but enclosed by mountains on either side. The river, which joins the Sindh eventually flows in speed through the valley. The first 30 minutes is over rocks & your mules will walk very slowly over here. An hour into the river valley green patches devoid of rocks open up. The river valley widens & you can see the green meadow widening in between the two mountain ranges. Far ahead lie triangular twin snow clad peaks. Choose a flat ground to pitch tents & end the day trek. Check-in at the camp. Relax for the rest of the day.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Nichnai.

- **Day 04: Nichnai – Vishansar via Nichnai Pass (Trek 12 km / 7-8 hrs)
(Altitude 3,500 m / 11,500 ft. to 3,700 m / 12,000 ft.) (B,L,D)**

After having an early morning Breakfast check-out from the camp. Later proceed the trail to Vishansar via Nichnai Pass (Altitude 4,100 m / 13,500 ft.). The day trek is a long walk on meadows with the scenery changing for the better all along. Start early morning to give you enough time to enjoy the meadows. Your first destination for the day is to cross the Nichnai Pass or Vishansar Berry. The pass is visible at a distance from the campsite. It lies just to the right of the twin snow clad peaks. After half an hour of walking along the river, cross the river to move to its left bank. Next one hour, walk on the left bank. Notice that the trail slowly starts ascending as you traverse through the meadow. The following one hour is a climb to the pass. As you climb, notice a small lake at the foot of the mountains. The lake is deep blue in colour & you can sense your expectations raising of the main lakes to come on this trek. The pass is deceptive. The ridge seen from the meadow below is not the pass. The trail turns inwards twice & only then does the Nichnai Pass come up. From the Nichnai Pass, watch the Sonamarg Valley & the trail you came from. This is the last point on the trek where you get phone network. The Nichnai Pass feels like a wide tunnel. On the left stand a series of snow clad peaks, there are no peaks on the right but the land raises on the right too. You are just into your second day of the trek & this by any standard is a very fast ascent. It is not uncommon for people to feel the altitude on the climb to Nichnai Pass. The good news is that the trail descends from here on. The rocky trail descends rapidly. In the next hour the rocks give way to grass. Red flowers spring out next to your feet. What you see ahead is a wide green meadow stretching for miles with mountains lining the sides. A new river flows down from the pass into the meadow ahead. Stop here & take in the view of the peaks, the river below & the flowery meadow. Notice to your left a big waterfall splashing down the mountain cliff & joining the river. From the waterfall, the rapid descent ends & you are now walking through the flat wide meadow. On the left are the classic snow clad Himalayan mountains but notice on your right, grey & barren mountains resembling the Ladakh ranges. Walk along in between the two ranges over the lush green carpet of grass. Two main streams flow through the valley. Stick close to the stream on the left. In half an hour, brace yourselves for another stream crossing for the day. The water is icy cold. Continue in the meadow for an hour & half until you reach the end of the valley. Another stream flows perpendicularly from your left to your right. This stream originates at the Vishansar Lake which is a bit higher. The lake is not seen yet & cannot be seen from the campsite. Pitch your tents anywhere beside the stream coming from the lake. The Vishansar Lake lies half a km to the left & 100 feet higher from the campsite. Head left & follow the stream without crossing it. The lake is two mounds away & takes about 10 minutes to reach. The first impression you get on seeing the Vishansar Lake is that it is very big. It lies nestled below 4 mountains. The Kishansar Peak though half a km away, reflects in the lake. The reflections are wonderful when the lake is still. The colour of the lake depends on the time of the day & the clouds in the sky. Early in the morning, before the sun really shines, expect clear colourless water. The lake starts getting its colours when the sun shines. On a clear sunny morning, the water is absolutely blue. Clouds & the evening sun make it look greenish blue in the latter half of the day. Whatever be the colour, the lake looks wonderful & it is worth catching a glimpse of the lake in all its hues. These lakes are full of trout's & trout fishing is popular. Check-in at the camp. Relax for the rest of the day.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Vishansar.

- **Day 05: Vishansar – Gadsar via Gadsar Pass (Trek 14 km / 9-10 hrs)
(Altitude 3,700 m / 12,000 ft. to 3,700 m / 12,000 ft.) (B,L,D)**

After having an early morning Breakfast check-out from the camp. Later proceed the trail to Gadsar via Gadsar Pass (Altitude 4,200 m / 13,800 ft.). The next lake in series is the Kishansar Lake. It lies just about half a km away & 500 feet higher than Vishansar. The Kishansar Lake lies at the base of the Kishansar Peak. It takes about an hour to reach Kishansar Lake from the campsite. Move right towards the stream & cross it where it is easy. The trail climbs up on the right side of the Vishansar Lake. There are multiple tracks here. For those keen on photography, the one going up is more attractive as you get the view of the meadow & the lake from a height. For those who prefer an easier trail, stick to the flatter trails. Though the two lakes are only one & half km away, there is no point where the two lakes are visible together. Kishansar is also big & blue. It has a big meadow stretching on its right. The lake & the meadow is bordered on the farther side by a ridge line that raises sharply. The trail climbs up to the top of the ridge & on the top of the ridge is the Gadsar Pass. Spend time at the Kishansar meadows photographing the lake from various angles. The next part of the trek is from Kishansar Lake side to the top of the ridge. You see a pencil thin line traversing through the mountain side. That is your track to follow. Always stick to the one going higher though any of them will take you to the top. It is an hour & half climb to the top of the ridge at moderate pace. 45 minutes into the climb, you'll be treated to one of the loveliest views you can ever imagine. Both the Kishansar & Vishansar Lakes are in full-view together. The view of the twin lakes lasts till you reach the ridge top or the Pass. This is called as the Gadsar Pass, the highest point on the trek. On the other side of the Gadsar Pass stretches a long valley with 2-3 small lakes visible. Far in the distance lie a series of snow clad peaks. The peaks lie outside our Line of Control. It is not uncommon to find snow at the Gadsar Pass & also in the initial parts of the descent to the other side. The descent is straightforward. The first small lake that is seen on the left is the Yamsar Lake. The locals tend to believe that lord Yama has some association with the lake. Beyond Yamsar is another nameless lake. An hour's descent leads you into flat meadows again. This valley is narrower with two ranges running on your either sides. Notice the multi-coloured flowers growing up out of the green grass. It starts with red and moves on to blue and purple Iris flowers. When you are in the blue Iris area, you are almost at Gadsar, one of the prettiest & most pristine of the lakes on this trek. Gadsar is at the base of snow clad cliffs. Blue flowers spring up one side & snow slabs fall into the lake from the mountain on the other side. Look ahead to see the green blue valley gently slope down. The Yamsar, the nameless lake and Gadsar are all connected by a stream as water flows from the higher lake to the lower. Choose to make Gadsar your campsite for its sheer beauty but only if you can vow to leave the ground as neat as you found it to be. No one camps at Gadsar. There is a small abandoned army shelter near Gadsar. If you choose not to camp next to Gadsar, the next place to camp would be the Gadsar army camp. Continue on the downward trail from Gadsar & in half an hour the valley widens up. Spot another blue lake on the left of the valley. Notice the snow clad mountains now give way to lower barren mountains. You have lost considerable altitude again. In another half an hour down the trail, a few Shepherd huts come up. Continue downhill & at the end of the third half hour, the army camp comes up. Gadsar army camp is just a small hut housing 5-8 army men. To move beyond the army camp, one

needs permission from their Headquarters. The Headquarters is 3 miles further away down into the tree line near a village. If you are near the Gadsar army camp, it is best to report to them as soon as possible. It takes 2-3 hours for their green signal to come through. All details of the trekkers and staff including original ID cards are recorded, collected and checked. Check-in at the camp. Relax for the rest of the day.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Gadsar.

- **Day 06: Gadsar – Satsar (Trek 9 km / 6-7 hrs) (Altitude 3,700 m / 12,000 ft. to 3,700 m / 12,000 ft.) (B,L,D)**

After having an early morning Breakfast check-out from the camp. Later proceed the trail to Satsar. From the army camp move left towards the stream. The trail crosses the stream & heads up the mountain. Crossing the stream is the easiest way to trek. If one really wants to avoid getting their feet wet in the icy cold water, then head to the bridge which a kilometre away & cross the stream. The climb up is steeper if one goes to the bridge. After crossing the stream, take the trail that goes up the mountain. The trail now looks like a typical western ghat trail. The terrain feels very similar. You are just above the tree line. Trees & the river valley are visible below you. The hour & half long climb takes you up by 1,100 feet. Once beyond the 11,500 feet altitude, the climb graduates to a traverse. The trail bends round to the left & leaves the river valley. You are now walking on a flat trail surrounded by mountains on a meadow. To your right are a few deep craters. This place is called as Maengan Top. The landscape ahead is captivating. Isolated mountains stand in front. Towards the right is a small ridge. There is a flat green bed with a stream flowing in between. Choose to camp here if Gadsar Lake was your last camp. If the army camp was your start, it makes sense to cover a little more distance today & camp near the first of the Satsar Lakes. Satsar is actually a collection of 7 lakes. You can actually find 4 or 5 lakes with water, depending on the season you choose to trek. Beyond the ridge on the right is the Satsar army check post. It is the 3rd line of defence from the LOC. The same process of ID checking, collection and questioning repeats here too. Finish this today so that tomorrow is a clean day of trekking. Ten minutes out of the army camp is the first of the Satsar Lakes. The lake is pretty big & looks picturesque in its green setting with mountains in front. Choose a place to camp here for the day. Check-in at the camp. Relax for the rest of the day.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Satsar.

- **Day 07: Satsar – Gangabal via Zaj Pass (Trek 11 km / 6-7 hrs) (Altitude 3,700 m / 12,000 ft. to 3,500 m / 11,500 ft.) (B,L,D)**

After having an early morning Breakfast check-out from the camp. Later proceed the trail to Gangabal via Zaj Pass (Altitude 4,000 m / 13,000 ft.). The trek goes up & down whole day. Trek up half an hour out of camp, to reach the biggest Satsar Lake. The terrain is boulder & it is more of a boulder hopping exercise than anything else. The biggest of the Satsar lakes is also the last in the sequence. After the last lake the trail starts to descend. Continue for half an hour on the main trail until you see the forest line ahead to your left. The right side is a ridgeline about 1,000 feet higher. It is time to gain height again. The altitude at the base of the climb is 11,800 feet. Take the zig zag pony track to climb up to the top of the 1st ridge. 45 minute trek with limited

breaks will see you on top of the 1st ridge. Once on top, you see two more ridges to climb. The trail from the base to top is barren & rocky. Looking behind at the opposite mountains, spot the Gujjar huts amidst the tall pines. You'll not fail to notice the bareness of the mountains here & the greenery on the other side. A total two hour ascent brings you to the top of the 3rd ridge. The altimeter reads about 13,400 feet. The best part however is the surprise view you get from the ridge top. Two lakes lie next to one another. A stream takes water from the higher lake to the lower. If you look keenly, two more blue lakes are seen one on either side at a distance. The smaller lakes are nameless but the biggest amongst the set is the Gangabal. Its companion by the side is the Nundkol. You now know your destination. It is 1,400 feet below you. The route descends a bit more & ascends again to the lake. Take pictures of both sides & brace yourself for a steep stony descent. Your destination is either the Gangabal or the Nundkol. The ascent is dry but on the descent you cross a stream mid-way. Fill your empty bottles with the cold water & move on. An hour & half steep descent brings you to green meadows again. The meadow is not too wide but stretches from your right to left. A kilometre down left, you see the tree line again. Once at the base, the lake shore is still a good distance. The destination is seen but seems far away. A quick climb, a shorter descent & a stream crossing over a wooden log bridge brings you to the shores of Nundkol Lake. Notice that this lake is not as pristine as the other lakes that you saw on the trek. Remnants of camping are there all around. Lot of people trek up from Naranag to Gangabal & go back as a weekend outing. You'll wish they spared time & thought to clean up the mess they created by these beautiful lakes. The Nundkol Lake lies at the base of the Harmukh Peak. Harmukh glacier hangs on the sides of the rocky edges of the mountain. Both the Gangabal & Nundkol lakes are famous for trout fishing. The Gangabal Lake is about 20 minutes away from Nundkol. A fiery stream flows on the right of the two lakes connecting them. The stream has to be crossed to go to Gangabal from Nundkol. Do not try to cross the stream at the lower levels but go all the way to the bank of Gangabal & on the right you find a good man made bridge laid out. Gangabal is huge. A parikrama of either of the lakes will easily take an hour. Check-in at the camp. Relax for the rest of the day.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Gangabal.

- **Day 08: Gangabal – Srinagar via Naranag (Trek 11 km / 5-6 hrs ; Drive 70 km / 2-3 hrs) (Altitude 3,500 m / 11,500 ft. to 1,600 m / 5,300 ft.) (B,L,D)**

After having an early morning Breakfast check-out from the camp. Later proceed the journey to Srinagar via Naranag (Altitude 2,300 m / 7,500 ft.). The day trek is a killer on your toes & knees. From the Gangabal campsite head down along the stream towards the tree line. Don't walk beside the stream but walk along the ridge on the right. 30 minutes into the trail, you could get glimpses of network. The ridge ends & you descend to a green flat meadow on the right. The Harmukh Peak looks impressive when you look back. The green meadow has little yellow flowers growing all over & you start walking gingerly to avoid stepping over them. An hour out of the campsite, you hit the fringes of the tree line. Pine trees line the meadows & you also see traces of civilization with the presence of a log hut. Do not walk into the forest directly but stick to its fringes & walk towards the right. As a trademark of this trek, you don't lose altitude now but start to climb up a bit. You drop to 10,800 feet at the tree line but climb again to 11,000 feet. For about 6 km you never really lose altitude & you are forever around the 10,800 feet mark

making your way in & out of the Pine forest & finally entering it fully. Only after walking for 2/3rd of the distance does the true descent begin. The descent is now really steep. The trail is a well-trodden muddy one through the thick of the pines. The last 4 km sees you dropping more than 3,000 feet. It is not rare to spot lot of people trekking up here from Naranag headed only to Gangabal. Naranag slowly comes in sight at around 8,500 feet but there is quite a bit more to go. The last stretch of the last day does become an endurance test but soon the stone paved village track comes up & in no time you enter the main road of Naranag for your further drive. Reach Srinagar by evening. Check-in at the hotel. Relax for the rest of the day.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Srinagar.

- **Day 09: Depart Srinagar (Altitude 1,600 m / 5,300 ft.) (B)**

After having an early morning Breakfast, check-out from the hotel. The entire experience, would give you an unmatched feeling of achievement & satisfaction. You'll be dropped at Srinagar Airport as per your flight timings. Its time now to say goodbye to our trip companions. Let us be in contact with each other through email, Facebook.... And meet again on one more memorable tour with Globetrot Holidays. Trek concludes.



Package Includes:

- Accommodation on double/triple/quad occupancy basis in Guest Houses or Hotels or Camps with Daily Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner as per the itinerary only. (Meals Veg Only)
- Mountaineering qualified experts & professional Trek Leaders & Guide, Skilled local Cook & Support staff service.
- Private Vehicle from Srinagar to Trekking Point on Day 02 & from Trekking Point to Srinagar on Day 08 including Local Sightseeing and for Srinagar Airport Pickup & Drop.
- All Entry Permits, Toll & Parking charges, wherever required.
- Porters for carrying common equipment. (like rations/tents/utensils/groceries)
- Equipment–Tents on triple & quad sharing basis/Sleeping bags/Sleeping Mats.
- Basic First Aid Medical Kit with a portable Oxygen Cylinder.
- Common Kitchen/Dining/Toilet tents will be used during the trek.
- Facility of keeping extra luggage at Srinagar Hotel/Guest House while leaving for trek.

Package Excludes:

- All kind of personal expenses such as tips, laundry, telephone bills, beverages, etc.
- It also does not include any meals unless and otherwise specifically mentioned.
- Airfare, GST, Travel & Health Insurance.
- Entrance fees for sight-seeing.
- Optional, suggested or unspecified activities.
- Camera fee (still or movie)
- Additional sightseeing charges or extra usage of vehicle.
- Any additional charges arising due to natural calamities, political disturbances, vip movement, etc.

HOTEL DETAILS:

CITY	STANDARD
SRINAGAR	Four Seasons Resort / Hotel Regal Palace / Triden Kashmir Resort / Hotel Taj Residency / SIMILAR
SONAMARG	Alpine or Dome Tents / SIMILAR
NICHNAI	Alpine or Dome Tents / SIMILAR
VISHANSAR	Alpine or Dome Tents / SIMILAR
GADSAR	Alpine or Dome Tents / SIMILAR
SATSAR	Alpine or Dome Tents / SIMILAR
GANGABAL	Alpine or Dome Tents / SIMILAR

DEPARTURES & TREK COST:

On Special Request.

Terms & Conditions:-

- Price valid from 1st January 2021 till 31st December 2021.
- 50% payment to be deposited at the time of booking confirmation & remaining 50% before one week of the tour departure date.
- Flight journeys can also be arranged at an additional cost.
- Who Can Go For Trek:-
- Experience of any high altitude trek at least 1 trek
- The climber must be fit and have sufficient stamina to cover 5 km of distance in 45 minutes without a stress.
- The climber should be able to carry a 10 kg backpack.
- Heart problem, high blood pressure, asthma, and epilepsy cannot be reconciled on this mission. The climber must not have the conditions mentioned above.

Cancellation Policy (for land package):-

In case of cancellation of tour a written notification or Email should be received at our office by the members who are travelling.

Cancellation charges will be applied as per the cancellation policy below:

- 25% of cost of tour before 40 days or more days of departure:
- 50% of cost of tour before 20 to 39 days of departure:
- 100% of cost of tour before 20 days of departure:

Cancellation of one member may amount to cancellation of whole tour.

In case of delay or cancellation of flights/itinerary due to bad weather or unforeseen circumstances, Globetrot Holidays will not be held responsible for refund or compensation of any kind (including curtailment of trip). Globetrot Holidays will however try to make the best alternate arrangements and facilitate customers with best services possible. Any additional expense incurred due to such cancellations would have to be borne by the guests.