

## Pahalgam Tourism

Pahalgam, a notified area committee, is a town in the Anantnag district. Located in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, Pahalgam is perched at an elevation of 2,740 metres above sea level. Pahalgam is the base camp for the pilgrimage to Amarnath and is about 95 kilometres from Srinagar.

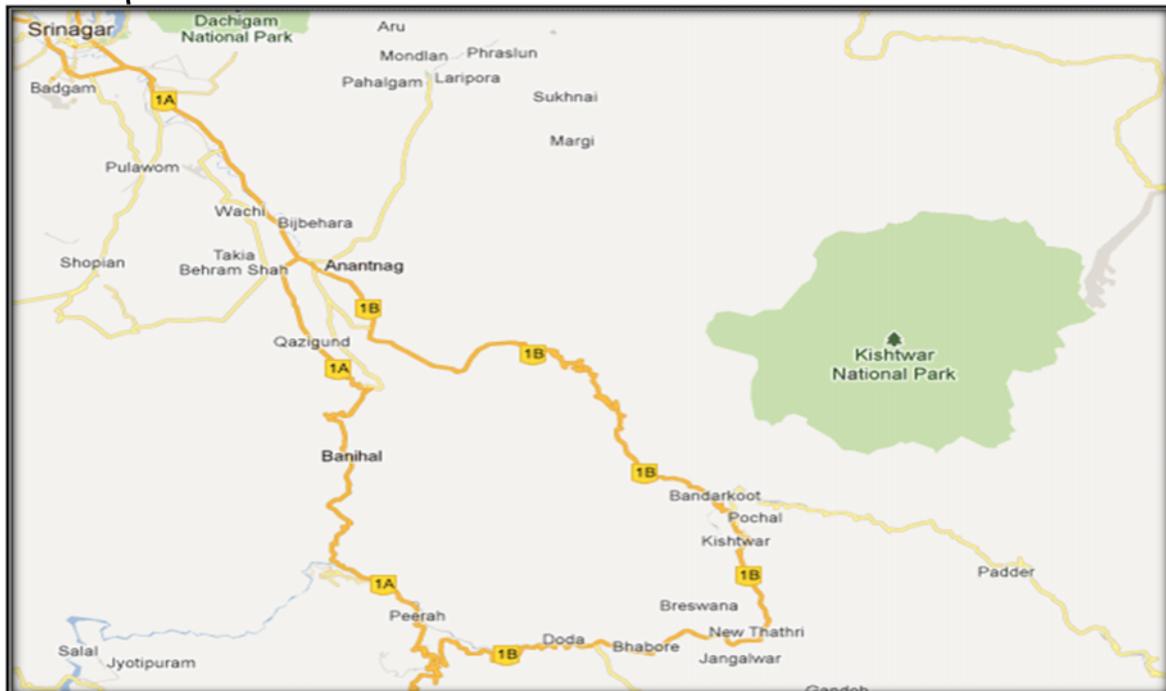
Pahalgam is situated at the junction of Aru and Sheshnag Rivers. Aru flows into the Kolahoi Glacier beyond Lidderwat and Sheshnag from glaciers along the great Himalayas. The destination initially was a shepherd village and was under the rule of the Mughals during the medieval times.

After the rule of the Mughal Empire, Kashmir was conquered by local Hindu rulers. The town remained independent even during the British era and later on was a part of independent India. The culture of the town can be witnessed in its food habits, clothes and religious beliefs. The diversity of the region is visible in the languages spoken, which include Urdu, Hindi, Kashmiri and English.

The weather conditions in the destination are pleasant and mild in summers from April to June, while winters from November to February are cold and experience heavy snowfall. July and August see a huge crowd of pilgrims thronging Amarnath, the abode of Lord Shiva, as Pahalgam is the starting point of the Amarnath Yatra. The best time to visit Pahalgam is during the months of mid-April to mid-November.

	<b>From: Patnitop (Jammu and Kashmir)</b> Distance: 153.0 km (approx 2 hrs, 20 mins)	
1.	Slight Left on NH 1A	6.5 km
2.	Turn <b>Right</b> at NH 1A	96.2 km
3.	Head <b>North West</b>	50.2 km
	<b>To: Pahalgam (Jammu &amp; Kashmir)</b>	

## Route Map



**Baisaran**

Baisaran, situated 5 km away from Pahalgam, is a lush meadow enveloped with dense vegetation. The meadow is dotted with thickly wooded forests of pine, and provides a view of the beautiful snow-clad mountains that surround it from all sides. Resembling European resorts, this huge and undulating meadow serves as a good campsite.

Admission Fees: INR5 (Adult)  
INR2 (Children aged 13 and below)

**Tulian Lake**

Tulian Lake is located at an altitude of 3353 m, 11 km away from Baisaran and 16 km from Pahalgam. This snow-covered lake is surrounded by peaks that rise to a height of more than 300 m above its shores. Tulian Lake is set along a trek route via Baisaran, and thus can be reached by hiring ponies from near the centre of the town.

**Chandanwari**

Chandanwari, situated at a distance of 16 km from Pahalgam, lies at an elevation of 2,923 m. Famous for its snow bridge, this location serves as the starting point of the Amarnath Yatra that takes place every year, from July to August. With a fairly flat terrain linking Chandanwari to Pahalgam, the location is easily accessible by car.

**Panchtarni**

Panchtarni is located at a distance of 13 km from the Sheshnag Lake and about 40 km away from Pahalgam. The spot is named so, as it is situated at the confluence of five streams. Panchtarni is the last stoppage of the Amarnath Yatra as a narrow spiralling 6 km path leading to the Amarnath Cave. The site is most popular for camping.

**Hajan**

Hajan is an idyllic spot for picnic, located close to Pahalgam in the Baramulla district in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Lying en route to Chandanwari, this town is a notified area committee that has served as a location for several movie scenes. Travellers visiting Pahalgam can simply walk or trek to the town, or take a pony ride.

**Betaab Valley**

Betaab Valley, situated just 7 km up on Pahalgam, has got its name from Sunny Deol's movie, Betaab, which was shot extensively in this area. Surrounded by snow-covered mountain peaks and dense pine and deodar forests, this valley is the mouth of River Sheshnag. There is a beautiful garden in the valley, with a bridge to cross the river. The Pahalgam Development Authority has proposed to develop this valley as a beautiful holidaying spot and is thus, carrying out several construction activities in the region.

**Sheshnag Lake**

Sheshnag Lake, lying at an elevation of 3,658 m above ground level, is situated 27 km away from Pahalgam. This greenish blue lake is covered with ice until June, after which it is used as an en route destination in Amarnath Yatra. It is the next stoppage from Chandanwari, which is situated about 11 km far from the lake.

**Aru**

Aru is a resort village, located at a distance of 11 km from Pahalgam. Lying at an elevation of 2,408 m, this meadow leads to the famous trek via Lidderwat, extending to Kolahoi Glaciers (36 km) at an altitude of 3,400 m. Travellers visiting Pahalgam can reach this village by travelling on a motorable road or walking along a mountain path

### **Mamaleshwar Temple**

Mamaleshwar Temple is one of the most ancient temples in Pahalgam, with its history dating back to the 12th century. Built by King Jayasimha on the right bank of River Lidder, this temple is devoted to Lord Shiva. The temple encompasses a pedestal and a Shiva Lingam, with a pure water spring covered by a basin. Situated 1 km downstream from Pahalgam, this temple is easily accessible from the town on foot.

### **Lidderwat**

Lidderwat is a beautiful camping site amidst dense forests, located at an elevation of 3,408 m. Situated 22 km from Pahalgam, this village is starting point of the trek to the Sindh Valley. Tourists can easily travel to this village via taxi, or can even take a pony ride.

### **Aishmuqam**

Aishmuqam is the shrine of a Sufi saint Baba Zaina-ud-din Wali, who was commonly known by the name `Zaino Shah Sahib`. This shrine is located on a hillock, which stands 86 km away from Srinagar en route to Pahalgam. The main sanctorum is placed inside a deep and narrow cave, which also contains several relics associated to Baba in a room. One such relic is `The Rod of Staff` of Prophet Moses PBUH.

The shrine hosts a one-week long Zool festival every year in the month of April, in respect to Shiekh Zaina-ud-din Wali. The procession involves holding torchlights `leshi` in a peculiar way, which depicts public seeking blessings of the saint.

### **Sun Temple**

Sun Temple, situated in Martand that is 64 km from Srinagar and just 7 km from Anantnag, belongs to the era of Pandavas. This sun temple was built by King Lalitaditya Muktapida (699 - 739 AD). However, some legends reveal that the foundation stone of this temple was laid in 370 – 500 AD by King Ranaditya Muktapida. Standing on the top of a plateau, this temple provides a bird's eye view of the beautiful village of Mattan.

### **Shikargah**

Shikargah is a famous wildlife reserve located near the main market area of Pahalgam. Tourists often visit this site with family and friends for enjoying the scenery and indulging in picnics. Ponies are available from the market to reach the reserve; however, travellers can also choose to walk to this picnic spot.

### **Tarsar Lake**

Tarsar Lake is situated at an elevation of 3,962 m, at a distance of 34 km from Pahalgam. Travellers willing to visit the lake can travel via Lidderwat, and cross a bridge that is hanging at a height of 243 m above ground level. 24 km away from Tarsar Lake is Sikiwas, which houses beautiful camping sites with flower meadows.

### **Mattan**

Mattan, situated a few kilometres away from Anantnag, is an important Hindu pilgrimage centre in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. Lying on the Pahalgam road this centre attracts hordes of devotees from all across the country. It is one of those religious places in India where the priests and pundits used to gather for worshipping the Sun god.

The temple is famous for its beautiful Shiva Lingam, which is preserved within a beautiful brick structure surrounded by crystal clear water on all sides. Presently, the temple complex is one of the much-guarded areas of Jammu & Kashmir and is thus controlled by paramilitary forces. A special permission is required to enter this temple.