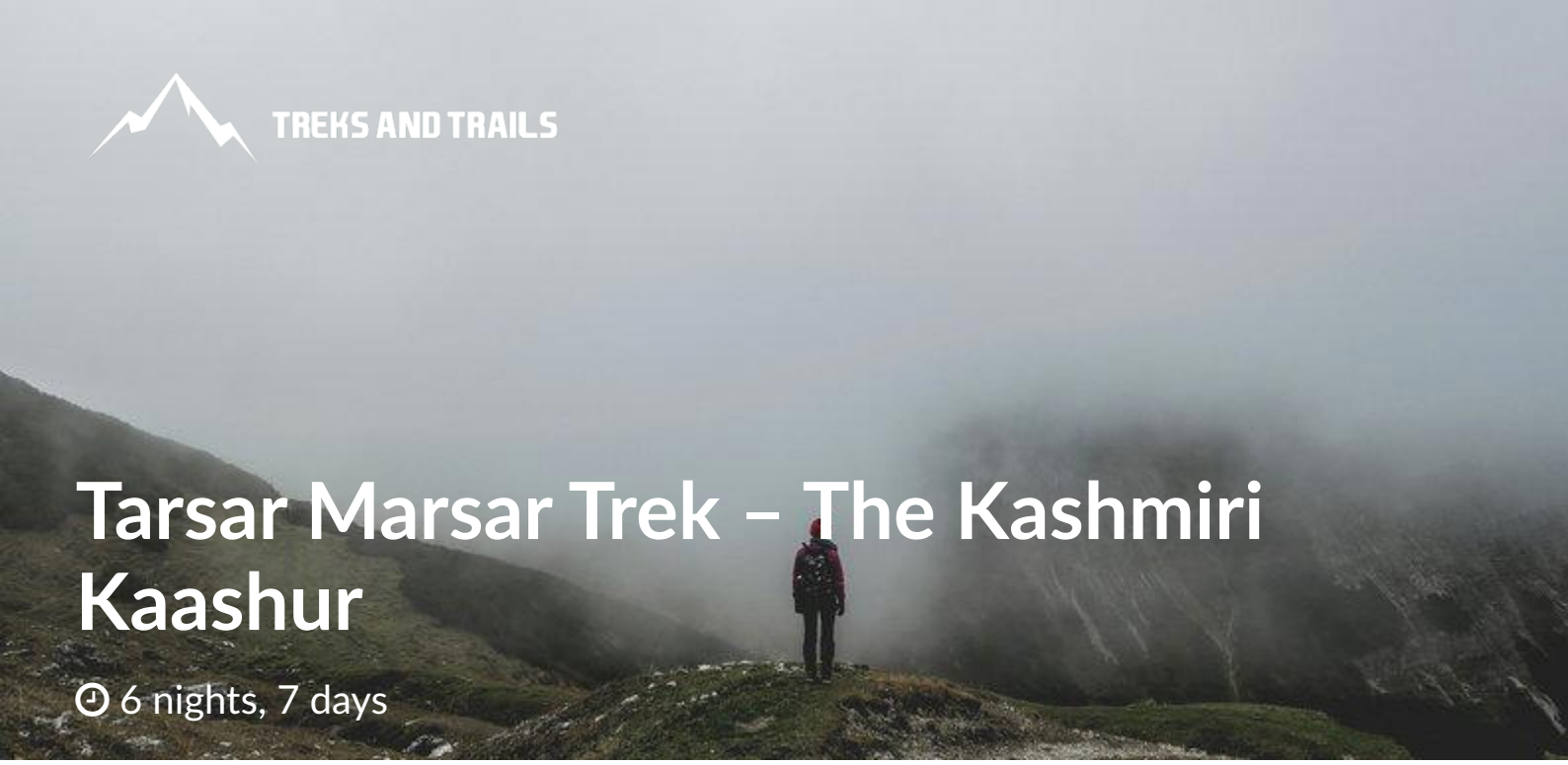


TREKS AND TRAILS

Tarsar Marsar Trek – The Kashmiri Kaashur

6 nights, 7 days

Overview

Tarsar Marsar Trek – The Kashmiri Kaashur

A journey to these incredibly beautiful twin lakes is a dream of every trekker across the world. A cliché but true couplets of a poet say, "if there is heaven on earth then it is in Kashmir."

The valley of Kashmir will make you fall short of adjectives to describe it. "Kaashur," the word in Kashmiri, means beauty, and Tarsar Marsar is synonymous with it. These royal blue snow-covered lakes provide you secluded heaven of your own, where you get to pitch your tent right next to them. The fresh air and the blossoming nature around them is a breathtaking experience. A Trek where you witness dollops of cloud covering these twins leaves you visually stunned for a lifetime.

Starting from the Village of Aru to the Valley of Lidderwat, this journey will engulf your thoughts with the memory of the green mountains of Shekhawas and the excitement of visiting these alpine lakes.

Tarsar Marsar Trek Package Cost

- Triple Sharing: Rs. 16499/- per person
- Double Sharing: Rs. 17999/- per person

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Expert Opinion Tarsar Marsar:

Neil Bhuta: Tarsar Marsar has been one of the most fabulous experiences of my life. As an avid trekker, I would say it's been one of the best experiences in Kashmir so far. A trek that lingers on in your memory for a long and below is a list of why I love this twin lake trek.

1.) It gives me an experience of intimacy. I got an opportunity to walk by the shores and experience the lakes Tarsar and Sundarsar ambiance by being in close proximity with them.

2.) Sundarsar has a secret passage that leads to the other twin Marsar Lake. It's a spectacular view as the clouds would just gush by your side, and within minutes Marsar would be out of your sight as the fluffy clouds cover it up with their magnanimity.

3.) The Jagmargi Plain, which welcomes you an hour before you reach Sundarsar, is a beauty to witness. The variety of flowers and spread of green that you witness here is something beyond imagination. You may find it difficult to cross this patch as every time you step ahead, and you would be crushing a flower underneath your feet.

4.) The Shekwas Campsite is an experience a trekker must-have. It's rare to find a campsite that is nestled by three valleys, and that's what Shekwas Campsite is all about. Sweeping mountains, the soft grass to walk upon, and that sunset views, phew! This undulating landscape is a confirmation that some divine source is at work and creating miracles in our lives.

Tarsar Marsar Trek Brief Itinerary

Day One - Road Trip from Srinagar to Village Aru. A 3-hour journey in a 5-6 seater vehicle. Approx. Cost INR 600-700 per person.

Day Two - Trek from village Aru to Lidderwat. A 10 km trek, rated as easy to moderate.

Day Three - Lidderwat to Shekwas Campsite. Approx 6 km trek, rated as moderate as it involves continues 2 km of steep climbing with few walks.

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Day Four - Shekwas to Tarsar. Moderate 5 km trek, mostly ascending with gradual inclines.

Day Five - Tarsar to Sundarsar. Five km trek ascending for some time and then a small patch of descending and ascending again towards Sundarsar.

Day Six - From Sundarsar to Homwas through Marsar. A 9 km Trek that includes a 40 minute ascend to Marsar, and then an ascend towards the Homwas.

Day Seven - Homwas to Aru and then final drive to Srinagar. A 13 km descending Trek to the village Aru and then a 3-4 hour drive back to Srinagar.

Tarsar Marsar Trek Itinerary

Day 1: Srinagar to Aru Base Camp (100 km, 3.5 hrs)

The group will assemble in Srinagar by 11 AM and travel to Pahalgam in a local cab. From there, we will take a scenic 3-4 hour drive to Aru via Pahalgam. The route through Bijbehra offers breathtaking views of Kashmir's landscapes, including apple orchards, walnuts, and apricots. Crossing the Lidder River, we will reach the picturesque Aru Valley. After checking into our homestay, you can explore the surroundings and soak in the beauty of the valley. An overnight stay in Aru marks the beginning of our adventure.

Highlight: Scenic drive from Srinagar to Aru Valley via Pahalgam.

Day 2: Aru to Lidderwat (10 km, 6 hrs)

After an early breakfast, we begin our trek to Lidderwat. The trail starts with a steady climb from the village, following the Lidder River. Along the way, we will pass through small settlements and fir tree forests at Dalla. As we gain elevation, Aru village will be left far behind. After reaching Nandkei, where locals ride horses, we continue onward until we arrive at our campsite in Lidderwat. The day ends with dinner and an overnight stay in tents.

Highlight: Lidder River, Dalla, and camping.

Day 3: Lidderwat to Shekwas (6 km, 5 hrs)

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Waking up in the heart of nature is a refreshing experience. After breakfast, we will continue trekking along the river, passing through lush pine forests. The trail is relatively easy, leading to a stunning open meadow with towering mountains in the background. Along the way, we cross Bhakarwal and see Gujjar huts in the grassy fields. After navigating through these settlements, we reach our campsite at Shekwas, where we will have dinner and rest for the night.

Day 4: Shekwas to Tarsar (5 km, 5 hrs)

Today's trek takes us to the breathtaking Tarsar Lake. The trail consists of various ridges, leading to a magnificent clearing where the stunning almond-shaped Tarsar Lake appears. After crossing a few rocky patches and streams, we arrive at our campsite near the lake. At night, the lake turns a mesmerizing shade of turquoise blue, reflecting the surrounding snow-covered peaks. You can explore the area and witness a stunning sunset before ending the day with dinner and an overnight stay at Tarsar.

Day 5: Tarsar to Sundarsar (6 km, 5 hrs)

After breakfast, we will begin our journey to Sundarsar Lake. The trail descends through shepherds' paths before leading to a beautiful, velvety meadow. Along the way, we pass Bakkarval shelters and walk through a boulder-strewn area before entering a colorful meadow filled with wildflowers. After trekking further, we reach Sundarsar Lake, a stunning camping site with expansive grassy land. We will set up our tents and spend the night in this serene location.

Day 6: Visit Marsar and Return to Homwas (11 km, 7 hrs)

Today's trek is slightly challenging as we navigate rocky terrain in the morning. After walking along Sundarsar Lake, we reach a junction where we take the trail leading to Marsar Lake. The path consists of boulders and rough patches before flattening into lush grassland. After taking in the views of Marsar, we will descend toward Homwas, retracing parts of our route. Dinner and an overnight stay at Homwas conclude the day.

Day 7: Homwas to Aru and Drive to Srinagar (13 km, 7 hrs)

On our final day, we take the same trail back to Aru, passing through the familiar meadows and Lidderwat. From Aru, a 3.5-hour drive will bring us back to Srinagar. As we reach the city, we will bid farewell, carrying unforgettable memories of the trek.

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Dates and Rates

- Sorry no more departures available. You could get in touch with us at highfive@treksandtrails.org if you'd like to make a booking.

Itinerary

How to Reach Tarsar Marsar Trek Site:

The Tarsar Marsar Lake Trek requires you to reach Aru, a base village near Pahalgam. To reach Pahalgam, you need to reach Srinagar first through Air/Railways/Road; depending upon from where you are traveling, you can choose your mode of transport to Srinagar. In all scenarios, you have to reach TRC before you begin your journey to Aru.

From Airport:

1. As you land in the picturesque Sheikh Ul-Alam Srinagar Airport, head towards Tourist Reception Center (TRC), a 12 km journey from the airport. It's a prominent place in the city and is well known, and you can ask around locals if you feel you are lost.

2. A big football stadium is attached to the TRC building hence you won't miss it by any chance.

3. You can reach TRC by :

    1. 1. By Government Bus: They run every half an hour and most economical way to reach if you have time by your side.
    2. By Cab: It's an expensive option, but you can go for it if you are pressed on time. If you are in a group, then it will be economical.
    3. The auto can be an option, but they aren't frequent around the airport; it can be risky and frustrating to find one; hence it's not recommended to go for them.

From TRC to Aru Village:

1. The first junction is Pahalgam from TRC. You can take a bus or hire a vehicle.

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2. You can take either route from Anantnag or Bijbehra; in both cases, you would take around 4 hours to reach Pahalgam.
3. You can break the journey at Anantnag if you wish to give up upon the bus and take a shared cab.
4. Please make sure that your private vehicle has permission to cross Pahalgam to reach Aru.
5. Aru Village is around 12 km from Pahalgam, it's hardly 20 minutes, and you may check the best way to reach there with the locals.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can beginners do Tarsar Marsar Trek?

The Trek can be categorized as an easy to moderate Trek. Some portions do have rough patches, boulder-filled paths. Hence it may become tricky for complete beginners. If you have been into trekking and have built up your stamina, then go ahead, as it's not too difficult a trek to conquer.

2. What is the best time to do this Trek?

The best time to go for this Trek is from the beginning of July till the beginning of September.

3. Where are these twin lakes located?

They are in the Valley of Kashmir, located in the Pahalgam district. It starts from the village of Aru and traces its path along the river Lidder.

4. Is it safe to visit Kashmir?

It is safe, and during times of unrest, these areas remain untouched, but it's advisable to take necessary precautions. Always stay in touristy areas like Lal Chowk, Dal lake, etc. Try

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to look and feel like a local as much as possible with your dressing style. Don't travel alone to downtown and keep calm during times of curfew and let it pass.

5. What's the duration of the Trek?

The Trek is approx. 48 km long; hence it's advisable to take 6-7 days to Trek to have ample time to rest and rejuvenate your body. This period also gives you enough time to acclimatize to higher altitudes.

6. How many lakes do we cross in this Trek?

The Tarsar Marsar Trek has three major lakes, Tarsar, Marsar, and Sundarsar. Out of these, Sundarsar is the largest of them all.

7. How do we get to know if we are fit enough to go for this Trek?

You can connect with us through any mode, and we will guide you on this.

Inclusions

- Accommodation: 1 night in a tent/homestay at Aru Valley (double/triple sharing) and 5 nights in tents during the trek.
- Transportation: Srinagar to Aru Valley and back by Sumo/Bolero/Tempo Traveler (based on group size).
- Meals: All vegetarian meals from Day 1 dinner to Day 7 breakfast.
- Snacks: Morning and evening tea/coffee with light snacks.
- Camping Gear: Tents, sleeping bags, mattresses, dining tent, and toilet tent.
- Trek Leader & Support Staff: Experienced and qualified trek leaders with a 1:10 guide ratio.

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- Permits: All necessary trekking permits and fees.
- Safety Equipment: First aid kit, oximeter, and oxygen cylinder.
- Others: Cloakroom facility available at the base camp for extra luggage.

Exclusions

- Personal expenses
- Meals during travel
- Any kind of insurance
- Fees and permits for non-Indians
- Delays due to landslides or unforeseen events
- Extra costs due to emergencies
- Anything not mentioned in inclusions

Notes:

- Bag offloading: ₹2400 (max 10 kg)
- Required documents: Aadhar card copy, medical certificate, travel insurance

Highlights

Footwear and Backpack

- Trekking shoes with ankle support
- Backpack with rain cover
- Daypack with rain cover

Warm Layers and Clothing

- Warm layers (Padded jackets)

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- 3 layers for spring, summer, and monsoon treks (1 woolen sweater, 1 fleece, 1 padded jacket)
- 4 layers for autumn treks (1 woolen sweater, 2 fleece, 1 padded jacket)
- 5 layers for winter treks (1 pair of thermals, 1 woolen sweater, 2 fleece, 1 padded jacket)
- 3 Collared T-shirts (Wear one, carry two)
- 2 quick-dry trek pants (Wear one, carry one)

Accessories

- Sunglasses
- Sun cap, preferably with flaps
- Waterproof gloves
- Balaclava
- Woolen socks (2-3 pairs of Dry fit + 1 pair of Woollen)
- Headlamp
- Trekking pole
- Rain jacket + pants / poncho

Toiletries

- Sunscreen
- Moisturiser
- Light towel
- Lip balm or vaseline
- Toilet paper (Wet wipes are strictly not allowed on our treks)
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Reusable plastic covers (for used clothes)
- Trash bags (Carry out all your waste and leave no trace behind)

Personal First Aid Kit

Here are some common medicines typically required or used during adventure trips. However, it's important to consult your doctor before taking any medication:

- Antiseptic wipes or water syringe for wound cleaning
- Butterfly bandages for small cuts

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- Cotton, elastic bandages, and sterile gauze pads for larger wounds
- Latex gloves for handling bleeding wounds
- Medication for diarrhea (upset stomach)
- Medication for cold, flu, fever, and headaches
- Painkillers
- Oral rehydration solution (ORS) pouches
- Quick pain relief spray for external use
- Any personal medication prescribed by your doctor
- Diamox or similar medication for high altitude sickness
- Bug repellent
- Nutritious energy bars and non-alcoholic drinks

Cancellation Policy

To ensure a seamless experience, we recommend booking your adventure at least two months in advance. Should the need arise to cancel your trek or adventure activity, we kindly request written notification. Cancellation charges will apply from the date we receive your written advice.

We understand the frustration of cancellations, but rest assured, we are committed to facilitating your next adventure with us.

We offer a cancellation policy that is fair, practical, and convenient for our customers.

Cancellation by Participant: If a participant wishes to cancel their booking for any reason, they must notify [Treks and Trails] in writing/email as soon as possible. The following cancellation charges will apply:

- 21+ days before trek: Free cancellation
- 15-20 days before trek: 25% of trip amount deducted
- 8-14 days before trek: 50% of trip amount deducted
- 0-7 days before trek: No refund

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Reviews