

Gulmarg

Gulmarg is located in the Baramulla District of Jammu and Kashmir. Situated at an altitude of 2730 m above sea level, it is surrounded by forested hills and meadows, snow-capped peaks, deep ravines and valleys. The scenic beauty of this place has made it a popular filming location for many Bollywood movies.

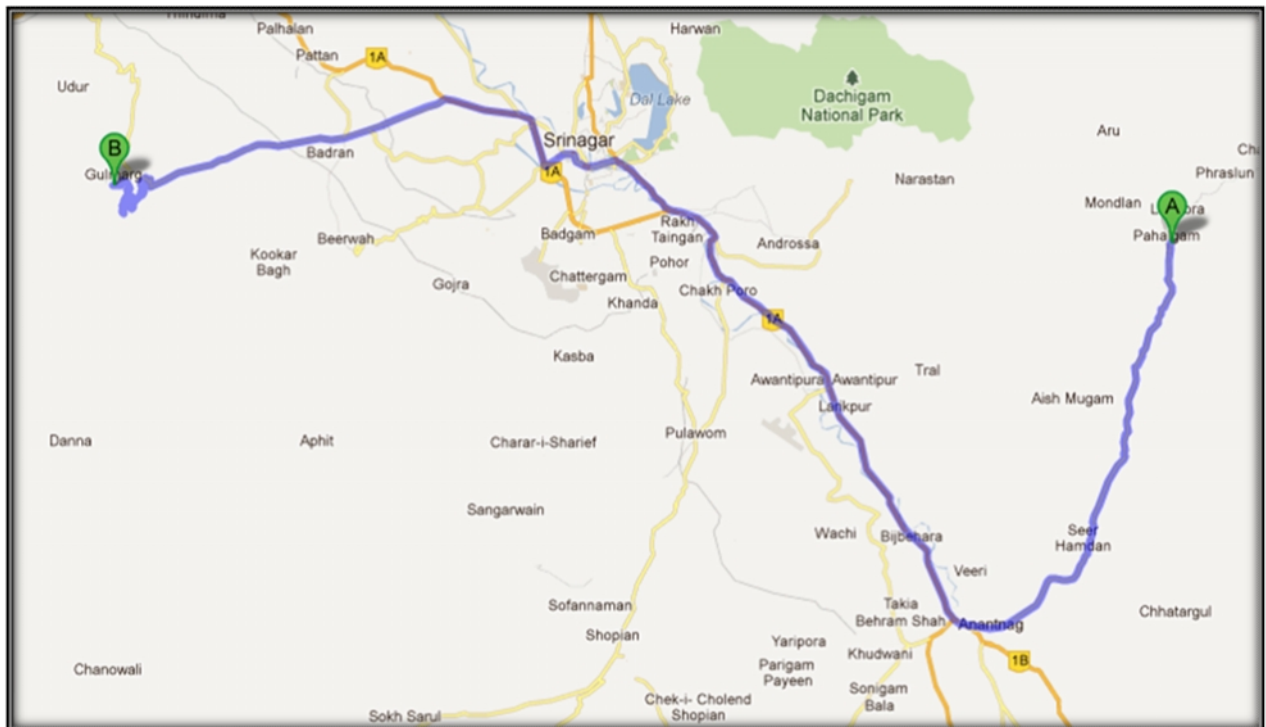
The most visited spot of the region is Khilanmarg, from where the Kashmir Valley and the Himalayan Range is visible. Another popular spot is Alpathar Lake, situated at the foot of the twin peaks of Apharwat; and remains frozen till late June. The only means of reaching these areas is by pony, apart from walking.

The slopes near Gulmarg, varying between heights of 8,700 and 10,500 ft, make it the only heli-skiing resort in Asia and the highest ski-ing location in India. Being a popular snow sports hub, appropriate clothes, equipment and instructors are easily available. The most popular activity here is skiing, as well as the cable car ride, the Gulmarg Gondola, which is one of the highest cable car facilities in the world.

Gulmarg is also home to the world's highest 18 hole green golf course. People desiring a more natural atmosphere can visit the Nanga Parbat, Haramukh and many other regions of the Kashmir Valley. One can also visit the shrine of Baba Reshi, a Muslim mystic saint.

The nearest airport is at Srinagar, which is 57 km away from Gulmarg. The closest railway station is in Jammu.

The best time to visit Gulmarg for sightseeing, is between May and September. The best time for skiing and other winter sports, is from November to February.





From: Pahalgam (Jammu and Kashmir)

Distance: 146.0 km (approx 2 hrs, 30 mins)

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|----|---|---------|
| 1. | Turn Right
Destination will be on the Right | 50.2 km |
| 2. | Turn Right at NH 1A | 66.9 km |
| 3. | Head West | 28.9 km |



To: Gulmarg (Jammu and Kashmir)

Ningle Nallah - River

Ningle Nallah is a beautiful stream, flowing down the mountains near Gulmarg. Melting snow and ice that flows from Apharwat Peak to Alpathar Lake in the summer season gives rise to this stream. The stream continues to flow down into the valley and meets the Jhelum River near Sopore.

This nallah is situated about 10 km away from Gulmarg. Furthermore, tourists can walk down the green valley, cross the Ningle Nallah through a bridge, and continue to Khilanmarg. Area around the stream is a favourite camping ground among tourists.

Outer Circle Walk - Hill/Mountain

Outer Circular Walk offers a beautiful view of the whole Kashmir Valley. Visitors can opt for this 11 km long walk amidst the grassland, while visiting Gulmarg. Surrounded by landscapes and lush green pine forests, the walk provides view of Nanga Parbat, the fourth highest peak on earth at 8,500 m.

Drung - Picnic Spots

Drung is famed for a beautiful stream that flows towards the city of Gulmarg. Popularly known for trout fishing and rock climbing, this place constitutes one of the major picnic spots around Gulmarg. This developing resort is the site where the downhill road from Tangmarg reaches the Ferozepore stream.

Walking further over the hills surrounding the region, tourists can find some monuments, which are believed to be the ruins of Pandava Temples. Tourists can also find some mud-houses, fruit trees, pine trees and a stream. Drung is located around 14 km from Gulmarg and 3 km from Tangmarg. For reaching this place, tourists are required to take a pony or simply trek from Tangmarg.

Benji's Bar at the Highlands Park - Theme Parks

Benji's Bar at the Highlands Park is one of the beautiful locations around Gulmarg to enjoy a meal or a snack. The place has been adorned with personal memorabilia of the erstwhile owner.

Gulmarg Biosphere Reserves - Theme Parks

Gulmarg Biosphere Reserve is known for providing shelter to the endangered wildlife species like leopards, red foxes, serow, musk deer and many more. Furthermore, the reserve also houses various species of flora like cedrus deodara, pinus griffithii, aesculus indica, and abies pindrow.

Vegetation of the reserve also comprises dicotyledonous herbs, along with shrubs like *Indigofera heterantha*, *Sorbaria tomentosa*, *Viburnum* sp. and others. Apart from the flora and fauna, the reserve is renowned as a natural habitat of various species of birds like European hoopoe. Spread over an area of about 180 sq. km, it offers abode to both resident and migratory birds like European hoopoe, snow cock, jungle crow, koklas, blue rock pigeon, griffon vulture and Kashmir roller.

Having an altitude that ranges from 2,400 to 4,300 m above sea level, the reserve also has a population of pheasants and upland birds. Birds residing in the reserve also include crimson tagopan, monal pheasant, blood pheasant and many other species. In the reserve, birdwatchers can also spot griffon vulture, monal, snow cock, koklas and more.

Lien Marg - Heritage

Lien Marg is a meadow of flowers that is set amidst pine forests. Placed at an elevation of 2,653 m above sea level, it is a round the year destination and India's only winter sports resort. By crossing the bridge over Ningle Nallah, this site can be reached.

Alpather Lake - Lakes

Alpather Lake, located beyond Khilanmarg, remains completely frozen until mid-June. Triangular in shape, the lake lies at the foot of the twin 4,511 m Apharwat peaks. Located 13 km away from Gulmarg, the lake has a backdrop of scenic hilly snow-capped terrains.

In summer season, the lake comprises streams of clear water along with floating ice pieces. Pony track over the 3,810 m Apharwat ridge and up the valley to the lake at 3,843 m comprises the trekking path for reaching the site.

Baba Reshi Shrine - Religious

Baba Reshi Shrine, dedicated to the saint, Baba Reshi, is a mosque dating from 1480. Saint Baba Reshi was a Muslim scholar, who served as a major courtier during the reign of King Zain-ul-Abidin, King of Kashmir.

This religious building displays a mix of Persian and Mughal architectural designs. It is also famous for its internal wooden works of unique style, which beautifies the tomb. The shrine is placed in the green lawns, which is large enough to accommodate many thousand devotees at a time.

It is located on the slopes of the mountains, between Gulmarg and Tangmarg. Placed at a height of 2,133 m above sea level, this place can be reached by tourists through local modes of transportation like sledges and field chutes.

Gondola Lift - Markets

Gondola Lift is considered as one of the major attractions of Gulmarg. Designed in technical collaboration with a French Company PUMA, and managed by the Jammu and Kashmir Cable Car Corporation, it is the only cable car system in Asia that travels up an elevation of 13,500 ft above sea level.

It is located on the backdrop of the beautiful Himalayan Peaks in the Gondola Village of Gulmarg. The Gondola covers the distance from Gulmarg to Kongdoor and from Kongdoor to Apharwat.

This cable lift service comprises 2 stretches that travel a total distance of 5 km. Completed in May 2005, the second stage of the Gulmarg-Apharwat cable car project links Kongdoor station at 3,099 m with Apharwat at 3,979 m. Between Kongdoor and Apharwat, the vertical rise is 880 m.

It uses 19 towers to operate the Gulmarg-Kongdoor stretch and can handle 1,500 people at maximum per hour. The other stretch is Kongdoor to Apharwat, which uses 18 towers and can handle 600 people per hour. In 2005, a consortium of Indian and French companies completed this project.

Fishing Pond - Heritage

Fishing Pond in Gulmarg is a considerably small pond, on which fishing is permitted with a nominal payment.

Banibal Nag - Lakes

Banibal Nag is a beautiful lake located at a height of 9,600 ft above the famous Ferozpore Valley. It can be reached by a 5 hours journey from Gulmarg to Banibag Nag.

Koutar Nag - Lakes

Koutar Nag is a lake, situated at an elevation of 13,250 ft above sea level. Owing to its elevation, the place offers a beautiful view of Poonch. This lake remains frozen till mid-June, after which strips of melting ice can be seen floating over the water.