

HOW TO REACH KASHMIR

Jammu & Kashmir, India | Best time: March to October; December to February for snow

Srinagar is the principal gateway to the Kashmir Valley. Flying to Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport is the quickest and most reliable option for visitors from Indian metros. Jammu Tawi is the nearest major railhead, followed by a scenic road journey through the Chenani-Nashri and Banihal tunnels. Road conditions can change with weather, so winter itineraries need flexibility.

BY AIR

Sheikh ul-Alam International Airport, Srinagar | 12 km from central Srinagar | 25-40 minutes

Transfers: Prepaid taxi, private cab or hotel transfer. Taxi: Rs 700-Rs 1,200.

BY TRAIN

Jammu Tawi Railway Station | 250-270 km | 7-9 hours by road

Transfers: Shared cab, private taxi or JKSRTC bus

ROAD ROUTES

Delhi: 810 km, 16-18 hours. Direct sleeper and Volvo buses to Jammu; cab onward. Route:

Delhi-Pathankot-Jammu-Banihal-Srinagar

Jammu: 250 km, 7-9 hours. Frequent shared taxis and buses. Route:

Jammu-Udhampur-Banihal-Srinagar

Amritsar: 450 km, 10-12 hours. Buses to Jammu, then valley transfer. Route:

Amritsar-Pathankot-Jammu-Srinagar

Chandigarh: 570 km, 12-14 hours. Overnight buses via Jammu. Route:

Chandigarh-Pathankot-Jammu-Srinagar

TRAVEL TIPS

1. Keep one buffer day when flying during peak winter.
2. Check the Jammu-Srinagar highway traffic advisory before departure.
3. Carry government photo identification at all times.
4. Pack waterproof shoes and layered clothing for snow destinations.
5. Use registered taxis for Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg transfers.

BEST OPTION

A direct flight to Srinagar is recommended for time and comfort; rail travellers should book a Jammu-Srinagar transfer in advance.