

## Tulian Lake Trek – Best Time to Visit

### Ideal Season (May to September)

Summer, from **May to September**, is the best time to undertake the Tulian Lake Trek. During these months, the trails are accessible, weather conditions are favorable, and the valley reveals its true alpine beauty.

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### May and June at Tulian Lake

#### Early Season Snow Experience

Trekking to Tulian Lake from **May to mid-June** feels similar to a winter trek. The lake often remains frozen, and large sections of the valley are covered in snow. As June progresses, the snow begins to melt, gradually revealing the lake's iconic turquoise color. This period is ideal for trekkers who enjoy snow-covered landscapes and cooler conditions.

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### July and August at Tulian Lake

#### Peak Beauty with Pleasant Weather

Although July and August are monsoon months in most parts of India, Kashmir experiences only light rainfall. The **Pir Panjal range** blocks heavy rain clouds, making trekking comfortable and safer compared to regions like Uttarakhand or Himachal Pradesh.

During this time, the lake appears at its bluest, meadows turn lush green, and temperatures remain pleasant for hiking. As September approaches, the meadows slowly shift to golden hues and temperatures begin to drop.

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## Difficulty of Tulian Lake Trek

### Easy to Moderate Gradient

The Tulian Lake Trek is considered **easy to moderate** in difficulty. It is typically completed in **3 days**, covering a total distance of about **21 km**. There are no technical climbs, but trekkers do encounter steep ascents through forests and open meadows.

### Who Is It Suitable For?

This trek is suitable for both beginners and trekkers with prior Himalayan experience. The first and last days are relatively easy. The second day, which involves trekking from Tulian Valley to Tulian Lake, is the most physically demanding and may feel challenging, especially for first-time trekkers.

### Recommended Duration

Some people attempt to complete the trek in a single day, which is strongly discouraged. It puts excessive strain on the body and increases the risk of injury. Completing the trek over **3 days** is ideal, while some itineraries extend to **5 days**, depending on pace and fitness.

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## How to Reach the Base Camp of Tulian Lake Trek

### By Air

Srinagar Airport is the nearest and only airport in Kashmir. Flights from major cities connect to

Srinagar. Advance booking is recommended. From Srinagar, you can travel to **Pahalgam** by bus or taxi.

#### **By Train**

The nearest major railway station is **Jammu Tawi**. From Jammu, buses and taxis are available to Srinagar, making road travel the most convenient option.

#### **By Road**

##### **Srinagar Airport to TRC (Tourist Reception Centre)**

The TRC is located about **12 km** from Srinagar Airport and is a central, well-known landmark.

- **Government Bus:** Airport shuttle buses run every 30 minutes and cost approximately **₹80**. This is the most economical and reliable option.
- **Taxi:** Easily available outside the airport, costing around **₹600**, suitable if you are short on time.

##### **TRC to Pahalgam**

From TRC, travel to **Pahalgam**, the main base for the Tulian Lake Trek. The route commonly passes through **Anantnag** via the Jammu–Srinagar highway, offering smooth connectivity.