

11 Nights / 10 Days Backcountry & Snow Science

Ten days beyond the lifts on a full touring setup — remote terrain, tree skiing and the whole of Apharwat — taught alongside the snow science that makes it repeatable. You leave able to dig a column, read the result, plan a route and make the call yourself.

11 nights

HALF-BOARD HOTEL

10 days

BACKCOUNTRY & TOURING

Touring kit

SKIS, SKINS & SETUP
INCLUDED

Since 2006

2,500+ SKIERS GUIDED

Touring

Full setup, fitted to you

Touring skis, bindings and skins, set up and checked before day one, plus your powder equipment for the lift-served days. Once you can skin, the mountain stops ending where the lift does — remote terrain and tree skiing open up.

Science

ECT, Rutschblock, and the reasoning

Extended Column and Rutschblock tests dug and read properly, full beacon and rescue training, route planning, team protocol and the local knowledge behind each decision — taught on the hill, over ten days, on real snow.

What's included

Everything below is part of the package — no separate charges once you arrive.

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| ✓ Airport pick-up & drop
Private transfer, Srinagar airport to Gulmarg and back | ✓ 11 nights hotel stay
3-star or 4-star, your choice | ✓ Breakfast and dinner daily
Half board throughout the stay |
| ✓ Full touring setup
Touring skis, bindings and skins, set up and fitted | ✓ Complete powder ski equipment
Powder skis or board, boots and poles — 10 days | ✓ All safety gear
Helmet, goggles and gloves — 10 days |
| ✓ Avalanche safety kit
Transceiver, shovel and probe, with full training | ✓ Professional backcountry guide
With you for all 10 days on the hill | ✓ Phase 2 and chairlift ski passes
Full duration of the trip |
| ✓ Remote area skiing
Terrain reached on skins, away from the lift system | ✓ Tree skiing
Sheltered lower faces, and the flat-light option | ✓ Snow science programme
On-the-hill teaching, not a certified course |

What you'll be taught

Ten days is long enough to teach this properly rather than demonstrate it once. All of it is taught on the hill, on real snow, as part of the day — informal instruction rather than a certified avalanche qualification.

SNOWPACK & SNOW SCIENCE

Snow profiles, layer identification, how wind, aspect, sun and temperature build and weaken a pack through the season.

FULL BEACON TRAINING

Signal search, coarse and fine search, probe strike and strategic shovelling, drilled to time rather than tried once.

EXTENDED COLUMN TEST

Isolating the column, loading it correctly, and reading propagation — what the result tells you and what it does not.

ROUTE PLANNING & DECISIONS

Building the day from the forecast and the map, terrain traps and safe zones, turnaround calls, and knowing when to stand the plan down.

RUTSCHBLOCK TEST

The larger skier-loaded block: cutting it, stepping it, scoring the release and using it to sanity-check the day's plan.

TEAMWORK & LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

One-at-a-time protocol, spacing, communication and regrouping — plus how this mountain in particular behaves through a Gulmarg season.

How the ten days work

Terrain and objectives are chosen each morning from the snowpack, the wind and the light — the shape below is how a good trip usually runs, not a fixed schedule.

ARRIVAL	Transfer & touring setup	Picked up at Srinagar airport and driven to Gulmarg. Check in, then your touring skis, bindings and skins set up and fitted so day one starts on snow.
DAY 1	Beacon, rescue & skinning	Full transceiver training and companion rescue drilled to time, kick turns and skinning technique, then easier off-piste so your guide can see how you ride.
DAYS 2–3	Snowpack school	Profiles, Extended Column and Rutschblock tests dug and read on aspects that matter, worked into lift-served off-piste days on Phase 2 and the chairlift.
DAYS 4–6	Earning the turns	Touring away from the lift system into remote terrain, with the skin track, the pacing and the regroup points explained as they are chosen.
DAYS 7–9	You plan, you lead	You build the day from the forecast and the map and take it to your guide, who lets it run or asks the question you missed. Trees and lower faces when the light goes flat.
DAY 10	The best of the trip	The last day goes to whatever has been riding best, or to the objective the whole trip has been building towards.
DEPARTURE	Drop to airport	Breakfast, then your transfer back to Srinagar airport in time for your flight.

The guide has the final call, always. Days 7 to 9 hand you the planning, not the responsibility. Gulmarg is real avalanche terrain with no patrol beyond the resort boundary, and the objective, the line and the turnaround remain your guide's decision. If a day does not add up, you ski smaller terrain — and that call is part of what you are here to learn.

Where you'll ski

SKINS

Remote terrain

The reason for the touring setup: aspects and faces the lift system does not reach, earned on the skin track and usually ridden with nobody else on them.

PHASE 2

Apharwat bowls & ridges

Open, sustained descents from around 4,000 m on the shoulder of Apharwat, and the ridge lines that need a stable window.

CHAIRLIFT

Mid-mountain & gullies

Quick laps around 3,500 m and tighter gully terrain — also the reliable option when Phase 2 shuts for wind or avalanche control.

TREES

Tree skiing & lower faces

Sheltered, with definition underfoot when visibility drops — and often the best snow of the whole trip rather than a consolation.

Who this package is for

Right for you if

- You ride ungroomed terrain confidently and can handle a fall
- You are fit enough to skin uphill and ski ten days at altitude with a pack
- You want to understand the decisions well enough to make them
- Touring is new to you, or you have toured and want to go deeper — both work

Not this package if

- You are learning to ski or still working on linked turns
- You want lift-served riding only — our freeride packages suit you better
- You want a fixed, published day-by-day itinerary
- You need a certified avalanche qualification on paper

Before you book

Not included

- International and domestic airfare, and Indian visa
- Travel, off-piste and rescue insurance — mandatory, see opposite
- Lunches, drinks and personal expenses
- Heli-skiing, cat-skiing and any add-on activity
- Airbag canister hire, tips, and costs from closures beyond our control

Good to know

- **Insurance is mandatory** and must cover off-piste skiing and ski touring, including helicopter search, rescue and medical evacuation
- Satellite communicators such as Garmin inReach are prohibited in India — leave yours at home
- Bring your airbag pack but not the gas canister; cartridges are refused on the Delhi–Srinagar sector, and we arrange one in Gulmarg
- Radios are provided; you do not need your own
- If road or gondola closures stop a booked day, we reschedule it or refund it

Check your dates

Tell us when you're coming, how many of you there are and what you have ridden or toured before — we'll come back with availability and a written quote. There is nothing to pay to ask.

CALL / WHATSAPP

+91 9596300570

BOOKINGS

booking@gulmargsnowkings.com

WEBSITE

www.gulmargsnowkings.com

Message us on WhatsApp

Call +91 9596300570

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Gulmarg Snowkings · J&K Tourism permit JKAT00005678 · For the 2026–27 season and subject to availability at time of confirmation.