

## **The Houseboat Tour;**

Up in the north away from the filth there is a land of pure where angles decent and live between the rivers and trees there is a place known as Kashmir

Agar firdaus bar roo-e zameen ast,

Hameen ast-o hameen ast-o hameen ast.

This is what **Emperor Jahangir** is reported to have said so. About Kashmir that if there is Paradise on Earth it is here it is here it is here

Today with my team we are going to take you beautiful journey of Dal lake

Dal lake is located at Srinagar the capital of Jammu of Kashmir

The lake is one of the largest lake in Kashmir and is surrounded by the beautiful Pir Panjal Ranges

**Dal lake** is famous for its houseboat and it's shikara rides and many more but in this video we are going to show you a scenery beauty of house boat s the Houseboat in Srinagar are the preserved heritage of this state over these years it has been a fascination for the visitors of Kashmir to come and stay amidst the calm waters of this lake in this wooden houseboats Adorned with beautiful interiors and stay in a houseboat in Srinagar feels like staying close to nature

A houseboat is made of superior quality wood called as **cedar wood** which costs around **5k to 6k** rupees per square feet , while wood for ceiling is **Khalamband** in local language costs **2500 to 3k** per square feet. Normally one houseboat is having **2 to 5** bedrooms sitting room, a dinning room, attached washrooms and a pantry which costs **3 to 4** crore rupees approx. Interiors of a houseboat are carved out of cedar wood and the furniture is made up of walnut wood. It has become very important among art enthusiasts and others. These carved wood boats showcase the exquisite art of wood carving representing Kashmiri life and culture as well as fine craftsmanship of Kashmiri artisans. Mostly featuring chinar trees which are so important in Kashmir.

### **Houseboat overview;**

This is the long corridor of the Houseboat which leads into the entrance into the bedrooms and the dining room and the sitting room. It is decorated with lights and flowers and beautiful curtains.

This is the beautiful sitting room of the Houseboat which is well furnished and decorated. Intricate designs of wood carving is done on the furniture of the beautiful sitting room which adds elegance and charm to this beautiful sitting room . The wood carving is a special thing about the art and craft of Kashmir and it is been used to represent the famous chinar trees of Kashmir which itself is a beauty. Now let's move towards the dinning hall of the house boat it has a beautiful carved table in the middle and all the furniture is made out of the walnut wood which is beautifully and intricately wood carved the dinning hall is decorated with the photograph of Kashmir famous almonds and some snow capped mountains of Kashmir. The curtains used in the Houseboat are also the speciality of Kashmir the embroidery work done on the curtains is known as Ari work which includes in the art and craft of Kashmir. This beautiful Houseboat is known by the name **Queen of heavens** the owner of this

houseboat has given it a specific name which seems interesting. From the windows of the sitting room of Queen of Heavens we can see a calm and beautiful view of mountains and long busy Boulevard and Shikaras.

The bedrooms of houseboats are also intricately designed and wood carved in a very fascinating manner the bedrooms are well furnished and well decorated by the piece of art and the wooden ceiling. The various pictures on the walls of the room take you on a dreamy tour of Kashmir the world famous tulip garden is located in Kashmir and the exteriors of dal lake are so calm and the autumn season is itself a beauty of Kashmir.

The beautifully carved king and queen in the piece of wood gives an idea how hardworking the artisan of Kashmir are. This art of wood adds charm to this beautiful room.

This is the close view of intricate wood art done on the interiors of house boat which is truly fascinating. The ceiling of the Houseboat are truly a piece of hardwork .

Letting the water seep through my fingers, I collect a few pearls in the palm of my hand. They glisten and glitter as the sun kisses them morning carrying a scent of marigold and lotus . I breathe in the beauty of the swirl.

Transparent yet opaque it dissolves the pearls formed in my eyes, Listen carefully!

For they are narrating a story of life, of life and of destiny