



## Dal Lake

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- Dal is a lake in **Srinagar**, the capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Dal Lake is a misnomer as Dal in Kashmiri means lake.



- It is integral to tourism and recreation in Kashmir and is named the “Jewel in the crown of Kashmir” or “Srinagar’s Jewel”.
- It is also an important source for commercial operations in fishing and water plant harvesting.
- It covers an area of 18 square kilometres and is part of a natural wetland including its floating gardens.
  - The **floating gardens**, known as “**Raad**” in Kashmiri, blossom with lotus flowers during July and August.
  - The wetland is divided by causeways into four basins; Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal and Nagin. Lokut-dal and Bod-dal each have an island in the centre, known as Rup Lank (or Char Chinari) and Sona Lank respectively.
- The **houseboats (Shikaras)** are closely associated with Dal Lake which provide accommodation to tourists in Srinagar.