

Goa

Introduction

Overview

Renowned for its party scene – sun, sand and psychedelia form a big part of the Goan experience for most tourists. With sunny, palm-fringed beaches bordered by the endless blue of the Arabian Sea, the allure of Goa is hard to resist. The architectural splendor of its churches, temples and quaint white houses blend harmoniously with the beach scenery. Backpackers, honeymooners, holidaymakers...everyone has a reason to experience the Goan way of life. Its many beaches are ideal to simply stretch back and catch a tan or try out some water sports or indulge in rave parties. It, quite simply, is a one-stop beach destination.



History

Goa formed a part of the Mauryan Empire in the 3rd century BC. Later it was ruled by the Satavahanas of Kolhapur. About 2000 years ago, Goa was ruled by the Chalukya Dynasty between 580 to 750. And the following few centuries, Goa was successively ruled by the Silharas, the Kadambas and the Chalukyas of Kalyani, rulers of Deccan India.

The beach state fell under the rule of the Delhi Sultanate in 1312, but the kingdom failed to control the region for long, which led to its subsequent surrender to Harihara I of the Vijayanagara Empire in 1370. The Vijayanagara kings ruled Goa until 1469, when it was usurped by the Bahmani sultans of Gulbarga. After the fall of the dynasty, the region fell to the hands of the Adil Shah of Bijapur who built as their auxiliary capital the city known under the Portuguese as Velha Goa (or Old Goa). Goa flourished during the reign of the Bahmani sultans especially that of Yusuf Adil Shah and Ismail Adil Shah. They were peace loving rulers who patronized local craftsmen, build beautiful houses and fortified Goa. However, their liberal and progressive rule was not to last long, and the scene changed in 1510.

Primary reason for King Dom Manuel I's sending Portuguese nobleman Alfonso de Albuquerque and his cousin Francisco de Albuquerque with a powerful fleet in 1503, was to defend the cargoes of species mostly pepper against Arab raiders. The Portuguese in 1510 defeated the ruling Bijapur kings with the support of a local ally, Timayya, and established their permanent settlement in Velha Goa. Though, Goa was not on their radar even after a long time of their presence in India. The Portuguese propagated the spread of Christianity, often with repressive measures such as the Goan Inquisition, leading to a significant population converting to Christianity. This was followed by repeated wars of the Portuguese with the Marathas and the Deccan Sultanate, along with their repressive religious policies which led to the exodus of Goans to neighboring states.

The capital was moved from Velha Goa to Panjim in 1843, and by mid-18th century the area under occupation had expanded to most of Goa's present day state limits. Around then the Portuguese lost other possessions in India until their borders stabilized and formed the Estado da India Portuguesa of which Goa was the largest territory. Even after India gained independence from British rule in 1947, Portugal continued to negotiate with India on the transfer of sovereignty of their Indian colonies. Finally on 12 December 1961, the Indian army commenced with Operation Vijay leading to the annexation of Goa, Daman and Diu into the Indian union. The Union Territory was split on 30 May 1987, with Goa rising to the position of India's twenty-fifth state, Daman and Diu staying Union Territories.

Getting Around

There are no signboards in many quarters of Goa, many of the existing ones are either illegible or have fallen apart. So making your way could be a challenge, especially after dusk. If you are stuck somewhere you can always ask the locals who are usually friendly and helpful. It is advisable not to over speed in Goa, though the roads are arguably far better than they are in the other parts of the country. It is ideal to keep a top speed of 60-70 kmph, slowing down to 40 kmph on minor roads. Goan roads are full of surprises; expect animals and little kids darting across, not to mention unmarked speed breakers.

A popular mode of transport to move around locally is Honda Activa, a non-gearred scooter which is quite easy to ride. You can even rent a geared motorbike including the popular Royal Enfield. Tourists who stay longer hire motorbikes from rental companies. You can expect to spend around Rs 250 a day on a scooter and little more if you are looking for a geared motorcycle.

If you are a bigger group, the best way to explore Goa is by renting a jeep. A lot of these jeeps have open roof, which is a better way to enjoy the Goan sun and breeze, as opposed to a regular sedan. You can expect to spend between Rs 700 to Rs 800 a day for such jeeps. The state bus service can be availed for traveling from one beach to another. Typically, a bus ride costs anywhere from Rs 5 upwards, besides fares for longer distances are usually displayed inside the bus, behind the driver's seat. Remember, fares are not collected at the bus door, but rather after you have entered and the bus has begun to move. To cover a distance of 30-40 kilometers (19 to 25 miles) by bus, expect to spend Rs 10-15.

The most comfortable way to explore Goa is by car. There are many car rental companies around providing world class service.

Tourist Traps in the City

Goa, an idyllic sun-and-sand getaway, is a wonderful holiday destination especially in the winter months of December and January. As you get into the holiday mood, it is necessary to be mindful of a few unwanted elements that are an inexplicable part of Goa's beach atmosphere. The sight of foreign tourists makes most hawkers move in for the kill. The prices they quote are mostly exorbitant and they keep pestering until you purchase something from them. Don't let them come close to your bag, as something might invariably find its way into their bag when they leave. A firm 'no' is enough to discourage them, considering you do not engage in any conversation with them.

While strolling the beach, in all probability you will meet this curious character who claims to be a professional ear doctor. He stops you, produces a card, and promises you a great ear treatment. If you believe him and ask him to work on your ears, he might simply clean your ear with a cotton bud and produce some stones saying he pulled them

out of your ear! It is hilarious as much as obnoxious. Do not waste any money in getting such a treatment. If buying anything from a hawker, make sure you negotiate the rate as there is a tendency to over charge. You could be rudely interrupted by beggars or touts while relaxing on the beach and enjoying the sun. Always take care of your belongings, and abstain from carrying around too much cash.

More often than not you will spot little kids offering to polish your shoes, even if you are wearing white flip flops! The worst of the lot are the masseurs offering a therapy on the beach for an earth-shattering rate, especially to foreigners. Such massages can sometimes be more harmful than relaxing, and you can't ever be sure if the guy is qualified. If you want to get a massage done, visit a proper Ayurveda massage centre scattered all around Goa. While traveling in train beware of pick-pockets. Women should avoid strolling by the beach alone at night, and if you must, make sure you have a companion.

Steer clear of small time jewelry stores that sometimes trap tourists by first quoting a higher price, and if the shopper negotiates and doesn't buy the product, he is harassed into buying something at least. If you wish to shop for jewelry, go to reputed big stores that have courteous staff. Also be warned of the 'timeshare crew', who ride up their motorbikes to you and inform that you have just won a lottery. Such people get paid rather well for enticing holidaymakers to their venue. In order to avoid this, a polite "no thank you" is enough to send them on their way.

Local Custom

Goa is an international holiday destination, and has a fairly liberal outlook owing to its history and diverse cultural influences. Couples can have their privacy without grabbing any eyeball. You can travel around in any outfit you feel comfortable. But avoid wearing revealing clothes when using the public transport and visiting crowded public areas or sightseeing attractions. Prefer to dress appropriately while visiting a temple or church.

Shopping

Goa has lots to offer in terms of shopping, from wines to cashew nuts, Goan trance music, books, to handicraft, the array is diverse. Goan handicrafts are somehow underrated and under-appreciated even while being reasonably priced. Of local handicraft, you can shop from a range of carved furniture, china, pottery, brassware, crochet, shell artifacts and antique silver jewelry.

The area around Cavelossim Beach in South Goa is famous for its night market offering an eclectic variety of Goan souvenirs such as clothes, handicraft, silver jewelry, wood carvings, music and antiques among others. Besides, there are many night markets in North Goa selling an amazing variety of global items. 18th June Road in Panjim is also coming up in a big way as a shopper's paradise. Mapusa attracts a number of tourists, especially foreigners to its traditional market each Friday. Don't forget to shop for traditional Goan lacquer ware toys available at the Aparant emporia. Some popular bookstores are Broadways Book Centre on 18th June Road (near Caculo Traffic Island), Confidant's Golden Heart Emporium in Margao (2732450), Mandovi Square near Cine Nacional (2234241), and Varsha Book Stall (2425832) near the Bank of India and Azad Maidan. The last two focus on newspapers and magazines coming in from the rest of the country and outside. You can even try out 'Reading Habit', at Campal on the way to Miramar Beach.

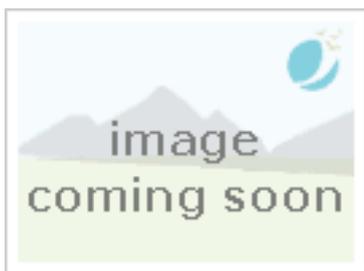
Artisans in Goa turn out some wonderful hand-painted ceramics. These colorful, intricately designed ceramics are unique to this part of the country, and hence popular with souvenir shoppers. Furniture and antiques are just as popular. Interestingly, medical services in Goa too receive a lot of foreign clients. There are a number of outlets that offer a form of health tourism such as Dr Pimenta's Dental Practice at Romano Chambers (near the Old Petrol Pump in Calangute) and Lake Plaza near Nehru Stadium in Margao.

Goa has a network of state-run handicraft emporiums selling genuine artifacts including shell-work, clay, papier mache, bamboo and coconut fiber souvenirs. Such outlets are, besides four in Panjim, located at Vasco da Gama (on Swatantra Path, at the Vasco Residency) and at the local GTDC-run residency hotels in Margao, Mapusa, Calangute, the Bicholim Pottery Production Centre at the Industrial Estate, and at Loutolim's Big Foot. Most of the Aparant outlets are open between 1000 to 1800 hours depending on their location.

You will come across some interesting souvenirs of dry coconut and coconut-shells carved, often designed to fit on a wooden base. In addition to some traditional, handmade table lamps, flower pots, table clocks, religious statues and showpieces, beautiful designs and shapes are created of cotton thread in an artistic way with the crochet steel hook. Traditional clay art - in the form of vases, ash-trays and idols of deities - is a skill honed over generations in Goa. Ditto with bamboo artifacts.

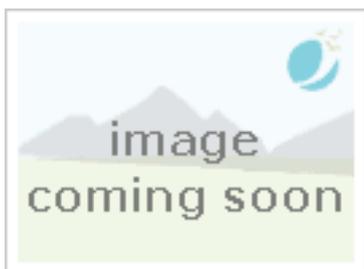
Shop for clothes at 'Just Casuals' that houses a great collection of garments exported from India, you never know which brand you might find here, besides the prices are a steal. This is located at Navelcar Trade Centre in Panjim (Tel. 2226666).

Things to Do



Dona Paula (North Goa)

A lovely 7-kilometer (4 miles) drive from Panjim, Dona Paula Beach is shrouded in a romantic myth and attracts sunbathers and water sports enthusiasts from all over the world. The clear waters of Dona Paula make it ideal for aqua activities, as much for simply lounging on the silvery sand and soakin ...[more>>](#)



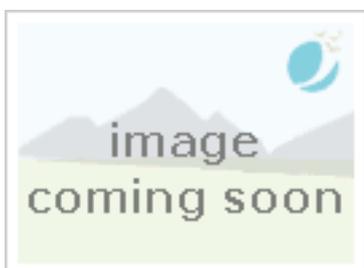
Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary

A popular birding destination in Goa, Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary named after the illustrious Indian ornithologist Sir Salim Ali, is best visited from the capital city of Panaji. To arrive at the bird sanctuary, take a bus or hire a taxi to the Rabandar Ferry Wharf, from where you can take the ferry se ...[more>>](#)



Basilica of Bom Jesus

About 10 kilometers (6.25 miles) from Panjim in Old Goa, the Basilica of Bom Jesus built in 1695 is lauded as one of the finest specimens of baroque architecture in India. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the basilica houses the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, a close friend of St. Ignatius Loyol ...[more>>](#)



Miramar (North Goa)

Miramar Beach is the nearest beach from Goa's capital city, Panaji, about 3 kilometers (2 miles) away from Panaji city centre in the north and a kilometer from Dona Paula beach. It is a lovely golden beach of soft sand girdled with palm trees, and lies adjoining the estuary of Mandovi River as it op ...[more>>](#)



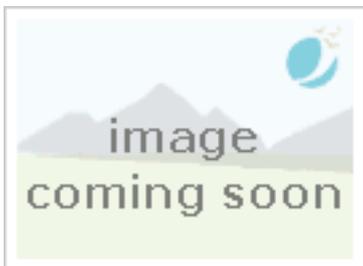
Arambol Beach (North Goa)

Arambol is a 16-kilometer-long (10 miles) stretch of beach along the Goan border complete with a freshwater lagoon and picturesque cove. The beach is an isolated one, and is a 50-kilometer (31.25 miles) drive from Panaji, North Goa. Arambol is a unique combination of shingle and soft-sandy beach fla ...[more>>](#)



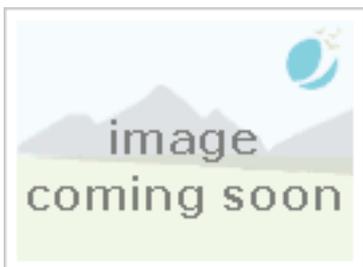
Chapora Fort and surrounds

An unlikely beach resort, Chapora is tucked under a canopy of trees on the muddy southern shore of an estuary. Built by Adil Shah, the king of Bijapur, on the southern headland of the Chapora River, Chapora Fort has a commanding view of the Vagator Beach and the nearby Anjuna Beach. ...[more>>](#)



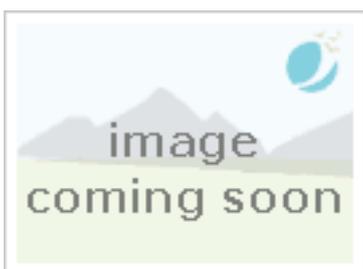
Joet's

Joet's is a popular round the year, seafood restaurant tucked away in the northern corner of Bogmalo Beach overlooking the azure Arabian Sea. Both locals and foreigners flock this restaurant to feast on its Mussel Masala Fry, Red Snapper and Kingfish preparations. Serving sumptuous breakfast, lunch ...[more>>](#)



The Church of Holy Spirit in Margao

The Church of Holy Spirit, a beautiful white façade built by the Portuguese, stands tall in the old Market square of the buzzing commercial town of Margao in South Goa. Originally built by Jesuit missionaries in 1564, it was destroyed in 1571 only to be rebuilt in 1645. Lauded as one of the finest e ...[more>>](#)



Bogmalo (South Goa)

The pristine Bogmalo Beach is located at the top of South Goa in Bogmalo Bay, about 18 kilometers (11.25 miles) from Dabolim Airport and 8 kilometers (5 miles) from Vasco da Gama. The beach is actually nestled right in the middle of the north and south Goan beaches. It has come to be among the most ...[more>>](#)



East Meets West (Casa Portuguesa)

A lush open-air restaurant decked with flowering planters, East Meets West is a seasonal restaurant rustling up authentic Portuguese cuisine, alongside Indian, Tandoori and Continental dishes. The restaurant whips up some succulent barbeque - a must-try here! You might as well try out the Banoffee P ...[more>>](#)



Se Cathedral

Located in Old Goa, about 9 kilometers (6 miles) from Panaji, Se or St. Catherine's Cathedral is a symbol of wealth, power and fame of the Portuguese who dominated the seas from the Atlantic to Pacific. The cathedral took about eight years to be built and was not consecrated until 1640. Today, it no ...[more>>](#)



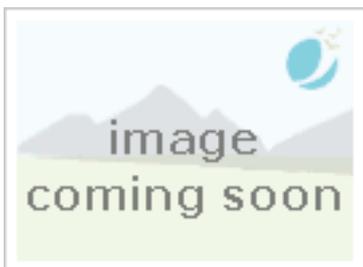
Bean Me Up Soya Station And Salad Bar

Located in Anjuna near the petrol pump, Bean Me Up Soya Station is a haven for the vegetarians who crave for something sumptuous and exotic in the seafood paradise of Goa. Run by an expat American, the restaurant offers an innovative assortment of vegetarian cuisine and a California style salad bar. ...[more>>](#)



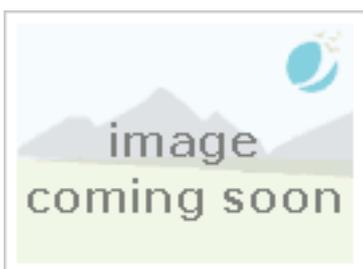
Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary

A new wildlife sanctuary, already popular with nature enthusiasts and wildlife lovers, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Western Ghat range in Eastern Goa. Netravali is connected to Madei Wildlife Sanctuary, and together the two parks spread across 420 square kilometers, of which the fo ...[more>>](#)



Archaeological Museum and Portrait Gallery

Undoubtedly one of Goa's most popular museums, the Archaeological Museum & Portrait Gallery is housed in the abandoned convent of St. Francis of Assisi, adjacent to Se Cathedral in Old Goa. Set up in 1964 and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the collection at the museum is ...[more>>](#)



Church of Our Lady of Rosary

Church of Our Lady of Rosary is located at Holy Hill to the west of the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa. Old Goa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site is embellished with architectural masterpieces in the form of churches and convents from the golden age. Most of these churches were built after 15th centur ...[more>>](#)



Kesarval Spring

About 22 kilometers (13.75 miles) from Panaji on Verna plateau, just off the Panaji-Margao highway, is one of the most exotic water bodies in the beach state of Goa. Set against tropical woodlands and swaying betel palms, the therapeutic mineral water of Kesarval Spring emerges from hard and compact ...[more>>](#)



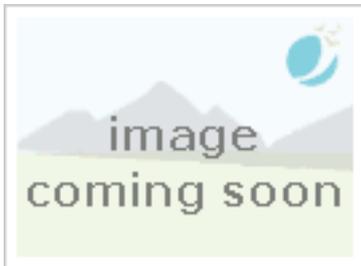
The Church of St. Alex

The Church of St. Alex in Calangute is one of Goa's oldest churches built in 1597. Overlooking the main road to Mapusa, the church was built on the site of a Hindu shrine called Ravalnath whose remains can still be seen. Located on CHOGM Road, the church is about 9 kilometers (6 miles) from Margao. ...[more>>](#)



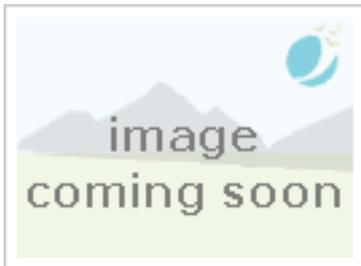
Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary

If you are a wildlife enthusiast looking for a wonderful sanctuary experience, Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary is for you! It is Goa's smallest wildlife reserve, nestled at a height of 3000 feet (900 meters) on the lush foothills of the Western Ghats. The sanctuary is located in Ponda Taluka in the centra ...[more>>](#)



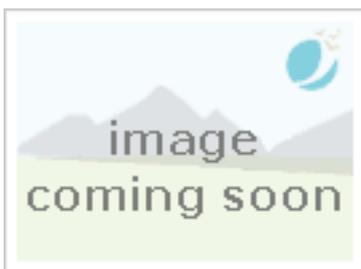
Fort Aguada

About 18 kilometers (11.25 miles) from Panaji in Old Goa, along Candolim Chogm Road stands the 17th century Portuguese bastion, Fort Aguada overlooking the Sinquerim Beach and Arabian Sea stretching into distance. Built in 1612, this old Portuguese fort sprawls on the beach south of Candolim at the ...[more>>](#)



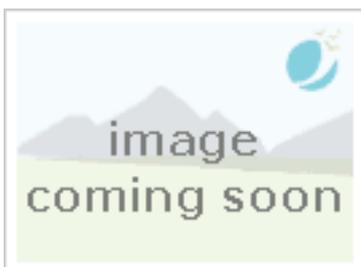
Sea Pebble

Located near the Dona Paula Jetty, Sea Pebble is a multi-cuisine restaurant serving delicious grub year round. Tuck into a platter of scrumptious seafood delicacy while hearing the waves crash against the walls. The seafood rustled up here are a specialty, and you are recommended to try out the Praw ...[more>>](#)



Benaulim (South Goa)

About 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) from Colva is the unspoilt beach of Benaulim in South Goa. Benaulim Beach opens up a vista of uncluttered silvery sand lacing the Arabian Sea. More peaceful and serene than Colva, Benaulim still remains undiscovered by domestic travelers despite being a fishing beach. ...[more>>](#)



Coconut Creek Restaurant

Located near Bogmalo Beach, Coconut Creek Restaurant is a part of the lavishly palm-fringed Coconut Creek Resort. A place for Indian, Continental and authentic Goan cuisine, Coconut Creek specializes in fresh steaks, sizzlers and some brilliant pasta. Don't miss out the Chateaubriand and prawn delic ...[more>>](#)



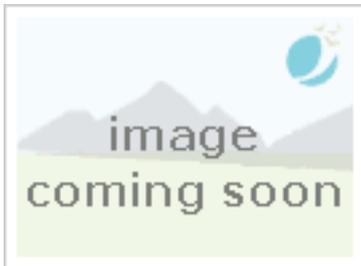
Palolem (South Goa)

About 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) from Chaudi and 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Margao in South Goa, Palolem, popularly known as 'Paradise Beach', is a mile long and offers seclusion and idyllic scenery. This part of South Goa opens up a spectacular scenery of sweeping, crescent white sandy beach frin ...[more>>](#)



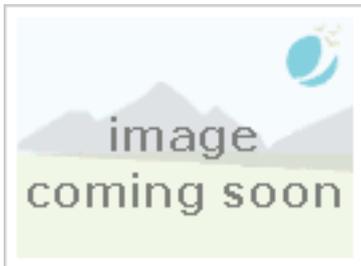
Arvalem Waterfall

About 9 kilometers (6 miles) from the south of Bicholim town is one of Goa's most striking natural wonders, Arvalem Waterfall. When you emerge out of the Rudreshwar temple and descend down the stairs, you will be faced with a 24-feet-high (7.2 meters) waterfall that roars down onto a huge lake. The ...[more>>](#)



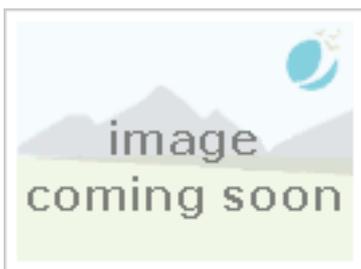
La Franza Restaurant

A popular German bakery along the Anjuna stretch, La Franza is a seasonal restaurant functional from October to mid-April. The German pastries and steaks here are a must-try. In addition to this, La Franza rustles up a great range of German and Continental delicacies. You can even try some North Ind ...[more>>](#)



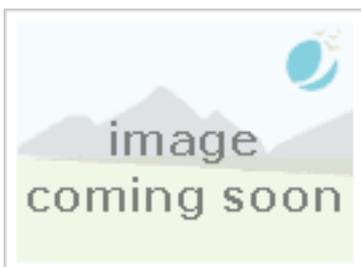
Tito's

Tito's is a famous nightclub on Baga beach and is frequented by the well heeled. On New Year's Eve the place runs to packed house with trance music pounding in the background. Tito's is synonymous with clubbing in the region. One of Goa's oldest nightclubs, it metamorphosed into a pulsating party de ...[more>>](#)



Calangute (North Goa)

Home of the flower-children who discovered this beautiful beach in the late 60s, Calangute in North Goa is marked by brown sand, swaying palms, rustic huts and a colorful motley of sun bathing folks. Calangute is especially popular with European travelers. A day on the beach sees children making san ...[more>>](#)



Goan Hideout Restaurant and Bar

Goan Hideout, a seasonal restaurant, is created by a foreigner couple who had come to Goa's sunny beach as a visitor, and decided to stay on for good. It gets a decent gathering of national and foreign travelers. Surrounded by lush coconut groves and a sprawling garden, the ambience of the restauran ...[more>>](#)



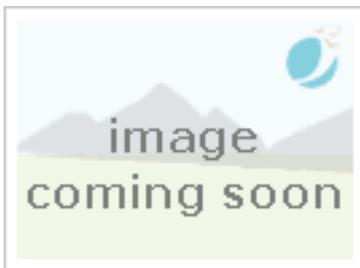
Smile of the Buddha Restaurant and Bar

Located close to the cliff side of Arambol beach, Smile of the Buddha is a year round multi-cuisine restaurant whipping up wholesome breakfast, sumptuous lunch and dinner. The lively and pleasant ambience of the place is further enhanced at sunset when it is mildly lit and flutes play in the backgro ...[more>>](#)



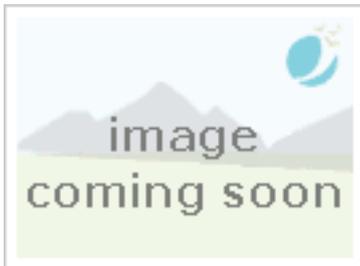
Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary

Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary originally known as Molem Game Sanctuary is the oldest in Goa situated in Sanguem taluka. Spread out over 240 square kilometers, the sanctuary is also the biggest in Goa. Collem railway station falls within the sanctuary and one can reach the place in a train from ...[more>>](#)



Colva (South Goa)

About 6 kilometers (3.75 miles) from Margao, Colva in South Goa is a glorious stretch of white sandy. Supposed to be the largest Goan beach, Colva opens up a scenery of sandy beach dotted with coconut palms lacing the turquoise waters of the Arabian Sea, with souvenir stalls and concrete hotels just ...[more>>](#)



Pedro's Restaurant and Bar

Pedro's is a very popular shack on the Benaulim stretch affording brilliant sea views, and serving a symphony of seafood delicacies. Take in the beauty of the colorful sunset sky while tucking into prawn curry rice with chicken Xhacuti. Follow it up with some Goan Feni or fine wine. You can also try ...[more>>](#)



Baga (North Goa)

Few miles south of Anjuna, Baga Beach is basically an extension of the Calangute Beach, and is about 10 kilometers (6.25 miles) from the city of Mapusa. This one is more scenic, unspoilt and less commercial than Calangute. Take in the scenery of the Baga River flowing down from one side of the brown ...[more>>](#)



Lila Cafe

Nestled along the Baga creek, Lila Café is a seasonal shack serving sumptuous Continental cuisine, homemade bakery products and cheese, a choice of salads (with olive oil), and a lavish breakfast spread. The restaurant is run by a German couple who have made Goa their home for the last two decades. ...[more>>](#)



Vagator (North Goa)

About 25 kilometers (16 miles) from Panjim in North Goa, the Vagator Beach is popular with sunbathers who come here for its white sands and pristine beauty. In proximity to the beach is the popular Chapora Fort on the southern headland of the Chapora River. This 17th century Portuguese fort has a co ...[more>>](#)



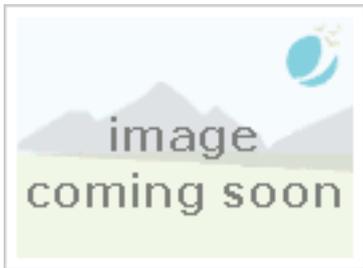
A Reverie

A fine dine restaurant next to Hotel Goan Heritage in Calangute, 'A Reverie' serves contemporary European cuisine in novel and creative ways. The interiors are somewhat odd, maybe innovative, with disco balls, lounge chairs and unique lamps on the bar. The fine fusion of flavors makes A Reverie a mu ...[more>>](#)



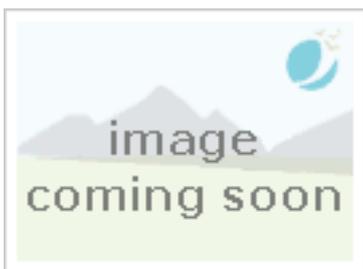
Candolim (North Goa)

Compared to other beaches in North Goa, Candolim is quieter owing to the fact that they aren't many resorts around the beach. About 15 kilometers (9 miles) from Goa's capital city, Panaji, the beach receives an assortment of people taking a break after visiting Rajneesh Ashram in Pune, backpackers a ...[more>>](#)



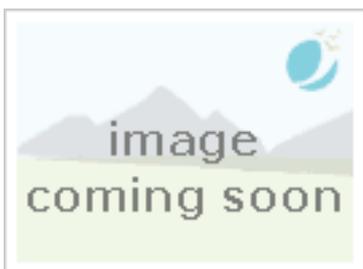
Hawaii

Open from October to March, the restaurant flourishes during peak season along the pretty Dona Paula-Miramar stretch. This is a great place to try out Continental and Goan seafood specialties. With an array of delicacies including Fish Curry Rice Combo, Chicken Cafreal and Dry Prawn Manchurian on th ...[more>>](#)



Sri Vithal Temple

Sri Vithal Temple is located in Sanquelim on the bank of Valvanta River in Old Goa. Sanquelim is the hometown of the Ranes of Satari who played a pivotal role in Goa's struggle for freedom. The ancestors of the Rane family who had migrated to Goa from Udaipur some 600 years back, constructed the fam ...[more>>](#)



Blue Sea Horse

Nestled on the beautiful Arambol beach, Blue Sea Horse is a multi-cuisine restaurant that does a smattering of Indian, Italian, Israeli, American, Chinese, Portuguese and Goan seafood specialties. The fish preparations here are worth a bet, especially fish butter garlic, fish curry and fish fry. You ...[more>>](#)



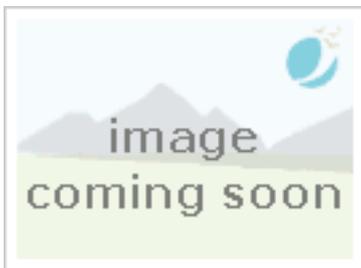
Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary

Renowned for its population of flying squirrel and flying lizard, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Canacona district of South Goa. This sanctuary was established in 1969 and spreads out over 86 kilometers (54 miles), the second largest in Goa. Within the sanctuary, you can view the anima ...[more>>](#)



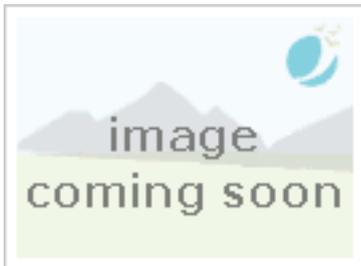
Ruins of Church of St. Augustine

In proximity to the Nunnery atop Holy Hill in Old Goa stands the iconic 46-meter-high (153 feet) tower that served as a belfry and formed a part of the façade of the magnificent Church of St. Augustine. The construction of the church was initiated by twelve Augustan friars in 1572, and was completed ...[more>>](#)



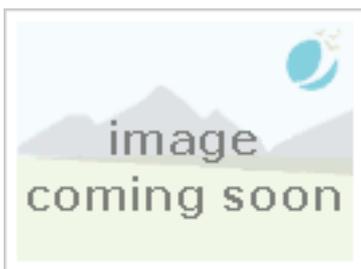
Bamboo Palace

Bamboo Palace comes from the people who made Biryani Place popular for its exotic flavored biryani. The restaurant is beautifully chalked out of bamboo, and sports a lovely ethnic décor with bamboo trappings all around. This seasonal restaurant, open from morning to night, is especially famous for i ...[more>>](#)



Mayem Lake in Bicholim Taluka

About 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Panjim city, Mayem Lake is a charming little lake situated at Mayem near Bicholim in Bicholim Taluka, North Goa. Enscocned amidst low, rounded hills and natural beauty, the lake attracts a number of tourists and locals who come to picnic here. The lake and the sur ...[more>>](#)



Varca (South Goa)

Varca Beach is located in Varca village to the south of Benaulim Beach in South Goa, at a distance of 2 kilometers (1.25 miles). Most visitors to Benaulim come to Varca to stroll on its white sand and take in endless views of the blue sea in solitude. The beach is a part of one of the longest stretc ...[more>>](#)



Anjuna Beach

An 18 kilometer (11.25 miles) drive from Goa's capital city, Panaji brings you to the quaint Anjuna village punctuated by a white sandy beach surrounded by immense coconut groves. A secluded haven discovered by the Hippies in the sixties, Anjuna is a five square mile cloister nestling between the bl ...[more>>](#)



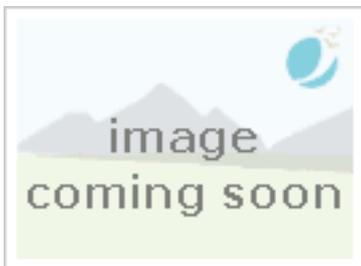
Cavelossim (South Goa)

About 17 kilometers (11 miles) from Margao in South Goa, Cavelossim is a sprawling stretch of white sand dotted with lush palm groves facing the blue Arabian Sea. This idyllic beach is approx. 7 kilometers (4 miles) south of the famous Colva Beach, continuing the string of beaches starting from Colv ...[more>>](#)



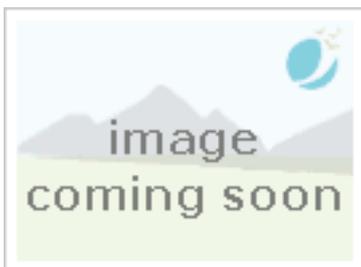
Jazz House

Located opposite Don Francisco Resort on Candolim Beach, Jazz House is a hugely popular shack playing some great Jazz numbers after sunset. It could be very difficult to find a place here especially in the peak season of Christmas and New Year. The music is fantastic enough to motivate customers to ...[more>>](#)



Teracol Fort

To the north of Arambol, a sinuous coast road winds around the top of a rocky, undulating plateau, and then through a dense woodland to join the river Arondem, which it then trails for 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) through a pretty landscape of paddy fields, lush coconut palms and temple towers jutting o ...[more>>](#)



Bob's Inn

Located on the main road in Candolim, inside a sprawling mansion with a lush lawn in front, Bob's Inn serves delectable seafood, Continental and Indian, especially traditionally Goan cuisine, year round. The seafood platter here is succulent, and a must-try. The sizzlers and Crumb Fried Mussels are ...[more>>](#)

Restaurants

Indian - Indian Dhum Biryani in Anjuna, Nirvana Hermitage in Anjuna, Oasis Restaurant & Bar in Arambol, Britto's in Baga Beach, Café Mambo's in Baga, East Meets West in Baga-Calangute, Copper Bowl in Calangute, Flying Dolphin Beach Bar in Calangute, Indian Spice in Calangute, Oceanic in Calangute, Plantain Leaf in Calangute, The Indian Kitchen on Calangute-Baga Road, Cactus Shepherd's Pie in Candolim, Indiana Bar & Restaurant on Candolim Beach Road, Ruffles on Fort Aguada Road, Prainha Restaurant near Dona Paula jetty, Dunes Holiday Village in Mandrem Beach, Delhi Darbar on M.G Road in Panaji, Primrose Bar & Restaurant in Vagator, Joet's on Bogmalo Beach, Pepper Valley in Canacona.

Chinese - Blue Sea Horse in Arambol, Dream Catcher in Arambol, Mirabai's Goan Village on Baga Beach Street, Oriental Royal Thai Cuisine in Calangute, Salt and Pepper in Calangute, Beaches Restaurant & Bar in Candolim, Cuckoo Zen Restaurant in Candolim, Just Chinese in Candolim, Palms & Sands Bar and Restaurant in Candolim, Silk Route in Candolim, Pan Asian in Dona Paula, Goenchin Chinese Restaurant in Panaji, Dersy Bar & Restaurant in Agonda.

European/Continental - Blue Tao in Anjuna, La Franza Restaurant in Anjuna, Blue Sea Horse in Arambol Beach, Loekie Café in Arambol, Goa Solo Andata in Arpora, Turkish Grill in Arpora, J & A's Little Italy in Baga, Lila Café in Baga, A Reverie in Calangute, After Seven Restaurant in Calangute, Fiesta in Calangute, Le Jardin in Calangute,

Le Restaurant Francais on Calangute-Baga Road, Slalom Med Lounge & Bar in Calangute, Tito's on Baga-Calangute Road, Boa Cozinha on Candolim Beach, Jazz House in Candolim, Hawaii on Hawaii Beach, Horseshoe in Panaji, O'Coqueiro Restaurant in Porvorim, Beach House at the Taj in Sinquerim, Martin's Corner in Betalbatim, Joet's on Bogmalo Beach

Regional Speciality - Café Looda in Anjuna Flea Market, Britto's on Calangute-Baga Beach, Capricorn Bar & Restaurant in Calangute, Copper Bowl in Calangute, Oceanic on Main Calangute Road, Souza Lobo on Calangute Beach, Waves in Calangute, Calamari Beach Shack in Candolim, Floyd's Hut in Candolim, Sweet Chilli in Sinquerim Candolim, Vanilla Lounge in Candolim, Hawaii on Hawaii Beach, Sea Pebble near Dona Paula jetty, White House Restaurant & Bar in Dona Paula, Café St. Francis Xavier in Mapusa, Camp 69 in Morjim, Montego Bay in Morjim, Mum's Kitchen on Panaji-Miramar Road, Riorico in Panaji, Viva Panjim in Panaji, Florentine in Saligao, Algeria at Taj Exotica in Benaulim, Goan Hideout Restaurant & Bar in Benaulim, Joecon's Garden in Benaulim, Coconut Creek Restaurant near Bogmalo Beach.

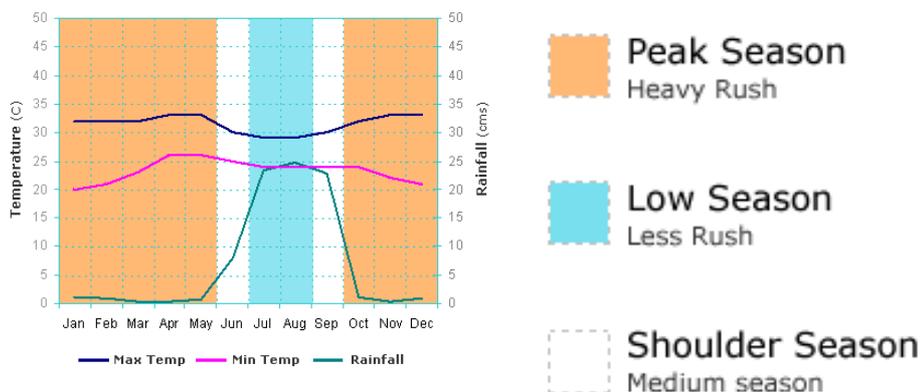
Weather

Goa is spread across an area of 3,702 km² (1,430 sq miles), between the latitudes 14°53'54" N and 15°40'00" N and longitudes 73°40'33" E and 74°20'13" E. Laced by a 101-kilometer-long (63 miles) coastline, the state of Goa forms a part of the coastal country of Konkan which is an escarpment rising up to the Western Ghats. The highest point is the Sonsogor at an altitude of 1167 meters (3827 feet). Mandovi, Zuari, Terakhol, Chapora and Sal rivers are Goa's main rivers. The Mandovi and Zuari rivers with their tributaries drain about 69% of the geographic area, making them the lifelines of Goa. One of the best natural harbors in South Asia, the Mormugao harbor is on the mouth of Zuari River. In addition to this, the region has over 40 estuarine, 8 marine and about 90 riverine islands, with the total navigable length of its rivers being 253 kilometers (157 miles). Also, there are more than 300 ancient tanks built during the reign of the Kadamba kings, and some hundred medicinal springs. Mineral and humus content in its soil explains why some of the oldest rocks in the Indian subcontinent are found in Goa between Molem and Anmod on its border with Karnataka. A specimen of such a rock can be found at the Goa University.

Goa's location in the tropical zone and on the shores of the Arabian Sea keeps it hot and muggy for the better part of the year. Mercury soars the highest in May with day temperatures over 35 °C (95 °F) coupled with high humidity. This is followed by the arrival of monsoon in early June, bringing much needed respite from the scorching heat. Goa receives most of its annual rainfall during monsoon that lasts till late September. Winter here is mild and short, and lasts between mid-December and February. At this time of the year night temperature is around 20 °C (68 °F), and day's around 29 °C (84 °F), with moderate humidity. Not to mention, further inland owing to altitudinal graduation, the nights are cooler by a few degrees. But March 2008 saw torrential rains accompanied by strong winds in Goa; this was in fact the first time in 29 years that Goa witnessed rainfall in March.

Goa Today
Updated: - IST on -

Temperature -
Humidity -
Dew Point -
Wind - at -
Sunrise -
Sunset -



Getting There

Surface - Goa has several bus routes from various cities, but traffic is mainly from Mumbai and Pune. But with increasing demand from the south, there has been a rise in buses from Bangalore. Overnight buses from Mumbai to Goa are another alternative over trains and flights. Note that many of the coaches are newer Volvo models, in which two passengers share a sleeper bunk.

Train - Goa is connected with direct train services by Indian Railways from Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Mangalore, Kochi, Kolkata, Trivandrum, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad. The main destination station is usually Madgaon located in South Goa. Train ride to Goa is very enjoyable since the route passes through greenery and winding tunnels.

Thivim is a railway station served by most trains and is just 20 minutes away from Calangute Beach by taxi. For travelers on budget, this is the good option, apart from being faster and much more comfortable than travelling by road. It is advisable for tourists to make reservations well in advance as the major trains (Rajdhani Express, Mangala Lakshadweep Express, Mandovi Express, Jan Shatabdi Express, Sampark Kranti Express, Chennai-Vasco Express, Amaravathi Express, Konkan Kanya and Nethravati Express among others.) are usually heavily booked. It is worth noting that trains from Mumbai and most other places have a quota of seats set aside for tourists. Quota tickets must be purchased in person at the railway station of origin by the tourist and cannot be booked via a travel agent.

Unless you are on a shoe string budget, it is advisable to travel by the air-conditioned sleeper coaches that are relatively quieter, and much more comfortable. Each bunk is provided with two freshly laundered sheets, a blanket and a pillow. You can also request for a hand towel.

Air - Goa has an airport at Dabolim in Vasco (North Goa) that was actually owned by the Indian Navy. Some airlines fly directly to Goa, but most international flights come in via Mumbai. There are daily flights to Goa to and from Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune (no flights return to Pune) and has flights twice a week to Chennai. Recently, daily flights to Jaipur and Ahmedabad, as well as to Mangalore, Kozhikode (Calicut) and Kochi (Cochin) have also been incorporated.

Domestic airlines flying into Goa include Kingfisher Airlines, Spice Jet, Jet Airways, Indian Airlines, Air Deccan, Indigo and Go Air. There are international flights to Kuwait and UAE twice a week on Air India, including charter flights to the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia and Switzerland. On arrival, you are recommended to take a pre-paid taxi from Dabolim Airport to wherever in Goa you wish to travel. You will see the yellow pre-paid taxi booth, some 30 meters on the left when you exit the main building. Generally resorts offer complimentary pick up from the airport, so please confirm with your resort.

Sea - There are occasional cruise services between Goa and Mumbai. Though, the once-popular steamer service linking Goa with Mumbai via a 22-hour inexpensive journey, no longer plies.