



# GOA

## Your Guide to the land of Sun, Sand and Sea....

Situated between Karnataka and Maharashtra, Goa is bounded on the north by the Terekhol river, surrounded on the south and east by Karnataka while on the west is the Arabian sea. Its ancient name was Gomantaka or Gomanchala.

Goa with its long beaches along the Arabian sea is a principal tourist resort. Goa has a hilly terrain especially on its eastern side where lies the southern ends of the Sahyadri range. These mountains after skirting a considerable portion of the northern, eastern and southern boundaries branch off westwards across the territory with many spurs and ridges

The most picturesque region is located in the lower basin of the Mandovi and Zuari rivers which join to form a bay. There are about half a dozen islets between the estuaries of these rivers.



### Reaching Goa

#### Goa by Air

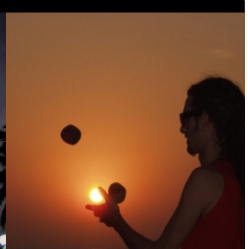
Dabolim is the main entry point for Goa situated at a distance of around 29 km from Panaji on the coast near Vasco da Gama.

#### Goa by Road

Goa, Maharashtra, and Karnataka state transport corporations operate from the Kadamba bus stand at Panaji. Frank Shipping operates a boat service between Mumbai and Panaji.

#### Goa by Rail

It is not difficult to reach Goa by trains, especially after opening of the Konakan Railway that connects Margao and Vasco da Gama to major cities in India. You can take trains from Delhi (1,874 km), Mumbai (490km), and Bangalore (430 km) to reach Goa comfortably. From the railway stations, you can hire taxis and motorcycle taxis to reach the desired destinations.



## Beaches



125 kilometers coastline of Goa has beautiful beaches in the world that offers glistening sands, swaying coconut palms and mouth-watering seafood. The unique mixture of sun sand and sea coupled with essence of local culture gives each beach a very distinct identity. Goa's beaches always remain fresh, breathtaking and exciting because the tides washes these beaches twice a day and cleans out the dirt thus making it a clean and beautiful to lay on.

Popular Beaches in North Goa : Calangute, Baga, Anjuna, Vagator, Arambol

Popular Beaches in South Goa : Colva, Benaulim, Majorda, Varca, Palolem



Goa, Gem of India, is arrayed with temples and churches that are the silent spectators to the intense religious history and culture of the bygone era. Hence a pilgrimage to Goa is a unique experience. Indeed, Goa could be cherished for this meager trait that one enjoys even on the shortest visit to this diverse land.

Popular Temples of Goa

Shri Bhagvati Temple- Pernem, Brahma Temple - Carambolim , Shri Chandranath-Paroda, Shri Damodar - Zambaulim, Shri Datta Mandir - Sanquelim, Shri Gopal Ganapati- Farmagudi, Shri Kalikadevi - Kansarpal, Shri Mahalakshmi- Bandode, Shri Manguesh - Priol, Shri Saptakoteswar - Narve, Shri Naguesh- Bandode, Shri Mahadeva- Tambdi Surla, Shri Shantadurga - Kavlem, Shri Saunsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevotam Math - Partagali

## Temples



The old Goa gained height of fame during the Portuguese rein. Old Goa grew in size and splendour in the 16th century. Old Goa was the capital of the Adil Shahis. During their time also this place was alive and prosperous. Today the not much remains of the past. The remnants of the fort and other structure give a faint idea what this place must have been. The Churches, monasteries, convents and temples remind who of the administrative capital of the Portuguese who nearly lost the Place to the British and the Dutch.

## Churches

Popular Churches of Goa

Basilica of Bom Jesus ,St. Cathedral, Church of Saint Francis of Assisi ,Saint Cajetan Church ,Saint Augustine Tower, Reis Magos Church - Verem, ,The Church of Mae de Deus- Saligao, Church of Saint Alex- Curtorium, Church of Saint An- Talaulim,



Goa is a verdant natural paradise bounded on the one side by the foothills of the Sahyadri range and on the other by the Arabian Sea. Goa, a tiny green land surrounded by azure waters on the West Coast of India, with its natural picturesque beauty, attractive beaches and famous architectural temples, majestic churches, grand parties and festivals and its rich Anglo-Indian heritage is a great attraction for all tourists. It is called the pearl of the east.

There are three prime waterfalls of Goa which emerge from great heights and ripple through the rugged terrains. These three rippling cascades of silvery water attract hordes of tourists who prefer blissful solitude of isolated nature rather than the fun and frolic of crowded beaches.

THE THREE SPECTACULAR WATERFALLS ARE  
Arvalam Waterfalls, Dudhsagar Waterfall, Kesarval Waterfall

## Waterfall



Goa has a very unique culture of its own influenced by 450 years of Portuguese rule with the different customs and tradition laid down by them. It is Iberian aura, the cultural alloy of Latin and oriental, the co-existence of Hinduism and Christianity that epitomizes the identity of Goa.

## Culture



Goan people are famous for their warmth and their hospitality. They are easy and fun going and live their life in style and at a leisurely pace. Being passionate about dance and music they enjoy their lives at the fullest they love their food and drink feni (Goa is famous for alcohol name Feni- It is distilled from cashews) Goan enjoys a unique lifestyle which reflects the perfect blending of the cultural influences that they have experienced over the centuries.

## People and Lifestyle



Signifying everything pagan in rituals, color forms and the abandon, Carnival, in Goa is one very vibrant festival that heralds the time of lent for the Goan Christian community. Celebrated as a three day period of merrymaking and revelry where the Monarch of the festival, King Momo and his consort the queen are chosen, and they open the festivities, Carnival is one of the most awaited summer fiestas. Adapted from the Portuguese during their tenure in Goa, Carnival highlights grand parades of floats and decorated traditional and cultural troupes performing on the roads as part of the programs organized and feted by the Government and the tourism industry. The huge floats are artistic creations that enhance the community's desire to highlight the different aspects of social and cultural mores that exist in today's society. The dancers are a vibrant addition to the parades that line the streets in Goa where thousands flock to witness the exotica, in the major townships. The rural community has its own charming and traditional aspect with traveling troupes performing in different areas and the colourful costumes and merry inebriation that is a part of the spirit of Fun.

## Carnaval



Generally known as Holi, the month of Phalgun signifies the onset of what in Goa is known as Shigmo. Celebrated mostly by the masses in the close religious association of religious rites, the festival of Shigmo is accompanied by the fanfare of drum beats and the epic enactments of Mythology. Colour in vivid vibrancy hues the festivities that bedeck every area that is celebrating Shigmo.

"Gulal" and "Neel" are abundantly used to colour the very atmosphere in celebration of what is heralding the onset of the most colourful season, Spring.

Today, the Shigmotsav has highlighted its festivities with the performance of troupes in the form of parades and cultural dances. The streets in the townships, at dusk resound with the music of the Dhol, the drums and conches as huge effigies of wondrous colour and light effects parade their way to prize winning combinations.

## Shigmo (Holi)



Goan food is a blend of the Indian and Portuguese taste. Goan cuisine is simple and tasty and some of the dishes are a little spicy and pungent. The staple food in Goa is Fish curry rice. Curries are given different Portuguese names such as caldeirade, temperado, Amotik, Xacuti, vindalho and so on. Seafood such as prawns, lobsters, crabs, pomfrets, clams, ladyfish, mussels and oyster are used to make variety of curries, fries, soups and pickles.

In Goa one can taste and enjoy the magnificent culinary delicacies like prawn balchao, sorpotel and fried reachardo fish. The Goan use a lot of coconut in their cuisine and also in sweets like bebinca and dodal, which is a coconut milk delicacy, the specialty of Goa, which is also served as a desert. The tourist thrive on the Goan cuisine as it is cooked with combination of different spices giving the food a flavour and mouth watering taste.

## Food



## Feni

Feni is the native liquor of Goa famous all over the world and almost synonymous with the region. This intoxicating locally brewed clear and potent drink is mainly of two types - Feni made from palm sap drawn from shoots of coconut trees known as Toddy or Madachi in the local language and the Cajuchi or the Cashew Feni, which is made from the fruit of the cashew tree or the cashew apple. The former is available all the year round but the cashew feni can only be prepared around late March, during the cashew harvest season. Goans love Feni and though booze here is cheaper than other places in India, Feni tops them all. Goans have taken their love of this drink to Middle East, Europe, Australia and Canada, where its demand and fans are increasing day by day. To prepare Feni, the cashew or coconut extract is left to ferment for a couple of days. They are then distilled to yield 'Uraq', the cruder version. Further distillations yield Feni with 30 to 35% alcohol. It can be consumed fresh or left to mature in earthen jars. Feni makes for a good base for cocktails. To prepare the Cajuchi, the cashew apple is plucked from the tree and the nut is separated it. Then high pressure is applied to the cashew to procure the juice called 'Niro' (in the rural areas, this is done by feet). Niro is then fermented and poured into big earthen pots. It is then distilled. Feni is highly intoxicating and should only be consumed in very small quantities. One is warned not to try this heady and potent drink an empty stomach. Feni is also known as Cajel and today, preparing Feni preparation is a thriving cottage industry in Goa.



## Shopping

Shopping in Goa is amazing. The visitor's gets fascinated when they get to shop and roam in the traditional Goan Weekly Market. Anjuna's flea market and also Mapusa's weekly Friday market are fantastic place for souvenir shopping. In addition Saturday nite bazaar at Arpora is also popular since it is the meeting place for all tourist who come from all parts of Goa to get together and have fun. Hence, it is just a great place to sit and watch the world go by.



## Nightlife

Music is an integral part of Goan life. It is said that Goan is born with music in his blood. Goan music is distinctive. They play western as well as Indian music but young musicians have also taken to western rock music. Therefore nightlife in Goa is unbelievable. There are number of discotheques and clubs where we have the best of Dj's performing from whole of India. In addition we have the live bands giving you live music entertainment all night long. Also one man bands performs at the famous restaurants in Goa while you drink and dine.



Water Sports

Goan beaches are full of activities. Water sports are offered in many of the beaches in Goa. The private operators offer parasailing, water-skiing, wind surfing, scuba diving, water scooters, boat rides and river cruises. Star resorts also have hill climbing adventurous activity thus making visitor's holiday a rare choice of entertainment and sports.



Wildlife

Goa has overall best wild reserves and bird sanctuaries as it lies at foothill of the Western Ghats. It also has dazzling variety of flora and fauna which tourist love to discover so when you are in Goa it is a must that you attend the call of the wild.



Art and Craft

Goa is called a "land of crafts" where aesthetic quality of craftsmen finds natural expressions. The art and craft of Goa symbolizes the complete harmony between the Indian and the Portuguese cultures. In fact the art and craft of a region is what reflect the richness of cultures. During the Portuguese colonization, local craftsmen play a major role in the development of exquisite furnishing and decoration used in residential houses, churches and chapels.



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CRUISES in GOA

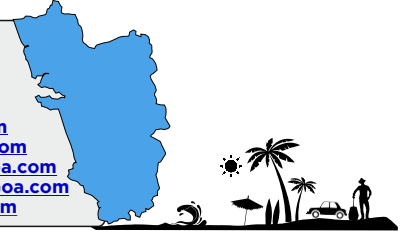


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