

DESTINATION ITINERARY

Goa

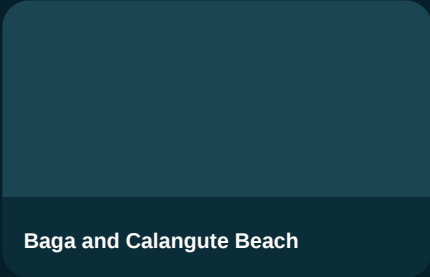
4-6 Days

From INR 13,000 per person

Best: Jan, Feb, Nov, Dec

Goa brings together a coastline of coconut palm, laterite headlands and river estuaries with four centuries of Portuguese rule layered over Konkani village life. The north, around Baga, Calangute and Anjuna, is busy and social: markets, water sports, shacks along the sand...

FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



Baga and Calangute Beach



Fort Aguada



Basilica of Bom Jesus

DOMESTIC INDIA HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

Goa brings together a coastline of coconut palm, laterite headlands and river estuaries with four centuries of Portuguese rule layered over Konkani village life. The north, around Baga, Calangute and Anjuna, is busy and social: markets, water sports, shacks along the sand, music that runs late. The south is quieter, with wider beaches, fewer buildings and long empty afternoons. Inland, away from the coast entirely, Old Goa's basilicas and the spice plantations and waterfalls of the Western Ghats give the state a second character that first-time visitors often miss. Goa works for families in the calmer south, for groups and couples in the north, and for anyone who wants a beach holiday without a long journey to reach it.

PACKAGE DURATION

4-6 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 13,000 per person

BEST TIME

Peak: Jan, Feb, Nov, Dec | Shoulder: Mar, Apr, Oct |
 Avoid: May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep

TRIP TYPES

beach, honeymoon

8 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit

01

Baga and Calangute Beach
BEACH | HALF DAY

The busiest stretch of north Goa's coast, two beaches running into each other along a wide strip of sand. This is where the water sports operate - parasailing, jet-skis, banana boats - and where the shacks, sunbeds and evening crowds are thickest. Lively and commercial rather than quiet or scenic.


Fort Aguada
FORT | 1-2 HOURS

A Portuguese fort built above the Mandovi estuary to guard the river mouth and refill passing ships with fresh water, which is where its name comes from. The laterite ramparts, the dry moat and the free-standing lighthouse survive, and the ridge gives a long view along the coast.


Basilica of Bom Jesus
HERITAGE SITE | 1-2 HOURS

The best-known church of Old Goa and part of a UNESCO World Heritage listing, plain laterite outside and richly gilded within. It holds the relics of St Francis Xavier in a raised casket beside the main altar. Visitors walk the nave and the attached gallery of religious art.



Anjuna Flea Market

MARKET | 2-3 HOURS

A long-running open-air market on the headland at Anjuna, traditionally held on Wednesdays through the tourist season. Stalls sell clothing, jewellery, leather, spices, instruments and souvenirs, with vendors from across India. Bargaining is expected, and the market is at its fullest in the late afternoon.



Dudhsagar Falls

WATERFALL | FULL DAY

A tall, tiered waterfall on the Mandovi in the Western Ghats near the Karnataka border, with a railway line crossing its face. Visits run through Mollem by forest jeep and a short walk to the pool. Flow is heaviest just after the monsoon, and access is restricted at the height of the rains.



Palolem Beach

BEACH | HALF DAY

A crescent bay in south Goa, sheltered at both ends by rocky headlands and with calmer water than the northern beaches. Kayaking, dolphin-spotting boat trips and the walk out to the small island at the northern tip are the usual activities. Lower-rise and quieter than the north.



Chapora Fort

FORT | 1-2 HOURS

A ruined hilltop fort above the Chapora river mouth, reached by a short uphill walk from Vagator. Little survives beyond the outer walls, but the position gives a wide view over the northern beaches and the river. Busiest in the late afternoon for the sunset over the sea.



Old Goa churches

HERITAGE SITE | HALF DAY

The surviving churches and convents of the former Portuguese capital, inscribed together by UNESCO. Beyond the Basilica are Se Cathedral with its single remaining bell tower, the Church of St Francis of Assisi with its museum, and St Cajetan. They stand on open ground within easy walking distance of one another.

4 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Baga and Calangute Beach and Dudhsagar Falls

Visit Baga and Calangute Beach, Dudhsagar Falls.

02

DAY 2

Fort Aguada and Palolem Beach

Visit Fort Aguada, Palolem Beach.

03

DAY 3

Basilica of Bom Jesus and Chapora Fort

Visit Basilica of Bom Jesus, Chapora Fort.

04

DAY 4

Anjuna Flea Market and Old Goa churches

Visit Anjuna Flea Market, Old Goa churches.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The Indian rupee. Cards and UPI are accepted almost everywhere, from beach shacks to taxi drivers, though small vendors and ferry stalls still prefer cash.

LANGUAGE

Konkani is the state language, with Marathi widely used. Hindi and English are spoken fluently right across the tourism belt, so communication is never a problem.

TIME DIFFERENCE

India uses one national time zone, so no clock change is required. Daylight hours vary by season and longitude.

WEATHER

Dry, bright and warm from November to March, hot and humid through April and May, and heavily wet during the June to September monsoon.

CONNECTIVITY

Excellent mobile data statewide from all the major operators, with reliable hotel wi-fi. Only a few inland forest pockets in the Western Ghats see weak signal.

Food and culture

Goan cooking combines coastal Konkani traditions with Portuguese influence: fish curry and rice, coconut, kokum, xacuti and vegetarian preparations are common. Hindu and Catholic kitchens differ, and local feni is distilled from cashew or coconut. Village feast days, zattras, brass bands and Konkani song shape local culture.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

Dabolim and Manohar International Airport serve Goa, with flights from many Indian cities. Choose the airport after confirming whether the stay is in north or south Goa.

RAIL

Madgaon and Thivim are the principal railheads, with long-distance services from several parts of India. Karmali can suit Old Goa and Panjim.

ROAD

Goa is connected by national highways from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Within the state, taxis, rental vehicles and local buses cover the coastal belts and inland sights.

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- Beach flags matter here - the sea has strong undertows, particularly from the monsoon into early winter, and lifeguards close stretches to swimmers without warning.
- A hired scooter or bike is the standard way to get about, but carry your licence and wear a helmet; police checks are routine and the coastal lanes are narrow.
- Goa's taxi trade is largely unmetered and app-cab coverage is limited - agree the fare before you set off, or use the state government's own taxi app.
- The monsoon months bring closed shacks, suspended water sports and no boat trips; the coast reopens properly from around October.
- Alcohol is inexpensive but drinking on many public beaches is banned, as is carrying glass onto the sand, and the fines are enforced.
- North and south Goa are far enough apart that hopping between them eats most of a day - choose your base according to the kind of holiday you want.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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Explore
Experience
Remember

This itinerary is a planning guide based on the approved destination information held by Orbitz Holidays. Final services and inclusions depend on the confirmed booking.