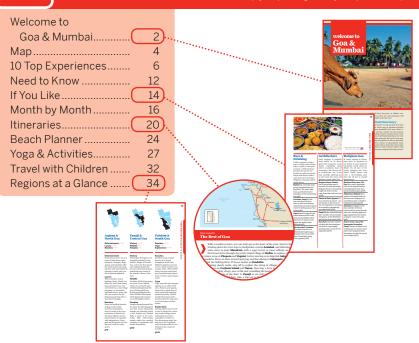
"All you've got to do is decide to go and the hardest part is over. So go!" TONY WHEELER, COFOUNDER - LONELY PLANET

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PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT

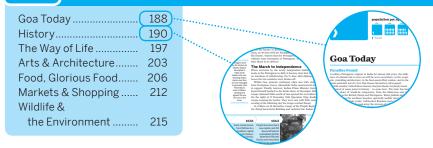
Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip



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UNDERSTAND GOA & MUMBAI

can make sense of what you see

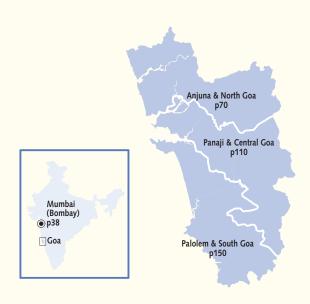




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ON THE ROAD

YOUR COMPLETE DESTINATION GUIDE In-depth reviews, detailed listings and insider tips

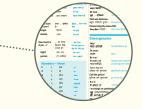


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SURVIVAL GUIDE

VITAL PRACTICAL INFORMATION TO HELP YOU HAVE A SMOOTH TRIP

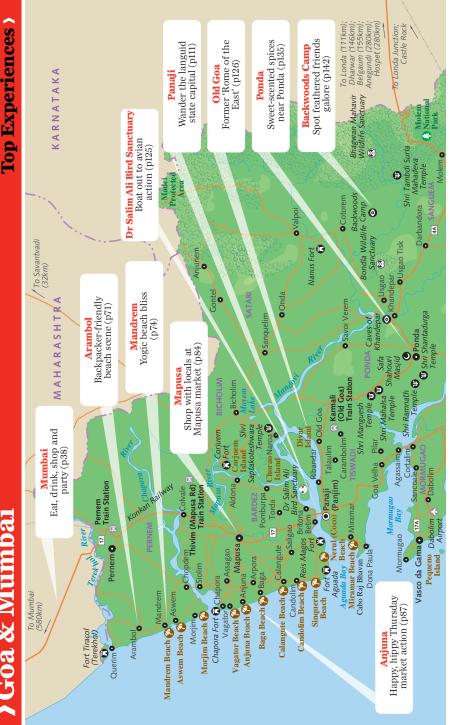
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THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Amelia Thomas

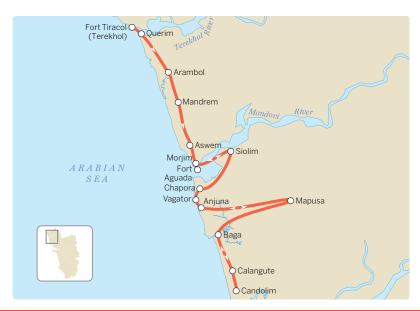
****Goa& Mumbai





itineraries

Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet. com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.

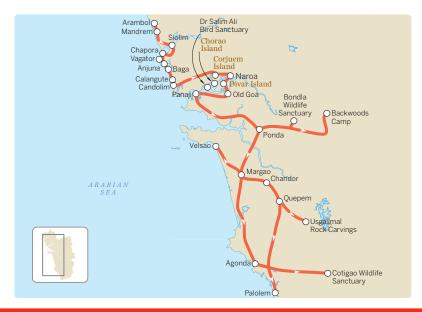


Two Weeks **Northern Nonpareil**

The north encompasses a little of everything that's great about Goa. Start with a soothing stay at historic Portuguese **Tiracol** (**Terekhol**) **Fort**, and from here hop on a ferry for solitary sunbathing in **Querim**, then hit **Arambol** for beach huts and a permanent festival vibe. Continue south to mellow **Mandrem** for yogic serenity, **Aswem**, to dine at its renowned French-inspired beach shack, and **Morjim**, where rare turtles hatch and Russians rule, for a stroll along the estuary.

Next head inland via pretty **Siolim**, to **Chapora** and **Vagator** for the last dregs of the Goa trance scene. Kick back in **Anjuna**, visiting its legendary flea market to sniff out a bargain, then shop some more at workaday **Mapusa** with its immense local market.

Backtrack to **Baga** and **Calangute** to pick up the pace, hit the clubs, water-sport the days away and dine on fine foodstuffs, then finally head south to **Candolim** for a riverine wildlife-watching trip and a jaunt up to impressive **Fort Aguada**, ending your journey, as it began, in the shadow of Portugal's once-mighty colonial conquests.



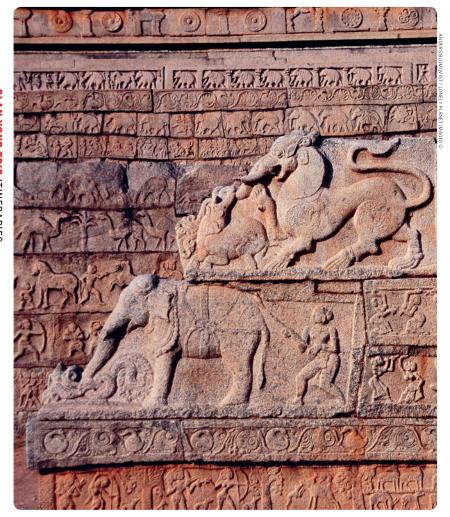
One Month The Best of Goa

With a month to spare, you can truly get to the heart of the state. Start in the north, winding down for a few days in backpacker-central **Arambol**, and following up with some more quiet in **Mandrem**, with a yoga retreat or some solitude on its sands. Next head down through the pretty inland village of **Siolim**, to explore what's left of the trance scene at **Chapora** and **Vagator**, before moving on to hippyish **Anjuna** to hit the flea markets. Press on then to hard-partying and fine-dining in **Calangute** and **Baga** and then visit the hulking *River Princess* tanker at **Candolim**.

Meandering slowly south, stop off to explore the string of villages along the Mandovi River: drop in on **Corjuem Island** and **Naroa**, then hop a ferry to **Divar Island**, worth exploring for its slow, sleepy pace of life and crumbling old homes. Travel on, via **Old Goa**, once the fabled 'Rome of the East', to **Panaji** to eat well and soak up the easy city vibe. Once comfortably installed here, take a trip out to the lovely little riverine **Dr Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary** on **Chorao Island**. Striking out still further into the hinterland, now's the time to take a **spice plantation** tour near **Ponda**, and, if birdwatching is even faintly your thing, head out even further east to the **Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary** for a stay at the idyllic **Backwoods Camp**.

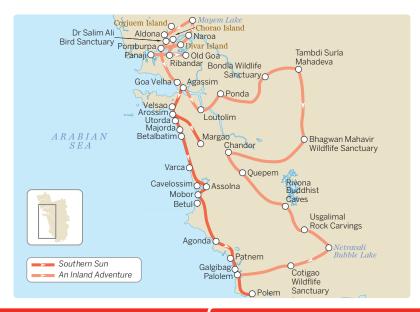
Backtracking to Ponda, head down south to **Margao**, the workaday gateway to the southern beaches, to install yourself in your beach hut or boutique hotel for at least a week, if not a fortnight, of seaside bliss. Go for **Agonda** if you're not one for crowds, or **Palolem**, if you're looking for a happy backpackery vibe. From here, rent a car or scooter to explore the stretch of coast between Agonda and **Velsao**, and delve into the hinterland to **Chandor**, **Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Quepem**, and the **Usgalimal Rock Carvings**.

When you're finally ready to break your beach sojourn, consider a couple of nights away in glorious **Hampi** or pilgrim-heavy **Gokarna**, before returning to wash away the travails of the road with a last few days in your hammock beside the Arabian Sea.





-) (above) Carved platform, Hampi (p143)) (left) Querim beach (p75).



Two Weeks **Southern Sun**

Arriving at workaday **Margao**, hub of the south, cool down at old-fashioned Longhuino's, before heading northwest to begin a stay on the sands of **Velsao**. From Velsao, wind slowly down the coast, stopping off at the beaches of **Arossim**, **Utorda**, **Majorda** and **Betalbatim**, perhaps with a swanky night at the Park Hyatt or Vivenda dos Palhacos thrown in.

Continue on down along the lazy sands of **Varca** and stop for lunch in **Cavelossim**. Next detour to **Mobor** to get a feel for pristine estuarine life, then double back to Cavelossim to jump on a ferry to **Assolna**, and begin your exploration of Goa's southernmost stretch.

Follow the coastal road through bucolic **Betul** all the way to **Agonda** where you can relax in barefoot splendour, and get stuck into those books you've brought along for the ride. Next, hunker down in **Palolem** where the pace is less lazy, and track down one of its 'silent parties'. Base yourself here, or in nearby **Patnem**, to explore the south's beautiful beaches, or to take a day trip to **Galgibag** or **Polem**, two of the state's quietest beaches gracing the coast on the slow road down to Karnataka.

Ten Days **An Inland Adventure**

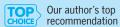
Even in tiny Goa, it's possible to shrug off the crowds for a taste of the road less travelled. Begin in **Panaji**, the lovely, languid state capital, before heading to **Old Goa**, where the ghosts of Goan history await. Backtrack to pretty **Ribandar** to catch a ferry to **Chorao Island**, home of the **Dr Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary**, then ferry-hop to **Divar Island** for sleepy island life, and take a third ferry to **Naroa**, to the tiny, ancient Shri Saptakoteshwara Temple and quiet **Mayem Lake**.

Head west across to Coriuem Island. stopping in at Aldona, Pomburpa, and **Britona** on the Mandovi River. Turn south, skirting Panaji, via Goa Velha and Agassim, to historic **Loutolim**, before going east to the temples and spice farms of **Ponda**. Head further east to one of two wildlife sanctuaries: bird-filled Bondla or Bhagwan Ma**havir**, with its giddy waterfall. Detour to the ancient Tambdi Surla Mahadeva temple. then head south to **Chandor**. Here, explore one of Goa's grandest mansions, then visit busy little **Quepem** en route to the **Rivona** Buddhist caves. Usgalimal rock carvings and **Netravali Bubble Lake**. Stroll a trail in Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary before ending on the picture-perfect sands of **Palolem**.

On the Road

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- **Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first**
- **** Look out for these icons:







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