



# South Goa

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Ruta's World Cafe (p163)
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- ➔ Space Goa (p186)
- ➔ Home (p189)
- ➔ Zeebop by the Sea (p173)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Ciaran's (p185)
- ➔ Blue Lagoon (p181)
- ➔ Bamboo House Goa (p179)
- ➔ H2O Agonda (p182)
- ➔ Art Resort (p185)

## Why Go?

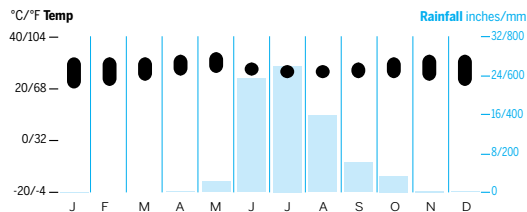
South Goa is the more serene half of the state, and for many travellers that's the attraction. There are fewer activities and not as many bars, clubs or restaurants as in the north, but overall the beaches of the south are cleaner, whiter and not as crowded as those in North Goa.

Bounded to the north by the wide Zuari River and to the south by the neighbouring state of Karnataka, south Goa's coast is a series of resorts that range from the five-star hotel strips of Caveossim and the village feel of Benaulim, to the backpacker-friendly beach-hut bliss of Palolem, Patnem and Agonda.

Take the time to explore inland, where you'll find some fabulous historic sights, Goa's finest Portuguese mansions, winding country lanes and wildlife reserves. If you want to take it easy, the south is a redolent, rewarding and re-energising place to base yourself.

## When to Go

### Palolem



**Dec–Mar** High season; brilliant cloudless days, beach huts, yoga and festivals in full swing.

**Oct–Nov & Apr–May** Pre- and post-season – prices much lower, fewer crowds, humid weather.

**Mid-Dec–early Jan** Peak season; prices sky-high, crowds, lots of parties, Christmas festivities.

## South Goa Highlights

- 1 Check into a beach hut in beautiful **Palem** (p159), where you can kayak, learn to cook or just relax
- 2 Marvel at colonial mansions and *palácio* in the villages of **Chandor** (p166) and **Quepem** (p168)
- 3 Learn about Goa's traditional past at **Goa Chitra Museum** (p176) in Benaulim
- 4 Trek down to secluded **Cola Beach** (p180), one of the prettiest in Goa
- 5 Hire a bike and take the beautiful drive from Patnem to Galgibag's **Turtle Beach** (p190)
- 6 Cruise out to remote **Tanshikar Spice Farm** (p188) and stop in at the bizarre 'bubble lake' along the way
- 7 Book into a luxurious beachfront hut on serene **Agonda Beach** (p181)
- 8 Take a break from the beach in busy **Margao** (p162), visiting the market, Municipal Library and church
- 9 Go scuba diving at Grande Island from **Bogmalo** (p170)

