

# Goa & Mumbai



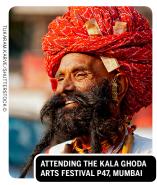


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# **Itineraries**



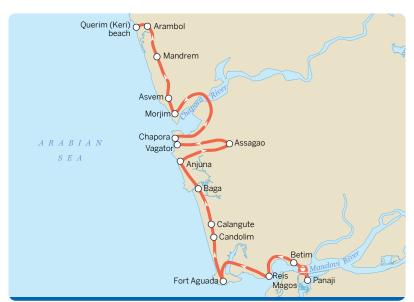


# Goa's Greatest Hits

If you have a two-week holiday in Goa you'll probably spend it at one or two beach locations, but if you want to explore the best of the whole state, consider this path.

Start in the capital, **Panaji**, preferably staying in the Fontainhas area, cruising on the Mandovi River and spending a morning exploring the churches of **Old Goa** and the region's spice farms. Next head up to the beaches of North Goa: depending on your taste you could base yourself at busy **Baga**, backpacker-friendly **Anjuna** or **Vagator**, or further north at the mellow yoga-friendly beach strip between Asvem and **Arambol**. Wherever you stay, most beaches are close enough to easily explore by motorbike or taxi. Spend a week here checking out the party scene (Anjuna, Vagator and Morjim), markets (Saturday night bazaars near Baga, Wednesday market at Anjuna, Friday market at Baga), water sports (surfing at Asvem), yoga (everywhere) or just chilling at beach shacks and backstreet cafes.

Next, head to the deep south of Goa, taking the highway all the way to beautiful **Palolem**. From here you can explore the surrounding beaches of **Patnem**, **Agonda**, **Cola** and **Talpona**. This is a place for lazing on the beach and staying in Goa's best beach huts.





The northern beaches encompass a little of everything that's great about Goa – fine beaches, forts, rivers, lively resorts, yoga and nightlife.

Start by taking the shortcut across the Mandovi River by vehicle ferry from **Panaji** to **Betim** and pay a visit to the refurbished fort at **Reis Magos** before taking in the views from hilltop **Fort Aguada**. The beaches of **Candolim**, **Calangute** and **Baga** make up Goa's busiest resort strip so there's always plenty to do here, from water sports to nightclubs and beach shacks to fine dining. Don't miss a visit to the hilltop Museum of Goa and (in season) one of the Saturday night markets in Baga or Arpora.

Head north of the Baga River to **Anjuna**, where the hippie trance days all began. It's a good place to join a yoga class, party at one of the beachfront clubs or browse the Wednesday flea market. Head inland to the country lanes and Portuguese villas of villagey **Assagao**, where you'll find a number of excellent restaurants. If it's Friday, head into Mapusa for the fabulous local market. Back near the beach, **Vagator** and **Chapora** are easy-going coastal villages with a relaxed party vibe: climb Chapora Fort for great sunset views or dine at one of the clifftop restaurants. Vagator's Hilltop music club is still the place for a Sunday session.

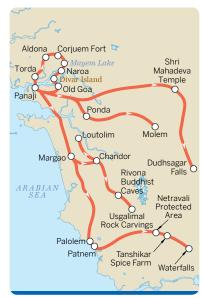
Across the Chapora River is Russian-flavoured **Morjim**, with a growing number of EDM clubs and fancy resorts. Further north are mellow **Asvem** and **Mandrem**, with upmarket hut villages, a lovely clean beach, good yoga retreats and watersports such as standup paddleboarding, kitesurfing and surfing. Then it's on to **Arambol**, a popular backpacker and family beach with a Bob Marley vibe, a surf club, paragliding from the northern headland and budget accommodation along the cliffs. Although Arambol is the last proper beach resort in the north, you can continue further to the peaceful **Querim** (**Keri**) **beach** and cross by vehicle ferry over the Terekhol River to Terekhol (Tiracol) Fort, a former Portuguese stronghold that's now a heritage hotel and restaurant.



Top: Church of St Francis of Assisi (p103), Old Goa Bottom: Beach, Calangute (p129)









# **Southern Sun**

South Goa is as much about lazing on the beaches as the north, but there are some interesting inland adventures here and much less of a party vibe.

Start in busy **Margao**, where you can browse the market and grab a bite to eat at Longhuino's. The beach at **Colva** is just 6km west of Margao and stretches up and down the coast. If you're into scuba diving, head north to **Bogmalo**, via pretty **Majorda** and **Utorda** beaches, or make your way south to **Benaulim** (visit Goa Chitra museum here) through five-star territory at **Varca** and **Cavelossim** to the lovely spit of land at Mobor where the coast meets the Sal River.

Follow the coastal road through bucolic Betul to lovely **Agonda**, calling in at **Cabo da Rama** and secluded **Cola Beach**. The final coastal stretch leads to Goa's little paradise beach at **Palolem**, great for swimming, yoga, cooking courses and beach huts. **Patnem** is a little more peaceful. Intrepid travellers should hire a bike and explore further south to **Galgibag** and Talpona, or all the way to **Polem** beach.



Take a few days to explore inland Goa off the beaten track.

From Panaji, start out early to Colem for Dudhsagar Falls. On the way back stop at Tambdi Surla for Shri Mahadeva Temple or visit one of the spice farms around Molem or Ponda. Another excellent self-drive day trip from Panaji is to take a picturesque circuit from Old Goa, to serene Divar Island (via a ferry), catch another ferry to Naroa, where you can take in Mayem Lake, Corjuem Fort and Aldona. Return to Panaji via Torda, visiting the Houses of Goa Museum.

Head south to **Margao**, from where you can explore the villages of **Chandor**, with one of Goa's grandest Portuguese mansions, **Loutolim** and the ancient **Rivona Buddhist caves** and prehistoric **Usgalimal rock carvings**.

Return to Margao and then continue on to **Palolem** or **Patnem**, from where you can head inland through forest and farmland to the **Netravali Protected Area** to discover the mysterious bubble lake, the **Tanshikar Spice Farm** and jungle treks to remote **waterfalls**.

# **Behind the Scenes**

# SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

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Cover photograph: Lamp and rangoli (elaborate chalk, rice-paste or coloured-powder design) for the Diwali festival, Puneet Vikram Singh/Getty Images©

# THIS BOOK

This 8th edition of Lonely Planet's Goa & Mumbai guidebook was curated by Paul Harding, and researched and written by Paul, Daniel McCrohan, Kevin Raub and lain Stewart. The Mumbai chapter was curated by Anirban Mahapatra; Joe Bindloss curated parts of the Survival Guide. The previous edition was written by Paul.

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# **Map Legend**

# **Sights**

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace ♠ Christian
- ★ Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Shinto
- Sikh
- C Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

#### Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving Canoeing/Kavaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking **(a)**
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

# Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

## Eating

Eating

# **Drinking & Nightlife**

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

#### **Entertainment**

Entertainment

# Shopping

Shopping

# Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- @ Internet
- Police Post Office
- Telephone
- (II) Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

## Geographic

- Beach
- Gate Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse Lookout
- ▲ Mountain/Volcano Oasis
- Park
- ) ( Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

### **Population**

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- Citv/Large Town
- Town/Village

# Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- ++⊕++ Cable car/Funicular
- -- 650 − Cycling
- -Ø− Ferry
- Metro station
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- +-- Train station/Railway
- --- Tram
- Underground station
  - Other Transport

# Routes

Tollway Freeway Primary

Secondary Tertiary

Lane

Unsealed road Road under construction

Plaza/Mall

Steps ) = Tunnel

Pedestrian overpass Walking Tour

 Walking Tour detour Path/Walking Trail

# Boundaries

--- International --- State/Province

- Disputed

 Regional/Suburb Marine Park

Cliff - Wall

# **Hydrography**

River, Creek Intermittent River

Canal Water

Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake

Reef

#### Areas

Airport/Runway Beach/Desert

Cemetery (Christian)

Cemetery (Other)

Glacier

Mudflat

Park/Forest

Sight (Building)

Sportsground

Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



# OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born. Today. Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London,

Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

# **OUR WRITERS**



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Goa As a writer and photographer, Paul has been travelling the globe for the best part of two decades, with an interest in remote and offbeat places, islands and cultures. He's an author and contributor to more than 50 Lonely Planet guides to countries and regions as diverse as India, Belize, Vanuatu, Iran, Indonesia, New Zealand, Iceland, Finland, Philippines and – his home patch – Australia. He's on twitter @phtravel and at paulharding.contently.com.



#### Kevin Raub

Mumbai Atlanta native Kevin started his career as a music journalist in New York, until he ditched the rock 'n' roll lifestyle for travel writing. He has written more than 70 Lonely Planet guides, focused mainly on Brazil, Chile, Colombia, USA, India, the Caribbean and Portugal, since. Kevin also contributes to a variety of travel magazines in both the USA and UK. Along the way, the self-confessed hophead is in constant search of wildly high IBUs in local beers, and continues

pounding the world's pavements with one goal in mind: membership in the Travelers' Century Club before the age of 50. His country count currently stands at 93. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RaubOnTheRoad.



#### lain Stewart

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