



Goa & Mumbai



Paul Harding, Kevin Raub, Iain Stewart

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ATTENDING THE KALA GHODA ARTS FESTIVAL P47, MUMBAI



STALL, ANJUNA FLEA MARKET P140



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Itineraries



2 WEEKS 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.



Northern Beaches

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 night-clubs 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 cliff-top 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.



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



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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 **Cavellissim** 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.



Inland Adventures

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 **Narao**, 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

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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

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Abigail Blasi, Trent Holden and Iain. This guidebook was produced by the following:

Destination Editor

Joe Bindloss

Senior Product Editor

Kate Chapman

Senior Cartographer

Valentina Kremenchutskaya

Product Editor Kate Mathews

Book Designer Ania Bartoszek

Assisting Editors

Sarah Bailey, Judith Bamber, Katie Connolly, Melanie Dankel, Samantha Forge, Carly Hall, Victoria Harrison, Jodie Martire, Lauren O'Connell, Saralinda Turner

Cover Researcher

Naomi Parker

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Map Legend

Sights

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

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- 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)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- 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. In 1972 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



Paul Harding

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.



Iain Stewart

Beyond Goa Iain trained as journalist in the 1990s and then worked as a news reporter and a restaurant critic in London. He started writing travel guides in 1997 and has since penned over 60 books for destinations as diverse as Ibiza and Cambodia. Iain has contributed to Lonely Planet titles including *Mexico*, *Indonesia*, *Central America*, *Croatia*, *Vietnam*, *Bali & Lombok* and *Southeast Asia*. He also writes regularly for the *Independent*, *Observer* and *Daily Telegraph*

and tweets at @iaintravel. He'll consider working anywhere there's a palm tree or two and a beach of a generally sandy persuasion. Iain lives in Brighton (UK) within firing range of the city's wonderful south-facing horizon.

Contributing Writer

Daniel McCrohan wrote the Scams and Women & Solo Travellers chapters.

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