The Quintessential Goa Checklist!

- Silent Noise Party on the Beach
- Water Sports at Calangute Beach
- Goan Fish Curry
- Cashew Nuts and Fenny
- Scuba Diving
- Goa Forts

Koenig organizes regular sightseeing trips. Contact us for more details:

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Goa is India’s smallest state by area and the fourth smallest by population. Panaji is the state’s capital, while Vasco da Gama is the largest city. The historic city of Margao still exhibits the cultural influence of the Portuguese, who first landed in the early 16th century as merchants and conquered it soon thereafter. Goa is a former Portuguese province; a conquered territory of Portuguese India which existed for about 450 years until it was annexed by India in 1961.

Goa has always been visited by a large number of international and domestic tourists each year for its beaches, places of worship and world heritage architecture. It also has rich flora and fauna, owing to its location on the Western Ghats range, which is classified as a biodiversity hotspot.

Another major tourist attraction in Goa is its heritage homes. A legacy of the Portuguese colonial regime of more than 450 years, some of these palatial homes are now converted into hotels while many are still inhabited by the people.

Goa is famous for its beaches and tourists from all over the world come to relax in the exotic beaches of Goa. One could enjoy different kinds of water sports in these beaches like Para ceiling, banana ride, motor boats etc.

**North Goa Beaches**
Calangute beach, Baga beach, Vagator beach, Morjim Beach.

**South Goa Beaches**
Colva Beach, Palolem Beach.
OLD GOA CHURCH

Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa

Goa's most famous Jesuit church, the Basilica of Bom Jesus, situated in Old Goa, is the first minor basilica in India. The church is dedicated to Bom Jesus, meaning infant or good Jesus. This model of elegance and simplicity, now in ruins, is the most revered church in the Christian community worldwide. Jesuit architecture is quite apparent from its design and structure. The facade of the church has the letters 'HIS' inscribed on it, that are the first three letters of Lord Jesus Christ in Greek. The figure of infant Jesus is placed on the main altar that is richly glided. A large statue of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, is above the altar. The chapel of the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the transept that is on the northern side. The mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier are kept intact in a decorated casket in the basilica.

SAFA MASJID

The Safa masjid is a prominent Islamic shrine in Ponda, commonly regarded the citadel of Hindu pilgrimages in Goa. Built in 1560 by Ibrahim Adil Shah, the Sultan of Bijapur, the Safa mosque survived the havoc wreaked by the Portuguese colonizers as part of the inquisition process. During the reign of the Bijapur Sultan, the region witnessed a proliferation of mosques and Ponda alone was home to 27 of them.

Also known as the Shahouri Masjid, the Safa Masjid presents an elegant spectacle with typical Islamic arches decorating the walls. The mosque and the tank were formerly surrounded by an extensive garden with many fountains. They were destroyed during the Portuguese rule. The mosque was located at the center of a sprawling complex of gardens and fountains remnants of which can be witnessed today.
DUDHSAGAR WATERFALLS

Dudhsagar is one of the world’s most exquisite falls. It lies high up in the Mandovi River’s watershed and so are not particularly spectacular during the dry season. During the monsoon season however, the falls are transformed into one of the most powerful falls in India.

SPICE PLANTATIONS

Tropical Spice Plantation is located in Keri (Ponda), a village untouched by pollution, 6 km off Ponda. Tropical Spice plantations can also be reached from Panjim via Mardol.

Tropical Spice Plantation is spread over large tract of verdant land, which offers the perfect setting for you to soak in pure unadulterated nature. Mother Nature has generously blessed this land with all the elements of a perfectly refreshing ambience.

CASHEW NUTS PLANTATION

Cashew, a native of Eastern Brazil was introduced to India just as other commercial crops like Rubber, Coffee, Tea etc. by the Portuguese nearly five centuries back. The first introduction of cashew in India was made in Goa from where it spread to other parts of the country. In the beginning it was mainly considered as a crop for afforestation and soil binding to check erosions.
SATURDAY NIGHT BAZAAR

This sprawling market is located in Arpora and transpires every Saturday evening from 6pm until late night. Here, one may find everything from archetypical Indian stalls selling spices, teas, Kashmiri carpets and silver jewellery to international designers who convene from all over the world to sell their unique creations, many of which may be found only here.

DOLPHIN CRUISE TRIP

Spot dolphins doing flips and tricks in the water on this dolphin-watching cruise from Goa. The boat will stop to allow you to watch as the dolphins perform exciting acrobatics. Often dolphins will approach the boat and invite you to play with them. Feel free to enjoy a swim in the calm blue water.

DISCO THEQUES & CLUBS

Mambos, Titos, SinQ are the famous discotheques and clubs, where one could dance and party all night.

GOA CARNIVAL

Goa carnival is an eagerly awaited occasion where one forgets all worries and tensions and simply plunges into merriment and joy-making for three whole days.
MANGUESHI TEMPLE

The temple is dedicated to Bhagavan Manguesh, an incarnation of Shiva. He is also referred to as Saib (The Bhagavan of Goa) by Hindus.

Bhagavan Mangesh is worshipped here as Shiva linga. According to the legends, Lord Shiva had manifested in to a tiger to scare Parvati. Paravati who got scared at the sight of the tiger went in search of Lord Shiva and cried out "Trahi maam Girish" (Oh Lord of Mountains, save me!). The words "mam girisha" became associated with Lord Shiva and over time the words got abbreviated to Manguirisha or Manguesh.

He is the kuldevta of many Hindus in Goa specially of Saraswat Brahmins.

RESTAURANTS IN GOA

Goa is famous for sea food and it is available near the beaches as well as the city.

**Sea food Restuarants**
Brittos in Candolim, Ritz in Panjim

**Chinese food**
Goenchin, The Mainland China

**Fidalgo**
All types of cuisines

**Indian and continental**
Delhi Darbar/ Moti Mahal

KFC, Dominos are also in Panjim