



Goa & Mumbai



Paul Harding, Kevin Raub, Iain Stewart

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Goa & Mumbai	4
Goa & Mumbai Map	6
Goa & Mumbai's Top 14	8
Need to Know	16
First Time Goa	18
What's New	20
If You Like	21
Month by Month	23
Itineraries	27
Beach Planner	31
Activities	34
Travel with Children	39
Regions at a Glance	41

ON THE ROAD

MUMBAI (BOMBAY)	44	PANAJI & CENTRAL GOA	82
Sights	47	Panaji	84
Activities	55	Around Panaji	96
Courses	55	Dona Paula	96
Tours	55	Chorao Island	98
Sleeping	56	Divar Island	98
Eating	62	Old Goa	99
Drinking & Nightlife	69	Goa Velha	106
Entertainment	72	Ponda Region	107
Shopping	73	Molem Region	111
Information	76	Beyond Goa	114
Getting There & Away	78	Hampi	114
Getting Around	80	Anegundi	120



ATTENDING THE KALA GHODA ARTS FESTIVAL P47, MUMBAI



STALL, ANJUNA FLEA MARKET P140



Contents

UNDERSTAND

NORTH GOA121

Along the Mandovi.....	123
Reis Magos & Nerul Beach.....	123
Candolim & Fort Aguada.....	123
Calangute & Baga.....	129
Anjuna.....	136
Assagao.....	142
Mapusa.....	144
Vagator & Chapora.....	145
Siolim.....	151
Morjim.....	151
Asvem.....	153

Mandrem.....	155
Arambol (Harmal).....	157
Inland Bardez & Bicholim.....	160

SOUTH GOA 162

Margao.....	163
Around Margao.....	168
Chandor.....	170
Loutolim.....	170
Colva.....	171
North of Colva.....	172
Betalbatim, Majorda & Utorda.....	173
Cansaulim, Arossim & Velsao.....	174
Bogmallo.....	175
Colva to the Sal River.....	175
Benaulim.....	176
Cavelossim & Mobor.....	178
Cabo da Rama.....	179
Cola & Khancola.....	180
Agonda.....	181
Chaudi.....	183
Palolem.....	184
Patnem.....	190
Rajbag.....	192
Galgibag & Talpona.....	192
Polem.....	194
Beyond Goa.....	195
Gorkana.....	195

Goa Today.....	198
History.....	200
The Goan Way of Life..	206
Delicious India.....	210
Markets & Shopping.....	213
Arts & Architecture.....	215
Wildlife & the Environment.....	218

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Scams.....	222
Women & Solo Travellers.....	224
Directory A-Z.....	226
Transport.....	232
Health.....	237
Language.....	244
Index.....	250
Map Legend.....	255

SPECIAL FEATURES

Beach Planner.....	31
Activities.....	34
Markets & Shopping.....	213
Scams.....	222
Women & Solo Travellers.....	224



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 Fountainhas 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.



IMAGEINDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK ©

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



IMAGEINDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK ©



2 WEEKS

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.



5 DAYS

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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Index

A

accessible travel 226
 accommodation 19, 20,
 226-7, *see also individual
 locations*
 costs 57, 227
 hostels 20
 activities 23-6, *see also
 individual activities*
 Agonda 181-3, **182**
 air travel 232
 altitude sickness 242
 amusement parks
 Esselworld 74
 Anegundi 120, **116**
 animals 218-19
 Anjuna 136-42, **138**
 Anjuna Market 13, 140,
2, 13
 antiques 214
 Arambol 157-60, **158**
 architecture 12, 21, 216,
see also forts
 colonial 97, 102
 mansions 127
 museums 160
 temples 112
 area codes 17
 Arossim 174-5
 art galleries, *see museums
 & galleries*
 arts 215-17
 Assagao 142-4
 Asvem 153-5
 ATMs 229
 autorickshaws 235-6
 ayurveda 35
 Asvem 154
 Gokarna 196
 Mandrem 155

B

Baga 129-36, **130**
 accommodation 132-4
 activities 131
 drinking 135
 food 134-5
 nightlife 135
 shopping 135-6
 sights 129-31
 tours 132
 Bardez 160-1
 bargaining 19
 Basílica de Bom Jesus 9,
 101-2, **9**
 bathrooms 231
 beaches 31-3
 Agonda Beach 181
 Butterfly Beach 184
 facilities 20
 Girgaum Chowpatty 51
 Juhu Beach 51
 Mandrem Beach 155
 Miramar 85
 Nerul Beach 123
 Ozran Beach 145-7
 Palolem 11, **11**
 Patnem Beach 190-1
 Querim Beach 161
 Turtle Beach 192-3
 Vagator Beach 147
 Benaulim 176-8, **177**
 Betalbatim 173-4
 Bicholim 160-1
 bicycle travel 234
 birds 219
 birdwatching
 Cabo da Rama 179
 Dr Salim Ali Bird
 Sanctuary 98
 field guides 219
 guides 36
 Margao 163
 Mumbai 55
 black pepper 210, **15**, *see
 also spice farms*

boat cruises 181, 234
 Bogmalo 175
 Mobor 179
 Mumbai 80, 234
 Panaji 88-9
 boat travel 20, 234
 Bogmalo 175
 Bollywood 75, 217
 Bombay, *see Mumbai*
 books 198
 animals 219
 birdwatching 219
 cooking 212
 health 239
 snakes 219
 bookshops 213
 bouldering 117-18
 breakfast 211
 breweries 20, 70
 Buddhist temples
 Global Vipassana Pagoda
 51
 budget 17, 225
 bus travel 225, 232-3, 234
 Mumbai 78
 business hours 17, 229

C

Cabo da Rama 179-80
 Calangute 129-36, **130, 29**
 accommodation 132-4
 activities 131
 drinking 135
 food 134-5
 nightlife 135
 shopping 135-6
 sights 129-31
 tours 132
 Camões, Luís Vaz de 104
 Candolim 123-9, **124**
 accommodation 126-7
 activities 126
 drinking 128-9
 food 127-8
 nightlife 128-9
 sights 125-6
 shopping 129
 Cansaulim 174-5
 car travel 235
 Carnival 23, 89, **25**
 carpets 214
 casinos 94
 caste system 209
 cathedrals, *see churches &
 cathedrals*
 Cavelossim 178-9
 caves
 Elephanta Island 15,
 54, **15**
 Kanheri Caves 77
 Khandepar 107
 Rivona Buddhist
 Caves 169
 cell phones 16, 230-1
 cemeteries 97, 99
 Central Goa 42, 82-120, **83**
 accommodation 82
 food 82
 highlights 83,
 Chandor 170
 Chapora 145-51, **146**
 accommodation 147-8
 courses 147
 drinking 150
 food 148-50
 nightlife 150
 sights 145-7
 shopping 150
 Chaudi 183
 children, travel with 39-40
 beaches 31, 32
 Mumbai 74
 Chorao Island 98
 Christianity 209
 Church of Our Lady of the
 Immaculate
 Conception 9, 84, **8-9**
 churches & cathedrals
 Basílica de Bom Jesus 9,
 101-2, **9**
 Chapel of St Anthony 104

- Chapel of St Catherine 104
- Chapel of St Sebastian 85
- Church & Convent of St Cajetan 102-3
- Church & Convent of St Monica 103-4
- Church of Nossa Senhora de Penha de Franca 160
- Church of Nossa Senhora, Mae de Deus 129-31
- Church of Our Lady of Compassion 99
- Church of Our Lady of Miracles 144
- Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception 9, 84, **8-9**
- Church of Our Lady of the Mount 105
- Church of Our Lady of the Rosary 104
- Church of St Andrew 106
- Church of St Anne 106-7
- Church of St Francis of Assisi 103, **29**
- Church of St Lawrence 107, 125
- Church of St Thomas 160
- Church of the Holy Spirit 163
- Mount Church 163
- Our Lady of Mercy Church 171
- Rachol Seminary & Church 169
- Reis Magos Church 123
- Ruins of the Church of St Augustine 105
- Sé Cathedral 100-1
- St Teresa's Church 51
- St Thomas' Cathedral 50
- climate 16, 23-6, **16**
- climbing 117-18
- clothing 18, 224
- clubbing 14, 149
- Cola 180-1
- Colva 171-2, **172**
- conservation 143, 154, 178
- consulates 227-8
- cookbooks 212
- cooking classes 37
- Assagao 142
- Palolem 185
- Siolim 151
- Vagator 147
- courses 37
- craft beer 20, 70
- credit cards 229
- scams 222
- cruises, *see* boat cruises
- currency 16
- customs regulations 227
- cycling 234
-
- D**
- dabba-wallahs* 69
- dance 215
- dangers, *see* safety
- death 207
- deforestation 220
- Dhangars 113
- Dharavi Slum 56
- diarrhoea 239-40
- disabilities, travellers with 226
- Divar Island 98-9
- diving 36
- Baga 131
- Bogmallo 175
- Calangute 131
- Candolim 126
- safety 241
- dogs 184
- dolphin-spotting 35
- Benaulim 176
- Bogmallo 175
- Candolim 126
- Colva 171
- Mobor 179
- Panaji 88-9
- Dona Paula 96-8
- drinking & nightlife 14, **22**, *see also individual locations*
- beach parties 31, 32
- trance parties 149
- drinks 212
- beer 70
- contamination 222
- craft beer 20, 70
- scams 222
- water 240
- driving, *see* car travel
- drugs 222, 228
- Dudhsagar Falls 11, 111-12, **10**
-
- E**
- eco travel 143
- electricity 227
- Elephanta Island 15, 54, **15**
- embassies 227-8
- emergencies 17
- environment 218-20
- environmental issues 143, 154, 178, 199, 220
- etiquette 19
- events, *see* festivals & events
- exchange rates 17
-
- F**
- fado 215
- Faria, Abbé 85-7
- Feast of St Francis Xavier 26
- Fernandes, Remo 216
- ferry travel 20, 234
- festivals & events 14, 23-6, **14**
- carnaval 25, 89, **25**
- Holi **14**
- Kala Ghoda Arts Festival 47, **2**
- films 198, 217
- Bollywood films 75, 217
- fisheries 178
- food 210-12, **22**
- beach shacks 33
- blogs 212
- contamination 222
- dabba-wallahs* 69
- etiquette 211
- health 241
- Parsi cafes 63
- Portuguese influences 97
- price ranges 228
- scams 222
- street food 66, 212
- vegan 212
- vegetarian 212
- football 209
- Fort Aguada 125, **124, 22**
- forts 193
- Cabo Raj Bhavan 96-7
- Chapora Fort 147
- Corjuem Fort 160-1
- Fort Aguada 125, **124, 22**
- Reis Magos Fort 123
- Terekhol Fort 161
-
- G**
- Galgibag 192-4
- galleries, *see* museums & galleries
- Ganesh Chaturthi 25, **25**
- gay travellers 73, 229
- gems 223
- Ghandi, Mahatma 46
- ghats
- Mahalaxmi Dhobi Ghat 51
- Virupaksha Temple 115
- Goa Gil 215
- Goa Miles 20, 236
- Goa Velha 106-7
- Gokarna 195-6
-
- H**
- haggling 214
- Hampi 114-20, **115, 116**
- Harmal, *see* Arambol
- health 237-43
- carbon monoxide poisoning 242
- environmental hazards 241-3
- food 241
- heat 241-2
- insurance 237
- medicines 238
- water 240
- healthcare 239
- Hindi 244-6
- Hindu temples
- Achyutaraya Temple 115
- Elephanta Island 54
- Hazarama Temple 117
- Iskcon Temple 51
- Krishna Temple 115
- Lakshmi Narasmiha 115
- Mahabaleshwara Temple 195
- Mahaganapati Temple 195
- Mahalaxmi Temple 88
- Maruti Temple 88, 144
- Shri Chandreshwar Temple 168-9
- Shri Damodar Temple 169
- Shri Laxmi Narasimha Temple 109-10
- Shri Mahadeva Temple 112-13
- Shri Mahalaxmi Temple 110
- Shri Mahalsa Temple 108-9
- Shri Manguesh Temple 109
- Shri Naguesh Temple 110
- Shri Ramnath Temple 110
- Shri Saptakoteswara Temple 161
- Shri Shantadurga Temple 109

Hindu temples *continued*
 Virupaksha Temple 114
 Vittala Temple 115

Hinduism 208
 history 21, 200-5
 Holi festival **14**
 holidays 230
 hypnotism 85-7

I

insurance 228
 diving
 health 237

internet access 228
 internet resources 17
 food 212
 health 239
 women travellers 225

Islam 208-9
 itineraries 27-30, **27, 28, 30**

K

Kala Ghoda Arts Festival
 47, **2**

Kamala Nehru Park 40, **40**

Khancola 180-1
 Khandepar 107
 Khotachiwadi 51

Konkan Railway 11, 233, **10**
 Konkani 246-7

L

lakes 161
 languages 16, 244-8
 leatherwork 214
 legal matters 228-9
 LGBT+ travellers 73, 229
 libraries 84-5, 163
 literature 215-16, *see also*
 books

local life 206-9
 Loutolim 170-1

M

Madgaon, *see* Margao
 magazines 230
 Majorda 173-4
 malaria 239
 mando 215
 Mandovi River area 123

Mandrem 12, 155-7, **152, 12**
 Mapusa 144-5
 Margao 163-8
 Margao area 168-71, **166**
 markets 21-2, 213-14
 Anjuna 13, 140, **2, 13**
 Arpora 135
 Baga 135, 136
 Calangute 132
 Mapusa 144
 marriage 207
 Mayem Lake 161
 measures 230
 medical services 239
 meditation classes 35
 Anjuna 137
 Gorai Island 51, 54
 Mandrem 156

mining 220
 mobile phones 16, 230-1
 Mobor 178-9
 Molem 111-14
 money 16, 17, 229
 scams 222
 monkeys 218, **15**
 Morjim 151-3, **152**

mosques
 Haji Ali Dargah 50
 Safa Shahouri Masjid
 110-11

motorcycle taxis 236
 motorcycle travel 13,
 235, **13**

Mumbai 44-81, **45, 48, 52-3, 60-1, 64, 2-3, 12**
 accommodation 44,
 56-62
 activities 55
 airports 78, 80
 autorickshaws 81
 boat trips 80
 Bollywood tours 75
 breweries 70
 bus travel 78-9, 81
 car-sharing services 81
 children, travel with 74
 climate 44
 costs 57
 courses 55
dabba-wallahs 69
 Dharavi Slum 56
 drinking 69-72
 entertainment 72
 festivals 47
 food 44, 62-9
 highlights 45
 history 46

internet access 76-7
 itineraries 46
 LGBTQ+ travellers 73
 medical services 77
 metro 81
 money 77
 nightlife 69-72
 Parsi cafes 63
 postal services 77
 safe travel 76
 shopping 73-6
 sights 47-54
 street food 66
 taxis 81
 tourist information 77
 tours 55-6
 train travel 79, 81
 travel agencies 78
 travel to/from 78-80
 travel within 80-1
 walking tours 59, **59**

museums & galleries
 Archaeological Museum
 103
 Archaeological Museum
 (Hampi) 117
 Chhatrapati Shivaji
 Maharaj Vastu
 Sangrahalaya 49
 DAG 50
 Dr Bhai Daji Lad
 Mumbai City
 Museum 50
 Gitanjali Gallery 85
 Goa Chitra 176
 Goa Science Centre &
 Planetarium 87-8
 Goa State Museum &
 Secretariat
 Building 84
 Hampi Heritage
 Gallery 116
 Houses of Goa
 Museum 160
 Jehangir Art Gallery 50
 Kidzania 74
 Kristu Kala Mandir Art
 Gallery 105
 Mario Gallery 85
 Museum of Christian
 Art 103
 Museum of Goa 129
 National Gallery of
 Modern Art 50
 Naval Aviation
 Museum 175
 San Thome Museum
 176
 music 215

N

national parks, *see also*
 parks & gardens,
 wildlife sanctuaries
 Molem National Park 113
 Sanjay Gandhi National
 Park 77

Nerul Beach 123
 Netravali Bubble Lake 194
 newspapers 230
 nightlife, *see* drinking &
 nightlife
 north Goa 42, 121-61, **122**
 accommodation 121
 food 121
 highlights 122
 weather 121

O

Ola 81
 Old Goa 9, 99-106, **100, 9**
 architecture 102
 events 105
 festivals 105
 sights 100-105
 opening hours 17, 229

P

painting 217
 Palolem 11, 184-90,
186-7, 11

Panaji 9, 84-96, **86, 8, 19**
 accommodation 89-91
 activities 88-9
 climate 82
 drinking 93
 entertainment 94
 events 89
 festivals 89
 food 91-3
 information 95
 nightlife 93
 shopping 94-5
 sights 84-5, 87-8
 tours 89
 travel to/from 95-6
 travel within 96

Panjim, *see* Panaji
 papier-mâché 214

parks & gardens, *see also*
 national parks, wildlife
 sanctuaries
 Azad Maidan 88
 Campal Gardens 88
 Salaulim Dam &
 Botanical Gardens 169
 Parsis 63

parties 14, 149, **14**
 Patnem 190-2
 photography 223
 Piedade 98-9
 Pilar Seminary 106
 Pinto Revolt 85
 planning
 calendar of events 23-6
 clothes 18
 Goa basics 16-17
 internet resources 17
 packing 18, 238
 repeat visitors 20
 travel seasons 16
 plantations, see *spice farms*
 plants 220
 Polem 194
 Ponda 107-11, **108**
 population 199
 Portuguese influences 97
 post 229
 public holidays 230

Q

Querim 161

R

radio 230
 Rajbag 192
 Reis Magos 123
 religion 199, 208-9
 reptiles 219
 rice 210-11
 ride-sharing apps
 Goa Miles 20, 236
 Ola 81
 safety 225
 Uber 81
 rock art 169

S

safety 230
 drugs 222
 Mumbai 76
 ride-sharing apps 225
 road 235
 scams 222-3
 solo travellers 225
 swimming 32
 taxis 225
 transport 225

water 240
 women travellers 224-5
 scams 222-3
 sexual harassment 224
 Shah, Adil 105
 Shantadurga 23
 Shigmotsav 24
 shopping 21-2, 213-14, see *also markets*
 Sinquerim Beach 123-9, **124**
 accommodation 126-7
 activities 126
 drinking 128-9
 food 127-8
 nightlife 128-9
 sights 125-6
 shopping 129
 Siolim 151
 slums 56
 snakes 219
 snow sports 131
 soccer 209
 solo travellers 225
 South Goa 42, 162-96,

164-5

 accommodation 162
 food 162
 highlights 164
 weather 162
 souvenirs 214
 spas 21
 spice farms 15, 110, 113
 spices 210, **15**
 sport 209
 St Francis 204
 stadiums 163
 street food 66, 212
 surfing 36, 152-3, 157, 181, 195
 health 241
 susegad 97, 207
 swimming 31-2
 synagogues 50

T

Taj Mahal Palace 47-8
 Talpona 192-4
 Tanshikar Spice Farm 194
 taxes 231
 taxis 236, see *also ride-sharing apps*
 safety 225

telephone services 16, 230-1
 television 230
 textiles 214
 theatre 217
 time zones 16, 231
 tipping 19
 toilets 231
 tourism industry 143, 198
 tourist information 231
 tours 36-7
 bus 20
 wildlife watching 36
 train travel 11, 233-4, 236
 trance music 215
 trance parties 149
 transport
 safety 225
 scams 223
 solo travellers 225
 women travellers 225
 travel to Goa 232-4
 travel within Goa 17, 234-6
 turtles 143, 151, 154, 192

U

Uber 81
 Utorda 173-4, **37**

V

vacations 230
 vaccinations 237-8
 Vagator 145-51, **146**
 accommodation 147-8
 courses 147
 drinking 150
 food 148-50
 nightlife 150
 sights 145-7
 shopping 150
 vegan travellers 212
 vegetarian travellers 212
 Velsao 174-5
 Virupapur Gaddi 119
 visas 16, 231
 volunteering 37-8
 Animal Rescue Centre 185
 El Shaddai 142
 Goa Animal Welfare Trust 184
 Goa Foundation 143

International Animal Rescue 142
 Mango Tree Goa 144
 Mumbai 55
vrindavan 208

W

walking tours 59, **59**
 water, drinking 240
 water sports 31-2, 36
 weather 16, 23-6
 websites 17
 food blogs 212
 health 239
 women travellers 225
 weights 230
 wi-fi 228
 wildlife 218-20
 wildlife sanctuaries 15, 220, **15**, see *also birdwatching, dolphin-spotting, national parks, wildlife watching*
 Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary 113
 Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary 111
 Butterfly Conservatory of Goa 111
 Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary 184
 Dr Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary 98
 wildlife watching 15, 33, 36
 seasons 220
 tours 163
 women in Goa 208
 women travellers 224-5
 health 243

Y

yoga 34-5, 137
 Anjuna 137, 139
 Arambol 157
 beaches 33
 Gokarna 195
 Mandrem 155-6
 Mumbai 55
 Palolem 184-5
 Patnem 191

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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