



Article Side

Goa tour packages: Land of breezy beaches & serene cathedrals by [Sofia Jennie](#)

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Goa is a heart-warming & fun-filled beach destination located in south-west India. When one thinks of Goa tourism, what leaps into mind is a sandy sea, picturesque landscape, palm trees, alluring churches and a vivacious multi-ethnic culture. A trip to Goa can do wonders to your spirit with the breezy sea casting a seductive effect and the coconut trees leaving an indelible imprint. Goa, undoubtedly, is the number 1 beach spot in India. But its distinct personality is accredited to its lofty cathedrals, silent cemeteries, historical museums, lush waterfalls and dense forests- which together lend this state an old world feel.

Goa has a unique character. It has all the amenities that the modern life offers, still it has retained an old world quaintness which makes this place an ethereal spot. Churches like Se Cathedral and Basilica of Bom Jesus will tug at your heart. They are perfect blends of beauty, architecture, history & religion. A number of architectural buildings, monuments & forts of this state have a Portugal touch to it. They will transport you to the medieval era when the Portuguese had set their colony here.

The local markets, bustling streets, Bazaars & warm people will bring a smile to your face and help you feel the vivacious culture. Museums sprinkled all over the state are informative & engaging. There is also something for the wildlife lovers as Goa is famous for its sanctuaries like the Bondla wildlife sanctuary & Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary. But Goa tour packages are chiefly sought for the virgin beaches, the water sports (snorkeling, sailing, paragliding, surfing etc) and the seaside revelries that can go on deep into the night. It is only when people come here do they realize that this beach destination is so much about history, culture, religion and serenityâ€™â€™.

Where to stay: Goa tourism industry is so huge that there are countless hotels, inns and guest houses available for tourists. Depending on your budget, you can check into a 5-star hotel (preferably the ones situated near the beaches) or a budget hotel. Also, you can browse through some attractive Goa tour packages, inclusive of Goa sightseeing, to make sure that your trip to Goa is an extremely comforting & hassle-free one.

Major Goa attractions: Major Goa attractions are:

â€¢ Basilica of Bom Jesus

â€¢ Se Cathedral

â€¢ Church of our Lady of the Rosary

â€¢ Dudhsagar Falls (a majestic waterfall)

â€¢ Mayem Lake

â€¢ Arvalem Waterfalls

â€¢ Kesarval Spring

â€¢ Carabolin Lake

â€¢ Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary

â€¢ Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary

â€¢ Braganza House (a 16th century mansion)

â€¢ Solar Dos Colacos (a 18th century house renowned for its architecture & heritage value)

When to visit: Though, you can plan your Goa tourism throughout the year, the best time would definitely be between October-April. Try to plan your trip to Goa during the festive season of December-January especially during Christmas & New Year which are celebrated with intense revelries.

Local festivals: Goa celebrates all major national festivals with intense zeal and gusto. But it has its own local festivals like the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, All Saints Feast and the joyous Winter Carnival.

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