

airbnb **goa**

Live there

INSIDER TIPS

**LIVE LIKE
A LOCAL**

HOMES

**FOR YOUR
NEXT VACATION**

HIDDEN GEMS

**FROM THE
SUNSHINE STATE**



airbnb



“A tourist sticks out, while a traveller blends in.”

At Airbnb, we do precisely that—unlock local experiences and travel through the eyes of a local.

Goa is the quintessential holiday that each one of us want to take at least once in our lifetime. In our Airbnb Guide, we take a tour beyond the balmy beaches and vibrant nightlife. We take you to the Goa that the Goans love—the backwaters, Fado, ross omelette, Azulejo, street art, *urak*, and much more.

Choose from a mansion which housed one of the most influential families of Goa or a boutique villa with a private walkway to the nearest beach—Airbnb brings you a home away from home.

Sail the ocean, live in a village you had never heard of, take lunch with an old man and listen to his stories of the Portuguese Raj, walk through caves to reach milky white waterfall, study gothic architecture of centuries-old buildings, and learn how to prepare meat sorpotel.

We bring you Goa, like it has never been seen before.

Enjoy the journey!



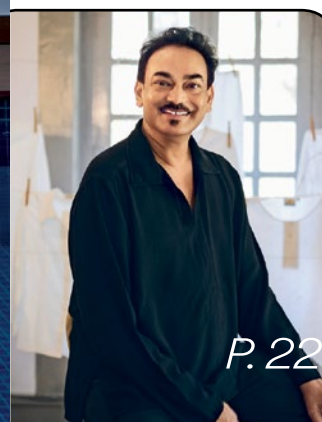
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Homes of Goa

When the Portuguese ruled Goa, they encouraged a European lifestyle, and allowed locals to travel abroad and adopt the western way of living. When these intrepid Goans returned, they brought new ideas and influences from other cultures to their homes, and over the years, it mingled to give, what we call today, the Indo-Portuguese architecture that has left an indelible mark on the state.

Even today, the legacy of vivid colours, sprawling verandahs and lush gardens, and cluster columns is celebrated in the state—by locals and travellers alike. Then there are also modern-day homes that take cues from Goa's memorybook and present a fresh perspective.

In this guide, Airbnb walks you through restored regal mansions, artsy villas, and heritage homes that reflect the juxtaposition of the old and the new. Each has its own story rooted to the state. You will come across the distinct personality of these homes—whether it be a heritage property with its sparkling chandeliers, ceramic vases and old-world charm or a modern villa with all its quirky creature comforts and bohemian artwork.

In the state known for its laissez faire vibe, you will surely find an Airbnb you can call home.

So, flip through this guide to absorb the aura of yesteryear, get inspired by the gothic designs of the mansions, and plan your stay with locals who can help you experience Goa beyond the sun, sand, and beach.

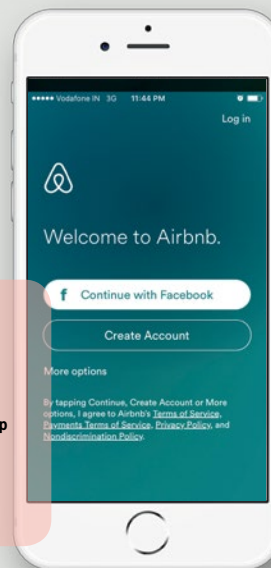
Lots of Love
Gauri Khan



How to Book an airbnb

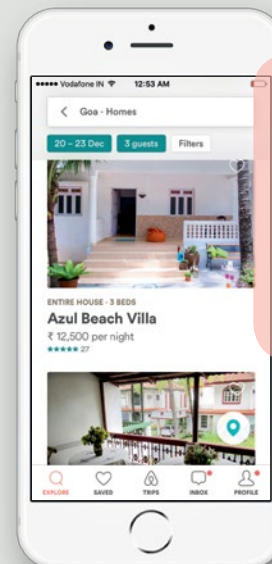
STEP 01

Download the App
On Google Play or
iOS Store. Log-in
through your
Facebook or
email account.



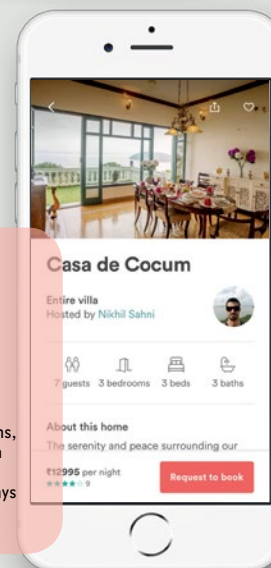
STEP 02

Explore Places to Stay
Choose your perfect stay from private rooms to entire homes for yourself. When searching for a place, make sure to include your dates and number of guests to get the most accurate pricing.



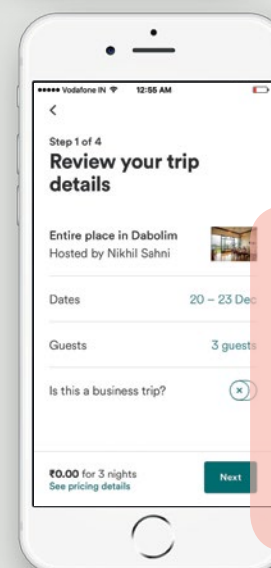
STEP 03

Choose Your Perfect Holiday Home
Check photographs and read reviews, descriptions, house rules, cancellation policy, and amenities for each home. You can always contact the host if you have any questions.



STEP 04

Book It
You've found your perfect place. Now, you can book instantly or request the host to accept your booking request. You can pay online for your reservation using credit or debit card.



Etched in the Memory

Located in the quaint village of Siolim and surrounded by the most happening places of North Goa, Villa Solitude offers the best of two worlds.

Villa Solitude, in the village of Siolim, North Goa, is a postcard home for your holiday in Goa. The blue and white façade in traditional Goan architecture coupled with lush surroundings gives the impression of a home-away-from-home.

Siolim lies on the banks of River Chapora, close to Vagator, Morjim, Ashwem, and Anjuna. It is one of the most pristine and untouched villages of Goa that has not changed itself for tourists.

Ensnared in lush greenery, the four-bedroom villa stands tall in the gated community, Villa Goesa. It has some beautiful walking and cycling trails and popular landmarks St Anthony's Church and San Joao Chapel just minutes away.

For an evening with friends, you can drive down to Baga and Anjuna, or attend the Saturday Night Market in Arpora to get a feel of the Bohemian vibe of Goa. If you are looking for more, let the hosts and caretakers of the villa, Ruth and Wilbert, help chart out an itinerary to experience the village like a local.

THE SPACE

The villa has four aesthetically designed bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, a spacious living room, and a private swimming pool in the backyard.

When you walk out of your bedroom, you will be greeted by cool breeze and swaying palms. While the netted verandah on the first floor is the sweet spot of the property, the balcony on the ground floor is an ideal place to host barbeque get-togethers. Sit back, relax, take that breeze in, and let the charming Villa Siolim work its wonders on your mind and soul. Book this Home at:

airbnb.co.in/users/show/109762085



Clockwise:
Plush furniture
in the living
room; a
bedroom
offering views
of swaying
palms; the cosy
dining area.
Opposite: The
entrance of Villa
Solitude.



HOW TO REACH

Villa Solitude is an hour's drive from Goa International Airport (43kms).

ACTIVITIES

- Go on a private cruise on the River Siolim.
- Visit Chapora fort.
- Shop at the Saturday Night Market.

BEACHES

- Ashwem • Morjim
- Anjuna • Vagator



The Vintage Life

Relive Goa's Portuguese history at one of the most stylish residential areas in the state.

Tucked away in the charming town of Assagao in North Goa is a historic 200-year-old Indo-Portuguese mansion that has been restored and thrown open to travellers seeking a refuge in nature.

The Villa, spread over one-and-a-half acres of manicured gardens, has two options up for rental—a restored mansion, The Villa Goa and a renovated villa, Villa Jardim. It is owned and run by Mark Bell, a Briton who travelled the world but decided to build his dream

home in Goa.

Located close to Anjuna and Vagator, it gives you ample opportunity to divide time between sunning on the beach and enjoying the exclusivity of the luxurious villa. (The host rents out the villa to only one group or family at a time, giving the occupants exclusive access to the entire property.)

For some quiet time, take a walk through the verdant garden with its palm trees and shrubs and relax with the sounds of nature.



From above: Outdoor dining area; one of the bedrooms at the villa. Opposite: Palms and manicured shrubs envelop Villa Jardim; the open courtyard of the house.

EXPERIENCE

Set around the traditional open courtyard, the rooms and dining areas of The Villa Goa honour the rich legacy of their former Portuguese occupants. Dine by a bubbling fountain in the courtyard as the in-house European chef serves up your favourite dishes. The villa also has Gregory Bazire—who has collaborated with several Michelin-starred restaurants across the world—on board on special occasions to offer a memorable dining experience to guests. Meanwhile, the two-bedroom Villa Jardim has a sub-tropical jungle garden in its backyard. Follow the garden path to find a small chapel, nestled in greens, where you can have healing massages and spa treatments. Book this Home at: airbnb.co.in/users/show/2481046



Choose from a 200-year-old restored mansion or a renovated villa for a romantic escape or a family vacation in the quiet of a lesser-known Goan village.

HOW TO REACH

Drive down from Goa International Airport (40kms) or hire a ride from Mapusa (6kms).

ACTIVITIES

- Meditate at Swan Yoga Retreat.
- Take a dip in the healing waters of Dossa-zor spring.
- Visit another local landmark, the Ghatyeshwar Temple.

BEACHES

- Anjuna • Vagator • Ozran
- Coco • Kegdole • Candolim
- Calangute • Sinquerim



A Vision in White

With a private walkway to Candolim Beach and top nightclubs and restaurants just around the corner, **Candolim Song** sits in an envious location.

Waking up to the sounds of waves, walking under the shades of swaying palm trees, listening to the song of chirping birds, admiring old Portuguese architecture, and feeling the ocean wind in your hair—these are experiences definitive of Goa. Candolim

Song, a century-old Portuguese villa renovated by its new owners Remun and Simrita Bhutani, is a palatial villa that lets you experience the susegad life of Goa from the comfort of your room.

Located five minutes from the popular hub of Candolim, the villa is a

spacious sanctuary with six bedrooms, manicured gardens, a large swimming pool, and a private walkway to the beach.

Host a private party by the pool, take your kids out for a picnic in the gardens, or dine by candlelight under the stars, the open spaces

in the villa are the highlights of the property.

The villa is also close to a number of restaurants and nightclubs that line the labyrinth lanes of Candolim Beach. At the beach, you can try jet skiing, catamaran sailing, paragliding and parasailing.

THE SPACE

The house has been renovated with luxurious essentials, yet it manages to maintain its rustic charm. From antique artefacts in the living room to vintage beds in the suites, the house is peppered with elements reminiscent of the lives of its earlier occupants.

There are six bedroom suites in the villa, each named after the colour palette used in the rooms—Teal, Aqua, Fuchsia, Amber, Olive, and Grey. The bathrooms—with traditional settings—are an experience of their own.

The caretaker, and your host, Arjun Singh makes sure your entire experience at the villa is customised according to your interests. From your bed's linen to lighting in the rooms, everything around you is as you like it.

The large swimming pool is the central character of the villa. Surrounded by palms and with an outdoor shower, it is a popular venue for evening get-togethers over food, drinks, and music.

Be it your long-awaited family vacation, marquee birthdays, or bachelor/bachelorette parties, the palatial villa with its generous outdoor and indoor living spaces has room for all.

Book this Home at:

airbnb.co.in/users/show/74097495



The high-ceiling rooms with red floors and corridors lined with antique furniture evoke the romanticism of Portuguese architecture at this century-old villa.

From above: The king-size bed in the Teal Suite; the outdoor dining area accommodates 35 people. Opposite: The large swimming pool with an outdoor shower.



HOW TO REACH

Hire a pre-paid taxi from Goa International Airport (40kms).

ACTIVITIES

- Visit Fort Aguada and Reis Magos fort.
- Explore the backwaters of Mandovi river.

BEACHES

- Candolim
- Baga
- Coco
- Miramar

Summertime Ease

Follow the sounds of nature at Summertime, a palatial villa located a stone's throw away from Calangute and Candolim beaches.

Set in two acres of landscaped gardens on a hilltop in Calangute, Summertime is a plush three-suite villa that has an intimate charm that appeals to you from the moment you walk in.

Owned by Dutch-Indian couple Hans Tuinman and Sucheta Potnis, Summertime was awarded Asia's Most Romantic Boutique Retreat 2016 by the World Boutique Hotel Awards.

It is located in a quiet, forested area not far from Calangute and Candolim beaches, and has three master suites, an infinity pool, a

lounge pool, a koi pond, and a waterfall. A private luxury yacht, Solita, is at your service; the owners are happy to recommend cruising itineraries if you want to take it for a spin.

Inside, the double height living-dining area has floor-to-ceiling glass doors that fill the common space with light and offer panoramic views of the lush greenery around the property. The interiors—furniture sourced from Bali and throughout India and the retro Hunter fans—are all hues and warmer shades of red and orange.

HOW TO REACH

Summertime is an hour away from Goa International Airport (40kms). You can also drive down from Panjim (15kms) or Mapusa (10kms).

ACTIVITIES

- Bird watching
- Nature walks
- Water sports such as scuba diving, snorkelling, and banana boat riding.

BEACHES

- Calangute • Candolim • Baga • Candolim



Below: The Koi Suite has been designed in warmer shades; the common area has floor-to-ceiling doors that bring in ample natural light. Opposite: An infinity pool welcomes visitors at Summertime.

Summertime is a labour of love. It has been designed by hosts Hans and Sucheta who live minutes' away from the property, and are readily available to visitors.



EXPERIENCE

Sit by the verandah or take a walk through the vast forest land surrounding Summertime to spot at least 20 different species of birds at any time of the day. Be it the entrance of the house, or the backyard, the views of lush tropical gardens and pool are a treat to the eyes.

ROOMS & SUITES

Wake up to the chirping of birds or watch the koi in the pond from the generous Koi Suite. The Coral Suite which faces the infinity pool and the valley is the most romantic of all the suites. The interiors are done in shades of reds, pink, and white with a four-poster bed the central character of the room. Meanwhile, the twin-bed Sunflower Suite uses colourful *gudhri* (hand-stitched by tribal women of Karnataka) to lend vibrancy to the room. Book this Home at:

airbnb.co.in/users/show/39672830

Steeped in History

A long-standing Goan-Portuguese family has opened the door of their mansion, Figueiredo Heritage Inn, for discerning travellers tracing Goa's history.

The Figueiredo Heritage Inn, in the heart of Loutolim, was home to one of the most influential families of Goa for more than 400 years. It is now an Airbnb ideal for travellers looking for more than just a museum visit to learn about the history of Goa.

The mansion—which predates the Taj Mahal—still houses members of the Figueiredo family. The house is steeped in history—the floor tiles imported from Italy,

chandeliers and sconces made from Belgian crystal, porcelain sourced from China and Japan, and leather-upholstered chairs from Portugal. Every corner of the house tells a tale of yesteryear.

A section of the house has been converted into a museum which remains open all week. The current owner, Maria de Lourdes Figueiredo de Albuquerque, takes visitors on a private tour to give an insider's account of the days of the Portuguese Raj.

The Figueiredo family was granted a coat of arms by the King of Portugal in the 19th century.



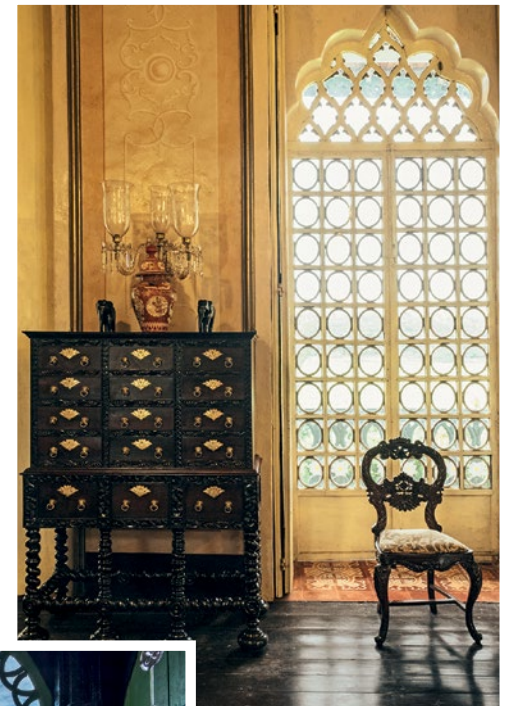
THE FIGUEIREDOS

The Figueiredos were Saraswat Brahmins who moved base to Loutolim and embraced Christianity. They were a much celebrated family during the time of the Portuguese Raj. While Vicente João de Figueiredo was a member of the Portuguese Legislative Assembly, Georgina Natália Filomena de Figueiredo became the first female judge of India. The current owner of the mansion, Maria de Lourdes Figueiredo de Albuquerque, was the first and youngest female member of the Portuguese Parliament.

ROOMS AND SUITES

Besides the family suite, there are three bedrooms in the house, each named after illustrious women who lived here—Amalia Double, Georgina Twin, and Elsa Twin. However, the highlights of the property are the garden courtyard, the sun deck, and an envious library that boasts a rare collection of books. Book this Home at:

airbnb.co.in/users/show/129688399



From above: A corner for reading books; the villa opens into wide vistas of paddy fields and swaying coconut trees. Opposite: The Ballroom has a collection of artefacts from around the world; a twin-bed bedroom.



HOW TO REACH

The village of Loutolim in South Goa is just 20kms from the Goa International Airport.

ACTIVITIES

Walk down the streets of Loutolim to retrace the steps of Saraswat Brahmins who flocked to the village to embrace Christianity.

WHAT TO SEE

The beautiful Portuguese mansions of Loutolim.

BEACHES

- Benaulim
- Bogmalo
- Cansaulim

Eccentric Beauty

A boutique villa in an unhurried village of Goa, Zoloft is an intimate boho chic space for city-dwellers.

Assagao in North Goa is home to several hidden gems. Take the Dosso Zor spring, for example, which is believed to have healing properties and a pillar called Kator, a symbol of the region's Hindu past. A walk past the popular Anjuna and Vagator beaches takes you to Zoloft, a beautiful villa with fascinating artworks, plush sofas and rugs, and comfortable arm chairs that evoke the feeling that you are in a home away from home. Created by a team of acclaimed international designers, Zoloft is a stress buster villa for those who want to leave the city behind. As

you enter, you are greeted by manicured gardens, a private swimming pool, and a pillared verandah.

The traditional thatched roof, combined with a carpet of green, and a row of palms surrounding the four-bedroom villa make it a postcard destination for a vacay in Goa.

There is a lesser known beach, Gudem, just around the corner. Ask the host Jeh to help rent a bike or car to explore the village and adjoining areas.

You can also drive down to the party capitals of Anjuna and Baga, just 10 minutes away, or try your luck at the offshore Casino Palace and Casino Pride.



Zoloft has been named 'The Anti-Depressant Villa' by the owners for its distinctive style and vibrant feel.



Clockwise: One of the bedrooms on the first floor; relax on wooden deck by the poolside; the yellow chairs are a central character of the living room. Opposite: The dining area has a lived-in look; art from across the world adorn the walls of the villa.



THE SPACE

The city is far from your thoughts when you are sitting in the terrace that looks straight into the eyes of the forest. You are at home here—fix up a meal for you and your partner in the kitchen, take your conversation to the living room where you can lounge on the sofa or get comfy in the distinctive yellow arm chairs. The antique lighting of the home, its blue grey windows, and tiles and patterns add to the inviting vibe.

In each of its four bedrooms you will also notice fun decor—each is colour-coded—with minimalist elements that make the space cosy and warm. Swim in the pool or have sundowners in the garden at twilight; the kitchen staff can prepare meals for you or leave you alone to experience this villa. Book this Home at: airbnb.co.in/users/show/10597379

HOW TO REACH

Zoloft is an hour's drive from Goa International Airport (40kms).

ACTIVITIES

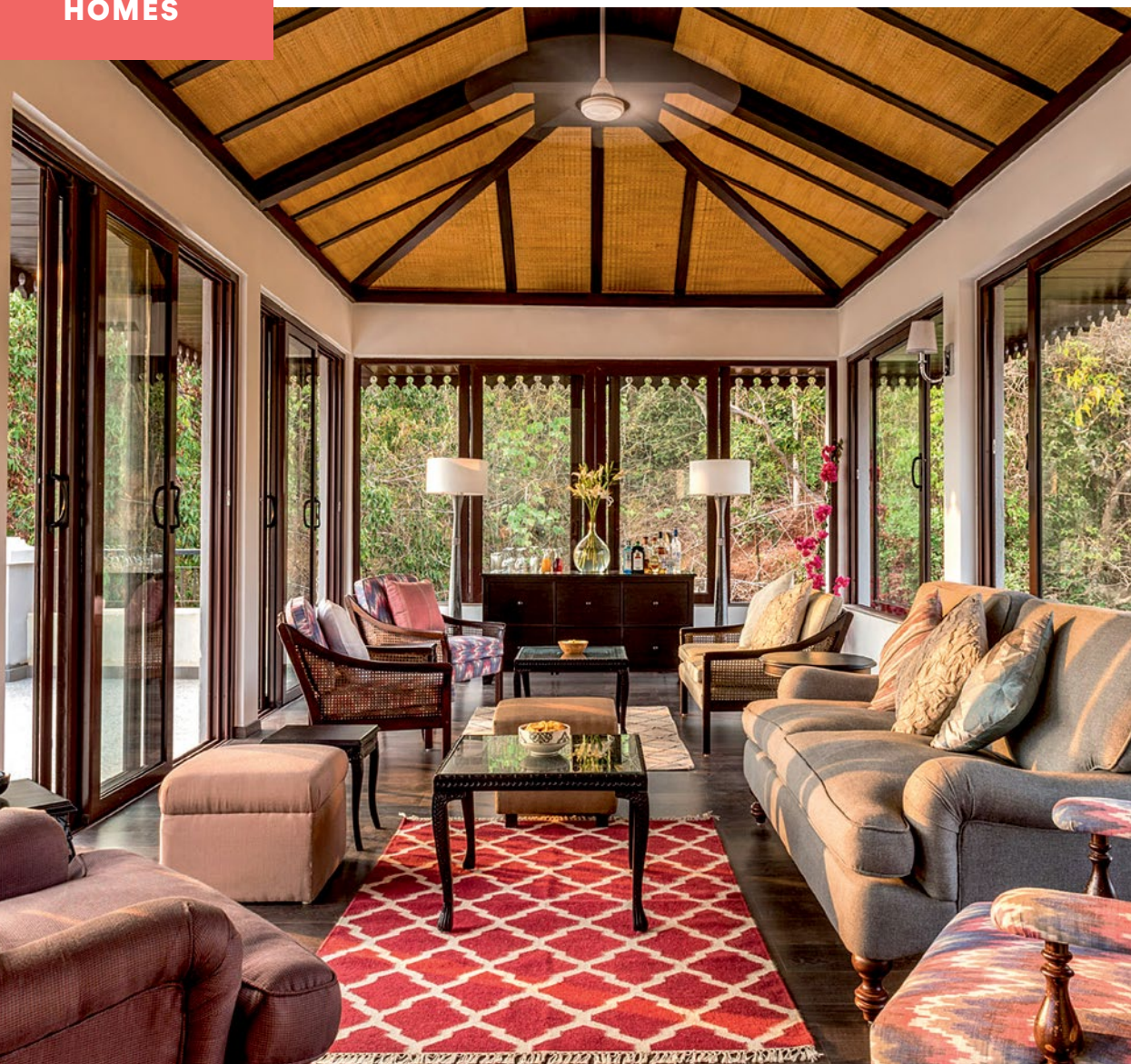
- Visit the art gallery-cum-shop, Cheshire Cat Gallery.
- Go cashew-picking in the farms that dot the village.

WHERE TO GO

Visit Purple Valley to join a yoga course.

BEACHES

- Gudem
- Anjuna
- Vagator



The Good Life

Spread across three sprawling floors, Casa Sol is a dream home with a summerhouse feel that allows in swathes of gorgeous Goan sunlight, but also affords you the most magnificent views of the countryside.

This four-bedroom luxury villa is close enough to all the action of Candolim, but still tucked away enough for those who prefer the slightly quieter life. Perched close to the flowing banks of the river Nerul and surrounded by a

thriving woodland, Casa Sol offers great outside spaces to both dine and drink in nature.

As the villa comes equipped with its very own caretaker-cum-cook, you will have plenty of time to chill while they rustle up

something local—courtesy of the villa's fully laden kitchen—for you and your guests.

If that's too much effort, then there's a raft of local eateries a stone's throw away offering Goan classics like Vindaloo or banana fry.

In the happening town of Candolim, Casa Sol says viva la vida to its guests and shows them a good time.



Jijesh, your host, is a Vasco-born Goan who uses his experience gained in the hospitality sector to create a memorable stay for guests.



Clockwise: The outdoor dining area overlooks lush surroundings; the swimming pool is the highlight of the property; one of the four poster bedrooms in the villa. Opposite: The common area on the terrace.

EXPERIENCE

As the sun goes down, take a dip in the plunge pool with a cocktail in hand and enjoy views of the surrounding paddy fields. Bring your friends or family members to the common area on the terrace for a game of rummy—the floor-to-ceiling doors make for a very cosy setting for an evening filled with laughter.

ATTRACTIONS

Ask your host Jijesh to arrange for a car to drive down to Aguada Fort just in time for the sunset and have a *Dil Chahta Hai* moment with your buddies. You can also visit the Harvalem waterfalls (40kms) in the morning and witness the ethereal beauty of the water's milky white curtain. The best part? You walk through caves to get there. For those inclined towards arts, a visit to Museum of Goa is a must see for contemporary art. You can also meet young artists at the Kerkar Art Complex in Calangute. Book this Home at: airbnb.co.in/users/show/142345091

HOW TO REACH

A cab ride from Goa International Airport (34kms) will cost around ₹1,000.

ACTIVITIES

- Ride a bicycle to the Latin Quarter in Fontainhas.
- Spot leopards in Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary.

WHERE TO GO
Harvalem waterfalls

BEACHES

- Candolim
- Chapora
- Calangute



FOOD



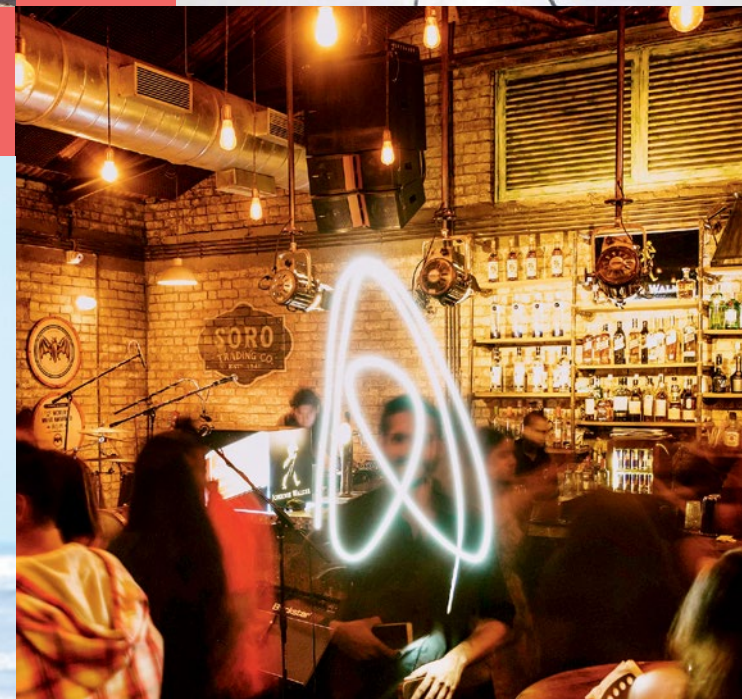
LIFESTYLE



ART



HIDDEN GEMS



NIGHTLIFE

The Style Mavens

Goa is synonymous with beaches, a laidback lifestyle, and vintage villas, but little do people know about its gifts to the fashion world.



WENDELL RODRICKS
|| FASHION DESIGNER ||

Goa is all set to get its first museum of fashion, **Moda Goa Museum**, next year. Wendell Rodricks, the man who put Goa on the world fashion map, is converting his much loved 450-year-old villa, Casa Dona Maria, in Colvale to an abode of fashion that traces the costume history of Goa. "I have been collecting objects for the last 17 years; the entire collection will go on display," says the iconic designer who shifted base to his hometown two decades ago. As one of the famous residents of the state, Wendell picks his favourites when it comes to fashion and lifestyle in Goa.

THE PERFECT GIFT FROM GOA

Traditional Kunbi saree. The saree, worn by tribal women before the advent of the Portuguese, is dyed in red and black and woven in small and large checks.

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW

Goa is the birthplace of the world's first Indo-Western clothing.

MARKETS OF GOA

"There are so many daily, seasonal, and annual markets. Read Assavri Kulkarni's Markets of Goa for a complete guide."

GOA IS WHAT IT IS BECAUSE...

"At the crossroads of many cultural influences, Goa enjoys the best of many worlds. This has led to an international mindset and disposition."

"Goans enjoy sartorial elegance, thanks to the Portuguese."



MARK BELL
|| RETAIL DESIGNER & AIRBNB HOST ||

A luxury vagabond, Mark Bell was a Bengaluru-based retail designer until he could not resist the easy-going Goan lifestyle any longer. A quick decision and some more research later, the Londoner found himself standing in front of a 200-year-old Portuguese villa that was in complete ruins—broken doors and shutters, collapsed walls, and screeching bats as guests.

With years of experience in architecture and designing, Mark got down to rebuilding every single corner of the house himself. Almost a decade later, Mark hosts travellers from across the world at The Villa in Assagao where he fascinates guests with his travel stories from Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore, and many more places.

Watch out for young expat designers who set up stalls on Morjim beach during peak season.



Take a tour of the Archaeological Museum and Portrait Gallery to study the evolution of fashion in Goa.

MUST-VISIT MARKETS

The **Saturday Night Market** in Arpora for its energy, music, colour, interesting mix of people, global cuisines, and shopping options.

The **Wednesday Flea Market** in Anjuna for best lifestyle products, fashion, and exquisite jewellery.

MUST-ATTEND EVENT

The **India Beach Fashion Week** from October 26-28 at Marriott Resort and Spa.

GOAN DESIGNERS

Stop at Sacha's Shop in Panjim to check the collections of young designers like Savio Jon who create laid back, easy-to-wear clothes emblematic of Goa.



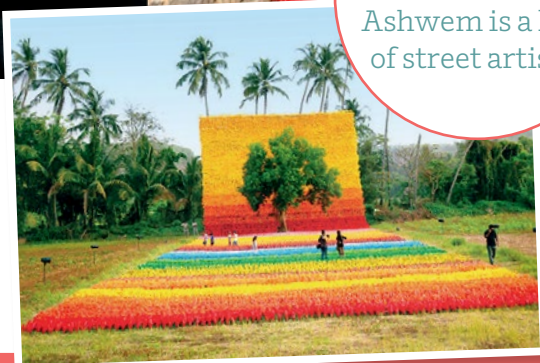
The Art Connoisseurs

It is the liberal air and bounty of nature that draw artists from across the world to the sunshine state.



SUBODH KERKAR
|| ARTIST ||

His love for Goa is palpable. Seven years into his career as a doctor, Subodh Kerkar ditched the stethoscope for a paintbrush. Today, he is the founding director of Museum of Goa where a group of Indian and international artists are trying to democratize contemporary art. "I am convinced that the only purpose of your life is to be happy. I pursued my passion and can claim to be one of the happiest souls on the planet," says Kerkar, who calls himself a sea artist.



ART GALLERIES

Carpe Diem Art Gallery, Sunaparanta, Goa Centre for the Arts.

GOAN ARTISTS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Kedar Dhondur, Shailesh Dabholkar, and Siddharth Kerkar.

HIDDEN ART FORMS

Petroglyphs of Usgalimal, wooden toy makers of Cuncolim, potters and copper smiths of Bicholim and Mapusa.

LEGENDARY GOAN ARTISTS

Francis Newton Souza and Vasudeo S. Gaitonde hold the record for the highest prices ever paid to Indian painters.

ART ON BEACH

Installations made of different types of shells are a popular attraction on several Goan beaches like Morjim.

Vaayu Waterman's Village in Ashwem is a hub of street artists.



TANAAZ DE SOUZA
|| ARTIST & AIRBNB HOST ||

For Tanaaz de Souza, art runs in the blood. Everyone in her family is associated with some form of art—a culture not uncommon in Goa. An abstract artist, Tanaaz has travelled across Europe and

Southeast Asia and she draws inspiration from her travels. When not checking out the latest art exhibitions in town, she hosts travellers from across the world at her cottage, Sands of Baga.



ART LESSONS

Pottery workshops at Bicholim Pilerne Industrial Estate. Potter Verodina D'Souza gives a hands-on experience.

AN ART TRAIL

Yolanda's Art Gallery in Calangute, Off the Wall in Candolim, and Gitanjali Art Gallery in Fontainhas.

GOAN COOKING

Take workshops at Brancas Cooking Class in Panjim and Fatima Menezes e Moniz in Raia.

LESSER-KNOWN ART FORM

Azulejos, the art of painting on ceramics and tiles, is native to Goa and dates back to the days of the Portuguese Raj.

INSIDER TIP

Every evening, Arambol Beach in North Goa is witness to active jam sessions by travellers and local music-lovers.



Mario Miranda was a popular cartoonist from Goa whose work features on the walls of several cafes.

The Merrymakers

Sipping your favourite drink at a beach shack or playing drinking games in nightclubs—Goa's eclectic nightlife features on the bucketlist of every traveller.



NOLAN MASCARENHAS
|| TRAVEL WRITER & PHOTOGRAPHER ||

Nolan Mascarenhas, a food, lifestyle and travel writer and photographer, has a drool-worthy Instagram feed of intriguing clubs, restaurants, and food in Goa. Someone who is always on the look out for the new and the unknown, Nolan has a complete guide to make the most of the nightlife in the party capital of India.

ICONIC RESTAURANTS

A Reverie, Chulha, Koi Asian Fine Dining, Route 66, and Spice Goa.

PUB GRUBS

Edge Bar, Café Mojo, Cape Town Café, and Love Passion Karma.

CASINOS

Deltin Royale and Deltin Caravela are his top picks.

NEW IN TOWN

Bottlejack Bistro, Confiteria at Grand Hyatt Goa, Café Mojo, Showbar, and Jade Bar @ Koi.

PUB-HOPPING GUIDE

Start with karaoke and *sheesha* at St Anthony's in Baga, then dance on the bar counter at Cavala and meet locals in Titos lane before hanging out in Cape Town Café. Also make stops at Cohiba, Sinq, and Showbar.

The must-try local flavours of Goa are *urak* and *nero*.



MELCON TEIXEIRA
|| MUSICIAN & AIRBNB HOST ||

A musician-cum-entrepreneur, Teixeira founded The Big Country Band when he was 18. After taking Goan music to several countries across the world, Melcon now creates memorable evenings for guests at his Airbnb home with his guitar and keyboard.

PLACES FOR LIVE MUSIC

Soro in Vagator, Leda in Colva, and Cohiba in Candolim.

FIND THE BEST LOCAL DRINKS AT

Tavern in Panjim, and Cidade de Goa in Vainguinim.

TRY THE GOAN BEAT

On *ghumat*, a percussion instrument.

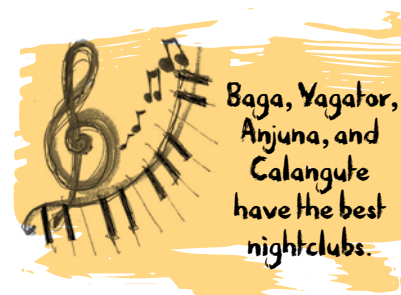
MUST-HAVE MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

Spend an evening of Fado, a Portuguese music genre with a melancholy theme and accompanied by mandolins or guitars.

ESSENTIAL GOAN-EXPERIENCE

Visit taverns that are traditional alcohol outlets selling country liquor.

According to a survey by a leading magazine in 2016, Goa ranks sixth in top 10 nightlife cities of the world.



Baga, Vagator, Anjuna, and Calangute have the best nightclubs.



The Treasurers

There is more to Goa than beaches and parties. Insiders give us a lowdown on everything that escapes the tourists' eye.



SHANTANU SHEOREY
|| PHOTOGRAPHER ||

Ace photographer Shantanu Sheorey shifted base from Mumbai to Goa last year. A year later, the founder of The One School Goa says he could not be happier. From the refreshing backwaters to the labyrinth lanes of Old Panjim, Sheorey shows us his frames of unexplored Goa.

Try
underwater
sea walking on
Baina Beach
in Vasco.

VIRGIN BEACHES

Keri in North Goa and Velsao in South Goa.

EXPLORE

The backwaters of Goa. Cruise through hidden islands along little riverlets.

DISCOVER

The legacy left behind by Portuguese in Mala and Fontainhas in Old Panjim.

A LOCAL SECRET

Divar Island, which is accessible only by ferry.

THE ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP

Drive from Via Chorla to Belgaum in the monsoon. Stop in the fog for your *chai-breaks*.



HANS & SUCHETA
|| ENTREPRENEURS & AIRBNB HOST ||

Hans Tuinman and Sucheta Potnis created quite a stir back in the early 90s when they became the proud owners of a yacht—a luxury only a few Indians could afford at that time. After spending more than 25 years of their lives in Goa, this Dutch-Indian couple knows the state like the back of their hands. Their only appeal to tourists visiting Goa: Explore its natural side.

In November and December, the ocean is like a lake—you can anchor your yacht anywhere and swim.

THREE MUST-TRY NATURE EXPERIENCES

Bird watching, dolphin-spotting, and nature walks.

BEST PLACES FOR BIRD WATCHING

Pilerne plateau for raptors, Mandrem and Morjim beaches for aquatic birds. (Their villa Summertime itself is home to at least 20 species of birds.)

THE BACKWATER STORY

"We find the hinterland or backwaters more beautiful than the beaches. A ride from Panjim or Britona to Old Goa offers the best cruising experience."



Mornings are the best time to spot dolphins while birds are more active during sunset.

The Gourmands

Savour real flavours of Goa at roadside cottages that dole out the best homemade dishes.



JOEY MATTHEW || MODEL-TURNED-CHEF ||

After walking the ramp for top Indian designers and hosting a popular television show, Joey Matthew is cooking up a storm at her cafe, Daily Grind, near North Goa's Donda Beach. A Malayali who found home in Goa, Joey thinks, "You have to be at a beautiful place at the end of the day. The quality of life in Goa is 2,000 notches up than in other cities."

FAVOURITE GOAN DISHES

Chicken cafreal and seafood thali.

RESTAURANTS

Café Orange Boom for breakfast and Spice Goa and Star Light for home-style food.

OFF-SEASON HANGOUTS

Tamarind for North Indian cuisine and Salt N Pepper for chicken burgers.

SPICES AND SPICE MARKETS

Matthew is crazy about garlic and turmeric. She gets them at Mapusa spice market.

THE CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

Daily Grind for a sumptuous turkey dinner.



CARMEN || ANTIQUE CURATOR & AIRBNB HOST ||

Warm, jovial, and charming—Carmen is the host everyone wants to be welcomed by. A former antique curator, Carmen's villa Ikshaa narrates stories of her travels across the country—pillars from Thanjavur, tiles from Kerala, furniture from Rajasthan, that has been infused with Goan warmth and hospitality. A full-time Airbnb host now, she divides her time between cooking for guests and hunting drool-worthy food joints and restaurants across Goa.

MUST-HAVE GOAN DISHES

Crab xec xec, chicken cafreal, mutton xacuti, and pork amsol.

BEST OF GOAN CUISINE

Goan pork sausages on toast, pomfret in recheiado masala, sorpotel with sannas, pulao, and bebinca.

CLASSICS

Sheela in Sancoale for chicken cuisa marie, Hotel Mandovi in Panjim for fish cafreal sizzler, and House No 2 in Loutolim for cuts of fillet.

STREET FOOD JOINTS

Ross omlette in Panjim or Margao and bhelpuri in Loutolim.

Sorpotel is a must-have meat delicacy on the Goan menu. It tastes better as it gets older.





GOA



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