

GOA GUIDE – VISITOR INFO

General Questions:

What?

Sunburn is a 3-Day Electronic Dance Music Festival held in Goa, India. Inaugurated in 2007, Sunburn is a synergy of music, entertainment, food, shopping and lifestyle that attracts music tourism in Goa. In the past two years of existence, Sunburn has brought together renowned Indian and International DJs to entertain crowds of thousands over a three day period in December. Sunburn caters to a wide Indian and International audience and it showcases India as a Dance Festival destination to the world.

When and Where?

The tour kick starts in Goa itself on 27th December 2009 at Candolim Beach and goes on till the 29th of December 2009. The beach is located roughly around 45kms away from airport, and 45kms away from nearest railway station.

How Do I Get There?

As explained above, the event itself is on Candolim beach, Goa. You cannot fly directly to this area, as there are no international airports in this city, however the nearest international gateway is Mumbai, and other alternative to it is Bengaluru.

Goa is also well connected by Road from major cities and state capitals. Goa Tourism welcomes every visitor and treats them as if they were one of their family members. So, dont hesitate to ask at the nearest Goa Travel Kiosk.

How Do I Get To India? / Where Can I book my Flight?

You can always fly down to India via the following Airlines, which are the best and internationally renowned airline firms.

<http://www.virgin-atlantic.com/>
<http://www.qantas.com.au/>
<http://www.emirates.com/>
<http://www.malaysiaairlines.com/>
<http://www.singaporeair.com/>
<http://www.etihadairways.com/>
<http://www.thaiair.com/>
<http://www.britishairways.com/>
<http://www.lufthansa.com/>
<http://www.qatarairways.com/>
<http://www.jetairways.com/>
<http://www.srilankan.lk/>
<http://www.indian-airlines.nic.in/>
<http://www.airfrance.co.uk/>

Goa's only airport is the Goa Airport at Dabolim near Vasco. It is an international airport, So, you can fly down from major and minor airports from any part of India. Following is a list of international operational flights –

Charter departures from –

Moscow
St. Petersburg
Khazakistan
Tallin

Gatwick
Manchester
Zurich
Helsinki
Copenhagen
Stockholm

Scheduled –

Condor – Once weekly from Berlin
Qatar Airways – Four times weekly .. With connections all over Europe and the US
Air India & Indian Airlines – Daily flights from Sharjah & Dubai
Air Arabia – 3 times weekly from Sharjah with connections all over Europe

Goa is the hub which of the Konkan Railway which is the most modern railway line in India and sports express trains which are connected to major cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune and all capitals of Indian states.

You can book your flights at the following sites*:

<http://www.indian-airlines.nic.in/>
<http://www.flyairdeccan.net/>
<http://www.airindiaexpress.in/>
<http://www.jetlite.com/>
<http://www.airdeccan.net/>
<http://www.goair.in/>
<http://book.goindigo.in/>
<http://www.jetairways.com/>
<http://www.flykingfisher.com/>
<http://www.spicejet.com/>

or alternatively you can choose a travel package from the travel sites*:

<http://www.makemytrip.co.in/>
<http://www.travelocity.com/>
<http://www.expedia.com/>
<http://www.journeymart.com/>
<https://www.travelhouseindia.com/>
<http://www.railtourismindia.com/>
<http://ezeego1.co.in/>
<http://www.yatra.com/>

If you wish to travel by road i.e., bus/train then book your tickets here*:

bus*:

<http://www.paulotravels.com/>

train*:

<http://www.railtourismindia.com/>
<http://www.indianrail.gov.in/>
<http://www.irctc.co.in/>

I Dont Understand! Its Complex, Is There A Map Or Something?

Yes there is!, check it here:

Checkout for Candolim (venue) at Aguada Bay in Bardez District, Dabolim Airport (national/demostic airport) below Mormugao Bay in Mormugao District. Panaji (Panjim) in Tiswadi is the capital of goa loated in Panjim district, where you'll be heading to if you travel by bus. Vasco Da Gama in Baina district is the place where the trains halts.

Here is an overview of the location via google maps. [CLICK](#)

Where Do I Stay?

Goa is usually packed at the end of year. It is really hard to acquire accommodation, unless you book in advance. Hence, it is advisable to book accommodation at nearby resorts or lodges in advance. For more information on Goan Lodges, Resorts and Hotels:

Lyndon Alves,
Alisha "G 1"
Nagali Hills, Dona Paula
Goa 403 -004
Mobile: +91 98230 80180
Fax: +91-832 2453299
www.sunsetgetawaysgoa.com

For more details, the official Goa Tourism site:
<http://www.goa-tourism.com/>

Where Could I Get A VISA To India?

A visa is needed by most foreign nationals visiting India. They are obtainable at the Indian Missions, Consulates, and High Commissions Overseas. The visas are valid for the period issued. Once obtained, visas can be extended in India, (depending on the application) at the local "Foreigners Registration Office" located in every major city in India.

Will My Money Work There?

No it won't, unless you exchange it for Indian rupees, which is the currency of India. Each rupee consists of 100 paise and currency notes are issued in the denominations of Rs. 1000, Rs. 500, Rs. 100, Rs. 50, Rs. 20, Rs. 10, Rs. 5. Coins issued are of Rs. 5, Rs. 2, Re. 1, 50 paise, 25 paise denominations.

It is however illegal to exchange money to obtain rupees outside India, but your currency will be accepted widely around India at one of the exchange counters at airports or any any major hotels & resorts or at private money changers or at any ATMs which accept VISA card and Master Card and also and at any branches of nationalised banks (SBI, HDFC, ICICI etc., preferably: State Bank of India [SBI]). NOTE: standard currency exchange charges are applicable; please consult the broker before you begin transaction.

What Will I Need?

You'll need a copy of your passport, an ID card, some cash everywhere you go in Goa. At the event you'll need event passes, ID card, a good insect repellent lotion (for nights), and good sunscreen (for day).

You can also carry Indian currency up to maximum of Rs. 1000 (\$20) for local services. If you are under medication, make sure that you carry prescriptions of medications. If you wish to drive, make sure you have the International drivers license

Is Goa Safe?

Goa is the safest state in India. But to be on the safe side, keep a tab on your luggage, lock your suitcase and baggage and keep an eye on your personal items i.e., cameras, purse, mobiles, etc., during travel. Its advisable to carry small amount of money in small bills in Indian Currency for sundry use and don't forget to keep a copy of your passport with you at all times. There is also a special Women's Police Station to handle women related crimes. So far, the bottom line is Goa is safe for everyone.

Is Alcohol/Drugs available In Goa?

Yes, Alcohol is available in Goa, It is distilled from two sources, Cashew fruits and Coconut trees. Apart from that, Goa has its famous local bew called "Feni ". Drugs are absolutely illegal in Goa. If you are caught in possession of it, you may be penalized and sentenced, and detained for more

than or up to three years.

What Should I Be Wearing?

Goa as a part of India, follows Indian traditions and culture, Goan culture and traditions are reflected in the community of Goan dwellers called Konkans or Goans, the most common wear in Goa and any part in India is pants/shorts and shirts for men, and saris, pants and skirts with blouses for women. Clean and decent clothes are preferable. Please avoid wearing beachwear in the city as it might attract unwanted attention. Also, please make a note that Nudity is not allowed on Goan beaches.

What Do Goans Speak or What Should I Speak?

Goans proudly speak Konkani, which is the official language of Goa. English is widely spoken and understood with a bit of variation in accent depending on the educational background of the speaker and the area of origin.

How Can I Communicate With My Family Back Home?

Make sure that your network provides International Roaming and India is one of the countries that comes under their international carrier exchange agreement umbrella, and make sure that your phone supports GSM 850/900/1800/1900 or is triband/quadband enabled. Land Communication at Goa is very reliable. The Inter-state calls (STD calls) and the international calling facility (ISD) are available at most public calling booths and the rates are displayed at the booths.

It can also be done at most post offices and hotels. Alternatively you can use VOIP centers to make calls abroad. The Indian Postal Service is a very reliable mail service which provides all mail related transactions including internet and email.

Now you are ready to fly down to Goa, but make sure that you start off by checking all your belongings at your residence properly. "Haste makes Waste", take your own time and ensure that you are really ready to leave for Goa. Collect your ticket, passes, passports and luggage and prepare to get Sunburnt.

Here are a few things that you must keep in mind while you are at Goa, these may be applicable to any part of India too, so keep them by your heart.

Please Note:

- Fresh seafood dishes are probably the safest and tastiest bet in most small restaurants that you will visit.
- Voltage in Goa is 220 volts ac, 50 cycles (remember to pack a voltage adapter for your electric appliances)
- The safest way to carry your cash around is through traveller's cheques and ATM cards
- Cuisine in Goa is not limited to just the Goan variety. You can find everything from Continental, Chinese, Tibetan, Indonesian, Thai, Portuguese and even Mexican dishes on the menu. Prices for these vary from place to place and so does the quality.
- Please be warned that you will be quoted some truly exorbitant prices for most things that you ask for,
- Drugs are Illegal and are Banned, Do not bring or use them.
- The seas in Goa are often rough on certain beaches especially around the monsoons.
- Beware of touts at most tourist spots.
- Nudity on beaches and public places is forbidden and punishable under the law.
- In case of loss of any money, passport or other valuables or documents contact the nearest Government of India Tourist Office or the nearest State Government Tourist Office or the nearest Police Station.
- Traffic circulation in Goa is on the left. Keep your valid documents, driving licence, passports etc., in your possession while driving.
- Always remove your shoes at the entrance to the main hall of any holy shrine.

- If you take the bus transport for travelling around Goa be prepared for a rough ride.
- Always be ready to bargain in most small establishments. As a thumb rule offer 20% of the asking price, and be prepared to pay 35-40% of the original asked price.
- Guides may be hired from Government approved agencies.
- In case you want to extend your visa, contact the Foreigners Regional Registration Office located in the Police Headquarters at Panaji.

Do's and Dont's:

Please remember and Make sure that you DO follow the instructions:

1. Always Remember: It is better to be safe than sorry.
2. Always do remove your shoes at the entrance to the main hall of any holy shrine.
3. Do Carry your money and travel documents (preferably wrapped in plastic to avoid dampness) with you.
4. Do Carry an ID Card at all times, In case if you dont have one, cut out a small card preferably laminated or covered in plastic, mentioning your name, age, blood group and other relevant medical details and a contact phone number to contact in case of an emergency and keep it with you at all times.
5. Insist on bottled Mineral Water.
6. Check out the small hotels in a number of tourist spots. They are more likely to provide you with some exotic and authentic Goan cuisine.
7. Wash hands often with soap and water.
8. Keep your feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot to prevent fungal and parasitic infections.
9. Use repellents and mosquito nets to protect yourself from insects and mosquitoes.
10. Carry an International Drivers license and Follow Traffic rules strictly to avoid any mishaps.
11. Observe silence, due respect and proper decorum inside the places of worship and religious monuments that you might visit.
12. Insist on using sterilised/disposable syringes, in case if you have been injured or visited the hospital and make sure that the blood is tested before transfusion (if necessary).
13. Use Sulabh Shouchalayas (Public Pay Toilets) available at most places of importance.
14. Swim in safe areas only.
15. Pay taxis/autorickshaws by meter only or by tariff card issued by Directorate of Transport and available with the driver.
16. Read the sign boards at the beach before entering the water and follow its instructions.
17. Deposit all waste matter at the nearest dust bin available.
18. Check out wether photography/video filming is permitted at the tourist spots.
19. Drink lots of water and as often as possible. Dehydration is a real risk in Goa and especially during the day at Sunburn.

and Please Make Sure that You DONT do the following:

1. Don't leave your baggage unattended while travelling, You can clip it with a chain attached to the seat to foil most thieves.
2. Don't accept food items from strangers on trains and buses. These could be used to lull you into deep sleep while the stranger gets away with your valuables.
3. Don't use, possess and trade drugs (hard or soft) as it is totally illegal in Goa.
4. Don't attempt to buy Articles made from rare, endangered hence protected species of animals from hawkers or even shops.
5. Don't venture into the sea before consulting the life-guard.
6. Don't keep your valuables unattended during your stay at the beach.

