

Ultimate Goa Travel Guide

Your Complete Handbook for a Safe & Memorable Trip to Goa

Detailed Packing Checklist

Essentials:

- Passport/ID, travel tickets, hotel bookings
- Cash (ATMs available, but some places prefer cash)
- Credit/debit cards (notify your bank for travel)
- Printed copies of important documents

Clothing:

- Light, breathable clothes (shorts, dresses, t-shirts)
- Swimwear (2-3 sets)
- Beach cover-up/sarong
- Sunglasses, wide-brimmed hat, flip-flops
- Light jacket (for evenings/monsoons)

Health & Safety:

- Sunscreen (SPF 50+, reef-safe recommended)
- Mosquito repellent (especially in monsoon)
- Basic first-aid kit (band-aids, antiseptic, motion sickness tablets)
- Reusable water bottle

Electronics:

- Power bank
- Waterproof phone pouch
- Universal adapter (if needed)

Emergency Contacts & Hospitals

Emergency Numbers:

- **Police:** 100
- **Ambulance/Fire:** 102

Top Hospitals in Goa:

- **Manipal Hospital (Panaji)** – <https://www.manipalhospitals.com/goa/>
 - **Goa Medical College** – <https://gmcgoa.edu.in/>
 - **Victor Hospital (Margao)** – <http://victorhospital.com>
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Beach Safety Tips

✓ Swim Safely:

- Stick to **designated swimming zones** (lifeguards present).
- Avoid **strong currents** (red flags mean danger).
- Don't swim **under the influence**.

⚠ Avoid Risks:

- Don't leave valuables unattended (use lockers).
- Beware of **jellyfish** (monsoon season).
- Stay hydrated; avoid peak sun (12 PM–3 PM).

🏖 Lifeguard Posts:

- **Popular beaches** (Calangute, Baga, Anjuna) have lifeguards.
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Local Transportation Guide

Best Ways to Get Around:

- **Rent a Scooter/Bike** (~₹300-500/day, need ID proof)
- **Taxis & Auto-Rickshaws** (negotiate fares in advance)
- **Goa Miles (App-based cabs)** – Cheaper than local taxis
- **Public Buses (Kadamba Transport)** – Budget-friendly but crowded
- **Self-Drive Cars** (Zoomcar, Revv)

Important Tips:

- Always **wear helmets** on bikes (police fines apply).
 - Avoid **drunk driving** (strict penalties).
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Seasonal Festival Calendar

Peak Season (Nov–Feb):

- **Sunburn Festival** (Dec) – Asia's biggest EDM fest

- **Christmas & New Year** – Huge beach parties
- **Goa Carnival** (Feb) – Parades, music, floats

Off-Season (Monsoon: June–Sept):

- **Sao João Festival** (June) – Jumping into wells, celebrations
- **Bonderam Festival** (Aug) – Flag parade in Divar Island

Shoulder Season (Oct, Mar–May):

- **Shigmo Festival** (March) – Goa's version of Holi