

# Goa Wildlife & Birding 4N: Salim Ali Sanctuary & Cotigao Trails

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination  
**Goa**



Duration  
**4 Nights 5 Days**



Starting from  
**Rs. 13,950 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE

↩ Panaji / Chorao · 2N

↩ Canacona / Cotigao · 2N

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/goa/goa-4-nights-5-days-package-697>

## 📌 Overview

---

A focused 4 nights / 5 days Goa tour package designed for birders, nature lovers and families who want a calm, wildlife-rich Goa experience. Explore the famous Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary (Chorao Island) in North Goa and the lush Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary in South Goa, with guided boat safaris, forest trails, and easy family-friendly activities. This Goa Family tour package balances early-morning birding sessions with relaxed afternoons at charming Goan towns and beaches.

### Highlights:

- Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary (Chorao Island) – early-morning boat safari for waterbirds and migratory species
- Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary & Cotigao Trails – guided forest trails, watchtowers and endemic species
- Panaji (Fontainhas) & Mandovi River – culture, riverside views and optional sunset cruise
- Family-friendly lodging in quiet nature settings, suitable for couples and families

This itinerary is suitable for both keen birdwatchers and families seeking a quieter, wildlife-focused Goa Family package. Best months: October to March for bird activity and pleasant weather.

### ✓ What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights accommodation in comfortable, family-friendly lodges (2 nights in Panaji/Chorao area + 2 nights in Cotigao/Canacona)
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 3 dinners (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Guided boat safari at Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary (shared)
- ✓ Guided Cotigao Trails and forest walks with an experienced naturalist
- ✓ Transfers within Goa as per itinerary (airport/rail transfers on specified timings)
- ✓ All sanctuary / guide entry fees as mentioned
- ✓ Binoculars on request and basic birding handouts
- ✓ Please confirm exact meal plan and room sharing options while booking.

### ✗ Not Included

- ✗ International / domestic flights to Goa and airport taxes
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in inclusions (lunches, additional dinners, snacks)
- ✗ Personal expenses: tips, laundry, phone calls, minibar
- ✗ Travel insurance and medical expenses
- ✗ Any optional activities (river cruises, beach boat rides) not specified as included
- ✗ Government service tax, if applicable
- ✗ Note: Entrance to some protected areas may require prior permits; these will be handled with advance notice and may incur additional fees.

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

---

Day

1

### **Arrival, Transfer to Panaji & Mandovi Riverside Orientation**

Arrive at Goa (Dabolim Airport / Madgaon Railway Station). Meet and greet, then transfer to your accommodation in Panaji / Chorao area (approx. 30–45 mins from the airport). Settle in and enjoy a short orientation with your naturalist guide. Late afternoon optional Mandovi River sunset cruise to spot riverine birds and enjoy panoramic views of the estuary.

Evening: Relax at the hotel. Tip: Keep binoculars handy for riverside birding during the cruise.

Day

2

### **Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary — Boat Safari & Local Sightseeing**

Early morning transfer to the jetty for a guided boat safari into Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary (Chorao Island). With an experienced birding guide you will look for species such as cormorants, kingfishers, egrets, herons, terns and migrant waders. Return to Panaji for breakfast.

Afternoon visit to Fontainhas (Panaji Latin Quarter) for heritage walks, colorful Portuguese-era houses, and local cafés. Evening at leisure or optional short walk along the riverside promenade.

Day

3

### **Transfer to South Goa — Arrival at Cotigao Region & Evening Trail**

After breakfast check out and drive south toward Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary / Canacona (approx. 2.5–3 hours). En route optional stop at a beach or spice plantation for brief exploration. Arrive, check-in and freshen up.

Late afternoon guided short nature walk along the easy Cotigao trails; first measures to spot resident birds, butterflies and small mammals. Brief briefing on the next day's early morning trail. Important: Carry light rain protection during monsoon months.

Day

4

## **Full-Day Cotigao Trails & Birding — Watchtowers and Forest Walks**

Start early with a guided forest walk on the Cotigao Trails; explore primary and secondary forest patches, marshy stretches and lookout points. Focus on spotting species such as Malabar pied hornbill, woodpeckers, bulbuls, raptors and endemic passerines, plus reptiles and amphibians.

Midday: Return to lodge for rest. Afternoon visit to a nearby beach like Palolem or a community village to observe local life. Evening optional guided spotlight walk to try for nocturnal species (subject to permissions).

Note: Trails are moderate — good walking shoes, sun protection and insect repellent recommended.

Day

5

## **Morning Birding, Check-out & Departure**

Optional early-morning short birding walk around the lodge grounds to catch any missed species and enjoy the dawn chorus. Return for breakfast, check-out and transfer to Goa Airport / Madgaon Railway Station for your onward journey.

Trip ends with memories of Goa's quieter wildlife-rich corners.

Tip: If you have extra days, consider adding a day-trip to Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary or a mangrove tour for more biodiversity exploration.

## **🔍 Frequently Asked Questions**

---

### **🔍 When is the best time to visit Goa and what's the weather like?**

The best time to visit Goa is October to March (prime season) when the weather is dry with pleasant days (20–32°C) and cool nights. This period offers calm seas perfect for swimming, open beach shacks, vibrant nightlife, and ideal conditions for water sports. Summer (March–May) is hot but manageable with temperatures reaching 36°C, offering good deals and fewer crowds. Monsoon season (June–September) brings heavy rains and rough seas, with many beach activities suspended, but it's perfect for experiencing lush landscapes, waterfalls, and romantic ambiance at discounted rates. Christmas–New Year is peak season with highest prices and crowds.

---

## ❓ **How do I reach Goa and what are the transportation options?**

Goa has two airports: Manohar International Airport (GOX) in North Goa near Mopa, and Dabolim Airport (GOI) for Central/South Goa access. Both receive direct flights from major Indian cities and seasonal international connections. By train, major stations include Madgaon, Thivim, Karmali, and Vasco da Gama, connected via the scenic Konkan Railway. By road, NH 66 coastal highway and NH 48 via Western Ghats connect Goa to Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru. Overnight buses operate frequently from these cities. The journey from Mumbai takes 8-10 hours by road, while flights take 1.5 hours.

---

## ❓ **Do I need a visa to visit Goa as a tourist?**

Goa is part of India, so visa requirements depend on your nationality. Indian citizens need only valid government-issued photo ID. Foreign tourists require appropriate Indian visas - tourist visa, e-visa, or visa-on-arrival (for eligible countries). E-visas are convenient and can be obtained online for most nationalities, valid for 30-365 days depending on type. Processing typically takes 2-4 business days. Ensure your passport has at least 6 months validity and blank pages. Some nationalities like Bhutan and Nepal citizens don't need visas but require valid identification. Check the latest visa requirements on the official Indian visa website before traveling.

---

## ❓ **What are the best local transportation options in Goa?**

Goa offers diverse transportation options. Rental scooters/motorbikes are most popular for flexibility - carry your original license and wear helmets (mandatory). Motorcycle taxis called 'pilots' are unique to Goa, perfect for solo travelers. Regular taxis and app-based services like GoaMiles operate throughout. Kadamba state buses and private buses connect major towns and beaches affordably. River ferries to islands like Divar and Chorao are scenic and frequent. Auto-rickshaws exist but are limited in some areas. For comfort, rent a car with driver. Always negotiate fares beforehand for taxis and pilots, or use metered/app-based services.

---

## ❓ **Where should I stay in Goa and what accommodation options are available?**

North Goa (Calangute, Candolim, Anjuna, Vagator) offers vibrant nightlife, water sports, and party atmosphere with beach shacks, budget guesthouses to luxury resorts. South Goa (Colva, Benaulim, Palolem, Agonda) provides quieter, family-friendly vibes with wider beaches and upscale resorts. Panaji offers heritage charm and cultural experiences. Accommodation ranges from budget hostels (₹500-1500/night), mid-range hotels and beach resorts (₹2000-8000/night), to luxury properties like Taj, W Goa, and Alila Diwa (₹15000+/night). Beach huts and homestays offer authentic experiences. Book well in advance for December-January. Consider proximity to beaches, nightlife preferences, and transportation when choosing location.

---

## ❓ What are the must-visit attractions and places in Goa?

Essential Goa experiences include UNESCO-listed Old Goa churches (Basilica of Bom Jesus, Se Cathedral), colorful Fontainhas Latin Quarter in Panaji, and Fort Aguada for sunset views. North Goa highlights are Chapora Fort, Anjuna's Wednesday flea market, and Calangute-Baga beach strip. Don't miss Dudhsagar Falls (spectacular four-tier waterfall), spice plantations in Ponda, and peaceful Divar Island accessible by ferry. South Goa offers pristine beaches like Palolem and Agonda, plus hidden gems like Cola Beach's blue lagoon. Take sunset cruises on Mandovi River, explore Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, and visit off-beat Tambdi Surla Temple. Each region offers distinct experiences from heritage to nature to beaches.

## ❓ What local food and cuisine should I try in Goa?

Goan cuisine blends Portuguese and Konkani influences. Must-try dishes include Goan Fish Curry with rice, Pork Vindaloo, Chicken Cafreal (green masala), and Chicken Xacuti (coconut-spice curry). Seafood specialties are rava-fried fish, Prawn Balchão, and fresh catch at beach shacks. Try local breads like poi and pão, and end meals with bebinca (layered dessert) or dodol. Drink feni (cashew or coconut spirit) - Goa's signature alcohol, or seasonal urrak. Visit Vinayak Family Restaurant, Kokni Kanteen, or Martin's Corner for authentic experiences. Beach shacks serve fresh seafood with sea views. Vegetarians can enjoy sol kadhi, Goan dal, and coconut-based curries. Always try the local fish thali for a complete experience.

## ★ Traveller Reviews



**Aditi Sharma**

★★★★★ 5/5

### Amazing Experience in Goa!

We had a fantastic time exploring Goa with this tour package. The beaches were beautiful, and the itinerary was well-planned. Highly recommend!



**Rahul Desai**

★★★★★ 5/5

### Romantic Escape

We had the most romantic getaway in Goa. Sunset cruises and candlelight dinners made it memorable.



**Karan Singh**

★★★★★ 5/5

### Relaxing Beach Getaway

The beach resorts were luxurious, and the food was a delight. Perfect retreat for those looking to unwind. Would book again!



**Raghav Khanna**

★★★★★ 5/5

### Adventurous Couples Retreat

A wonderful package for couples looking to engage in fun activities together. We made amazing memories!



**Ashwin Varma**

★★★★☆ 4/5

### An Unforgettable Journey

Goa was stunning, and this tour enhanced our experience. From the scenic views to local interactions, it was unforgettable.

## ⚡ Why Choose TourGrids?

Because your dream vacation deserves the best! From expert advice to personalized trips, easy booking, and unbeatable deals — we make travel stress-free and fun!

### ⚡ Expert-Guided Planning

Personalized guidance from verified travel experts who understand your needs.

### ⚙️ Customizable Packages

Tailor your trip your way — destinations, experiences, budget. All up to you!

### 🛡️ Hassle-Free Booking

Smooth, secure, and simple booking process without any stress or confusion.

### 🔒 Best Price Guarantee

Multiple free quotes and booking at the most competitive rates available.

For the latest pricing, availability, and customization options, visit:

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/goa/goa-4-nights-5-days-package-697>