

Goa Birding & Wildlife 6N: Salim Ali, Cotigao & Bhagwan Mahavir Trails

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
Goa

Duration
6 Nights 7 Days

Starting from
Rs. 27,250 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ Panaji – Base for Salim Ali · 2N

↖ Canacona / Cotigao · 2N

↖ Molem / Bhagwan Mahavir · 2N

Overview

An immersive 6 nights / 7 days Goa tour package designed for birdwatchers, wildlife enthusiasts and families seeking nature-rich experiences. Explore the famed Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, trek through the dense forests of Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, and follow the trails of Bhagwan Mahavir / Mollem National Park. This Goa Family tour package offers expert naturalist guides, boat transfers, early-morning birding walks, and comfortable stays across North, South and Central Goa.

Highlights:

- Early-morning birding at Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary (Chorao Island)
- Guided wildlife trails in Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary
- Full-day exploration of Bhagwan Mahavir & Mollem National Park
- Optional Dudhsagar Waterfall jeep/trek (seasonal)
- Cultural stops: Old Goa & Panaji's Latin Quarter (Fontainhas)

This Goa Family package is tailored for families and small groups; trails are family-friendly but include early starts and moderate walks.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 6 nights accommodation (as per itinerary) in family-friendly hotels/lodges
- ✓ Daily breakfast (as specified); selected packed lunches on wildlife days
- ✓ All transfers and surface transportation in an air-conditioned vehicle
- ✓ Guided birding and wildlife walks with experienced naturalists
- ✓ Boat transfer to Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary (Chorao Island)
- ✓ Entry & permit fees for listed sanctuaries (subject to park rules)
- ✓ Local taxes and service charges
- ✓ On-ground assistance and emergency contact
- ✓ This Goa Family Retreat tour package includes family-oriented guides and moderate trails; specialist equipment (high-end optics) can be arranged on request.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ International/domestic flights or train tickets to Goa
- ✗ Meals not mentioned (lunches/dinners unless specified)
- ✗ Personal expenses (tips, laundry, phone calls)
- ✗ Travel insurance and medical expenses
- ✗ Optional activities not mentioned (Dudhsagar jeep/trek subject to surcharge and seasonal permits)
- ✗ Conservation fees or permit surcharges introduced by authorities after booking
- ✗ Any peak-season surcharges or single-room supplements

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Goa — Panaji (Fontainhas) & Orientation

Arrive at Goa (Dabolim Airport / Madgaon Railway Station). Transfer to Panaji and check in. Evening orientation with your naturalist guide to review the week's birding and wildlife plans. Short stroll through the Fontainhas Latin Quarter and riverside promenade. Early starts will be the norm — rest early.

Day

2

Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary — Morning Boat Safari & Riverine Birding

Early-morning boat transfer to Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary (Chorao Island) for guided birdwatching: expect to see kingfishers, egrets, herons, raptors, and various migratory species (seasonal). Return to Panaji for a relaxed afternoon: optional visit to the Salim Ali Interpretation Centre and a short city walk. Carry binoculars, sun protection and water.

Day

3

Transfer to South Goa — En route coastal & cultural stops

Drive south towards Canacona / Cotigao (approx. 3.5–4 hours) with scenic stops: viewpoints, a quick beach stop and lunch. Check into your South Goa lodge near Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary. Evening briefing on next day's trails and night-walk options (where permitted). Road transfers are comfortable; bring a light daypack for hikes.

Day

4

Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary — Full-day Guided Trail & Birding

Full day of exploration in Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary with a trained forest guide: canopy birding, mammal tracking (possible sightings: bonnet macaque, sambar deer, civets), butterflies, and endemic flora. Picnic lunch in designated area. Return to lodge in late afternoon; evening free to explore nearby Palolem/Agonda beaches. Sanctuary trails can be uneven — wear sturdy shoes.

Day

5

Transfer to Mollem — Tambdi Surla Temple & Spice Plantation Visit

Depart South Goa for Molem / Bhagwan Mahavir region. En route visit the 12th-century Tambdi Surla Temple and a local spice plantation for cultural immersion and a traditional Goan lunch. Reach Mollem, check in and prepare for next day's national park trek. Dudhsagar jeep/trek can be arranged today or on Day 6 (seasonal, subject to permits).

Day

6

Bhagwan Mahavir Sanctuary & Mollem National Park — Wildlife Trails

Full-day guided exploration of Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary & Mollem National Park: dense evergreen and deciduous forests, panoramic viewpoints, riverine systems and rich birdlife (including hornbills, trogons, pittas when in season). Option for a moderate trek to scenic vantage points. Carry insect repellent and rain gear in monsoon months.

Day

7

Departure — Old Goa Churches or Beach Time (Depending on flight)

After breakfast, check out and drive back toward Panaji/airport. If time permits, visit Old Goa (Basilica of Bom Jesus, Se Cathedral) or enjoy a short beach stop. Transfer to Dabolim Airport / Madgaon Station for onward travel. Flexible departure options — we can adjust based on flight/train timings.

? 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 pãõ, 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?

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