

# Island & River Discovery 8N Goa: Mandovi Cruises & Island Hopping

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination  
**Goa**



Duration  
**8 Nights 9 Days**



Starting from  
**Rs. 34,900 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE

↪ Calangute / Baga · 4N

↪ Panaji / Old Goa · 2N

↪ Colva / Benaulim · 2N

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/goa/goa-8-nights-9-days-package-732>

## Overview

---

An immersive 8 nights / 9 days Goa tour package designed for travellers who want to combine beach relaxation, river cruises, island hopping and cultural discovery. This Goa Weekend tour package and extended holiday option (ideal as an 8 and 9 Goa Weekend tour package) covers North, Central and South Goa highlights with signature experiences like the Mandovi River Sunset Cruise, Divar & Chorao Island visits, and Grand Island snorkelling & diving.

### Highlights:

- Mandovi River Sunset Cruise (live music & dinner)
- Grand Island snorkeling & glass-bottom boat ride
- Divar & Chorao Island cultural walk and local village life
- North Goa beaches: Baga, Calangute, Candolim
- Panaji (Panjim) capital sightseeing & Portuguese architecture
- South Goa serenity: Colva, Benaulim, Palolem
- Guided heritage walk in Fontainhas (Panaji Latin Quarter)
- Water-sports options and dolphin sightings

Special note: Daily plans can be customized; adventure activities (scuba diving, parasailing) are optional add-ons and priced separately.

### ✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 8 nights accommodation (as per chosen category) across North, Central and South Goa
- ✓ Daily breakfast at the hotel
- ✓ Private transfers and sightseeing in an air-conditioned vehicle as per itinerary
- ✓ Mandovi River Sunset Cruise with dinner and entertainment (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Full-day Grand Island boat trip with snorkeling & glass-bottom boat (boat seats and basic snorkeling gear included)
- ✓ Ferry transfers to Divar & Chorao Islands and guided village walk
- ✓ Local English-speaking guides for scheduled sightseeing
- ✓ All applicable hotel taxes and service charges
- ✓ Note: Room upgrades, special requests and any off-program transfers are available at extra cost.

### ✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / Train tickets to/from Goa
- ✗ Meals other than specified (lunches, dinners unless included)
- ✗ Adventure activities not listed (scuba diving, parasailing, jet-ski) – available at additional cost
- ✗ Monument entry fees, camera fees, personal expenses and tips
- ✗ Travel insurance, visa fees and medical expenses
- ✗ Any service not specified in 'Inclusions'
- ✗ Important: Prices are subject to change during peak season and festivals; confirm bookings early.

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

---

Day

1

### **Arrival in Goa & North Goa Welcome**

Arrival at Goa (Dabolim) Airport or Madgaon Railway Station and private transfer to your hotel in Calangute / Baga. Check-in and relax. Evening at leisure to explore the vibrant beach shacks and local markets. Optional: enjoy a sunset walk on Baga Beach and sample Goan seafood.

Important activities:

- Hotel check-in and orientation
- Leisure evening at Baga / Calangute Beach

Tip: Keep the first evening easy to adjust to the coastal pace.

Day

2

### **North Goa Sightseeing & Beach Hopping**

Full-day guided exploration of North Goa. Visit the famous beaches and landmarks, blending sun, surf and culture. Experience popular spots, shopping and a lively beach atmosphere.

Planned visits:

- Calangute Beach and Baga Beach (relaxation, optional water sports)
- Candolim (quiet stretches and fort views)
- Fort Aguada & Aguada Lighthouse for panoramic views
- Explore local flea markets and evening nightlife on Tito's Lane (optional)

Tip: Book water-sports in advance during peak season.

Day

3

### **Mandovi River Sunset Cruise & Panaji Highlights**

Morning at leisure. Afternoon transfer to Panaji (Panjim). Explore the Latin Quarter Fontainhas with a guided heritage walk. In the evening, board the iconic Mandovi River Sunset Cruise featuring live music, Goan dance performances and dinner.

Planned visits & experiences:

- Fontainhas (Latin Quarter) guided walk
- Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception (photo stop)
- Mandovi River Cruise — sunset, dinner & entertainment

Note: Cruise timings depend on tide schedules; confirm locally.

Day

4

### **Divar & Chorao Island Cultural Day Trip**

A serene day discovering village life and birdlife. Ferry across the Mandovi to Divar Island for a quiet village walk, Portuguese-era homes and local cuisine. Later visit Chorao Island, home to the Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary — excellent for birdwatching and mangrove scenery.

Highlights:

- Village strolls and local interactions on Divar Island
- Visit to Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary (Chorao)
- Relaxed sunset by the riverside back in Panaji

Tip: Carry binoculars for birdwatching and light footwear for narrow lanes.

Day

5

### **Grand Island Snorkeling & Island Hopping**

Early morning transfer to the jetty for a full-day boat excursion to Grand Island (Ilha Grande). Activities include snorkeling, glass-bottom boat rides, beach time on the island and optional scuba diving (at extra cost). Lunch on board or picnic on the island.

Adventure highlights:

- Snorkeling over coral patches and colorful fish
- Glass-bottom boat viewing
- Beach time and optional diving sessions

Important: Snorkeling/diving depends on sea conditions; not recommended for non-swimmers without guidance.

Day

6

### **Transfer to South Goa & Relaxed Beach Day**

Check out from North/Central Goa and transfer to Colva / Benaulim in South Goa. Afternoon at leisure to unwind on calmer beaches, enjoy beachside shacks and a slower pace.

Activities:

- Scenic transfer south along the coastline
- Relaxation at Colva Beach or Benaulim Beach
- Optional Ayurvedic spa or yoga session

Tip: South Goa is quieter — ideal for couples and families seeking relaxation.

Day

7

## South Goa Exploration & Heritage

Morning visit to nearby coastal attractions and heritage sites. Explore the serene beaches and historic churches of South Goa. Evening cocoa or sunset at Palolem if time permits.

Planned visits:

- Benaulim local market and shoreline
- Visit historic churches (subject to interest)
- Optional sunset trip to Palolem (scenic drive)

Note: Transport for optional Palolem trip can be arranged at an add-on cost.

Day

8

## Leisure Day & Optional Activities

A free day to choose how you spend it: relax, shop or take optional experiences. Options include additional water-sports, dolphin watching, a cooking class to learn Goan cuisine, or an Ayurvedic treatment.

Suggested options (payable locally):

- Dolphin-watching boat trip
- Parasailing, jet-ski or banana ride
- Goan cooking class and market visit

Tip: Book popular activities a day in advance to secure slots.

Day

9

## Departure from Goa

Check-out from the hotel and private transfer to Dabolim Airport or Madgaon Railway Station for your onward journey. If time allows, stop for last-minute shopping or a quick beach photo session.

Departure details:

- Hotel check-out and transfer assistance
- Final souvenir shopping stops (time permitting)

Note: Standard check-out and transfer times apply; extendable on request (subject to availability).

## 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-8-nights-9-days-package-732>