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D **A** **R** I E S

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INDO ASIA TOURS

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Mili Mc Carthy

Mili Mc Carthy came to Goa in early 90's and what touched her heart was the simple Goan life rather than the golden beaches and the predictable experiences. She veered off into the slim lanes, discovered her love for watching football and really understood the slow paced life in the countryside villages. She remembers thinking, ***'this is the most ideal place to live in the whole wide world.'*** Goa's distinct culture, food and quality of life are what drew her to this quiet seaside destination. The clean, endless, golden-white beaches fringed with coconut palms is just one the many gems that Goa had to offer. For Mili, a sunset didn't look half as spectacular if it didn't have the local football team in the foreground, with a passion, which could easily be reserved for World Cup players alone.

This is one of her favourite images to conjure up when she thinks of Goa. The Bogmalo beach - more a local haunt than for wide eyes tourist. Since there is no curious gaze here, the locals are more relaxed and themselves. Accents are dropped, there is no care in the world and there is no image to maintain. This is when the young boys come out in the evening and pour out their love for football till the sun descends into the horizon. The scene is nothing less than extraordinary.



NUDGE THE STORYTELLER IN YOU TO SUBMIT A PHOTOGRAPH FROM YOUR TRAVELS AND WIN A TRIP TO EXPLORE THE MARVELS OF INDIA.

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FOOTBALL AT SUNSET

Photo Location : Bogmalo Beach, Goa



A Portuguese styled house in Fontainhas

It's time to ditch 'Goa, sand, sea and beer' in one sentence and try something like 'Goa, waterfalls, birding and history'! Let this picture appear majestically into sight and you will never go with the predictable image of Goa again. Yes, the beaches are mesmerizing and yes the warm and convivial ambience about them is hard to resist, but *step into inland Goa to explore more.*

Fontainhas

Reds, blues and yellows converge at the erstwhile Latin Quarter of Goa, in the city of Panjim. This is vintage Goa. The one where Portuguese architecture meets Hindu influences in the slim maze of streets. Reminiscent of 18th century Lisbon, the houses still retain their elegance with roofs formed of red tiles and walls painted in pale yellow, green or blue colours. *Modern architectural influence has been kept at bay from the streets of Fontainhas, for heritage to thrive and inspire.*

Ferry it to Chorao Island

Of the many wonders that the serene backwater of the Mandovi throws up, the Chorao Island is one of them. Ride onto the ferry from Ribander with your scooter on it, and get dropped on the other side. *What unfolds is a spectacular sight of the reserved area of the Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary.* Full of dense mangrove swamps, the most appropriate way to navigate is by a canoe. The Chorao village on the island in the middle of the river, is a small cluster of mud and thatch houses and a handful of exquisite Portuguese villas. A small village Church adds a dash of atmosphere to the already stunning place.



Confeitaria 31 De Janeiro_the oldest bakery in Fontainhas

Go Off the Grid

Visit John Pollard's 'off-the-grid' farm in thick undergrowth of Castle Rock at the edge of Goa and Karnataka. The over five-acre farm is heavenly for those who like to unplug from city life. Get oriented into life in the wilderness, living in the tent, star lit bathrooms and life without modern conveniences. *What you will sign up for is an otherworldly idea of living by being one with nature.*

Cabo De Rama

Antiquity isn't a stranger to Cabo De Rama, a fort that changed many hands over its lifetime. From Hindu rulers to Mughals and then to the Portuguese. After capturing the fort in the 1700s, the Portuguese renovated it and constructed a chapel and barracks. The chapel inside the fort is still in use. *The fort promises stunning scapes no matter which side you peep down from.*

CROSSING CULTURES

A DIFFERENT SIDE

Goa beyond the beaches

STORIES FROM THE SUB-CONTINENT



*The Zuri White Sands
Goa Resort & Casino
Unplug. Unwind.*

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SUPRIYA SEHGAL

Footloose in Goa Journey into the heart of India.

The idea of the balmy evening sea breeze caressing her cheeks, fresh watermelon juice in hand and first row seat to a stunning sunset is the most relaxing image that Supriya can conjure up in her mind. The destination? Goa of course! *No matter how many times that our in-house wanderer has hit the state, there are always new spots to discover!* Goa's landscape is remarkably unique. It ranges from the dark thick-forested Western Ghats mountain range on its interior border, lush river valleys and miles of beaches skirting the Arabian Sea from its top to bottom. Add to that the charm of Portuguese inspired villas, and the lazy 'Susegad' life and you have a recipe for a holiday made for unwinding. Here are some of the top 'Goa essentials' that Supriya suggests.



Souza Lobo on Calangute beach*.

Dig in like a local

The culinary heritage is something that the Goan's are proud of. For a meal, a la Goa, step into the world of Souza Lobo on Calangute beach. Lobster Thermidor, Crab Xacuti and prawn curry with a dollop of rice are just few of the many things that you should look forward to. Not only is the food spectacular, the old world Goa charm runs deep here. Sway with the love bands and even get up and do a jig with the locals. As they say, Souza Lobo isn't a restaurant, it is a state of mind!

Tiracol Fort

There is something about borders – the lure of standing on an edge and looking over at another side. Tiracol Fort is made for those people who are intrigued by borders. Standing on the northernmost tip of the state, Fort Tiracol is reached by a ferry from Querim. *It's yellow walls stand in deep contrast with the dense green around.* Stand on the rooftop restaurant and peep down at the blue ocean. Now a heritage hotel, the 18th century fort has a fresh lease of life. A handful of churches, a secluded beach and village life are the other

requisites for a lazy holiday – all met at the Tiracol Fort.

Monsoon Wonder

As the tourist population slims and beach shacks collapse for a few months, Goa adorns a fresh avtaar in the monsoon months. A metamorphosis if you will. Thick grey skies drape the otherwise sunny beaches in an otherworldly splendor. It's the perfect weather to hit the narrow inland roads, stretches of green clinging the roadsides. It's nothing short of magical. *The incessant dribble of rain is like music to the ears, perfect to curl up on a couch – a good book and coffee in hand.*

More than just hippie life

North of Vagator beach is where the crowds thin out and a relative sense of calm overcomes on the sandy edges of the sea. *Head out in the direction of Ashwem and Morjim where flat, long beaches meet the horizon – not a soul in sight for as far as your eyes can see.* Morjim, where protected Olive Ridley sea turtles still come to lay eggs on the beach is a hotspot for wildlife enthusiasts and 'beach discoverers' alike – both not getting in each other's way. Mandrem is where the fresh river water and the ocean converges, offering a unique setting. Go further up to Arambol, still reminiscent of the 60's flower-power vibe.

In the land of crumbling relics

If you are a history enthusiast, a detour to Panjim's Latin Quarter, Fontainhas and the old Goa churches is recommended. Roam the slim streets of Fontainhas, shadowed by high walls, dotted with Portuguese styled windows. The red, blues and yellows give a Lisbon like



The monsoon skies drape Goa in a menacing grey

feel. Quaint cafes, local bars and ancient bakeries keep you on your toes for hours – till you are ready to plunk at an unassuming home-run restaurant for some fresh seafood!

Crocodile Watching Cumbarjua

Not for the fainthearted, this is one of the most thrilling and almost untreaded activities in Goa. Close to the Cambarjua village are thick mangrove jungles, known to be home to many crocodiles. *Wildlife enthusiasts will love to get upclose in a canoe or a boat to see river crocodiles sprawl on the sides in the hot sun.* Glide through the Cambarjua Canal and watch these crocs in their natural habitat. Some of the other places to see them are in Quepem, Chora and Tivim.

TOP SPOT

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* image courtesy: souzalobo.com



THE ZURI WHITE SANDS GOA RESORT & CASINO

Standing at the edge of a white endless beach that meet the horizon, Zuri has an endless allure – luxurious rooms, paradisiacal pool a spa and a casino! If there is one place that conspires to spoil you silly – this is it!

- It's Goa! Get sandy toes at the bone-white beach
- Heaven in blue – our swimming pool!
- A swim up bar to ensure you're never too far from a drink.
- Let the games begin at the Dunes casino.
- Cuisines & dining options aplenty.
- Tease your palate with culinary delicacies.
- Relax, rejuvenate and refresh at the Maya spa.
- The Zuri rooms- turn your stay into pure indulgence.
- Business centre for those who want to catch up on work.
- Open air banquet facilities.
- Superior conference facilities.



**TOP
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The Howard Plaza Gets A New Management, Agra



The heart of the Golden Triangle, Agra, leaves no stone unturned where hospitality is concerned. One of the top hotels of the city, The Howard Plaza, has changed its management to Concept

Hospitality. The 86-room hotel will now be re-christened Howard Plaza The Fern-Agra under CG Hotels & Resorts' 'The Fern' brand. Located in the center of the tourist zone, the hotel is just walking distance from the Taj Mahal. Great access to the Taj and a central location of the hotel has made it one of the top choices for travellers over the years. With the new management, the popularity is sure to only ascend. With eight meeting rooms and event spaces, the property is a great choice for business meetings as well as large scale events, for up to 500 people. A well-equipped fitness centre, spa and an outdoor swimming pool completes the experience for guests.

Sky Rocketing Success for e-TV



The sound of 'Experience Bengal' will resonate in the state, as West Bengal launches its brand new identity. The tourism wing of West Bengal Tourism revealed its re-branding, which talks of the state as 'the sweetest part

of India'. It now brings other destinations in its folds, moving away from the usual suspects like Kolkata and Darjeeling. The new avatar of West Bengal was thought of and created by top ad agency, Ogilvy & Mather. The new logo embodies the fresh thinking of the state where tourism is concerned. The logo will be seen in all new collaterals from now. Director of Tourism, West Bengal, Umapada Chatterjee, said, "We are now trying to catch up with the leading tourism states in the country. We have everything the tourists want to experience, but we could not market them well." Hopefully, a new brand identity and image will drive travel enthusiasts to explore the state.

Goa Digs Into Deep Pockets



Goa is regarded as a world-class destination. To boost the success story of this small seaside state, the Indian Government has sanctioned Rs 64.95 crore for tourism.

The Centre has allotted Rs 40.40 lakh towards integrated

infrastructure for heritage and hinterland development of tourism in Goa. The Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology gets Rs 12 crores. The Centre has also sanctioned Rs 7.58 crores for Development of the Colva Coastal Circuit and Rs 4.98 crores is allotted towards development of Baga Circuit in North Goa. Travellers can look forward to helicopter connectivity, a golf course and a luxury cruise.

Tirupati Adds Ginger To Its Hospitality Scape



With the swelling crowds to Tirumala temple, there is always room (quite literally) for good service by additional hotels in the city of Tirupati. Ginger has

stepped into the temple city with great access to the key temples and brilliant hospitality, a la Ginger. Rahul Pandit, CEO, Roots Corporation, said, "We are pleased to present Ginger hotel in the city of Tirupati that attracts millions of pilgrims every year. We are confident of delivering pilgrim friendly stays that will be an attractive proposition for both business and religious sojourners." The hotel offers 119 rooms with 'Smart Basics' features that intend to provide guests with a comfortable and convenient hotel stay experience.

Government Approves 14 Additional Airports

With the growing need for better and faster connectivity within Indian cities, it is imperative that a new road is paved for additional airports. This has come true, with the GOI granting funds 'in principle' for fourteen more Greenfield airports within the country. Cities like Mopa



in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Sindhudurg and Shirdi in Maharashtra, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Hassan and Shimoga in Karnataka, Kannur in Kerala, Dabra in Gwalior, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh can look forward to this significant change in transportation.

E-Tourist Visa for China, Hong Kong and Macau



The burgeoning list of countries that are eligible for the e-tourist visa, introduced by the Government of India, has a new entrant from 30th July onwards. In a bid to increase the list to 150 countries that will be able

to avail this facility, the news of China, Hong Kong and Macau being added to the list is welcomed. With these three additional countries, the list now stands at 77. The e-Tourist Visa scheme launched by the Government of India on the November 27, 2015 has been extended to a number of countries so far and will continue to open up access in a phased manner.

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MEET US AT



Indo Asia Tours is participating in the below mentioned upcoming trade fairs in 2015. You can schedule an appointment at marketing@indoasiatours.com to meet us in person at these fairs :

- IATO Convention, Indore : 20-23 August
- Pata Travel Mart, Bangalore: 06-08 Sep
- IFTM Top Resa, Paris : 29 Sep -02
- Madhya Pradesh Travel Mart, Bhopal: 16-18 Oct
- SITE, Delhi: 23-25 Oct
- WTM, London: 2-5 Nov

IA SAYS



the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, on camel back.

In the present times, we are more than convinced due to the political developments in the subcontinent, that the North East will be the gateway to the entire South East Asia region. It offers some of the most spectacular landscapes - forests, wildlife sanctuaries, tribal hotspots. The entire region is a potpourri of cultural traditions. This hidden jewel of India is stunning in every sense of the word – sometimes even more than Indo China region. A variety of tourism opportunities present a new dimension of India, one that you would have never encountered before. *Pristine villages, dips and peaks of lush valleys and the strains of local folk music meet you at every bend.*

Indo Asia has developed exclusive trips to, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, from Kolkata through Bangladesh into Manipur and from Manipur on the road to Mandalay in Myanmar. It's about time that one will be able to travel from India to Myanmar, right upto Kunming in China. Why not come today and explore Arunachal Pradesh with us? Arunachal Pradesh offers great wild life sanctuaries, rich birdwatching experiences, unspoiled ethnic tribal villages, unique customs, majestic Buddhist monasteries, original folk tribal music, dances, colourful festivals, a burgeoning weaving industry and grand gastronomical spreads. The people are warm and welcoming. Travel with us to a new world! Travel to the North East.

Sunirmol Ghosh

Right from its inception, it has been our endeavour to explore new destinations that have an enduring appeal for the travellers. *We are proud to say that due to our exploratory outlook, we have managed to unearth some of the best destinations in the subcontinent.* We are always hungry to explore and to offer something “new” to our discerning travellers. Indo Asia Tours was amongst the first to offer an expedition to the desert mountains of Ladakh via Manali, as well as the Spiti and Lahaul journey from Shimla. When talking of unique journeys, it was almost 25 years ago that we first set out on our first ever expedition from the deserts of Rajasthan into

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!



Ramakishan Pareek | Senior Executive –Accounts

Our resident music maestro, Ramakishan epitomizes just how an accounts person should be – cool, clear headed and relaxed. It may have a lot to do with his love for music, but we are taking the credit for the fantastic ambience in office. Nothing frazzles Rama, and we love him for that.