

GOA 2026

Trip Brochure · 19-23 August 2026

Julien Day School (Reunion – 30 Yrs) · Elgin Road, Kolkata · Batch of 1996



Siquerim / Candolim — our first evening on the sand

Friends for Life

Dwaipayan Mojumder	Pritam Kumar	Poulomi Saha	Avro Mukherjee
Prasenjit Daw	Amrita Sen	Maya Chowdhury	Nabanita Sarkar
Tanushree Dutta	Rajneel Sengupta	Pallav Mitra	

Our base: a villa in Arpora, North Goa · Booking: <https://www.airbnb.com/I/MAYCuJQ2>

Day 1 · 19 Aug 2026 (Wednesday)

Arrival & Coastal Soft Landing

Check-in, then a gentle first evening at Candolim / Sinquerim



Route: Goa Airport → Arpora stay → Candolim / Sinquerim Beach

Highlights

- 10:50 Depart Kolkata (CCU)** — Main group flies out of Kolkata at 10:50. Dwai & Pritam reach earlier and will be at the villa by around 16:00.
- 14:35 Arrive Goa Airport (Mopa / Dabolim)** — Collect baggage and transfer to the stay in Arpora. Prepaid taxi counters are reliable; app cabs can be patchy at the airport.
- 16:00 Check-in at the Arpora villa** — Freshen up, claim rooms, and order lunch/snacks on Zomato or Swiggy so nobody loses beach time to a restaurant queue.
- 17:30 Candolim & Sinquerim Beach** — A 15–20 minute drive to a wide, calm stretch of sand that is far less frantic than Baga or Calangute — the perfect opening evening.
- 19:30 Dinner at a beach shack** — First proper Goan meal — try prawn balchão, rechad mackerel, chicken cafreal and a plate of fish curry rice.
- 21:00 Back to the villa · Book tomorrow's car** — Non-negotiable action item: confirm the self-drive car for the North Goa trail tonight. Morning bookings get expensive and scarce.



Do

- Confirm the self-drive car for Day 2 before sleeping.
- Keep the villa's exact pin location shared in the group.
- Carry cash — many shacks don't take cards.

Don't

- Don't plan anything heavy on arrival day; travel fatigue is real.
- Don't swim after dark or after drinking.
- Don't leave bags unattended on the beach.

Evening: Evening kept deliberately unhurried — no fixed plan after dinner. Reunion adda at the villa, music, cards, whatever the mood is.

Day 2 · 20 Aug 2026 (Thursday)

North Goa Forts, Cliffs & the Baga Night

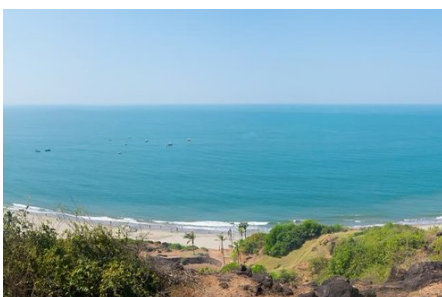
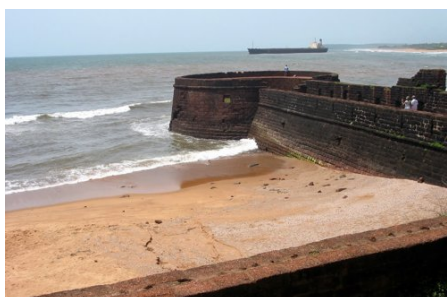
Aguada → Chapora → Vagator/Anjuna → Morjim → Baga sunset



Route: Fort Aguada → Chapora Fort → Vagator / Anjuna (lunch) → Anjuna Beach → Morjim → Baga

Highlights

- 08:30 Breakfast & departure** — Breakfast at the villa, car rolls out by 09:45. Fuel up on the way.
- 10:00 Fort Aguada** — A monumental laterite fort on the headland where the Mandovi meets the Arabian Sea. Ramparts, a four-storey lighthouse and a giant freshwater cistern. Entry ₹25/person; allow 60–70 minutes.
- 11:30 Chapora Fort** — The 'Dil Chahta Hai' fort — a short, easy climb rewarded with a 270° sweep over Vagator beach, the Chapora river mouth and Morjim on the far bank. ~45 minutes.
- 13:00 Lunch at Vagator / Anjuna** — Seaside cafés with cliff views — Curlies, La Plage, Thalassa (Greek, sunset views, book ahead) or a no-frills local Goan joint.
- 14:30 Anjuna Beach** — Black-rock coves, far less crowded than Baga, and the spiritual home of Goa's 1960s hippie era. Watersports (parasailing, jet ski) run only if the sea allows.
- 16:15 Morjim / Vagator detour** — 'Little Russia' — a wide, quiet, wind-swept beach at the mouth of the Chapora, and a nesting site for Olive Ridley turtles.
- 17:30 Baga Beach finale** — Sunset, live music, shacks and the famous Tito's Lane energy. Dinner at any pub or sea-facing restaurant here.
- 22:00 Return to the villa** — Wind down; tomorrow is a heritage day with an early-ish start.



Do

- Wear grippy footwear for the fort climbs.
- Carry a rain shell and a dry bag for phones.
- Confirm the next day's car again tonight.

Don't

- Don't drink and drive — Goa's checks are strict and fines are heavy.
- Don't ignore red flags or swim at unmanned stretches.
- Don't ride two-wheelers without helmets.

Day 3 · 21 Aug 2026 (Friday)

Heritage Day — Old Goa & the Latin Quarter

Basilica → Sé Cathedral → Panaji → Fontainhas → Miramar / Dona Paula



Route: Old Goa churches → Panaji lunch → Fontainhas walk → Panaji Church → Miramar / Dona Paula

Highlights

- 09:45 Drive to Old Goa** — A scenic 40–45 minute run along NH66 with river crossings and monsoon-green hills.
- 10:30 Basilica of Bom Jesus** — UNESCO World Heritage Site and the most revered church in Goa. Extraordinary Baroque façade in exposed laterite, gilded altar, and the tomb of St. Francis Xavier. ~50 minutes.
- 11:30 Sé Cathedral** — Directly across the lawn — the largest church in Asia, with a vast barrel-vaulted nave and the 'Golden Bell'. ~35 minutes.
- 12:45 Lunch in Panaji** — Classic Goan lunch — Ritz Classic (fish thali), Hotel Venite (first-floor balconies), or Viva Panjim in Fontainhas itself.
- 14:00 Fontainhas Latin Quarter walk** — Goa's most photogenic neighbourhood — ochre, indigo and lime houses, oyster-shell windows, narrow lanes, tiny galleries and century-old bakeries. Allow 60–75 minutes on foot.
- 15:30 Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception** — The iconic white church with its zig-zag staircase above Panaji's town square, then a stroll along the Campal promenade.
- 16:30 Miramar & Dona Paula** — Where the Mandovi and Zuari meet the Arabian Sea. Miramar's golden crescent for the walk, Dona Paula's jetty viewpoint for the sunset.
- 18:00 Return to the villa** — Free evening. Dinner nearby or delivered in.



Do

- Dress modestly for the churches (shoulders and knees covered).
- Carry cash for Fontainhas cafés and bakeries.
- Keep water and a foldable umbrella in the car.

Don't

- Don't use flash or make noise inside the Basilica.
- Don't wander into private courtyards in Fontainhas.
- Don't park casually in Panaji — use the paid lots to avoid towing.

Evening: Back by ~19:00 with the rest of the night free. Suggested: a laid-back Mandovi river cruise, or simply order in and take over the villa terrace.

Day 4 · 22 Aug 2026 (Saturday)

The Serene South Goa Journey

Cabo de Rama → Agonda → Palolem → Butterfly Beach → Patnem



Route: Arpora → Cabo de Rama Fort (optional) → Agonda → Palolem → Patnem → back

Highlights

- 07:30 Early breakfast, 08:45 departure** — South Goa is a 1.5–2 hour drive. The early start is what makes this day work — and the Western Ghats route in monsoon is glorious.
-
- 10:15 Cabo de Rama Fort** — A dramatic clifftop fort with sweeping ocean views and almost no crowds. Roughly 40–45 minutes including photos.
-
- 11:30 Agonda Beach** — A three-kilometre arc of clean, quiet sand backed by palms — repeatedly rated among Asia's best beaches. Perfect for a slow walk and a long brunch.
-
- 12:45 Lunch at Agonda** — Beachfront shacks and cafés — grilled catch of the day is the move.
-
- 14:15 Palolem Beach** — The famous crescent bay — calm, shallow, sheltered water. Kayaking, swimming and dolphin-spotting boats all operate from here.
-
- 15:30 Butterfly Beach by boat** — A secluded, near-circular cove reachable only by sea. Shared boats from Palolem run ₹300–400/person, roughly 20–25 minutes each way.
-
- 17:30 Patnem Beach** — Five minutes from Palolem — one of Goa's cleanest and calmest beaches. A short walk and a coffee before the drive back.
-
- 18:00 Return journey** — 1.5–2 hours back. Dinner en route or near the villa around 20:30.



Do

- Start on time — this day collapses if you leave late.
- Carry cash for the Butterfly Beach boat.
- Keep a full tank and a phone power bank.

Don't

- Don't drive to Butterfly Beach.
- Don't attempt cliff selfies at Cabo de Rama.
- Don't rush the return leg at night in the rain.

Day 5 · 23 Aug 2026 (Sunday)

Slow Morning, Souvenirs & Farewell

Check-out, last beach walk, and the flight home



Route: Villa → local café / market → Goa Airport → Kolkata

Highlights

08:00 Breakfast & packing — Unhurried breakfast, final packing, settle the kitty and check out.

10:00 Last-minute shopping — Cashew feni, Goan spices and masalas, bebinca, port wine, chorizo, handicrafts and fridge magnets. Calangute market or the Mapusa market if timing allows.

12:00 Drive to the airport — Leave a generous buffer for monsoon traffic. Return flight to Kolkata (CCU).

Do

- Do a final sweep of every room and the pool area for left-behind items.
- Return the self-drive car with the agreed fuel level.
- Photograph the villa before handover.

Don't

- Don't buy alcohol at the last minute at the airport counter — it's pricier.
- Don't cut the airport buffer thin on a rainy Sunday.

Packing & Safety

Pack

- Light quick-dry clothes + one full-sleeve set for evenings
- Rain shell / poncho and a compact umbrella (August is monsoon)
- Grippy sandals or trail shoes for slippery fort steps
- Dry bag or zip pouches for phones, cash and documents
- Swimwear, quick-dry towel, spare change of clothes in the car
- Reef-safe SPF 50, sunglasses, cap — the sun bites between showers
- Mosquito repellent and after-bite cream
- Power bank, car phone mount, multi-plug extension for the villa

Medical kit

- Personal prescriptions with a copy of the prescription
- ORS sachets, anti-diarrhoeal, antacid, paracetamol
- Motion-sickness tablets for the Ghat drive and boat ride
- Antiseptic cream, band-aids, crepe bandage
- Antihistamine for jellyfish stings or allergies

Documents

- Government photo ID for every guest (mandatory at check-in)
- Driving licence for anyone driving the self-drive car
- Airbnb booking confirmation + host contact saved offline
- Flight tickets and travel insurance details
- Adequate cash — Goa runs on cash outside the big restaurants

Safety rules

- Swim only at flagged, lifeguard-patrolled stretches — monsoon rip currents are lethal.
- Never swim after drinking, and never after sunset.
- Zero drink-driving. Goa Police run frequent night checks; fines and detention are real.
- Helmets are mandatory on two-wheelers, including pillion.
- Emergency numbers: 112 (all-in-one), 108 (ambulance), Drishti lifeguards 1800 121 8100.
- Keep one shared WhatsApp live-location on during day trips.
- Photograph the rental car's existing damage before driving off.
- Don't carry or accept drugs — penalties in Goa are severe and non-negotiable.

Money

- Carry ₹8,000–10,000 cash per person; shacks and Fontainhas cafés are cash-only.
- Run a shared UPI kitty for fuel, entries and group meals.
- Confirm seafood prices before ordering — it's often billed by weight.
- Fort Aguada entry is ₹25/person; Butterfly Beach boat ₹300–400/person.

Add the plan to your calendar: </api/public/itinerary.ics> · Full itinerary PDF: [Goa-2026-Itinerary.pdf](#)