

## Best of Goa – Southern India

With i-to-i

2 weeks from **AUS\$1299.00** excl. flights

\* excludes air – please ask us for the best available airfares at time of booking

Start dates: 20<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012



### Best of Goa Includes :

- Accommodation: Shared room in home stay. Tree house accommodation in Palolem beach
- Food: All meals - breakfast lunch and dinner as stated on the itinerary
- Airport Pickup: Included on arrival date. Ask us for details if you're arriving early!
- Training: In-country orientation
- Support: Pre-departure helpdesk, local in-country team and 24 hour emergency support

### Do you want to discover amazing Goa?

Experience the best that Goa has to offer in this great two week trip, spice plantations, elephants, beaches and markets not to mention helping bring some joy into the lives of street children.

The warm-hearted hospitality of the friendly locals coupled with the relaxing ambience and seamless sunsets means just one thing; a visit to Goa is set to be an unforgettable experience.

Though the tourists are encouraged to laze on the sun kissed beaches we would like to remind them that there is much more to Goa than its beautiful shores. Take this opportunity to help brighten the lives of street children in Goa as well as having the trip of a lifetime.

### Trip Highlights:

- Experience an elephant ride and elephant wash at Spice Plantations
- Overnight at the famous Palolem Beach
- Bring smiles to the faces of street children in Goa and learn about life in India
- Shop 'til you drop at Anjuna Flea market, Saturday Nite Bazaar and Mapusa market
- Relish traditional Goan cuisine

### Fast Facts

- **Project Duration:** Min 2 weeks
- **Project Costs:** AUS\$1299.00 for 2 weeks
- **Location of project:** Goa
- **Arrival Airport:** Goa International Airport (airport code GOI)
- **Activities:** Various activities at the project including teaching English, reading stories, writing, telling stories and playing games
- **Working Hours:** 6 evenings during the trip 4pm to 6pm
- **Getting to the project:** 10 minute drive, cost of which is included
- **Requirements:** Minimum age 18

### What's not included

- Flights, Insurance, Visas, Return Airport transfer, Local Transport other than shown as included in the itinerary below, meals not included on the itinerary, elephant wash and elephant ride at Spice Plantation, beach sports, massages and anything not shown as included in itinerary

### About Us

Schoolies & Beyond is a division of Newport Travel a licensed travel agent based on Sydney's Northern beaches for over 30 years. Our NSW travel agent licence number is 2TA5251 and for your protection and peace of mind we are a member of the Travel Compensation Fund.

### Contact Us

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## Itinerary

### Day 1 (Sunday): Arrive into Goa International Airport (airport code GOI)

Today you will be met at the airport by a member of the i-to-i team outside the arrivals area. The journey from the airport to Calangute should take around 45 minutes, so you will be able to sit back and enjoy this tiny emeralds land with its' natural scenic beauty. For the rest of the day you will have time to relax and enjoy your surroundings as well as meeting your home stay family and fellow travelers.

If you aren't able to arrange a flight to get you into Goa on the designated arrival day then we'd recommend you fly in a day early. We can arrange an early airport pick-up for you including one night's accommodation for an additional fee. Please call us for more information.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included.

### Day 2 (Monday): Orientation Day

Today you will have an orientation meeting with your coordinator who will teach you about the rich Goan heritage. We've tried to include the best of all worlds on this trip; travel, beaches, churches, temples, animals, and volunteering and your coordinator will be able to tell you all you want to know. After a tasty lunch of Indian cuisine you can spend the rest of the afternoon lazing around on Calangute beach otherwise known as the "Queen of all beaches in Goa" which is close to your home stay.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included.

### Day 3 (Tuesday): Discover the history of Goa

This historical trip will take you to Old Goa where the body of the Patron saint of Goa, St. Francis Xavier lies in a silver casket at the Basilica of Bom Jesus. Close by, you'll find the Se Cathedral, famous for its' golden bell, St. Cajetan church, St. Francis de Assisi church and also the crumbling tower of St. Augustine. Next, you will venture to Panjim, the capital of Goa, where you can shop and enjoy a tasty Gujarati meal. After an inspiring morning at the historical sites you will visit another ancient site and find out all about the local romantic tale at the famous Dona Paula village overlooking the port city of Vasco. On the way back you will stop over at Miramar beach overlooking the fort Aguada and the central jail. Finally to unwind your day you'll be taken for a boat cruise on the Mandovi River with live traditional Goan folk dances.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included.

### Day 4 (Wednesday): Anjuna Flea Market – shop 'til you drop!

After breakfast you will be taken to the famous Anjuna Flea Market - a seasonal Wednesday weekly market which is held in the village of Anjuna, also renowned for its many parties! It is frequented by foreign and local tourists wanting to shop for various Nepali goods, Tibetan goods, embroidered items, incense, jewelry, semiprecious stones, crystals, handicrafts, hammocks, bedspreads, and many other items. The market leads right to the beach where you can bask in the sun whilst sipping a chilled local drink at any one of the many shacks. On your way back home you will visit Vagator beach and if you have any energy left you will be able to climb up to visit the centuries old fort on the top of Chapora Hill.

Breakfast, packed lunch and Dinner are included.

### Day 5 (Thursday): Dolphin Trip and Volunteering

Who can resist the thrill of watching dolphins frolic in their natural surroundings? These extremely intelligent and playful mammals will delight each and every of you with their antics as they play and feed in the wild. Dolphins will often swim within feet of the tour boat and it really appears that they are inviting you to play with them. However, they are wild creatures so you will be able to watch without touching. You will also be able to see Goa's only lighthouse amidst the ruined Portuguese Fort at Sinquerim hill – if you're lucky you may spot peacocks wandering lazily among the shrubs and trees.

Next you'll join an extremely rewarding community project called El Shaddai which runs Day Care Centres and Night Shelters for abandoned street children. If you're a real 'people's person', enjoy making others smile and have bags of fun up your sleeve, you'll love this part of the trip. Spend time engaging with the children - there is no such thing as being too creative; invent new games, teach new songs and have a ball playing with these very special children. You could even help them with their daily homework. The old saying definitely holds true here; the more you put in, the more you'll get out. You will be working at this project from 4 pm to 6 pm.

Breakfast, packed lunch and Dinner are included.

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## Day 6 (Friday): Mapusa Market and Volunteering

Enjoy the famous weekly market at Mapusa popularly known as the “Mapusa Friday Market” where people of the surrounding villages gather to sell their ware. Many foreigners living in private homes on this coastal belt purchase all their requirements from this weekly market. It is also a fascinating experience to go around and shop in these traditional markets of the Goan towns and villages. These markets are a mirror of Goa's ethnic culture and provide a glimpse of the typical Goan way of doing business. After a shopping experience, why not enjoy a local fish curry (cost of which is not included).

In the afternoon, you'll head back to El Shaddai to continue your volunteer work. The children at the project will be looking forward to see you again, so make sure you get to the project by 4pm!

Breakfast and Dinner are included.

## Day 7 (Saturday): Saturday Nite Bazaar and Volunteering

Today, you will have until 4 pm as a free day to do whatever you want, whether you want to explore the area, relax on the beach, pamper yourself with an ayurvedic massage or even catch up on some sleep - the choice is entirely yours. Don't forget that the local team are on hand to give you lots of advice on what to do too!

After your day of relaxation and before a hectic night out, it's time to rejoin the children at El Shaddai, so go ahead and exhibit your skills, whether it be in music, art, dance or enjoy spending some quality time with them.

After relishing dinner at your home stay you're off to enjoy one of the major weekend getaways called Ingos Saturday Nite Bazaar. Ingos is a wonderful little world in itself offering products such as hand-made leather sandals, magic crystal wands, beautiful jewelry and the latest unique fashions. You can also get a tarot card reading, enjoy a massage, get your hair styled, and buy organic products amongst the many holistic stalls. Even for the non-shoppers there is never a dull moment at Ingo's Saturday Nite bazaar thanks to the stage shows, continuous flow of music and dancing and lip-smacking food stalls selling all kinds of cuisine. You can spend time here till the wee hours of Sunday morning!

Breakfast, packed lunch and Dinner are included.

## Days 8 and 9 (Sunday and Monday): Off to Palolem Beach for an Overnight stay

Today is a lazy Sunday morning for you – enjoy a delicious brunch before setting out to Palolem Beach which is a 2-hour drive from Calangute. You'll gaze over the lush natural beauty of scenic Goa with coconut palm sprinkled landscape on your journey to Palolem.

Palolem Beach, known as “Paradise Beach” is found in the Southern part of Goa and famous for its “Tree houses” let out by locals in the scenic surroundings. At low tide you can walk out to the Island at the northern end of the beach. You will be staying in one of these Tree Houses (subject to availability) that are erected along the beach allowing tourists to stay right on the sand, only a few metres away from a swim in the Arabian Sea. You can enjoy anything from local Goan delicacies to authentic Italian pizza and pasta, and enjoy a nice cold beer as alcohol is legal in this area. Enjoy the whole of Monday at Palolem beach before heading back to Calangute at 4pm.

Dinner on Sunday and Breakfast and Lunch on Monday not included.

## Day 10 (Tuesday): Spice Plantations and Temples

One of the most fascinating Goa tourist attractions are the Spice Plantations situated in the Ponda region. On the way there you will also be able to visit some temples. A trip to the Spice Plantations in Goa is a way to get close to nature, and breathe in the sharp essence and fragrances of fresh spices like black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, chillies, betelnut and cashew. You will also come across trees like custard apple, banana, citrus fruits and pineapples. Being located near lakes and streams means you can also enjoy bird watching by the lakeside, enjoy fishing or just relax. Lunch is a very tasty local buffet meal served on a banana leaf, supported by a sweet dish and a tippale of Cashew Feni or Urraq (Coconut Feni).

One of the highlights of this tour – being able to clamber up for an elephant ride through the trees and grab the chance to wash these lumbering, loveable giants. The cost of this is not included in the trip and is payable locally.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included.

## Day 11 (Wednesday): Sinquerim, Candolim, Baga – beaches, Forts and Volunteering

After having traveled to distant places, it's now time to visit the famous Fort Aguada, a 16th century Portuguese fort at the top of the cliff of Sinquerim. From here you can see the ruins of the citadel, a lighthouse, a clock and bell and also with the location of the fort you will have a breathtaking view of the sea, rivers, ships and the port. Candolim is yet another popular but peaceful beach haven in North Goa, located to the south of Calangute. If you are adventurous you can indulge in water based activities (optional), and those that like to tickle their taste buds can explore the various yummy dishes at the many shacks dotting the beach. From here you'll be taken to Baga which is the tourist hub – lined with shops, restaurants, shacks and a beach, it's up to you what to do!

In the afternoon, a trip back to El Shaddai at 4pm allows you to be reunited with the children who you befriended the previous week. Enjoy every minute as you get stuck in to activities including singing songs, playing games, arts and crafts and music with these children. The overall goal will be to keep the children happy, healthy and help them to enjoy learning.

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### Day 12 (Thursday): Aravalem Waterfall and Volunteering

Today you will be heading off to the Aravalem waterfall which is located amidst an enchanting landscape with the thunderous sound of the waterfall against the rocks. During your trip to the waterfall you will be able to visit the Aravalem caves which are caves cut into the rock located nearby.

Once back from the trip you'll meet the children back at El Shaddai who will be eagerly waiting for you at 4pm.

Breakfast, packed lunch and Dinner are included.

### Day 13 (Friday): Visit to Esthanes's Fields and Volunteering

Enjoy a trip to your host family's very own fields. Enjoy the scenery and the beauty of the natural surroundings and just relax here. Goa is definitely heaven on earth.....

Make the most of your last day with the children at the project spending some quality time with them and enjoying their infectious laughter. It will be so enriching to go back thinking that you have made just a small difference to the lives of these underprivileged children.

After dinner, why not spend the night at Baga's famous Mambo's and Tinto's night club where you can dance all night to the music and enjoy a few drinks. This is optional.

Breakfast, packed lunch and Dinner are included.

### Day 14 (Saturday): It's the Last Day – make the most of it!

You have the whole day free to do whatever you please. Go out and buy those last minute souvenirs, take your final photos and say goodbye to your new friends as your time on the tour is coming to an end. You could laze on the beach or even pamper yourself to a full body massage or a spa! Your home stay family will surely miss your company as much as you will miss them.

Breakfast, packed lunch and Dinner are included.

### Day 15 (Sunday): Time to leave.....

It's time to say goodbye to Goa and board your flight. How quickly have these 2 fun-filled weeks gone by? Flick through your photos as you take off and reminisce about your time in Goa.

**Book now at [Schoolies & Beyond](#) – call 9997-1277**

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