

GTDC registers 40 lakh profit

The Board of Directors of Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) has approved the following proposals for the development of tourism in the state.

GTDC roars back with profits:

GTDC's pro-active and professional management of assets turned around and reported a net profit of Rs. 40 lakhs.

Introduction of Sea Planes:

To add more flair to adventure tourism, the Board approved proposal from MEHAIR, Mumbai for commencement of seaplane services in Goa. Initially, the tie-up will be for a period of five years and MEHAIR will share revenue with GTDC through online and offline bookings. Sea Plane services are expected to give a big boost as it will depict Goa as one of the few states in India to operate sea plane services for tourists, thereby promoting high-end adventure tourism.

Goa Food Stall at Dilli Haat:

Delhi Haat witnesses footfalls around 3000 to 5000 on an average, every day. The Board has approved the proposal for setting up of Goa Food Stall at Delhi Haat, INA Market, New Delhi. A stall will be designed in the form of traditional Goan shack and will serve Goan cuisine for the food lovers from India and abroad.

Adventure sports at Mayem Lake:

The Board of Directors of GTDC has decided to implement new activities in Mayem Lake like floating barbeque, zip lines, water zorbs etc. on a trial basis, starting from forthcoming tourist season.

Achievements

1. Goa Tourism bags Safari India Award

The state has bagged the honours for 'Best State for Beach & Culture Tourism' this year.



Goa Tourism has begun the tourist season with a bang! It has bagged the Safari India National Tourism Award for 'Best State for Beach & Culture Tourism' for the year 2013. This award was given at a ceremony held in New Delhi last week and was received by the Deputy Resident Commissioner of Goa in Delhi, Ms. Valsala Vijayan.

2) Goa Tourism wins Best Honeymoon/Romantic Destination at ITCTA awards, Jaipur

Goa Tourism's continuous and determined efforts to aggressively market and promote the state in India and abroad through exhibitions and road shows is reaping good rewards. Goa Tourism has added another feather in its cap by winning the award for 'Best Honeymoon/Romantic Destination - Goa' announced by International Tourism Conclave and Travel awards(ITCTA) in Jaipur, Rajasthan on October 18, 2013.

New Year's Special - Events and happenings:

The What's Up Goa PARTY PICKS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE! THE LUCKY SEVEN!

A recent article by Dan Norris hailed Goa as the topmost place to party in the world, ascribing his high praise to Goa's "atmosphere, the vibe, the certain je ne sais quoi." No longer just a hippie mainstay of psychedelic trance raves, Goa's subversive

nightlife now offers something exciting for everyone. During the last week of December, India's most happening coastal State comes especially alive with revellers descending from every corner of the globe to bring in the New Year with a bang. With so much going on during the festive season, we have made our selection of only the best parties, clubbing them into areas and genres of music on offer, to make it easier for you to take your pick. So, get ready to put on your glad rags and celebrate - Goa style!

1. Music Festivals Several music festivals are hosted during the festive week attracting masses of domestic and international tourists. The WUG Picks:

- **SUNBURN FESTIVAL:** An annual electronic dance music festival held in Goa since 2007, Sunburn brings together music, entertainment, food and shopping in one giant beachside venue. Over the years, the festival has headlined some of the world's most popular DJs and renowned Indian acts. The festival was ranked by CNN in 2009 as the ninth best festival in the world.
- **SUBMERGE GOA:** Co-founded by celebrity DJ Nikhil Chinapa, and featuring an impressive line-up of artists and state-of-the-art stage and sound, the two-day party will kick off with Submerge Sundown Sessions, followed by the 8th Submerge Annual Party at Tito's.

2. Commercial, Dance & Bollywood Catering to the throngs of tourists who prefer their nightlife more mainstream, the Baga-Calangute- Candolim stretch is home to a number of nightclubs that plays an eclectic mix of the latest popular dance, Bollywood and hip-hop tracks. The capital city of Panjim also boasts a number of popular venues. The WUG Picks:

- **TITO'S** is Goa's most recognised nightlife brands with multiple venues (Club Tito's, Café Mambo, Capetown Café) set on a street named after it (Tito's lane), which host events throughout the year and special nights during the holiday season, featuring internationally acclaimed DJs such as John Digweed, Sultan and Ned

Shepard and Alexandra Stan. Past events also include the Femina Crowning Ceremony and the Kingfisher Swimsuit Calendar event.

<http://www.whatsupgoa.com/titos>

- Some of the newer nightclubs in the area and of the same genre are F-CUBE LOUNGE & DISCO (Arpora), CLUB IANOS (Baga) SING (Candolim) and BUTTER (Panjim).

3. 5 Star Hotels Several luxury hotel properties also house popular nightclubs that cater to a more urbane clientele, and offer special New Year's Eve packages featuring artists flown-in specially for the event. The WUG Picks:

- **THE PARK CALANGUTE GOA**, Holiday Street (Calangute)
- **THE LALIT GOLF AND SPA RESORT**, Raj Baga (Canacona).

4. Live music Goa's once near-extinct local live music scene is being resurrected by a few avid proponents showcasing local jazz bands and visiting musicians throughout the year. On New Year's, these gigs are sure to bring something extra-special! The WUG Picks:

- **Friday nights at CAVALA**, Baga (<http://www.whatsupgoa.com/cavala>)
- **Sunday Jazz at EL CANTERA**, Candolim.
- **Thursday Night Jazz at THE SOFALA**, Nerul (organised by Jazz Goa group) with resident band Smoking Chutney and special guests. (<http://www.whatsupgoa.com/thesofala>)
- **Live Music Project (Saturday Night Live)** @ TAWA RESTO BAR (Baywatch Resort, Sernabatim Beach RD).

Events

- For the week's party calendar and events highlights, visit: www.WhatsupGoa.com
- For a complete listing of Goa's top parties and events, visit us: <http://www.whatsupgoa.com/party>
- For the monthly events calendar visit: <http://www.whatsupgoa.com/GoaParty/calendar.php>

-Article by What's Up Goa

Photo Gallery



Stays in Goa!

THE WUG STAY PICKS! We've scoured our busy beach towns to hand-pick the most charming beds to lay your head! While most of our selection here features more boutique hotels, we have also included a luxury villa, heritage hotels, an eco resort and a charming home-stay. (The hotels are listed in geographical order)

- **FORT TIRACOL HERITAGE HOTEL**, Tiracol Fort Tiracol Heritage Hotel is a beautifully restored property set on the mouth of river Tiracol at the northern most tip of Goa. Converted from a 17th century Portuguese fort, the hotel offers only a few rooms, each named after a day of the week, where one may experience the times of this once Portuguese stronghold with stunning views for company.
- **MARBELA BEACH**, Morjim Marbela Beach is an exclusive oceanfront property located on Morjim Beach. Fashionable, chic and private, the resort caters to an international jet-set crowd. The property houses the exclusive Marbela Spa and luxurious tent and villa accommodations that are separated from the lounge, restaurant and nightclub by a sand garden. <http://whatsupgoa.com/marbela-beach>
- **PAROS AMARYA**, Morjim. Opening November 23rd. Set on a secluded and pristine property on the picturesque Turtle Beach, Paros by Amarya offers an enchanting beachfront hideaway with

eight tented guest accommodations and a three-bedroom Portuguese villa. The interiors of the tents and the beach villa are designed in distinctive Amarya charm, artfully blending ethnic Indian textiles and regional antique furniture with modern design aesthetics and vibrant color palettes.

• **HILARIO HERITAGE INN**, Siolim Hilario's is a magnificent old Goan home in the peaceful village of Siolim, North Goa. Built in the mid-nineteenth century by Hilario Fernandes, this was the family home for over 150 years. The house has now been beautifully restored by husband and wife team, Ahmed and Gopali Hashim, who run the property as a boutique guesthouse, offering four spacious double bed rooms and one twin bedroom as accommodations.

-Article by What's Up Goa

News/Snippets

Goa to modernize South Goa beaches

With the peak tourist season beginning this month, Goa Tourism is striving to put better facilities and infrastructure in place to ensure that tourists have a great experience in the state. One of the projects under this is the modernization of South Goa beaches. Goa Tourism, with Central Finance Assistance from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has decided to take-up a Rs 17.23-crore project to develop the Colva coastal circuit. The timeline allotted for the completion of this project is 180 working days.

The infrastructure development project that will be implemented along the beaches in South Goa will include creating and improving various facilities like parking of vehicles, childrens' park with play area, changing rooms, toilets, seating, pathways and beautification of strategic parts and places of interest in along this coastline, which would help in attracting more tourists to the state.

Department of Tourism to construct State Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology at Farmagudi, Ponda



To boost the hospitality industry in Goa and also to provide additional opportunities for education to youngsters in the state, the Department of Tourism, Goa has decided to construct a State Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology at Farmagudi, Ponda, Goa. The proposal has been sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and has been approved for an amount of Rs. 23.18

crores. The contribution of the Goa government will be fifty percent.

Goa chosen as 'theme state' for Surajkund Mela, Haryana

One of the objectives of Goa Tourism is to promote various facets of the state both in India and abroad. The Government of Haryana has invited to the state of Goa to participate in the forthcoming edition of the Surajkund Mela as the 'theme state' is

a great honour. The 28th Surajkund International Crafts Mela will be held from February 1-15, 2014 in the Surajkund district, Faridabad, Haryana.

This internationally acclaimed event showcases the richness of the handicrafts and cultural fabric of India. At the same time, affords an excellent opportunity to the finest craft persons and weavers of India.

Photo of the month



Top tweets



@Sophie_Choudry
Love mornings in Goa!
#selfie



@Viatgeaitaca
Ohhh i don't wanna leave
#goa good beaches,
good food, good weather...



@Hippie_inHeels
@TourismGoa Check out my
new article on one of your
beautiful beaches!



@sohamsabnis
Picturesque Goa



@theotherhome
101 Things to Do on Your
Next Trip to #Goa



@sheshank_puri
Name me some of the best
beaches in south goa please!!

GOMANT

beaches and beyond

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