

Goa Art & Culture

Goa, a former Portuguese territory, for more than 450 years is often described as 'The Rome of the East'. It has over the past decades, become the dream holiday destination, for many a foreign tourist.

Goa's rich cultural heritage comprises of dances, folk songs, visual arts, music and folk tales rich in content and variety. Goans are born music lovers, most Goans can pluck at a guitar or pick out a tune on the piano.

Music is in the blood of Goans since time immemorial, in almost every family you would find a pianist or a guitarist. Being a part of the culture, music of Goa is a blend of east and west. While the rural areas still stick to the traditional forms of music, the urban areas have shifted to a more modern version. You would get every music from Portuguese to Techno and rave, but what has caught Goa these days is the *Goa Trance*. Goa Trance is a vibrant and psychedelic dance music that is best enjoyed on the dance drug LSD and is a powerful and kaleidoscopic tapestry of sound. Of late Goa Trance has also made an impact in the international music circles. The music is so much in demand in parties that they are now called the trance parties.

The almost forgotten folk dances Dhalo, Fugdi, Corridinho, Mando and performing folk arts (like Khell-Tiatro), Jagar-perani and many others have come out into their own. Indeed the folk music and folk dances have crossed the borders of the state and become popular in the rest of the country during the past 25 years.

Goan Food too forms an important part of the culture of Goa. Goa boasts of many different cuisines - the Konkan, the Portuguese and the Bahamani Nawabi traditions. The most preferred and liked drink of the Goans is known as Feni, which is made mainly from coconut water.

Some of the popular sports that are played in Goa include bull fighting as well as football. Moreover, wonderful fairs and festivals such as Seista, a popular Hindu festival, are also celebrated in Goa with much enthusiasm. When you travel to Goa, you will find that Goa is famous for its Indo-Latin festivals especially the famous carnivals. These are the occasions when a Goan peasant manifests joy and happiness

Cultural heritage of Goa consists of numerous Goa churches, temples and mosques. Moreover, Goa's exotic beaches that sprawl over wide and soft sands as well as the sea food of Goa are much admired and liked by people visiting Goa from different places. Goa's cultural richness and vividness is well reflected through Goan folk dances, Goan folk culture and Goan song

It's been 40 years since the Portuguese left Goa and since then Goa has turned itself to being one of the most westernized and dashing places in India, which is much frequented and loved by tourists from across the world.

www.goanvillage.com ; www.goatourism.gov.in

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