

AROUND THE WORLD

GOA - A COLOURFUL CELEBRATION



EDITORIAL

Nestled along the western coast of India, Goa stands as a testament to the harmonious blend of diverse cultures, rich heritage, and breathtaking natural beauty. Known for its pristine beaches, glorious sunshine, vibrant culture, and historic architecture, Goa is indeed a colourful celebration. It is a place that is packed with complex and rich history, diversity, and natural heritage. Every corner of this paradisaical state tells a story, every festival brings joy, and every meal is a feast for the senses! When experiencing it on a daily basis, or on your travels, Goa never fails to surprise or warm one's heart.



PANJIM: The Goa State Museum, also known as the State Archaeology Museum, Panaji, houses some of the largest collections of artefacts which showcase Goa's long and diverse history. From Portuguese coins, religious sculptures, and art to musical instruments, and geological objects, this museum is a treasure trove to understand not only the history of Goa, but also its current culture.

THE CHURCH TRAIL



Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church - Located in the heart of Panjim, this iconic church was first built as a chapel in 1541, which was then replaced by a church in the early 1600s. This site was part of one of the port landings of the Portuguese.

Reis Margos Church - The name means Three Magis or Three Wise Men. It is one of the few places that celebrates Epiphany (Feast of the Three Kings) with processions and re-enactments.

Basilica of Bom Jesus - One of the most famous churches of Goa, this church is named after infant Jesus. Its interiors are beautifully carved and it houses the relics and body of St. Francis Xavier.

The churches of Goa, mainly built during the Portuguese colonial rule, are excellent examples of the region's history and architectural splendour. Most are built in the baroque style of architecture with intricate facades and vibrant interiors. Many churches showcase a blend of Portuguese and Indian culture through their carvings and frescoes. These unique churches don't only serve as places of worship, but they are also a testament to the rich and diverse history of Goa, with many being put on the coveted World Heritage Site list of UNESCO.



Se Cathedral - This cathedral serves as the seat of the Patriarch of the East Indies and houses the 'Golden Bell' which is said to be the largest bell in Goa. It is part of the World Heritage Site of Churches and convents of Goa.



CULINARY DELIGHTS

Goan cuisine is as diverse as its history, blending Portuguese influences with Indian spices. Ingredients like vinegar and bread have come with the Portuguese, while the coastal location ensures that seafood is a staple in Goan cuisine. Perhaps the most distinct dish is the rice and fish curry, which embodies the simplicity and heartiness of Goan food. The unique combination of flavours and ingredients offers an insight into the region's cultural fusion and abundant natural resources. Every meal is a journey through Goa's vibrant history and culture.



Goan Pao: A variety of Pao or bread exist in Goa such as the Poi and Kankonn.



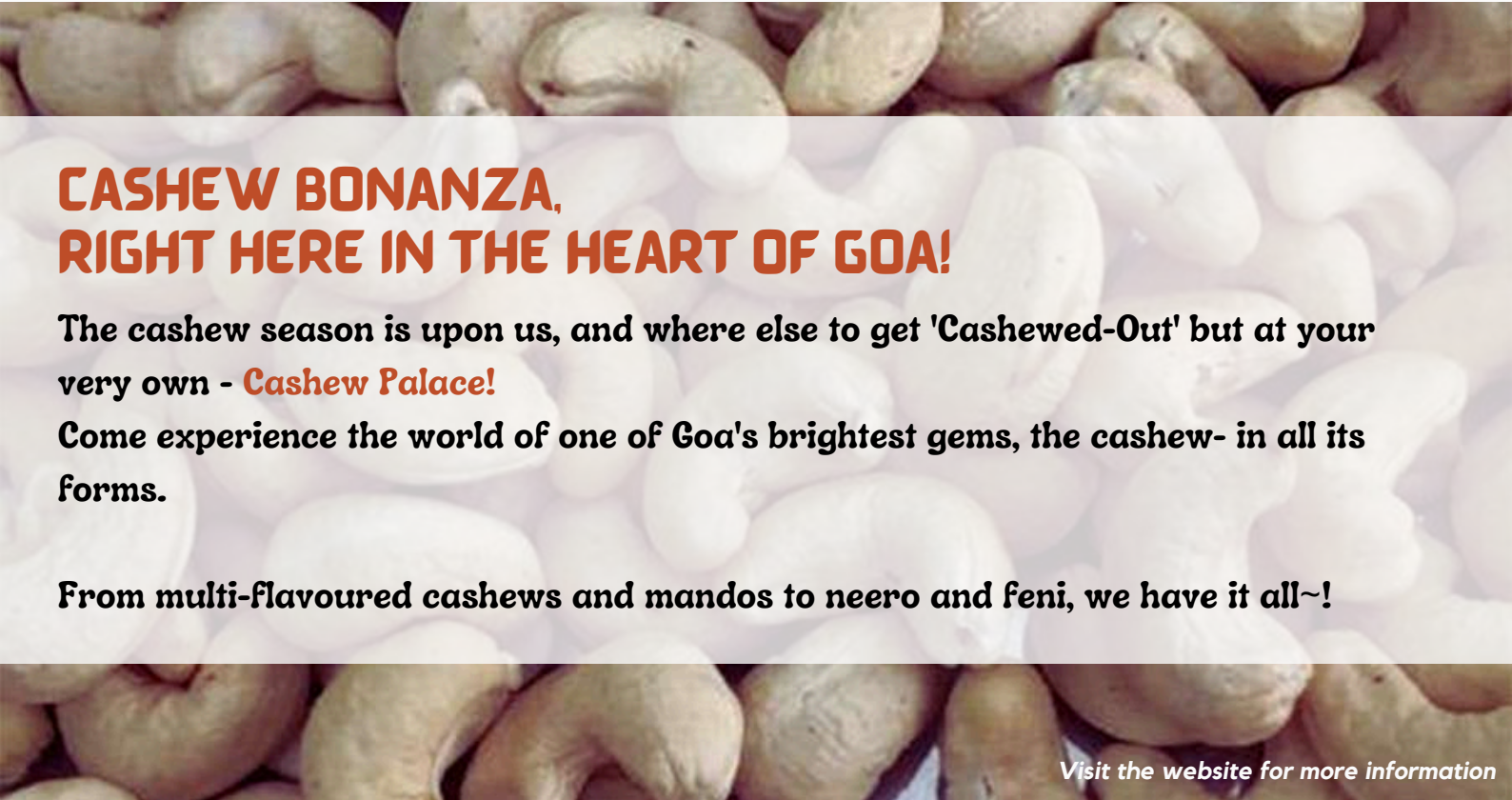
Xacuti: A complex and unique curry made with over 20 spices, including white poppy seeds.



Bebinca: A traditional dessert made with layers of coconut milk, sugar, and ghee.



Vindaloo: Originally a Portuguese dish, it's been adapted with local ingredients like palm vinegar and Goan spices.



CASHEW BONANZA, RIGHT HERE IN THE HEART OF GOA!

The cashew season is upon us, and where else to get 'Cashewed-Out' but at your very own - **Cashew Palace!**

Come experience the world of one of Goa's brightest gems, the cashew- in all its forms.

From multi-flavoured cashews and mandos to negro and feni, we have it all~!

Visit the website for more information

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY...

Music and dance are the lifeblood of Goan culture. The traditional Goan music, influenced by Portuguese Fado (folk music) and Indian classical music, has a unique quality.

The sound of folk songs like Dulpods, along with the beats of the Ghumot (a traditional percussion instrument), fills the air during festivals and social gatherings.



Dance forms like Godhe Modini, Dekhnni, Fugdi, and the energetic Kunbi dance reflect the vibrant cultural heritage of the region.



Watch dances like Kunbi and Morulem at the Shigmo Festival every year to experience the joy for yourself!



The Goa Carnival, arguably the most famous of all Goan festivals, epitomises the celebratory spirit of Goa. Held for three days and nights before the onset of Lent in February, this vibrant event was introduced by the Portuguese in the 18th century. The Carnival is a lively showcase of Goan and Portuguese cultural influences, featuring exuberant parades, music, dance, and elaborate costumes. It is a time of unbridled joy and festivity, attracting both locals and tourists to join in the merriment.



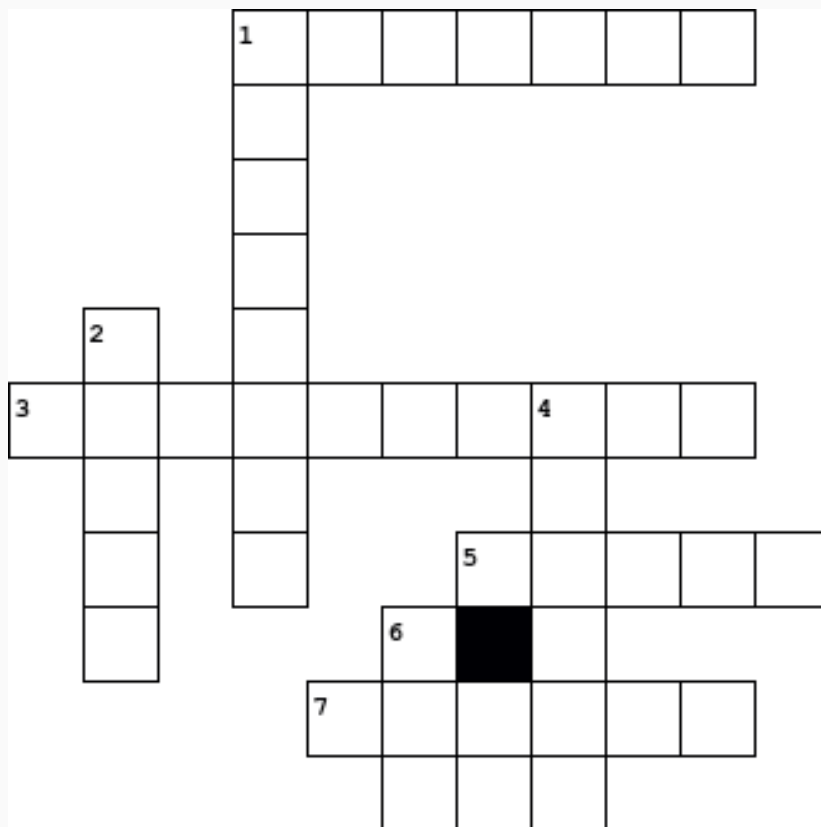
FESTIVE FUN IN GOA



Goa is perhaps the ideal place to celebrate Christmas in India. Owing to its Portuguese heritage and substantial Catholic population, the festive season in Goa is marked by vibrant enthusiasm. Homes and churches are beautifully decorated with lights and poinsettia flowers, and friends come together to enjoy meals. Children sing Christmas carols while people of all ages attend midnight mass. Christmas in Goa a truly magical experience.

ACTIVITIES FOR OUR READERS!

CROSSWORD CARNIVAL



ACROSS

1. A layered traditional cake
3. Its name means three wise men
5. A popular folk dance of Goa performed at the Shigmo festival
7. Sung by children during Christmas celebrations

DOWN


1. This cathedral houses the body of St. Francis Xavier
2. A Goan beverage made out of cashews
4. A traditional percussion instrument used in Goan music
6. A Goan version of Portuguese bread

JOURNEY THROUGH TIME


The history of Goa dates back to 3rd century BCE when it was part of the Mauryan Empire. Through the following centuries, it was controlled by the Chalukyas, the Delhi Sultunate, Bijapur State and finally the Portuguese in the 16th century. In 1961, the region gained Independence from Portugal and became part of India.

Trace a timeline of these events and explain each in 4-5 lines.

KINGS OF FRUITS



The Goa Mango Festival, organised by the state's agriculture directorate, features an array of locally grown mangoes for sale. Alongside the vibrant display of mangoes, the festival hosts various competitions. Its primary goals are to increase mango production, attract tourists, and promote locally cultivated mangoes. Held in May, the festival celebrates Goa's agricultural heritage and draws both locals and visitors.



The indigenous and often underappreciated jackfruit tree was celebrated for the third time in Goa at the Ponsachem Fest, or Jackfruit Festival. People paid tribute to this remarkable tree by wearing costumes inspired by it and enjoying the fruit in various forms, both as food and drink. People also make furniture out of the wood of jackfruit trees.

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