

Goa records sustained tourism recovery with strong growth across domestic and international segments

Goa continues to strengthen its position as one of India's leading tourism destinations, with tourist arrivals demonstrating a strong and sustained recovery in the post-pandemic period. Growth has remained steady across both domestic and international segments, supported by improved connectivity, infrastructure expansion and a renewed focus on quality tourism.

Tourist arrivals show steady long-term growth

Tourist arrivals in Goa reflect distinct phases of expansion, disruption and recovery over the past decade. In 2017, the state welcomed 68,95,234 domestic tourists and 8,90,459 foreign tourists, taking total arrivals to 77,85,693. Moderate growth followed in 2018 and 2019, with total arrivals increasing to 80,15,400 and 80,64,400 respectively.

The recovery phase gained momentum in the post-pandemic years, with total tourist arrivals rising to 86,28,162 in 2023 and crossing the one-crore mark at 1,04,09,196 in 2024. According to 2025 data, Goa recorded 1,02,84,608 domestic tourists and 5,17,802 foreign tourists, aggregating to a total of 1,08,02,410 arrivals—reinforcing its long-term growth trajectory.

Charter flights and airport infrastructure

Charter flights continue to play a significant role in Goa's inbound tourism, particularly from traditional foreign source markets. In 2017, the state received 1,024 charter flights carrying 2,49,374 foreign tourists. This number gradually declined to 799 flights and 2,16,738 tourists by 2019.

The operationalisation of Manohar International Airport marked a new phase in inbound air connectivity. In 2023, charter operations were recorded across both Manohar International Airport and Dabolim Airport, with a combined total of 356 flights carrying 72,795 tourists. Charter arrivals stood at 266 flights and 58,680 tourists in 2024. As of 2025, Goa received 189 charter flights bringing

in 40,336 foreign tourists, with operations split between Dabolim and Mopa airports.

Tourism Minister highlights regenerative vision

Commenting on the state's tourism performance, Rohan A. Khaunte, Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa, said:

“Goa's tourism performance, as reflected in the year-wise statistics, clearly demonstrates the resilience of the sector and the effectiveness of our sustained efforts towards structured and balanced tourism growth. The steady rise in domestic tourist arrivals, the gradual revival of foreign tourism across charter, scheduled international flights and cruise segments, along with the enhanced role of Manohar International Airport, underline the State's improved connectivity and destination readiness. Our focus remains on promoting quality tourism, diversifying markets, and advancing Goa's vision of Regenerative Tourism, ensuring long-term benefits for local communities, the environment and the economy.”

International scheduled flights regain momentum

International scheduled flights have remained a consistent contributor to foreign tourist arrivals in Goa. In 2017, 2,460 international flights operated through Dabolim Airport, carrying 3,35,573 foreign tourists. This figure declined steadily through the pandemic period, reaching a low point in 2021 with just 265 flights and 11,971 tourists.

A recovery began in 2022 with 1,135 flights and 1,34,922 tourists. The impact of Mopa Airport became evident in 2023, when international operations across both airports accounted for 1,416 flights and 1,95,067 tourists. In 2024, this increased further to 1,546 flights carrying 1,95,990 foreign tourists. As per 2025 data, a total of 1,784 international flights operated through Dabolim (643 flights) and Mopa (1,141 flights), collectively carrying 2,35,798 foreign tourists.

Cruise tourism complements overall arrivals

Cruise tourism continues to complement Goa's overall tourism profile, with both foreign and domestic cruise arrivals contributing to visitor numbers. In

2017, Goa received 34 cruise vessels carrying 40,822 foreign passengers. Cruise arrivals peaked in 2019 with 63,606 foreign passengers, before declining sharply during the pandemic.

Operations resumed gradually in 2022, with five cruise vessels bringing in 12,856 passengers, including both domestic and foreign tourists. A significant recovery was observed in 2023, with 52 vessels and 58,603 passengers, followed by 50 vessels and 66,555 passengers in 2024. According to 2025 figures, 37 cruise vessels called at Goa, bringing in 51,510 passengers, comprising 10,086 foreign tourists and 41,424 domestic tourists.

Director of Tourism on recovery trajectory

Kedar Naik, Director of Tourism, Government of Goa, said:

“The tourist arrival data highlights a clear recovery trajectory across all segments, particularly in the post-pandemic period. The consistent growth in domestic tourism, the return of international charter operations, increased international flight movements through both Dabolim and Mopa airports, and the steady contribution of cruise tourism reflect coordinated efforts in infrastructure development, connectivity enhancement and destination management. The Department of Tourism will continue to strengthen market outreach, improve visitor services and support sustainable tourism initiatives to further consolidate Goa’s position as a preferred tourism destination.”