

Goa Diary 2016

Anil K Rajvanshi
anilrajvanshi@gmail.com

1. In December we spent lovely four days vacation on Sinqerim beach in Candolim, Goa. We stayed in Marquis Beach Resort which was on the beach itself.
2. The Sinqerim beach is 5-10 kms long and very clean. It was lovely to walk on it and we did almost 40-45 minutes walk both in the morning and in the evening till after sunset.
3. December and January are generally the peak seasons in Goa. But because of demonetization program, Goa was empty. The restaurants had very few clients, hotels were nearly empty and all the shop owners were complaining about the lack of tourists.
4. We naturally enjoyed the unrestricted footpaths, less crowd and general quiet of the Goa beach scene. Goa beaches which are flooded by foreign tourists had quite few this year in the peak seasons.
5. The demonetization drive has really hit tourists specially the foreign ones. We had gone to a grocery store to buy a few things when an American tourist who bought a 5 liter bottle of water (costing Rs. 60/-) gave a 20 dollar bill to the girl at the counter. In the old days all foreign tourists would get enough cash from ATM but because of problems now with ATMs they cannot get it and hence pay in their currencies. The girl at the counter refused to accept the 20 dollar bill and the tourist had to get back inside to buy some more stuff.
6. A silver lining to this is that earlier most of the Indian tourists would come to these resorts and use their black money in cash for payments. Now they are forced to use credit cards and hence the rush has reduced.
7. The weather was excellent with cloudless skies and mild temperatures. We walked every day for 10-15 kms. This helped us digest the excellent seafood that we ate in innumerable restaurants dotting the main Candolim road.
8. One day we walked from our hotel to Agurada Fort a good 3 km steep climb. The will was there but the body fitness was not upto the mark. So we got slightly tired while going up. While coming down two young men on scooters gave us lift telling us that they had been watching us walking in the blazing sun all the way from our hotel to the Fort. They worked in a resort which was close to our hotel.

9. I think this is the best time to go to Goa with less crowds and one can get excellent bargains on most of the deals.

Photos



Long and clean Sinquerim beach



Lovely sunset with clear skies



Another sunset scene



View from Aguarda Fort



Empty restaurants



Empty Candolim Road



Marquis Beach Resort



[HOME](#)

©Anil K Rajvanshi. December 2016