

Fontainhas – Little Portugal In India

December 28, 2022



The anticipation of travel is almost like falling in love! You choose a destination and an adventure that makes your heart leap and your pulse race. When you arrive, you do not know how it will turn out to be, a casual flirtation, a torrid affair, a long term relationship or if after all the planning and expectation, there is just no chemistry!

Enough of Goa's beaches. Now, it's time to revel in the long history of Portuguese influence in the form of Fontainhas Latin Quarter which stands still in pride with all its glory. It is the centre of attraction of the capital city Panjim. Flanked by Ourem creek in the East and Altinho hills in the west, Fontainhas still exudes Portuguese charm and the radiance of old days does seep through like a newly formed bud kissed by the morning dew. It gets its name from the Fountain of Phoenix, the mountain stream located at the foot of Altinho Hills.

Fontainhas Street is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Panjim city, the capital of Goa. Locals still refer this street as "*Little Portugal in Goa*". Fontainhas was founded by an aristocratic Portuguese gentleman named Antônio João de Sequeira for the purpose of coconut plantations. But, in the early 1800s, due to the spread of plague in Old Goa, the Portuguese government headquarters was shifted to Panjim. As a result, this area was transformed into the residential area for Portuguese administrative officers and staff. It was recognized by UNESCO in 1984.

The walk through this street transports you to Portugal of the 1800's. Large colourful European styled houses, stand side by side like a European fortress. Bungalows coloured bright yellow to ruby red to cobalt blue jostle with each another for space in this quaint Latin quarter of Panjim which can only be accessed on foot. The streets are narrow and full of European styled bistros, cafes and bakeries. Many heritage homestays, hotels and lodges are scattered around Fontainhas street.

It is indeed, one of the most visited places in Goa. Breathtaking vibes of old cafes and bakeries, colonial charm of Portuguese buildings, art galleries, red brick wishing well and old Portuguese churches and old streets like 18th June Street and Rua 31 De Janeiro Street will transport you back to time of Portuguese influence.

Colonial architecture is one of a kind. Slate tiled roofs, dark wooden doors, white and blue tiled plaques, maroon red and mustard yellow houses are the most fascinating sights to behold at Fontainhas. Your visit to Goa will be incomplete without visiting the old-world charm of this Portuguese heritage. February is the best time to visit, as it is a festive month. The Fountain Festival is held every year in the month of February. Tourists from all over the world visit here during this time to enjoy local Goan culture and art. Locals turn their houses into art galleries and homestays during this festival.

RECENT POSTS



Australian Conversation: Alisa and Lysandra Fraser

December 30, 2022



Hayden Quinn's Top Tips For Cooking With Oats

December 30, 2022



Arbory Afloat's New Swimming Pool Is Now Open

December 30, 2022



Top 5 Causes Of Truck Accidents In Los Angeles

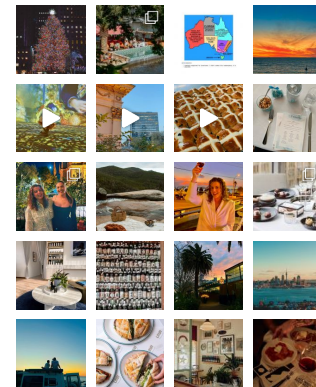
December 30, 2022



6 Small Business Loan Obstacles And How To Overcome Them

December 30, 2022

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



Load More...

Follow on Instagram

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Altinho Hill will give you breathtaking views of Fontainhas Latin Quarter and the tangerine colored Maruti Hindu Temple. Don't forget to go to the Phoenix Fountain, which is another famous landmark at Altinho Hill.

The names of the narrow cobbled streets can also be traced back to the Portuguese time in Goa, for instance, **Rua 31 de Janeiro** (31st January Road) is named after the day when Portugal got independence from Spain on January 31, 1640; and **18th June Street** is named after the day in 1946 that marked the beginning of the end of Portuguese rule in Goa.

Marvel at the old Portuguese houses that date back to the 18th and 19th centuries. Painted in hues of green, pale yellow, and blue, along with red-colored tiled roofs, artistic doors, and overhead balconies, you'll instantly fall head over heels with the rows of traditional Portuguese houses and cottages that cover the narrow, winding landscape. One of the intriguing features of the houses and cottages in Fontainhas is that they are painted every year after monsoons; it's a rule which is followed till today.

One of the historic houses has a red coloured wishing well with roosters erected on it. The well is no more in use, but you can spend some quiet time here, enjoy the beautiful sights, and soak up the local atmosphere.

How to get there:

By air:

The nearest international airport to reach Goa is at Mumbai. There are several option for Portuguese tourists to get to Goa from Mumbai .

Goa domestic Airport at Vasco is about 40 km. away from Panjim. Goa is connected by direct flights from Mumbai, New Delhi and Bangalore.

Where to stay:

Laguna Anjuna Resort is an affordable place to stay. They are extremely affordable by Indian standards during May-October which is a low season. A standard double-room costs approximately 45 Euro (inclusive of breakfast). Budget conscious European tourists frequent this eco-friendly resort at this time of the year. The rooms are spacious and can comfortably accommodate a family of four (with extra beds). The bathrooms are comfortable with hot water showers and mini-bathtubs. Advance booking is recommended during February at Laguna Anjuna, which is a 60 minute drive away from Panjim.u

Where to eat:

Several restaurants offering Indian vegetarian cuisine are located in and around Panjim. Several make-shift street-side stalls selling snacks are also found here. Several European style bistros and cafes serving healthy vegetarian fare are found at Fountainhas.

Murli Menon is a travel writer based at Ahmedabad. He is the bestselling author of 25 Travel Guides on Amazon.com titled "ZeNLP Travel Guides". Murli Menon can be reached at ceo@tips4ceos.com

The Post Office at Fountainhas Street

 Australian Affairs

SHARE ON



← PREVIOUS ARTICLE
Live Out Your Favourite Christmas Movies
At These Iconic US Destinations

NEXT ARTICLE →
What Are The Most Popular Christmas
Presents This Year?

LEAVE A REPLY

RECENT TWEETS

 ONYA MAGAZINE. [Follow](#)


Australian lifestyle magazine. Est. 2009.
#ONYAMAG

↻ ONYA MAGAZINE. Retweeted


 SANDI   23 Dec 

The hardest year of my life taught me a few things... <https://sandsieger.com/2022/12/23/22-things-i-learned-in-2022>


 ONYA MAGAZINE. 23 Dec 

Live out your favourite Christmas movies at these iconic US destinations: <https://bit.ly/3hNrkDI>
#ONYAMAG 



 ONYA MAGAZINE. 12 Dec 

Arbory Afloat have officially unveiled their brand new tiled pool, promising a summer of escape, relaxation, parties ... 

 ONYA MAGAZINE. 7 Oct 

Canberra's best picnic spots - 21 places to kick back and enjoy spring outdoors:
<https://bit.ly/3RlorQq> #ONYAMAG 

 ONYA MAGAZINE. 5 Oct 

Why Kyah Seary shares her weekly poo videos on TikTok: <https://bit.ly/3ygbITG>  #ONYAMAG 

Load More...

RECENT COMMENTS

Comment

Name

Email

Website

[Post Comment](#)

- [6 Expert Tips For Better Indoor Air Quality](#) Onya Magazine on Effective Ways To Improve Your Indoor Air Quality

- [6 Non-Invasive Body Shaping Treatments You Should Know About](#) Onya Magazine on Body Shaper Sculpting For The Best Contour Results

- [Tammy on A Parent's Guide For Organizing College Accommodation](#)

- [Car Or Motorbike: What To Choose For Traveling?](#) Onya Magazine on Types Of Bikes A Rider Should Know About

- [Setting up High Specifications in a Marriage - Europe Trading on Christmas Holiday Activities For Couples: Create Your Own Festive Wonderland](#)

AUSTRALIAN AFFAIRS



Top 5 Causes Of Truck Accidents In Los Angeles
 December 30, 2022 0



6 Small Business Loan Obstacles And How To Overcome Them
 December 30, 2022 0



Online Jobs For Transgender People: All You Need To Know
 December 30, 2022 0

PARENTING



Tips To Prevent Nappy Rash By A Midwife Who Has Delivered Hundreds Of Bubs
 October 21, 2022 0



How To Start Dating Again As A Single Parent: 8 Tips From A Relationship Expert
 February 28, 2022 0



How To Plan Your Child's Daycare On A Budget
 January 31, 2022 0

TRAVEL



Live Out Your Favourite Christmas Movies At These Iconic US Destinations
 December 26, 2022 0



Canberra's Best Picnic Spots: 21 Places To Kick Back And Enjoy Spring Outdoors
 November 28, 2022 0



Donna Maria Elevating Exceptional Mornington Peninsula Produce
 September 26, 2022 0