

Herald Cafe



BOATS, PUDDLES, & FORGOTTEN JOYS: MONSOONS AND THE LOST CHILDHOOD



VIDYA PRABODHINI COLLEGE HOSTS 'GETTING INDUSTRY READY' PROGRAMME

Slow Travel: Young Indians are ditching itineraries in Goa

A new kind of traveller is arriving in Goa, one without a checklist or tight itinerary. They're here not just to see, but to feel, wander, and truly connect with the spirit of the place

Surabhi Thakur

Across the quiet sands of South Goa, the sun-drenched bylanes of Fontainhas, and the lush trails of the hinterland, young Indians are redefining what it means to explore. Ditching whirlwind itineraries and Insta-ready hotspots, Gen Z and millennials are embracing a slower, more intentional pace of travel, one rooted in connection, reflection, and sustainability.

TRADING CROWDS FOR CONNECTION

It's a sentiment echoed by Ayush Jha, a 19-year-old BCA student from Delhi who has lived in Goa for the past two years. Having explored most of the state, he reflects, "Slow travel takes more time and patience, but you never regret it. These lesser-known places let you explore without the crowds, and that's what makes it exciting. If you're short on time or budget, sure, trendy spots help you plan. But with slow travel, the experiences feel more personal and that stays with you."

CONNECTING WITH CULTURE BEYOND THE SURFACE

Vaibhavi Joshi, a Mass Communication student from Goa studying at St Xavier's College, Mapusa, adds, "Slow travel lets you really get to know the people here, their culture, their food, their lives. You don't get that in crowded places. You try their authentic food, wear their traditional clothes, and you feel like a part of the place, not just a visitor."

This counter-trend is also unfolding online. Social media feeds are slowly moving away from beach parties and crowded cafés to journal entries, walking trails, and moments of stillness. Travellers are renting cycles, avoiding peak season, and engaging more with local life.

At its core, slow travel is not just about going slow, it's about going deeper. It's about travelling lighter on the planet by using public transport, supporting small businesses, and being mindful of your impact on communities.

And for those who once relied on a rigid checklist, slow travel offers something far more valuable: discovery through spontaneity.



EMBRACING HIDDEN GEMS THROUGH STILLNESS

"Slow travelling gives time to know the place, people, and the culture rather than just going and visiting a few spots, which are also sometimes overhyped," says Nandini Satdeve, a yoga teacher and travel enthusiast from Maharashtra. "Instead of jumping between places, I stay longer, rest more, and end up seeing things I would've otherwise missed," she adds.

What fascinated her during slow

travel in Goa were hidden waterfalls and a blue lagoon in North Goa, a city tour in Panjim, and beautiful sunsets at Mandrem and Ashwem beaches. This shift marks more than just a change in how people travel, it reflects a deeper lifestyle movement. Homestays are replacing resorts. Traditional thalis are taking the place of continental cafés. Jam-packed days are being swapped for mornings with no plans.

CAPTURING THE SOUL OF GOA THROUGH A SLOWER LENS

Vrushabh Gabhale, a travel photographer from Pune, Maharashtra, who documents India's cultural fabric, believes the slow travel wave is gaining momentum for all the right reasons. "It allows you to experience the authentic culture, tap into

Goa's artistic vibe, capture raw moments, and find peace. While trendy spots have their charm, slow travel gives you the freedom to discover people and places in your own way. You create memories that no guidebook could offer," he says.

SLOW TRAVEL PRINCIPLES FOR AUTHENTIC EXPLORATION:

- Research local customs and traditions
- Learn basic phrases in the local language
- Take your time to explore and find moments of good light
- Engage with locals and be curious
- Taste local food and drinks
- Respect the environment and community
- Stay in family-run or locally owned places
- Stay flexible and open to surprises



SWIPE RIGHT

Avika Gor gets engaged to Milind Chandwani

Television star Avika Gor, beloved for her role in 'Balika Vadhu', has announced her engagement to her longtime partner, Milind Chandwani. The actress shared the joyful news on Instagram, posting dreamy engagement photos with the heartfelt caption: "He asked... I smiled, I cried (in that order)... and screamed the easiest YES of my life." Avika and Milind have been together for over five years. The couple first went public in 2020, with Gor often speaking warmly about their connection. They met through a mutual friend in Hyderabad and, despite their contrasting careers, found harmony. "He's a 9-to-5 corporate guy who also runs an NGO. He's not from the industry," she shared earlier. Milind, founder of the non-profit Camp Diaries and a former MTV Roadies contestant, has supported Avika through her journey. While the engagement is now official, no wedding date has been announced.



Diljit Dosanjh's Indian version of 'Hips Don't Lie'?

At the Billboard Summit in Canada, Diljit Dosanjh, a special speaker at NXNE held at Toronto's TIFF Lightbox, sat down for an interview with Panos A Panay, President of the Recording Academy. A snippet of the conversation where Panos asks Diljit about his viral video with Shakira has been making the rounds online. Panos noted that Diljit is a vital figure in representing music on the global stage, with a diverse career spanning multiple languages. Interestingly, Diljit had carpooled with Shakira, Nicole Scherzinger, and Tessa Thompson to the Met Gala earlier this year. Recalling the moment, Diljit shared, "Hips don't lie, sir. But it was Shakira who invited me on her tour. She said, 'We should do an Indian version of Hips Don't Lie. It's going to be tricky, but I'm in.'" Fans are now eager to see if this cross-cultural collaboration becomes a reality.



Zoe Saldana turned the 'Elio' premiere into a stylish family affair, bringing along her dashing trio of sons 10-year-old twins Bowie and Cy and 8-year-old Zen in matching outfits.

What's in a name? Time to ask Ye Ye

Music artists have long reinvented themselves through name changes—from Prince to Diddy, and now Kanye West, who has changed his name not once but twice: first to Ye, and now to Ye Ye

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Noted American rapper, singer and record producer Kanye West, who legally changed his name from Kanye Omari West to Ye in 2018, is now going by the moniker Ye Ye in business documents filed in California. Recent business filings in California list the new name across several of his ventures. Kanye West's chief financial officer, Hussain Lalani, referred to him as Ye Ye in legal paperwork submitted for several of his companies, including Yeezy Apparel, Yeezy Record Label, and OX Paha Inc. In 2018, he explained the name change to Ye with biblical inspiration, "Ye is the most commonly used word in the Bible. It means 'you', so I'm you, I'm us." That same year, he released

his album Ye, describing it as a reflection of both his personal identity and collective human experience.

Although Ye Ye is now being used in business documentation, it is not yet clear whether West has taken legal steps to formalise the new name. California law requires individuals to publish name change petitions in local newspapers before a judge can approve them.

In May 2025, West also announced he would no longer use his X (formerly Twitter) account under the @kanyewest handle. "Gonna start a ye account and it is what it is," he posted, reinforcing his commitment to the Ye identity. In a March 2024 letter, his chief of staff, Milo Yiannopoulos, insisted that the media, music platforms, and data services refer to him as Ye, rejecting the use of what he called his "slave name."

While there has been no official public statement from Kanye West regarding the Ye Ye moniker, its appearance in official records suggests yet another evolution in the artist's ongoing reinvention.

ARTISTES WHO SET THE TREND IN NAME CHANGING:



Prince to ♀ (The Love Symbol/ The artist formerly known as Prince)

The name-change trend in music took a bold turn in 1993 when seven-time Grammy winner Prince adopted an unpronounceable symbol (♀), combining male and female gender signs. This move left media outlets struggling to refer to him, many resorted to calling him "The Artist Formerly Known As Prince." His label even sent out floppy disks with the symbol, as it couldn't be easily replicated. Prince described it as "an unpronounceable symbol whose meaning has not been identified," urging fans to think differently.

Sean Combs to P Diddy to Love

Grammy-winning rapper Sean John Combs has gone by many names over the years. In the 1990s, he began as both Puffy, a childhood nickname and Puff Daddy, using the names across early collaborations and on his 1997 debut album, No Way Out. In 2001, following legal issues



and seeking a "fresh start," he became P Diddy, then Diddy in 2005, later switching back

and forth before adopting Brother Love in 2017, which he eventually shortened to Love. He clarified the name changes in 2018, saying, "You can call me the other names. This is just an evolution of my spirit and my vibration. I'm Diddy. During the days that it's really, really good, I'm Love—which is all of the time."



Snoop Doggy Dogg to Snoop Lion to Snoop Dogg

Grammy-nominated rapper Calvin Broadus entered the music scene in 1992 as Snoop Doggy Dogg, featuring on Dr Dre's iconic debut 'The Chronic'. His own debut, 'Doggystyle', was released under Death Row Records. In 1998, he shortened his name to Snoop Dogg to facilitate a label change and continue releasing music independently of Death Row. In 2012, after a spiritual journey to Jamaica, he rebranded as Snoop Lion and released the Grammy-nominated reggae album 'Reincarnated' in 2013. He, then changed it to Snoopzilla for a funk project and later returned to Snoop Dogg but still uses various aliases, including DJ Snoopadelic when performing as a DJ.