

Goa Heritage & Pilgrimage 5N: Basilica of Bom Jesus & Church Trail

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
Goa

Duration
5 Nights 6 Days

Starting from
Rs. 16,900 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ Panaji / Old Goa · 3N

↖ North Goa · 1N

↖ South Goa · 1N

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/goa/goa-5-nights-6-days-package-711>

Overview

Experience the best of Goa with this curated Goa tour package focused on history, heritage, and pilgrimage. This Goa Pilgrimage tour package (5 nights / 6 days) highlights the UNESCO-listed Basilica of Bom Jesus, the grand Se Cathedral, historic chapels, revered temples, and charming Portuguese-era quarters. Ideal for spiritual travelers and culture enthusiasts, the itinerary balances sacred visits, cultural walks, and relaxed beach time.

Highlights:

- Basilica of Bom Jesus (Old Goa)
- Se Cathedral
- Church of St. Francis of Assisi
- Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Panaji
- Shri Mangeshi Temple
- Spice Plantation & Traditional Goan Lunch
- Fontainhas Latin Quarter (Panaji)
- Mandovi River Cruise & Cultural Show
- Aguada Fort & Dona Paula Viewpoint

Special note: Timings for church visits and mass services vary; plan visits early to avoid crowds during peak pilgrimage hours.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 5 nights on twin/double sharing basis as per chosen category (Panaji/Old Goa 3N, North Goa 1N, South Goa 1N).
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 3 x lunches (including one traditional spice plantation lunch).
- ✓ Arrival & departure transfers (Goa airport/railway station) and inter-city transfers as per itinerary.
- ✓ Guided Old Goa church trail and Ponda temple visits with local English-speaking guides.
- ✓ Mandovi River cruise (optional add-on at extra cost) – can be arranged on Day 1/Day 2.
- ✓ All applicable taxes.
- ✓ This is a Goa Pilgrimage tour package tailored for heritage & spiritual travelers.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / Train fare to/from Goa.
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, laundry, and beverages not mentioned in inclusions.
- ✗ Entry fees or donations at temples/churches (where applicable) – visitors may pay locally.
- ✗ Travel insurance (recommended).
- ✗ Optional activities and evening shows unless specified.
- ✗ Note: Peak-season surcharges, festival period closures, or sudden changes in temple/church timings may incur additional costs.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival, Panaji Welcome & Fontainhas Walk

Arrive at Goa (Dabolim Airport/Thivim Station). Meet and transfer to your hotel in Panaji / Old Goa. After check-in and a short rest, enjoy a guided walk through Fontainhas Latin Quarter — admire colorful Portuguese houses, narrow lanes, and quaint cafés. Visit the iconic Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church at Panaji's main square.

Evening option: Relax with a sunset view at Miramar Beach or enjoy an optional Mandovi River cruise (bookable add-on).

Tip: Keep your camera handy for the photogenic facades in Fontainhas.

Day

2

Old Goa Church Trail — Basilica of Bom Jesus & Se Cathedral

Full-day heritage and pilgrimage exploration of Old Goa — the spiritual heart of Goa. Begin at the UNESCO site Basilica of Bom Jesus, home to St. Francis Xavier's relics. Continue to the monumental Se Cathedral, known for the Golden Bell. Explore the Church of St. Francis of Assisi with its Portuguese-era frescoes and the Chapel of St. Catherine.

Lunch at a local restaurant with Goan specialties. Spend the afternoon visiting the Archaeological Museum and wandering the peaceful lanes surrounding the churches.

Important: Mass timings and visiting hours can affect entry — arrive early for quieter experience.

Day

3

Temple Trail & Spice Plantation Experience

Today's pilgrimage focuses on Goa's sacred Hindu sites and agrarian culture. Visit the revered Shri Mangeshi Temple (Ponda), the ornate Shanta Durga Temple, and the popular Mahalasa Narayani Temple. Proceed to a traditional Spice Plantation for a guided walk and authentic Goan lunch featuring local spices and cooking techniques.

Evening at leisure back in Panaji or enjoy an optional cultural show.

Note: Dress respectfully for temple visits — shoulders and knees should be covered.

Day

4

North Goa Churches, Forts & Market Visit

Check out from Panaji hotel and head north to explore coastal and colonial landmarks. Visit Reis Magos Fort and its chapel, then proceed to Aguada Fort with its lighthouse and commanding sea views. Drop by Anjuna Flea Market (seasonal) or Mapusa Market for local crafts and souvenirs.

Late afternoon, enjoy beach time at Calangute or Baga, or explore the serene chapel at Candolim.

Tip: Markets are best explored in the morning; keep small change ready for purchases.

Day

5

South Goa Heritage & Beach Relaxation

Move southward for a more tranquil day. Visit Colva/Benaulim beaches and the picturesque Dona Paula viewpoint. Explore historic churches in the region and enjoy leisure time at the beach. Optionally visit the Holy Spirit Church at Margao or stroll through Margao's old Portuguese lanes.

Evening: Farewell dinner featuring traditional Goan cuisine. Reflect on the spiritual and cultural highlights of your Goa Pilgrimage package.

Day

6

Departure from Goa

After breakfast, check out from the hotel. Depending on your flight/train schedule, you can visit Dona Paula or do last-minute shopping in Panaji. Transfer to Goa Airport/Station for your onward journey.

Important: Confirm departure transfer timings and allow extra time for traffic; typical airport check-in requires arrival at least 2 hours prior for domestic flights.

? Frequently Asked Questions

? When is the best time to visit Goa and what's the weather like?

The best time to visit Goa is October to March (prime season) when the weather is dry with pleasant days (20–32°C) and cool nights. This period offers calm seas perfect for swimming, open beach shacks, vibrant nightlife, and ideal conditions for water sports. Summer (March–May) is hot but manageable with temperatures reaching 36°C, offering good deals and fewer crowds. Monsoon season (June–September) brings heavy rains and rough seas, with many beach activities suspended, but it's perfect for experiencing lush landscapes, waterfalls, and romantic ambiance at discounted rates. Christmas–New Year is peak season with highest prices and crowds.

❓ **How do I reach Goa and what are the transportation options?**

Goa has two airports: Manohar International Airport (GOX) in North Goa near Mopa, and Dabolim Airport (GOI) for Central/South Goa access. Both receive direct flights from major Indian cities and seasonal international connections. By train, major stations include Madgaon, Thivim, Karmali, and Vasco da Gama, connected via the scenic Konkan Railway. By road, NH 66 coastal highway and NH 48 via Western Ghats connect Goa to Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru. Overnight buses operate frequently from these cities. The journey from Mumbai takes 8-10 hours by road, while flights take 1.5 hours.

❓ **Do I need a visa to visit Goa as a tourist?**

Goa is part of India, so visa requirements depend on your nationality. Indian citizens need only valid government-issued photo ID. Foreign tourists require appropriate Indian visas - tourist visa, e-visa, or visa-on-arrival (for eligible countries). E-visas are convenient and can be obtained online for most nationalities, valid for 30-365 days depending on type. Processing typically takes 2-4 business days. Ensure your passport has at least 6 months validity and blank pages. Some nationalities like Bhutan and Nepal citizens don't need visas but require valid identification. Check the latest visa requirements on the official Indian visa website before traveling.

❓ **What are the best local transportation options in Goa?**

Goa offers diverse transportation options. Rental scooters/motorbikes are most popular for flexibility - carry your original license and wear helmets (mandatory). Motorcycle taxis called 'pilots' are unique to Goa, perfect for solo travelers. Regular taxis and app-based services like GoaMiles operate throughout. Kadamba state buses and private buses connect major towns and beaches affordably. River ferries to islands like Divar and Chorao are scenic and frequent. Auto-rickshaws exist but are limited in some areas. For comfort, rent a car with driver. Always negotiate fares beforehand for taxis and pilots, or use metered/app-based services.

❓ **Where should I stay in Goa and what accommodation options are available?**

North Goa (Calangute, Candolim, Anjuna, Vagator) offers vibrant nightlife, water sports, and party atmosphere with beach shacks, budget guesthouses to luxury resorts. South Goa (Colva, Benaulim, Palolem, Agonda) provides quieter, family-friendly vibes with wider beaches and upscale resorts. Panaji offers heritage charm and cultural experiences. Accommodation ranges from budget hostels (₹500-1500/night), mid-range hotels and beach resorts (₹2000-8000/night), to luxury properties like Taj, W Goa, and Alila Diwa (₹15000+/night). Beach huts and homestays offer authentic experiences. Book well in advance for December-January. Consider proximity to beaches, nightlife preferences, and transportation when choosing location.

❓ What are the must-visit attractions and places in Goa?

Essential Goa experiences include UNESCO-listed Old Goa churches (Basilica of Bom Jesus, Se Cathedral), colorful Fontainhas Latin Quarter in Panaji, and Fort Aguada for sunset views. North Goa highlights are Chapora Fort, Anjuna's Wednesday flea market, and Calangute-Baga beach strip. Don't miss Dudhsagar Falls (spectacular four-tier waterfall), spice plantations in Ponda, and peaceful Divar Island accessible by ferry. South Goa offers pristine beaches like Palolem and Agonda, plus hidden gems like Cola Beach's blue lagoon. Take sunset cruises on Mandovi River, explore Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, and visit off-beat Tambdi Surla Temple. Each region offers distinct experiences from heritage to nature to beaches.

❓ What local food and cuisine should I try in Goa?

Goan cuisine blends Portuguese and Konkani influences. Must-try dishes include Goan Fish Curry with rice, Pork Vindaloo, Chicken Cafreal (green masala), and Chicken Xacuti (coconut-spice curry). Seafood specialties are rava-fried fish, Prawn Balchão, and fresh catch at beach shacks. Try local breads like poi and pão, and end meals with bebinca (layered dessert) or dodol. Drink feni (cashew or coconut spirit) - Goa's signature alcohol, or seasonal urrak. Visit Vinayak Family Restaurant, Kokni Kanteen, or Martin's Corner for authentic experiences. Beach shacks serve fresh seafood with sea views. Vegetarians can enjoy sol kadhi, Goan dal, and coconut-based curries. Always try the local fish thali for a complete experience.

★ Traveller Reviews



Aditi Sharma

★★★★★ 5/5

Amazing Experience in Goa!

We had a fantastic time exploring Goa with this tour package. The beaches were beautiful, and the itinerary was well-planned. Highly recommend!



Rahul Desai

★★★★★ 5/5

Romantic Escape

We had the most romantic getaway in Goa. Sunset cruises and candlelight dinners made it memorable.



Karan Singh

★★★★★ 5/5

Relaxing Beach Getaway

The beach resorts were luxurious, and the food was a delight. Perfect retreat for those looking to unwind. Would book again!



Raghav Khanna

★★★★★ 5/5

Adventurous Couples Retreat

A wonderful package for couples looking to engage in fun activities together. We made amazing memories!



Ashwin Varma

★★★★☆ 4/5

An Unforgettable Journey

Goa was stunning, and this tour enhanced our experience. From the scenic views to local interactions, it was unforgettable.

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