

Pilgrimage & Heritage Long Stay 9N: Churches, Temples & Cultural Workshops

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Goa



Duration
9 Nights 10 Days



Starting from
Rs. 29,600 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↙ **Panaji · 4N**

↙ **Old Goa & Ponda · 3N**

↙ **South Goa · 2N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/goa/goa-9-nights-10-days-package-735>

Overview

A thoughtfully curated Goa tour package combining spiritual visits, architectural heritage, and immersive cultural workshops. This 9 nights / 10 days Goa Pilgrimage tour package takes you through Old Goa's UNESCO-style churches, serene temples of Ponda, the colorful Latin quarter of Fontainhas (Panaji), and hands-on experiences like Goan cooking and folk music workshops. Ideal for travelers seeking spiritual reflection, history, and local culture over a relaxed long stay.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 9 nights' accommodation in 3-star/4-star heritage hotels (twin/double sharing)
- ✓ Daily breakfasts; 4 specially arranged lunches/dinners including cooking-class lunch and farewell dinner
- ✓ Airport transfers (arrival & departure)
- ✓ Guided heritage & pilgrimage tours as per itinerary with licensed guide
- ✓ All workshop fees (Goan cooking, folk music, pottery/handicraft)
- ✓ Entrance fees to listed monuments and temples where applicable
- ✓ Local transport for all scheduled activities
- ✓ Digital keepsake booklet with recipes, photos, and recommended readings

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ International / Domestic flights to Goa
- ✗ Travel insurance and personal medical expenses
- ✗ Meals not specified above and personal meals
- ✗ Tips, portorage, and personal expenses
- ✗ Optional activities marked as extra-cost (e.g., sunset cruise)
- ✗ Temple/Church donation offerings and private puja fees
- ✗ Any services not specifically mentioned in inclusions

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival, Welcome & Panaji Orientation

Arrive at Goa (Dabolim Airport). Transfer to your hotel in Panaji (Panjim). Afternoon orientation walk along the Mandovi River promenade and introductory visit to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church. Evening welcome briefing and traditional Konkani tea. Light dinner included.

Day

2

Old Goa: Grand Churches & Pilgrimage Sites

Full-day guided exploration of Old Goa, the heart of Goa's Christian heritage. Visit the Basilica of Bom Jesus (housing St. Francis Xavier's relics), Se Cathedral, Church of St. Francis of Assisi, and the Church of St. Cajetan. Includes a heritage talk on Portuguese-era church architecture and quiet reflection time at the basilica.

Day

3

Fontainhas Heritage Walk & Cultural Evening

Morning heritage walk in Fontainhas (Panaji) – the Latin Quarter with colorful Portuguese houses, narrow lanes, and art galleries. Afternoon free time. In the evening, participate in a Goan folk music (Mando & Dulpod) workshop with local artists and a short performance. Comfortable walking shoes recommended.

Day

4

Ponda Temples: Mangeshi & Shantadurga

Transfer to the Ponda region – the temple heartland of Goa. Visit the imposing Shri Mangeshi Temple and the serene Shri Shantadurga Kavalem Temple. Learn about Saraswat Brahmin traditions and temple rituals from a local guide. Evening return to Panaji; optional sunset cruise on Mandovi River (extra cost).

Day

5

Ancient Temples & Nature: Tambdi Surla & Mahadev

Full-day excursion to the hinterland: visit the 12th-century Tambdi Surla Mahadev Temple (Bhagwan Mahadev) tucked in the Bhagwan Mahadev forest, and the Nagueshi (Naguesh/Nagueshi) area temples. Scenic rural drive, photo stops, and short nature trails. Pack water and a hat for sun protection.

Day

6

Hands-on Goan Cooking Class & Local Market Visit

Morning visit to a bustling local market followed by a hands-on Goan cooking workshop where you'll prepare classic dishes like Xacuti, Vindaloo, Bebinca and vegetarian specialties. Lunch is the meal you helped cook. Afternoon leisure by the hotel; evening optional stroll along the riverside.

Day

7

Transfer to South Goa: Coastal Temples & Quiet Beaches

Check out and transfer south to Colva/Benaulim area. En route visit Sri Damodar Temple (Zambaulim) and the little-known seafront chapels. Afternoon relaxation on Colva Beach. Evening traditional lamp offering demonstration and storytelling about Goa's sacred coastal traditions.

Day

8

Heritage Village & Pottery / Handicraft Workshop

Visit a traditional Goan village to explore heritage homes, coconut groves, and local artisans. Participate in a pottery/terracotta workshop or basket-weaving session using sustainable materials. Afternoon free for beach or spa. Workshops are small-group to ensure hands-on attention.

Day

9

Optional Pilgrimage Extensions & Free Day

A flexible day for optional short pilgrimage extensions — revisit a favorite church or temple, attend a local mass/service, or join an optional guided nature walk. Suggestions include a visit to Reis Magos Fort and small chapels dotting the coast. Evening farewell dinner with a showcase of Goan music and traditional cuisine.

Day

10

Departure — Reflection & Farewell

Check-out after breakfast. Depending on flight time, last-minute shopping in Panaji or a quiet riverside coffee. Transfer to Dabolim Airport for onward journey. Guests receive a digital keepsake booklet with photos, recipes, and short guides to places visited.

🔗 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.

⚡ Why Choose TourGrids?

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