



OLD GOA Monuments



ST. AUGUSTINE'S TOWER



आर्कैलॉजिकल सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
MINI CIRCLE, GOA

OLD GOA Monuments

Tucked between the mighty Western ghats and the Arabian Sea, Goa (15° 48' 00" and 14° 53' 54" N; 74° 20' 13" and 73° 40' 33" E) is a narrow strip of undulating land with wide spread sandy beaches and lush green vegetation, supposed to have been reclaimed by the legendary Parushuram, the sixth incarnation of Vishnu. It was known as Gomanta, Goapuri, Gomanchala, Gopakapura and Gova etc. in ancient times. The Greek geographer, Ptolemy, of second century A.D. referred this area as 'Kouba', while the Arabs mentioned it as 'Sindabur or Sandabur'.

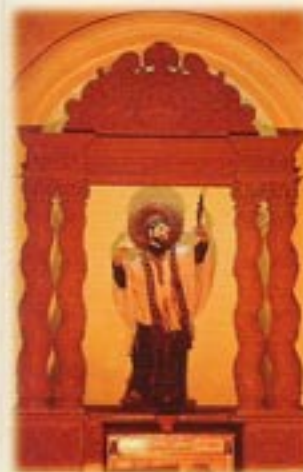


CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF ROSARY

The Prehistoric men inhabited Goa from the times of Early Stone Age. The history of Goa starts with third century B.C. when it formed part of the Mauryan Empire. Later, it was ruled by various dynasties like the Bhojas, the Silaharas, and the Kadambas. The Kadambas ruled Goa from 11th to 13th Century A.D. Malik Kafur, the General of Alau'd Din Khilji over ran the whole of Goa and destroyed its capital Gopakapattan on the banks of Zuari. In 1369 A.D. Goa came under the reign of Vijayanagar, experienced a cultural revival and founded Brahmपुरi at the village Gouli Mauli on the island of Goa. Bahmanis succeeded in conquering Goa in 1472 and shifted the capital from the banks of river Zuari to the banks of Mandovi in Ela, (the present Old Goa; 15° 30' 33" N; 73° 54' 30" E). Later on, power passed from the hands of the Bahmanis to the Adilshahis of Bijapur (1490). Yusuf Adilshahi developed the port at Ela, which soon became an important emporium of Indian Ocean trade.

Duarte Barbosa, a Portuguese traveller who visited Goa around 1500 A.D., described that "the city of Goa was inhabited by many moors, respectable men, foreigners, rich merchants, other gentlemen, cultivators and other men at arms". It was a place of great trade in merchandise. It had a very great port to which flocked many ships from Mella Aden, Ormuz, Cambay etc.

Soon after the landing of Vasco-da-Gama at Calicut in 1498, Portuguese Governor Afonso de Albuquerque conquered Goa by defeating Ismail Adil Shah, the Sultan of Bijapur in Goa, in 1510. Thereafter, with advent of religious orders like the Franciscans, Jesuits, Dominicans, Augustinians, Carmelites, Theatines, and others, many sumptuous chapels, churches,



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Archbishop's prison, docks, various important public establishments such as mint and the gun foundry. Now in ruins.

Towards the close of 16th century, Goa was a flourishing state, keeping pace with the rapid growth of the Portuguese power in the east. When the economic conditions of Goa deteriorated with the rise of Dutch, French and the British, the Portuguese were no longer able to maintain the splendour of Goa. People suffered much from scarcity of provisions which event coupled with the epidemic that struck the populace and the consequent decline of commerce, reduced the city to ruin. This caused the capital to be shifted to Panjim. All that remains of Old Goa are some of the major historical monuments while the rest have been razed down or destroyed by the ravages of time.



MANJULINE ARCH

The construction of most of the churches at Velha Goa was started when the Renaissance in Europe was heading towards a transformation into Baroque. The salient features like twisted shafts, broken cornices surrounded by curved pediments, wavy scrolls, flying figures with a touch of Classic orders and profuse interior decorations with intricate details of ornamentation emphasized by gilding in gold were followed in the construction of churches in Goa.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF ROSARY: Was the earliest amongst the existing churches built in Manjuline style (1542-49) on the Holy Hill.

PORTAL REMAINS OF ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE: The college of St. Paul (1541) was founded for giving instructions to the new converts. St. Francis Xavier had a short stint as its Director of this college from 1544. As per the description of the travellers it had 200 teachers and 3000 students. In 1556 the first printing press in Asia was introduced here. The body of St. Francis Xavier brought from Malaca, was initially kept here.



CORINTHIAN CAPITAL



SE CATHEDRAL

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE:

The church of Our Lady of Grace popularly known as St. Augustine church (1602) is situated on the Holy Hill. The Augustinian Order established their convent in 1572. Later on the college of Populo was added to it in 1602. It was the largest church complex with seminary, convent, library, cloisters, dormitories, galleries and number of cells as per the

travellers who quoted about the grandeur of the Church. The facade of the church had four stories with three arched door ways flanked by Corinthian columns and two lofty bell towers (46 m in height) on either side.

The Portuguese Government banned all the religious orders in 1832 and by 1835 all the Augustinians were forced to leave Goa. As there was no maintenance the huge vault of the church collapsed in 1842. Its facade and towers fell down in 1931 and in 1938.

The Archaeological Survey of India removed the collapsed debris and brought to light the five altars, eight side chapels and a cloister. The interior of the church is profusely decorated with glazed tiles.

CHURCH AND CONVENT OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI:

The church of Holy Spirit popularly known as the church of St. Francis of Assisi was built in 1517. Later on it was rebuilt twice, first in 1521 and finally in 1661. The ornamental portals of the church is in Manueline with trefoiled arch. The four storeyed facade has two octagonal towers crowned with balustrades and pinnacles on both sides. The reminiscent of Gothic rib vaulted nave that has no aisles alongside is provided with six chapels and two altars. The main altar has Baroque with Corinthian features. On either side of the main altar, there are beautiful large wood panels in oil paintings, depicting scenes from the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

BASILICA OF BOM JESUS: The church (1594-1605 A.D.) has a main altar, four side altars, two chapels, a sacristy and a choir. The richly carved main altar is dedicated to the infant Jesus. Its facade decorated with Ionic, Tuscan, Corinthian and Composite pillars and pilasters, shows application of classical Orders. The added attraction of this church is the chapel containing the relics of the body of St. Francis Xavier. The Florentine sculptor Giovanni Batista Foggini made the marble tomb of the saint in 698 at the order of the Duke of Tuscany Cosmas III. The rich silver casket containing the relics of St. Francis Xavier, was wrought by Goan silver smith in 1636-37.

SE' CATHEDRAL: The Se' Cathedral (1562-1652) is the largest church, characterized by its Tuscan exterior, Corinthian columns at its portals with triangular pediments and the barrel-vault over the nave. The church had two towers out of which one collapsed in 1776. It has eight chapels and six altars, while the main altar is dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria. There is a reflection of Baroque tradition in wooden altars.



RIBBED VAULT, ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

CHURCH OF ST. CAJETAN:

The church was built by Theatines in 1661, after St. Peter's church in Rome. It has a Corinthian facade with triangular pediment flanked by two bell towers and a central dome. The main body of the church is Greek cross on plan with four massive Corinthian piers supporting the dome. The ribbed vaults of the nave and aisles are coffered with floral signs. The main altar is dedicated to Our Lady of Divine Providence.



BASILICA OF BOM JESUS

CHAPEL OF ST. CATHERINE: The chapel of St. Catherine, first built in 1510 immediately after the conquest of Goa, in honour of St. Catherine, was later on repaired in 1550 by the Governor George Cabral and still later reconstructed in 1952. It has two short towers on either side of the facade and an altar in the interior. It was raised to the status of the Cathedral by Pope Paul III by a bull issued in 1534 and maintained the position till the new Cathedral was constructed.

ARCH OF VICEROY: The arch of Viceroy built in 1599 A.D. by Francisco da Gama, in the memory of his great-grand father, Vasco-da-Gama was later on reconstructed in 1954 retaining the statue of Vasco-da-Gama on the river side and the statue of St. Catherine on the other side.



CHURCH OF ST. CAJETAN

GATE OF ADILSHAH'S PALACE:

The Palace of Adilshah was magnificent building which became the residence of the Portuguese Governors till 1695. The gate consisted of two basalt pillars having outer perforated stone screen with a lintel. The intricate carvings depict temple art features.

OTHER MONUMENTS:

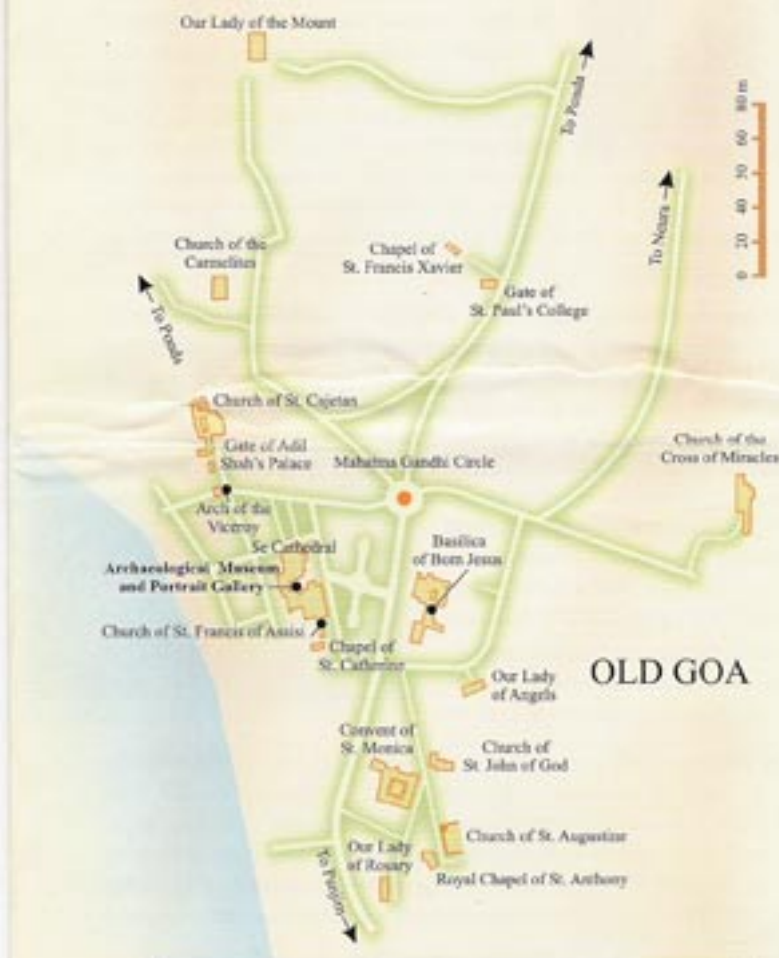
The chapel of Our Lady of Mount is located further east of the Se' Cathedral complex on a hill which was built soon after the conquest. The church and convent of

St. Monica (1606-1627 A.D.) is another outstanding structure on the Holy Hill meant for nuns. The convent has vast courtyard with cloister, in three storeys having numerous cells and halls. The vaulted ceilings in some of halls are painted with Biblical scenes. The church in the monastery is dedicated to St. Monica. The other monuments in Old Goa include convent and the church of St. John of God (beginning of 18th century), the royal Chapel of St. Anthony (beginning of 16th century), the convent and church of the Cross of Miracles, and the Arch of Conception.

Largely, all the churches at Old Goa were built of laterite stones; however, basalt was used for pilasters and columns for decorative purposes. The churches were plastered with lime. Though these belong to various orders, they are almost identical on plan so far as the various components like the belfry, altars, choir, sacristy etc. are concerned. Differences, however, are noticeable in locations of their components and sizes.



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



MONUMENTS

The Monuments are open on all the days, i.e. throughout the year (inclusive of all public, state, national holidays).
Timings: 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

MUSEUM

The Museum is open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. except Friday.
Entry Fee: Rs.5/- for people above 15 yrs.