

Major Attractions of Goa:

- Agonda Beach, Agonda
- Goa Cavellissim Beach
- Mandrem Beach, Mandrem
- Anjuna Beach/Market, Anjuna, Bardez
- Calangute, Goa
- Baga Beach
- GTDC boat cruise, Mandovi waters
- Mapusa Market
- Basilica of Bom Jesus, Panaji
- Dudhsagar Falls
- Palolem Beach
- Tomb of St. Francis Xavier, Panaji
- Se Cathedral, Panaji
- Old Goa, Panaji
- Casino Carnival Goa, Panaji
- Fontainhas, Panaji
- Church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Panaji
- Shri Mahalasa Temple, Ponda
- Savoia Plantation, Ponda
- Sahakari Spice Farm, Ponda
- Heritage walk, Panaji
- Anjuna Flee Market, Anjuna
- Scuba Diving and Snorkeling in Goa
- Water Sports at Calangute



Detailed view of different attractions of Goa.

Major Churches of Goa

Basilica of Bom Jesus



Built in the 16th century, this magnificent edifice is the most popular and famous of all the churches in Goa. The mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, kept in a silver casket, are enshrined here. The casket was wrought by Goan silversmiths in 1636 - 37. Dedicated to Infant Jesus, this church is now a World Heritage Monument.

Timings : Sunday : 10.30 to 18.30 hrs. Weekdays : 9.00 to 18.30 hrs Masses: Sundays : 08.00 & 9.15 hrs.
Weekdays : 7.00 & 8.00 hrs.

Se Cathedral



The most imposing of all the churches at Old Goa, its vaulted interior overwhelms visitors with its sheer grandeur. This Cathedral has five bells, among them the famous Golden bell, the biggest in Goa and one of the best in the world. The church is dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria..

Masses – Sunday 7.15 a.m. 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 pm Weekdays : 7.30 am and 6.00 pm.

Church of St.Francis of Assisi

The entrance and the choir were built in the Manueline style, the only fragment of its kind in the East.



First built in 1517, it was later rebuilt twice, in 1521 and in 1661. The interior is illustrated with exquisite paintings and the floor has a large number of tombstones with coats-of-arms. The adjacent convent now houses the Archaeological Museum.

St.Cajetan Church

Built in 1661 in the style of St.Peter's Basilica in Rome. It has a Corinthian façade with the main

altar dedicated to Our Lady of Divine Providence.

Church of Our Lady of Rosary

One of the earliest built in Goa, the church bears an inscription on the conquest of Goa by Afonso de Albuquerque in 1510.

Nunnery of Santa Monica

Built like a fortress, it is significant for its massive walls and buttresses. It is the only nunnery in Goa. The convent has a vast courtyard with a cloister. Its three storeys have numerous cells and halls.

Ruins of Church of St.Augustine

Close to the Nunnery is a lofty tower, defying the vagaries of the weather. The tower is the only surviving one of the four that once stood there. The Church when intact was perhaps the biggest in Goa. Another chapter to its history was added recently with the unearthing of the tomb of Queen Ketevan of Georgia.

Viceroy's Arch

One of the gates of Adil Shah's Fort, it was renovated by the Portuguese conquerors and was the gateway to Goa for Portuguese Governors. Every incoming Viceroy used to disembark at this place.

Old Goa

Once the administrative capital of the Portuguese empire in the East, Old Goa is blessed with churches, chapels and convents of unsurpassed architectural beauty, befitting its label as 'Golden Goa' or 'Rome of the East'. The conquest of Goa by Afonso de Albuquerque in 1510 saw the advent of several religious orders like the Franciscans, Jesuits, Augustinians, Dominicans and Carmelites, who left their stamp with the many monuments they built in Old Goa.



CRESCENT BEACHES

Shaped like the new moon, Goa's beaches are known the world over. Fringed by swaying palm and coconut trees with cool and comfortable shacks offering a variety of refreshments, Goa's 103 km coastline is blessed with the most enchanting beaches lapped by the Arabian Sea.. And almost all of them are swimmer friendly with the assured presence of lifeguards on all the popular beaches.

When it comes to beaches, the visitor is spoilt for choice.

NORTH GOA

CALANGUTE: Calangute is the most popular beach with thousands thronging it in both the peak and off-season. The waves rise high above as you wash away your city blues,

though swimmers need to be a trifle cautious because of the sudden drop and the rising waves. Experienced swimmers will, however, revel in the seas here. The beach is fringed with popular restaurants and hotels, including the Calangute Residency operated by GTDC. This long, seven-km sweep

of sand located 15 kms from Panaji, is called the 'Queen of Beaches'. All the travel agencies and tour operators have a base here from where bookings are done for most of the other beaches.

Parasailing at calangute beach: Years of tourism has brought in a tremendous change in the scenario. Hotels and guesthouses stretch uninterrupted from Calangute to Baga. The village of Calangute has all basic facilities like post office, banks, foreign exchange offices, resort companies, all kind of bars and restaurants, besides medical facilities. The number of internet cafes in Calangute might even exceed that of the entire city of Panaji.

Huge showrooms filled with exquisite handicrafts from Kashmir, Tibet, Indonesia, Rajasthan and other exotic places, line up the main road running towards Anjuna.

BAGA: A few kms down the beach is another—Baga.-- part of a 30 km stretch of beach coastline along the west coast of Goa which begins at Fort Aguada, continues as Sinqerim Beach, moves on to Candolim which merges into Calangute Beach and then stretches on to Baga, Anjuna and on to Vagator, finally ending at Chapora beach. Truly a veritable feast of beaches.

Compared to Calangute, Baga is quieter and also more isolated. Its scenic beauty, with the creek, the Retreat House perched on the hill and the fewer tourist buses all have contributed to its unique beauty. It is more popular with western tourists who love to use it as a base for water sports and fishing in the area.



VAGATOR:

This most photographed beach of Goa forms a bay that curves from the headland to the hillock crowned by the Chapora Fort.

This beautiful arc of sand is located about 22 kms from Panaji and is part of the 30 km stretch of beach coastline along the west coast of Goa.

Adjoining Anjuna, Vagator is secluded, crescent shaped and situated on the Caisua bay along the Chapora river basin in the shadow of Chapora Fort. During the tourist season, it is a favorite venue for midnight parties. There are a number of buses that run from Mapusa and Calangute beach to Vagator. The nearest interstate bus station is at Mapusa.



ANJUNA: Anjuna was made famous by the 'flower power and peace' generation of the sixties and early seventies. And later by the 'trance' parties. Located about 18 kms from Panaji, the beach is known for its breeze-catching palms, soft sand, and the unusual rocky formation overlying a cove of whitish sand and black rock that juts into the sea. It is now famous for its weekly Flea Market, which draws legions of visitors every Wednesday and bargains can be had on apparel, footwear, jewellery, chess sets—and yak cheese.

The village of Anjuna is a five square mile enclosure nestling between the Arabian Sea and the Hill overlooking the beach.

SINQUERIM: With its magnificent 17th century fort which has now been converted into a prison, Sinquerim is one of the finest beaches in Goa, offering international class facilities for water-skiing, parasailing, fishing, scuba-diving and wind-surfing.

Home to the Taj Hotel Group, which dominates the headland around the historic Fort Aguada, Sinquerim is located some 13 kms from Panaji. The uninterrupted stretch of firm sand stretches all the way north to Baga, offering visitors a temptingly long walk along the beach.

CANDOLIM: Candolim is the first beach that can be approached from the city of Panaji and is like a gateway to the other more famous beaches. Though individual accommodation is available here, there are only a few hotels with restaurants attached. One highlight of Candolim is the parasailing and water skiing facility, besides other water sports.

AGUADA: Aguada beach is almost synonymous with the top-notch Fort Aguada Hotel complex, a superb hotel that is built on the cliff, around the remnants of the early 17th century Portuguese fort. Although access to the beach is not possible through the hotel grounds, which are private, you can walk along Aguada beach, for in India private beaches do not exist.

Drawn by the clientele of the hotel, Aguada beach has cafes, itinerant vendors of everything from Kashmiri carpets to massages, and a good range of water sports.

MORJIM: The VIPs on this beach are the Olive Ridley turtles that come to nest here helped by a group of volunteers who guard the nests and help the hatchlings get into the sea. A favourite of Russian tourists, along with Ashwem beach close by, visitors will find signboards and menu cards in Russian!

ARAMBOL or HARMAL : This is also a foreigners' haunt with a large number of Tai Chi, non-permanent mehendi or henna, tattoo, yoga and meditation centres. Harmal Beach is the one place you cannot drive on to, but there are narrow lanes that lead to the higher reaches of the coast. You have to walk down a slope to the beach itself. The black rocks on the silvery beach make for some pretty dramatic scenery at sunset. Further up near the hill is a pool with soft yellow clay, which is said to have healing properties. Beauticians buy the clay as do the innumerable massage parlours in the area.



MIRAMAR: This beautiful 'urban' beach, akin to Chowpatty in Mumbai, is located just 3 kms from Panaji. It lies adjoining the estuary of the river Mandovi as it opens into the Arabian Sea. It was originally known as 'Gaspar Dias Beach', named after Gaspar Dias, a prosperous landlord and where a Portuguese fort once stood at the fag end of the 16th century.

From the beach across the river is an excellent view of Fort Aguada. With its proximity to Panaji, and located near educational institutions, Miramar is very much both a family beach and a meeting point for young people. It is also a hot spot for fitness fiends and walkers. Tourists love the familiar atmosphere. Numerous hotels, including the spacious and well laid out Miramar Residency run by GTDC, dot the area.

The beach is crowded with locals and tourists alike on most days. A memorial to Goa's first chief minister, the late Dayanand Bandodkar is located here.

SOUTH GOA



PALOLEM

Palolem is a cosy beach of white sand facing a blue bay between two headlands. The little wooded islands on the northern headland look alluring and you could try and persuade one of the fishermen — this is also a fishing beach — to ferry you across. They also offer to take you out to spot dolphins. Tourists

have of late discovered Palolem and so there are quite a few shacks selling seafood snacks, souvenirs and clothes of the bright, informal kind. Panaji, the capital, is more than 70 kms away.

In recent times, Palolem has become famous for its 'Silent Noise' parties, a unique concept which does away with loud blaring live music after the 10 pm ban. With your own set of earphones, you can dance away to different genres of music played by versatile DJs.

Palolem is just 3 kms away from Canacona Railway station, now on the Konkan Railway route. You can hire taxis and auto-rickshaws to reach Palolem beach from Margao, 40 kms away. There are regular buses from Margao to Palolem that drop you off at Canacona village.

There are now beautiful beach huts and family rooms to choose from in Palolem. Further south is the cove of Colomb where you can enjoy peace and quiet. Two kilometres away from Palolem is Rajbag



Beach which is isolated and stretches all the way to the mouth of the Talpona River. And then on to Galgibaga Beach which is the second nesting site in Goa for turtles. Further south is Agonda Beach.

AGONDA: If you continue driving towards Panaji from Palolem, the next beach is Agonda. It's long and lonely, fringed with palms and casuarinas and dominated by a large hill to the south. It's not safe to swim out too far on this beach. There are very few facilities available here and you are needed to carry all the essentials.

Agonda is a 3 km long beautiful cove of white sand, safely secluded in the palms. There are no tourists, no souvenir stalls, no restaurants—just peace and tranquility. Just the trees, the beach, the big beautiful ocean and you. It also makes for a great day trip from Colva and Cavelossim. For a real adventure, hire a tent and camp for the night, listening to the crashing of the sea waves.

Not far from Agonda beach is Cabo de Rama, untouched by most of the visitors in this region. The atmosphere of the fort creates a sense of history and drama that very few would fail to appreciate. The fort is named after Rama, hero of the Hindu epic Ramayana. According to local legend, Rama stayed here with his wife Sita during the period of his 12-year exile.

The best way to reach this beach is by a scooter or motors bike.

VARCA, CAVELOSSIM, MOBOR

Varca, Cavelossim and Mabor are a trio of the most alluring beaches south of Benaulim. These beaches are much cleaner and quieter than most of the other more famous beaches of Goa. There are numerous beach shacks offering a variety of Goan dishes and seafood at reasonable prices.

There are several food joints around the grand 'Dona Sylvia' resort offering a splendid repast at reasonable rates. There are also facilities for Dolphin watching up the River Sal. The beaches here are home to some of the most exclusive and luxurious resorts in Goa. Accommodation is also available for budget and economy class travelers, though not on the beach itself.

There is plenty of transport for these beaches from Margao. From Cavelossim village, Margao is 18 kms away and buses and autos are available easily. You can also hire taxis from Dabolim Airport (41 – 48 kms) to reach the beach resorts here. To move locally, use cycles and scooters that are available on hire.

BETALBATIM

North of Colva is Betalbatim Beach which begins a long string of beaches with Majorda, Utorda, Arossim and Velsao at the north. It is a ten kilometre stretch of white sand which is not very crowded

COLVA



This is the most important beach in the South circuit, equipped with all modern amenities like air-conditioned resort complexes, tourist cottages, discos, besides several stalls, eateries and guest houses—all of which have expanded the village enormously.

With 20 kms of virgin white sands, palm fringed, sun drenched beaches, Colva is the most loved beach in Goan. Unlike Anjuna or Calangute, Colva has gained popularity only lately. Located just 39 kms from the capital Panaji, it was relatively little disturbed and life moved on quietly. The Church of Our Lady Of Mercy in Colva is famous for its miracle statue of Menino Jesus. The busy road leading from the Church to the beach is where all the facilities are located.

While taking a stroll on Colva Beach, silver carpets of mackerels can be seen shimmering and drying on the golden sands. Fishermen's motor trawlers huddle in a line offshore. Tourists and locals frequent the beach for a dip or a walk for a change of air or to sunbathe on the golden sands. The trinket stalls and drink stands on the sands under the moonlight add to the aura of Colva Beach.

MAJORDA

This small stretch, about 5 kms north of Colva Beach, is as pretty as a picture, studded with several hotels, the most prominent being the starred Majorda Beach Resort.

Majorda is the village where the Jesuits, fond as they were of the good things of life, discovered the best Goan toddy (sap from the coconut palm), which they used to leaven the bread. Naturally, then, Majorda is the place where the Goans were first trained in the delicate art of baking European breads. The Majordans are still Goa's best bakers.

The delights of the beach, however, were discovered much earlier, in mythical times. Legend has it that in the Goan version of the Ramayana, Lord Rama was kidnapped as a child and brought up at Majorda. Later, in pursuit of Sita, he camped at Cabo de Rama - a headland further south - where the stretch of developed beaches ends.

BOGMALO

This beach, dominated by a 5-star hotel located right on its edge, is cut apart from both the North and South beach circuit. Just 4 kms from the airport at Dabolim, it is a favourite among the elite classes and has an air of exclusivity. Although the resort hotel towers above the village, there are still a few smaller and appealing places to stay in. Windsurfing and water skiing facilities are available.

BENAULIM

Less than 2 kms south of Colva is the more tranquil beach of Benaulim, is one of the few places in Goa where one can glimpse handicrafts typical to this area. The best of the traditional rosewood furniture is made here. Also, mythically Benaulim is famous as the place where the legendary Parashuram's arrow

landed by which Goa was created. Among the more attractive aspects of Benaulim is that it is still rather undiscovered by domestic tourists even though it is a fishing beach. It gets fairly crowded in the evenings and on weekends with local visitors who get off buses about a kilometre away and pour onto the beach.

The Church of St John the Baptist is situated on a hill beyond the village and worth a visit. On the arrival of the monsoon, the Feast of St John the Baptist (Sao Joao) is celebrated as thanksgiving. Young men wearing crowns of leaves and fruits tour the area singing for gifts. To commemorate the movement of St John in his mother's womb and Mary's visit, the young men of this village jump into the locals wells in celebration.

BETUL

Betul is an important fishing port where all the mechanized boats and deep sea trawlers bring in their catch. Here headlands from the slopes of the Western Ghats protrude into the shore, imparting an imposing backdrop.

Beyond this secluded beach is the hill of Cabo De Rama where the Portuguese built a fort. From the fort, a great view of the sunset on the beach can be viewed. However, there are very few places to stay in Betul.

SPICES



Savoi Plantations - Spice of Life

Located at Savoi Ponda, 25 kms from Panaji and 15 kms from Ponda, it is one of the oldest tropical plantations. With intercropping of spices with coconuts, betel nuts, pineapples and other fruits. Experience typical Goan Hindu cuisine served in mud pots and banana leaf. En route to the plantation one can visit a cashewnut factory and Ananta temple, submerged partly in water.



Tropical Spice Plantation: The plantation is located in Keri in Ponda Taluka. Visitors are welcomed with herbal tea followed by a guided tour of the plantation. On return, enjoy a local meal served on a banana frond.

Pascoal Spice Village: Located near the village of Khandepar, 8 kms. from Ponda National Highway (NH) 4 A., the lower end of the property is bounded by a tributary of the Mandovi River. A wide variety of spice plants and cash crops is grown here. For visitors there is restaurant with an open-air party facility along with boating.

Rustic Plantation: Situated on the extreme North-East of Goa at Dongruli village, Thane, Valpoi, Sattari, the plantation is a rejuvenating experience of a lifetime. Nestled in a valley amidst verdant grass and fruit bearing trees and rivulets, Rustic Plantation is an ideal getaway..

Sahakar Spice Farm: This spice farm on the Ponda-Belgaum Road, Curti, Ponda offers a guided tour of the plantation and an authentic budget village lunch on a banana leaf, besides a traditional welcome.

Spice Up Your Life: Spices like pepper and chilli, cloves, cinnamon and cardamom are indispensable ingredients in Goa's famous cuisine. Grown in large plantations along with other cash crops like areca nuts, cashew nuts, coconuts and tropical fruits, these plantations combine spices and tourism in a unique concoction.

Sai Herbarium: Presents a superb, eco-tourism natural spot with herbal gardens which includes medicinal and aromatic plants. The spice plantation, cultivated by pure organic farming methods, has been maintained in its natural ecology amidst a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere. Visitors can enjoy delicious Goan as well as Indian cuisine. Contact: C/o. Sai Organic Farm & Herbarium, Savoi Verem, Ponda-Goa 403 401. Tel: 2340308.

Parvati Madav Park Plantation: Situated in Keri village in Ponda, 30 kms. from Panaji. The place is gifted with natural beauty with plants arranged in scientific classification and categorized according to one's psychological, aesthetic and spiritual needs and grown in well demarcated plots.

Other Attractions:

Arvalem Waterfalls

Descending from the temple of Rudreshwar, one catches sight of a majestic waterfall cascading from a height of about 70 ft. to form a sizeable lake at the bottom—a tempting sight to seasoned swimmers.



Dudhsagar Waterfalls

10 kms from Coem Railway Station, these majestic falls are accessible by train. Water plummets hundreds of feet in a milky foam in one of Goa's most spectacular sights which is also a lifeline to the ecosystem of the Bhagwan Mahavir sanctuary.. A popular destination for hikers and trekkers, the waterfall is also accessible by jeep through the sanctuary. However, one needs to obtain permission in advance from the Department of Forests at Junta House, Panaji.

Mapusa Market

The Mapusa market goes about its business daily, except Sundays, but really gets going on Friday mornings. It's a raucous affair that attracts vendors and shoppers from all over Goa (and interstate) with an entirely different vibe to the Anjuna market. Here you'll find locals haggling for clothing and produce, and you can also find antiques, souvenirs and textiles. So significant is the market locally that the town's name is derived from the Konkani words map meaning 'measure' and sa meaning 'fill up', in reference to the trade in spices, vegetables and fruit that's plied here daily.

Oxford Arcade, Anjuna, India

The massive Oxford Arcade, just next to the Starco crossroads, is a fully fledged supermarket, complete with shopping trolleys, ice-cold air-conditioning and checkout scanners. Hallowed ground for foreigners who pay dearly for little luxuries, it also sports a bakery, toiletries department, pet food, wine department and children's toys. Come Christmas, this is the place to buy your tinsel and baubles, fake tree and kids' gifts to stack beneath it.

Kala Academy, Panaji (Panjim), India

On the west side of the city at Campal is Goa's premier cultural centre, which features a program of dance, theatre, music and art exhibitions throughout the year. Many shows are in Konkani, but there are occasional English-language productions; call to find out what's on when you're in town.

Handicrafts of Goa



The crafts of the state are intricately beautiful, capturing the fancies of tourists and locals alike. These crafts are a mirror of Goa's perennial beauty and they have won critical acclaim of the connoisseurs of the art world.

Goan lace is here, as are colourful masks, cotton bags, wooden toys and the excellent shopping bags and table mats woven from sisal or banana, coconut or pineapple fibre. The best items are perhaps the fabulous terracotta and brass items from Bicholim. Items made from exquisite sea shells ranging from chandeliers to mirrors to idols are also much in demand.

The major art forms of the state include bamboo craft, woodcarving, brass metals, seashell craft, Papier-Mache, and wooden lacquer ware. Other important crafts are Jute Macrame, Fabric Collage, Plaster of Paris, Crochet and embroidery, fiber and Batik prints, fiber stone carving, Coconut shell carving, metal embossing, silver and imitation jewelry, cotton dolls, soft toys, woolen tapestry, and artistic weaving

Goa does not lag behind as far as local arts and crafts are concerned and with the superb craftsmanship of the local artisans has managed to carve out a niche for itself in this highly competitive field.

Local artists make excellent souvenirs from a wide range of materials. These items are crafted by professional artisans in their ethnic ambience in the rural areas, and also by artisans working at the arts and crafts complexes run by the government. The products are sold through various handicraft emporia and at stalls at all the major tourist spots. The art and craft of Goa is the product of the aesthetic blend of Portuguese and Indian cultures.

- **POTTERY & TERRACOTA** These are traditional crafts with utility-cum-decorative items produced by the potters with artistic perfection and realistic finish. The items produced with this craft include flower garden pots, bowls with floral designs, figures of Saints, Gods' and Goddesses' and animals, ashtrays and penholders, etc.
- **BRASS METAL WARE** While utensils of utility are made of sheet metal (copper), brass metal casting is a craft passed on from one generation to another practised on hereditary basis. The items produced include oil lamps in various designs, candle stands, temple towers, church bells, ashtrays, etc
- **WOODEN LAQUERWARE/WOOD TURNING** Some of the most exquisite items produced in Goan woodcraft include cradles, baby carts, toys, corner stands, etc. which are used mostly by Hindu families on religious occasions.
- **CROCHET & EMBROIDERY** Works such as tablecloths, children and ladies garments, pillow and cushion covers, linen form a breathtaking apparel range.

- **BAMBOO CRAFT** One of the major crafts industry of Goa. The list of popular Bamboo products include flower baskets, mats, and letter-holders, pen stands, fans and other decorative items.
- **FIBRE CRAFT** Shopping bags, ladies purses, coasters and wall hangings, and other essential accessory items used in daily purposes are made of banana or sisal fibre and the major fibre craft centre is situated in Corlim.
- **JUTE MACRAME CRAFT** Jute craft is known to be one of the most unique crafts of India and items such as decorative bags, belts, wall hangings, lamp shades, flower pots, hangers, etc are popular Goan souvenirs.
- **COCONUT MASK CARVING & SEA SHELL CRAFT** Mask carving has got a whole new look in Goa as it is done on coconut shells. Sea shell craft produces ashtrays, lamp shades, coasters, chandeliers, curtains, pot hangers, table mats, clocks, mirror frame, etc.

The Goa Handicrafts, Rural & Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (GHRSSIDC), a Government of Goa Undertaking, set up in 1980 performs the role of encouraging, promoting and marketing the myriad of Goan handicrafts by making these items available through its various outlets. Its address is:

GHRSSIDC
Crafts Complex,
Neugi Nagar, Rua De Ourem,
Panaji, Goa - 403001.



HINDU TEMPLES

Shree Chandranath Situated on the 350-metre high hill of Chandranath at Paroda, Quepem, Chandreshwar was the titular deity of the Bhoja kings who ruled South Goa till the middle of the 8th century. They had named their capital Chandrapur after the deity. The temple is so designed that the Linga receives moonlight on every full moon. The temple commands a panoramic view and its surroundings are enchanting.

Datta Mandir Located at Dattawadi, Sanquelim, 40 kms from Margao, this century old temple of the Trimurthy has a backdrop of a beautiful hillock covered with dense groves of areca palms. The most



important festival is Datta Jayanti which falls in the month of December. The deity is believed to have cured many people of unsound mind. The entire interior consists of white marble.

Shree Gopal Ganapati: Situated 26 kms. from Panaji at Farmagudi, Ponda, amidst beautiful natural surroundings, near Bandora.. The stone image of Gopal Ganapati was discovered by herdsmen while grazing cattle near the hill and later installed in a small shrine with a thatched roof. The temple with the idol made of metal alloy was consecrated on April 24, 1966.

Kamakshi Saunsthan Shiroda: Situated 40 kms from Panaji. According to mythology, Shri. Kamakshi was brought from Kaurang (Kanchi).

Shree Lairai Temple: The temple of Shree Lairai is situated at Sirigao, about 2 kms from the Panaji-Valpoi highway. The temple is unique in North Goa with its combination of northern and southern art. The deity Lairai is famous all over Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka, for her unique 'Homakund'. Every year thousands of devotees attend the annual feast of the deity to witness the walking of Dhonds through the sacred fire called 'Homakund'.

Mahadev Temple: 66 kms from Panaji in Sanguem Taluka at the foot of the Ghats at Tambdi Surla is the only specimen of Kadamba–Yadava 13th century architecture in basalt stone preserved in Goa. A road connects Sanvordem to this temple complex.

Madanant Temple: Situated 25 kms from Mapusa, this temple complex at Sal, Bicholim has beautiful natural surroundings. The three day festival of Gadens which begins on Phalgun Purnima draws big crowds. Devotees believe they can have the darshan of 'Devchars' during the Gade festival. Situated in Savoi Verem, 12 kms from Ponda and 30 kms from Panaji, this 500-year-old temple is surrounded by hills and fields, areca nut farms, coconut and cashew trees.

Maha Ganapati Mandir: Located at Madel in the Tivim Village Panchayat area of Bardez in North Goa. During the month of August (Shravan) the temple is illuminated and beautifully decorated. In 1970, four statues of Ganapati, Mahishasur Mardani and some others were found.

Shree Mahalsa: Located at Mardol, one km from the Shri. Mangueshi temple, the deity worshipped here is an attribute of Vishnu.

Shree Mahalaxmi : Situated in the village of Bandode, about 4 kms from Ponda this is considered the abode of the original Goddess of the Shakti cult.. The image of Mahalakshmi has a close resemblance to that of Mahalakshmi at Kolhapur, the main centre of worship. Her special feature is that she wears a linga on her head and is considered a peaceful or Satvik form of the Devi. The Goddess Mahalakshmi was worshipped by the Shilahara rulers (9750 – 1030 A.D.) and the early Kadamba Kings of Goa.