
Goa. The Rome of the East

While our Missionaries of the North, Fr. Francis and Fr. Pfeiffer were evangelising unchartered territory, Fr. Brucciani made the monthly pilgrimage to Goa.

Goa, the “Rome of the East” was ruled by the Portuguese for over 450 years until 1961. In its heyday it was the staging post for Portuguese trade with the East and became the hub of missionary activity for the Dominicans, from as early as 1510, for the Franciscans from 1517 and finally, and most successfully, for the Jesuits with St. Francis-Xavier’s arrival in 1542. Its buildings reflect the joyful opulence of the counter reformation in their design, but alas, they now reflect the demise of the Faith in their current state of neglect.



The Viceroy's Arch (*above*) was the arch through which St. Francis-Xavier and all missionaries entered Old Goa after disembarking at the river jetty just beyond. On the top of the arch is a statue of St. Catherine impaling a pagan on the end of her spear. Goa was won from the Muslims on St. Catherine's day 1498.

The Basilica of Bom Jesus (*above right*) contains the relics of St. Francis (*right*) and the Church of St. Cajetan (*below*) is built as a miniature of St. Peter's in Rome. On its left is the Pastoral Institute of St. Pius X for the “orientation” of newly ordained clergy (*sic.*).

