



Sacred Relics of Saint Francis Xavier

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Recently, the decennial exposition of the sacred relics of [Saint Francis Xavier](#) began which will run until **5th January 2025**.

- The relics of Saint Francis Xavier, housed at the [Basilica of Bom Jesus](#) in **Old Goa** since **1624**, has shown **minimal signs of decay** despite being exhumed multiple times.
- He is referred to as **Goencho Saib** (Lord of Goa), who arrived in Goa in **1542**.
- He was a **Spanish Jesuit missionary** whose mission was to **restore Christianity** among the Portuguese settlers. He was one of the founders of the Jesuit order,
- He died in **1552** on **Shangchuan Island off China's coast**. He was first buried on the **island**.
 - His body was later moved to **Malacca** and finally to **Goa** in **1554** and kept at **St Paul's College in Old Goa**, the first building constructed by Jesuits in Goa.
- The **Feast of St. Francis Xavier**, held on 3rd December at the Basilica of Bom Jesus, is **Goa's biggest Christian festival**, marking the anniversary of **St. Francis Xavier's death**.

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