



BOMBAY MUMBAI

INDIA

Bombay or Mumbai is the capital city of the Maharashtra State India and is India's financial, economic and commercial center. It is the world's seventh largest city with a population thought to be in excess of 10 million. Mumbai was originally an archipelago of seven islands off the Konkan coast which were united and reclaimed by landfills and breakwaters early this century. Known as Bombay Island, the site is joined at the north with the larger island of Salsette, which is connected to the mainland to the east. Often called the "Gateway to India", it is the country's principal port on the Arabian Sea and is one of the largest and most densely populated cities in the world.

Mumbai consists of a low lying plain between ridges of low hills. Some believe that the name Bombay is derived from the Portuguese who called this area Bom Bahia – Beautiful Bay. In January of 1996 the city of Bombay was officially renamed Mumbai to reflect the city's heritage. Mumbai's wealth is based on the cotton textile industry which is still important today. However, the city has also diversified into other manufacturing areas that include the production of chemicals, oils, soaps, machinery, equipment and automobiles.

HISTORY

Located on the site of an ancient settlement that spanned the seven islands, it was given an Indian name of Mumbai from the Goddess Muba Devi, who is still the guardian deity of the city. The original inhabitants were Koli fisherfolk and Mumbai attracted Persian, Roman and Assyrian travellers from ancient times. Ptolemy, the Greek astronomer, visited in 150 A.D. and called the area Hep-Tanasia, which means "seven islands".

In 1348 Mumbai was conquered by invading Muslim forces and became part of the Gujerat state. The Portuguese, in 1508, failed in their attempt to conquer the Mahikavatic settlement. In 1535 the ruler of Gujerat ceded the islands to them. Mumbai was part of the dowry given to Princess Catherine of Braganza when she married King Charles II of England in 1661. The King then leased it to the East India Company of Great Britain. After 1783 the area became the base for its trading activities. With the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and the subsequent increase in company's shipping, land reclamation began and Mumbai became an important port and ship-building center. In 1947 India was granted independence from Great Britain and the city has since seen a large growth in population.





BOMBAY PLACES OF INTEREST

1 The **Gateway of India** is built on Apollo Bunder Pier to commemorate the arrival of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911. Today this yellow basalt gate is recognized as the city's symbol.

2 The **Taj Mahal Hotel** was first built in 1903, but now claims a modern high-rise addition. It is considered by some to be one of the world's finest. The hotel is located directly across from the Gateway of India.

3 The **Prince of Wales Museum** is found on Mahatma Gandhi road. Built in 1905 to honor the first visit of King George V, it houses a fine collection of Mughal and Rajasthani art and historical relics. It was designed by the same architect who did the Gateway to India, George Wittet. A rich collection of Nepalese and Tibetan art occupies one whole gallery with few equals anywhere.

4 The **Victoria and Albert Museum**, near the Victoria Gardens and Zoo (Veermata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan), you will find documents pertaining to Mumbai's past from fossils to ancient arms.

5 World Trade Center is found on Cuffe Parade. Here you will find a concentration of emporiums of Indian states where handicrafts exclusive to the region are offered for sale.



6 Victoria Terminus is the headquarters of the Central Railways. Victorian-Gothic in style, it is replete with ornamentation and gargoyles. It is said to rival London's ornate St. Pancras Station.

Beyond Mumbai

Elephanta is an island located 6 miles (9.7 km) across from the Gateway to India and was named by the early Portuguese after the large stone elephant that guarded it. The stone has since been moved to the Victoria Gardens, but the island is best known for a cave temple hewn out of solid rock in the 8th century. A long flight of stairs leads to the caves.

Kanheri, located 25 miles (40 km) from Mumbai has 109 Buddhist Caves dating from the 2nd to the 9th centuries. Cave three is known for its grand prayer hall and a long colonnade of pillars.

Marve and **Manori Beaches** can be found 25 miles (40 km) from the city and are connected to each other by ferry. You would need to take the train to Malad and then hire a taxi for the remaining 4 miles (6.5 km). Vihar Lake, 19 miles (31 km) from Mumbai is a popular site for fishing and picnics. Vihar is one of Mumbai's reservoirs. Take the Central Railway to Kurla or the Western Railway to Andheri and a taxi from there. The nearby Powai Lake is known for fine fishing.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Bombay/Mumbai we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For Information concerning tour content and pricing, consult azamaraclubcruises.com or contact the onboard Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: You can bargain in all but the fixed-price stores. Merchants in areas where most Westerners shop may be reluctant to bargain.

Tippling: Some hotels and restaurants add a service charge to your bill. If the service has been good small change should be left. At the airport you will buy a portage ticket, usually Rs 2 per bag and the porter does not get tipped on top of this fee.

Dress Code: Casual clothes will get you through most any occasion. Jeans or something similar are acceptable almost anywhere. Shorts are not worn in city streets, except by Westerners who are not considerate of the Indian sensitivities. Generally, women's shoulders are covered in India. Wear comfortable shoes that are easy to get in and out of if you plan to visit temples, shrines or mosques.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Mulligatawny, a soup with a curry base, is world famous. Tandoori describes a method of cooking similar to a barbecue, but done in a clay oven. Chicken tandoori is very popular, and often you will find lamb and fish cooked this way. Cooked vegetables include brinjals (eggplant), bhindi (okra) and mattar (peas). Vegetarian dishes are especially good in India, prepared with unusual sauces. Rice is also excellent in India and is served many ways, with vegetables, nuts, fruits and spices.

Indian-grown tea is very good. Coffee, locally grown, is also good. Be sure to specify if you want your coffee black – the Indian way is to mix it with steaming milk before being served. Local beer is plentiful and goes well with Indian food. You will find a large selection of fruit drinks such as apple or lime. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING

The main shopping areas are found along Maulana Shaukatali Road, Mutton Street, S B Singh Road and D Naoroji Road. Handicrafts can be found at the Cottage Industries Emporium at 34C S. Maharaj Marg. Many states have emporiums at the World Trade Center on Cuffe Parade. The oldest market in Mumbai is the Jhaveri Bazaar (Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Market). This market is near Kalbadevi Street and is the most crowded and fascinating of the local markets.

You can shop in Mumbai better than anywhere else in the country. The most popular items being antiques, jewelry, wooden items, silk, saris and leather. When buying antiques, be certain that the merchant supplies the forms you need to export them from the country. As for jewelry, if you buy gold with diamonds or other precious stones you must have a certificate to permit you to leave the country with your purchase. The largest collection of jewelers can be found at the intersection of Kalbadevi and Sheikh Memon Streets.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The official currency of India is called the rupee (Rs). There are 100 paise to each rupee. Notes can be found in the following denominations: 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000. Changing your money only at authorized places is advised. These are available at cashier's desks of hotels, most banks and in some shops as well. Stock up on plenty of small change as many merchants may not be able to supply the correct change. Check notes for holes and tears as most Indian's will not ac-

