ABOUT MUMBAI

Mumbai (also known as Bombay, the official name until 1995) is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra.

Mumbai lies on the Konkan coast on the west coast of India and has a deep natural harbour. In 2008, Mumbai was named an alpha world city. It is also the wealthiest city in India, and has the highest number of millionaires and billionaires among all cities in India.

The seven islands that came to constitute Mumbai were home to communities of fishing colonies of the Koli people. For centuries, the islands were under the control of successive indigenous empires before being ceded to the Portuguese Empire and subsequently to the East India Company when in 1661 Charles II of England married Catherine of Braganza and as part of her dowry Charles received the ports of Tangier and Seven Islands of Bombay. During the mid-18th century, Bombay was reshaped by the Hornby Vellard project, which undertook reclamation of the area between the seven islands from the sea. Along with construction of major roads and railways, the reclamation project, completed in 1845, transformed Bombay into a major seaport on the Arabian Sea. Bombay in the 19th century was characterised by economic and educational development. During the early 20th century it became a strong base for the Indian independence movement. Upon India's independence in 1947 the city was incorporated into Bombay State. In 1960, following the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement, a new state of Maharashtra was created with Bombay as the capital.

Source: https://mumbaicity.gov.in/about-district/

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Elephanta Caves: 9 nautical miles across the sea from the Gateway of India lay Elephanta, also known as 'Gharapuri'. Visit this green island for the wonders of the 7th century, the painstakingly hewn rock-cut cave temple, dedicated to Shiva. The Maheshamurti panel in which Shiva is shown as a creator, protector and destroyer, is a sight that should be enjoyed at least once in a lifetime. Regular excursions to Elephanta start every day from the Gateway of India.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus: A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Mumbai's most iconic landmarks, this historic railway station is an architectural marvel. Built in 1887, it showcases a blend of Victorian Gothic Revival and traditional Indian architectural styles. The terminus is a bustling hub of activity, serving as a major transportation center for the city. Its intricate façade, detailed carvings, and grand interiors make it a must-visit attraction.

Gateway of India: A monumental arch located on the waterfront of Mumbai, overlooking the Arabian Sea. Built in 1924, it serves as a symbol of India's rich colonial history and architectural grandeur. The Gateway of India is not only a significant historical landmark but also a bustling tourist destination, with visitors flocking to admire its majestic structure and enjoy boat rides in the nearby harbor. It holds cultural and historical significance, marking the arrival of King George V and Queen Mary in India in 1911. Today, it stands as an iconic symbol of Mumbai and a must-visit attraction for tourists.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum: Founded in the early 1900s, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya is one of the foremost cultural institutions in the country. On the 14th of August 1905, a number of prominent citizens of Bombay gathered at the Town Hall. They resolved to erect a Memorial to the visit of the Prince of Wales (later King George V) in the form of a public museum. The Foundation Stone of the Museum was laid by the Prince of Wales on the 11th of November, 1905 and the Museum was named Prince of Wales Museum of Western India. The name was then changed to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya and is set against a well laid out garden which retains its original plan till this date. Tthe museum is an important Heritage building of the city. *(source: https://csmvs.in/history/)*

Marine Drive Also known as the "Queen's Necklace," Marine Drive is a picturesque coastal road in Mumbai, stretching along the Arabian Sea. Its curved shape, illuminated by streetlights at night, resembles a string of pearls, hence the nickname. It's a popular spot for locals and tourists alike to take leisurely walks, enjoy breathtaking sunsets, and soak in the views of the sea. The promenade is lined with art deco buildings, luxury hotels, and bustling cafes, making it a vibrant and iconic part of Mumbai's landscape.

Haji Ali Dargah: Travel with your family to one of Mumbai's most prominent religious shrines - the Haji Ali Dargah, which holds Sayed Peer Haji Ali Shah Bukhari's tomb. This magnificent structure is composed of white marble and represents the Indo-Islamic architectural style. One of the main tourist attractions of this place is that it is constructed far out into the sea.

Siddhivinayak Temple: Siddhivinayak is one of the oldest Hindu temples in the country, where the deity of Ganesha is worshipped. Originally constructed in 1801, the current building complex is the product of modifications performed in 1993. While a large amount of gold that covers the idol's throne attracts the majority of visitors.

Mount Mary Church: Situated atop a small hill at an elevation of 262 ft., Basilica of Our Lady of the Mount, Mumbai, Maharashtra, is a Roman Catholic church in Bandra. The church offers beautiful views of the Arabian Sea and the city's skyline. Popularly known as Mount Mary Church, the kirk is over a century old. However, the statue of Virgin Mary protected inside dates back to the 16th century. The road that leads to the church is dotted with many shops and stalls that sell candles and flowers, among other offerings of worship. People of all faiths and beliefs visit the church to attain peace and tranquility. *(source: https://www.theory9.in/blog/history-of-mount-mary-church-bandra.html)*

Bandra Worli Sea Link: The Bandra-Worli Sea Link bridge is one of Mumbai's most recognisable landmarks. The eight-lane suspension bridge was built in 2009 and connects the central business district with the western suburbs across the open sea, providing much-needed relief from traffic congestion on the Mahim Causeway.

For more details, you may visit https://maharashtratourism.gov.in/districts/mumbai-city/