From the Tatas, Godrej, Reliance, Cadbury, Essar, Jet Airways, Larsen & Toubro have eulogised and romanticised this sea-side financial hub, easily the most popular. This cultural melting pot blends the most popular. It is the land of the mighty Marathas, Mumbai is hospitable and welcoming to a fault. For the history buff, exploring the magic and mystery of the ancient caves in and around Mumbai is mandatory. Let your imagination soar recreating history around the Elephanta Caves. Discovered by 7th century Portuguese explorers, the caves are actually temples of Lord Shiva. They are best visited during the Elephanta festival. It takes 30 minutes by boat from the Gateway of India in south Mumbai, to reach this UNESCO World Heritage site. Ferries leave at regular intervals. But before you board a boat, pause at the historic Gateway of India, and admire the majestic and world famous Taj Hotel. You can spend a few meditative hours among hundreds of circling pigeons and the Arabian Sea. The Gateway of India symbolises the city’s friendship.

Mumbai is the story of a colonial dominion breaking free, and the spirit of Mumbai is indomitable. It rises above each challenge, bouncing back to life and even stronger. Come what may, the city bedecks onions and chutney for a man on the move. The Chowpatty beach, at the far end of Marine Drive, is known for its creamy handmade ice cream in scores of flavours. The beach also has the best of the other local favourite, Bhelpuri, a mouth-wateringly tangy snack made from puffed rice. The Parsi Bruni Maska (hun and butter) and the Marathi Vada Pav are no less delectable and can be found at street-corner shops and kiosks.

Mumbai is the most popular. Thirteen million, and counting, its residents are highly focussed, industrious, tough, hardworking, resilient and fun-loving. Numerous books, songs and movies have eulogised and romanticised this sea-side financial hub, easily the most popular. Mumbai, do not have a spiritual counterpart, the city boasts some of the mightiest industrial giants of India, indeed the entire world. From the Tatas, Godrej, Reliance, Cadbury, Essar, Jet Airways, Larsen & Toubro to Zee Telefilms, Mumbai is headquarters to the virtual who’s who of Indian industry and commerce. It is also the influential Bombay Stock Exchange located, as also the nation’s financial regulator the Reserve Bank of India.

Renaired from Mumbai, the city pulsatates with a rare and potent vibrancy. Some say this life force comes from Mumbai being ideally located according to the ancient Indian science of town planning, architecture, Vastu Shastra——on the western coastline, with the Arabian Sea curling around it. Others insist its energy comes from its people. For anybody who has a dream to fulfill and is willing to work for it, Mumbai aids every step of the way. No wonder then, it is the melting pot of diverse cultures from across India and home to many foreigners. Its charactePr affects all, and soon, everyone who lives in Mumbai, becomes a Mumbaikar. The land of the mighty Marathas, Mumbai is hospitable and welcoming to a fault. For the history buff, exploring the magic and mystery of the ancient caves in and around Mumbai is mandatory. Let your imagination soar recreating history around the Elephanta Caves. Discovered by 7th century Portuguese explorers, the caves are actually temples of Lord Shiva. They are best visited during the Elephanta festival. It takes 30 minutes by boat from the Gateway of India in south Mumbai, to reach this UNESCO World Heritage site. Ferries leave at regular intervals. But before you board a boat, pause at the historic Gateway of India, and admire the majestic and world famous Taj Hotel. You can spend a few meditative hours among hundreds of circling pigeons and the Arabian Sea. The Gateway of India symbolises the city’s friendship.

Mumbai boasts of contemporary architectural marvels like the Bandra Worli Sea Link, Nehru Science Centre and the IMAX Dome Theatre. The 5.6 km long Sealink is India’s longest bridge and the first in the country to be built over the open sea. Kiran Kurundkar, managing director of the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, says: “At Maharashtra Tourism, we want to tell the world the stories of Mumbai that ring out from her every street. The story of a colonial dominion breaking free, and the spirit of Mumbai is indomitable. It rises above each challenge, bouncing back to life and even stronger. Come what may, the city bedecks itself for the night. The vibrancy of Mumbai is an enduring symbol of the resilience and pride of the Mumbaikar and his beloved city.

Magical Mumbai!

This cultural melting pot blends history’s ancient and dreams that are tomorrow’s.

Mumbai is not just India’s most populous city, it is also the most popular. Thirteen million, and counting, its residents are highly focussed, industrious, tough, hardworking, resilient and fun-loving. Numerous books, songs and movies have eulogised and romanticised this sea-side financial hub, easily the most popular. Mumbai, do not have a spiritual counterpart, the city boasts some of the mightiest industrial giants of India, indeed the entire world. From the Tatas, Godrej, Reliance, Cadbury, Essar, Jet Airways, Larsen & Toubro to Zee Telefilms, Mumbai is headquarters to the virtual who’s who of Indian industry and commerce. It is also

High Finance: The towering Bombay Stock Exchange building in downtown Mumbai symbolises its business and financial might.

Heritage Context: The Chhatrapati Shivaji train terminus is more than 100 years old and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Touring Dreams: Revellers during the Ganesh festival watch a pot full of goodies. Climbing to the top of a transfixed as a devotee of Lord Shiva. They are best visited during the Elephanta festival. It takes 30 minutes by boat from the Gateway of India in south Mumbai, to reach this UNESCO World Heritage site. Ferries leave at regular intervals. But before you board a boat, pause at the historic Gateway of India, and admire the majestic and world famous Taj Hotel. You can spend a few meditative hours among hundreds of circling pigeons and the Arabian Sea. The Gateway of India symbolises the city’s friendship.

Five Key Highlights

1. Modern Monument

2. Iconic Gateway

3. Awe-Inspiring Art

4. Sunset Beach

5. Animal Instinct

Amazing Rock Art: A network of sculpted caves dating back to the 5th century, 10 km from the Gateway of India, the famed Elephanta Caves are a major tourist attraction.

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Tourism Update