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## **Discover Mumbai Differently: Explore India's buzzing metropolis with with passionate locals**

Mumbai, India's financial and cultural capital: A riot of colour, noise and people, fronted by the Arabian Sea - it was once a collection of 7 islands until the British, through land reclamation, created one landmass and modern day Mumbai. The city's colonial past can be seen in the grand Victorian buildings located throughout the Fort, as well as in the abandoned cotton mills which dot the skyline, and which were instrumental in bringing vast wealth to Mumbai's Victorian era business men. Now the city is famed for being the beating heart of India's fashion and film industry, with a vibrant art and cultural scene. Where multi million dollar homes lie side by side with vast slums and a population who are always ready with a smile. To really get under the skin of India's Maximum City, we highly recommend that you do so with one of our preferred experience partners who will unravel the secrets of this chaotic city and we can guarantee you'll leave with a true fondness for this crazy city.



### The Ultimate Mumbai Local Tour with Magic Tours

We have been on countless walking tours of India over the last 20 years and we can honestly say, that the Mumbai Local Tour by [Magic Tours](#) is one of the most perfectly curated tour of any city tour I have been on. Sanjay our guide, a former street child, was brilliant, fun and informative and the way that the tour is planned, taking in different sites and different forms of transport was poetry in motion, and we don't praise lightly! Jump on a local bus down Marine Drive passing Chowpatty Beach, with views of the Arabian Sea, on the way to Gandhi's Mumbai home. Catch a local train to visit the city's famous Dhobi ghat. Visit the Bhaji Gully to see a bustling local bazaar, and sample some of Mumbai's famous street food at Swati Snacks. We would stay it is a must for anyone visiting Mumbai for the first time. We can guarantee young, enthusiastic guides, and Magic has a policy of encouraging women to join their organisation as guides. We also did their food walk in Calcutta which was brilliant for learning about the cuisine of this region as well as for photography. Magic Tours offer city walks and culinary tours in over 25 cities throughout India, and we trying to work our way through them all!

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## Discover Mumbai on an Urban Safari with Khaki Tours

What makes a good guide? Passion, in depth local knowledge and the desire to weave a good story. All of the guides at [Khaki Tours](#) have regular 9-5 jobs so they give up their free time to conduct the various tours that Khaki offer – from architecture and art tours, Mumbai heritage and cultural tours, culinary trails or special interests tours concentrating on the different communities who have made Mumbai what it is today. They hold children's workshops, photo walks and food walks to make heritage fun for Mumbai's residents, as well as for visitors. They call their mission 'Heritage Evangelism', and have contributed towards the restoration of minor landmarks in the city. Join them for a very unique sailing cruise round the coastline of Mumbai, to take in its impressive skyline at sunset. However the absolute highlight for us is their fabulous Urban Safari Tour of Mumbai. Discover the hidden heart of Mumbai that allows you to take up close photographs, and immerse yourself in the flavours of the city in the comfort of a custom made open jeep - don't tire yourself out with too much walking, cover more ground and visit all of Mumbai's most iconic sights as well as off beat gems.

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### Wake up with Mumbai on No Footprints Mumbai By Dawn Tour

We have been lucky enough to enjoy several of the wonderfully curated city tours that [No Footprints](#) offer in their home city of Mumbai. From their Colonial Walk through fort, with its iconic Victorian architecture and to stuffing our faces with delicious Mumbai Street Food on the Khau Gulli culinary tour, we have enjoyed the enthusiasm and tales of their wonderful guides. However for us the best introduction to the magic that is Mumbai lies in joining them on their signature tour: Mumbai By Dawn. Yes it involves a rather early start (4:30am wake up call) but wow is it worth it! **Mumbai by Dawn** pays homage to the people of Mumbai such as the newspaper vendors who make sure thousands of newspapers all make it to their respective homes in time for morning chai, the fruit and vegetable sellers operating in various markets of the city, the fish wholesalers who visit the Sassoon Docks each morning for the fresh, morning catch, the flower vendors and the milkmen unfailingly delivering milk every morning, all striving hard with a sole and focused intent – a better life. There is something very humbling as well being of the deserted streets of Mumbai, before the millions of the city's residents awake and meeting the early riser residents which make sure the city ticks over. Finish your tour meeting the practitioners of Mallakhamb, an ancient form of fitness which combines yoga postures and wrestling grips but doing so either on a pole or a suspended rope. They'll invite you to join them on the ropes if you're feeling energetic enough before you finish your morning with a quick chai and breakfast.

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## Explore Rajasthan with a Difference - Marwari Safari Rides with Horse India

[Reality Tours](#) not only introduce you to the heart of both Delhi and Mumbai, but by booking a tour with them, you are also helping to fund numerous community projects as 80% of their profits go directly back onto the communities in which they work – namely the Slums of Dharavi (Mumbai) and Sanjay Colony (Delhi). Their guides are enthusiastic, professional and clearly love what they do. In Mumbai they were the innovators of walking tours in Dharavi, Asia's largest slum. The aim was to de-mythologise what life in a slum means - to open visitor's eyes to the innovation and creativity of this community and to meet the people who live here. Through their educational walking tours, visitors experience a wide range of the business activities of Dharavi: recycling, pottery-making, embroidery, bakery, soap factory, leather tanning, poppadom-making and many more, which generate an annual turnover of \$665 million. Join a local family for lunch and visit one of their three community centres that are funded through the profits from the tours and learn about the programs that their NGO, [Reality Gives](#), offers the community. A highly rewarding and enlightening tour which will change your understanding of slum-life.

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