

THE ABC OF MUMBAI

Dear friends how much do you know about this wonderful city you live in? Would you like to know some of the places you could visit this Diwali vacation? We'll take the alphabetical route around Mumbai. Find out the A to Z of Mumbai through this guide.

So come let's celebrate Mumbai - wonderfully young, always changing, and excitingly alive. Like you! An A to Z round up of a city that can be endlessly interesting for you. And today we start off with the first alphabet A.

Aeromodelling Institute

You can fly your own plane if you're over 7 years old and are willing to spend Saturday afternoons with the Indian Academy of Model Aeronautics run by the Bombay Society of Model Engineers. You can then fly your model at the Racecourse grounds on Sunday mornings! Aeromodelling is fun combining science, craft and art. How? Well, learn for yourself. For details contact:



Indian Academy of Model Aeronautics, Vatsa House, Jamnabhumi Marg, Mumbai -1. Tel. 2679980; email:darius@gac.co.in

Alpaiwalla Museum

Are you standing with any part of Persian history? Then this is the right place to visit. Tucked away in a corner of a Parsi housing society is the Alpaiwalla Museum with enchanting exhibits like terracotta riders and banjo players, stone blades, and much more. So catch a glimpse of the proud past of the Parsis who've made an important contribution to our city.

Alpaiwalla Museum , Khareghat Colony , N.S. Patkar Marg, Mumbai -7. Tel. 3616586

Amateur Riders' Club

Sure you enjoy the pony rides at some city parks but if the idea of properly learning to trot atop a horse grabs you, register here without thinking twice. The Amateur Riders' Club (ARC), is Mumbai's only school for young horse lovers wanting to do some serious training in riding. Children from 6 to 18 can start with lessons on the riding ground within the racetrack of the Royal Western India Turf Club. Membership here also entitles you to the ARC recreation hall where you can play exciting indoor games after a refreshing ride, and to the well-stocked canteen and club library.

Amateur Riders' Club, Mahalaxmi Racecourse, Gate No. 8, Keshavroa Khadye Marg, Mumbai-34. Tel. 3090509.

Apollo Bunder

What better promenade to stroll down to all of the following things: stare fascinated at a snake charmer, clap for a performing monkey, buy odd little plastic toys, eat hot roasted peanuts and yummy ice cream cones, gaze into the horizon at the boats and lines harboured in the distance. Yes, Apollo Bunder! Do you know this pier was the bunder or landing place where Koli fisherfolk, the first to inhabit old Bombay 's seven islands, shored their boats.

Apollo Bunder, opposite Taj Mahal Hotel, Mumbai-1.

August Kranti Maidan

Mumbai has always been so prominent in our country's struggle for independence from the British. It was this city that hosted the first Indian National Conference in 1885 and the "Quit India" movement too started from right here on August 8, 1942. So think about this bit of patriotism the next time you're passing this maidan or happen to actually be playing in its kiddy section.

August Kranti Maidan, Gowalia Tank, Mumbai-7.

Aseema

This is a city with a heart - and you can prove it. "Aseema" means limitless, which is the kind of opportunities this organisation wants all street children to have, however underprivileged their families are. They educate children of servants, construction workers and beggars to give them the right start and stop them from dropping out of school. They currently need funds and other support for a new Montessori section due to open soon. Please rope in your families to help.

Aseema, 23 Presidency Society, North South Road No. 7, JVPD Scheme, Mumbai-49. Tel: 6424483; email: dilburpa@bom7.vsnl.net.in

MEHER MARFATIA, Mid-day

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