

### Your host city – Mumbai



**Mumbai**, your host city, originally a cluster of seven islands, is today regarded as the "Gateway" to the country. It derives its name from Mumbadevi, the patron goddess of the Koli fisher folk, its oldest inhabitants. A lovely natural harbour and winding creek set off the city of Mumbai from the long, narrow coast of Western India.

Once a Portuguese princess' dowry and later an adornment of neogothic architecture, the city, which began as a trading post is today, more than just a metropolis. It is the country's financial powerhouse, the nation's industrial heartland and its economic nerve centre. The history of this rapid growth of the city, is a tribute to the enterprise and vision of its citizens.

Mumbai pulsates with activity. It is a city that is disciplined by no time frame, neither by day, nor by night. Dazzling shopping arcades, exciting sports activity, high fashions, theatres, music and movies, gourmet restaurants and interesting sightseeing - Mumbai offers the visitor a heady mix of all this and more.

-----

## General Information



**Air travel:** Air India is India's national flag carrier and has a worldwide route network connecting over 50 cities abroad with India. Indian Airlines, which is the national airline and three major private airlines – Jet airways, Kingfisher Airlines and Air Sahara along with a host of budget carriers, serve all the metros and many towns of India besides almost all the tourist destinations in India.

**Clothing:** At the time of the conference, Mumbai will be pleasant. Approx. minimum and maximum day time temperature will range between 20 to 32 degrees Celsius. Light woollens are ideal for this time of the year.

**Languages:** English is commonly used in all business transactions; however, the main spoken & national language is Hindi. Official language of the meeting will be English.

**Currency:** The currency of India is Indian Rupee. One Rupee is divided into 100 Paise. Rupee currency notes come in the denomination of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1000. The present conversion rate is 1 USD = Rs 45 approx.

**Currency Regulations:** You can bring in any amount of foreign currency, travelers cheques and take out as much as you brought in. However, foreign exchange in excess of US\$ 5000 or its equivalent in another currency, US\$ 10,000 in form of travelers cheques or a combination of currency and travelers cheques in excess of US\$ 10,000 should be declared upon arrival on the Currency Declaration Form, to be attested by Customs Officer.

**Visas:** Citizens of all countries (including Commonwealth) require a valid passport (except in the case of Nepalese and Bhutanese nationals, who may carry suitable means of identification) and an appropriate visa. The visa must be obtained from an Indian mission abroad. If planning to visit a neighboring country such as Nepal and re-entering India, a Double / multiple entry India visa should be obtained.

**Health Regulations & Immunization:** A valid Yellow fever certificate is mandatory for all persons who have been, even in transit, in Africa or South America or Papua New Guinea in the last six days. The certificate becomes valid 10 days after vaccination. India does not require immunization against small pox and cholera.

**Credit / Debit Cards:** Almost all the world's top credit cards like VISA, Master card and Amex are widely accepted by many establishments including hotels, restaurants, shops etc

**Banking and exchange facilities:** Facilities for banking, exchange of foreign currency are available at banks and at most hotels. There are also a number of

## General Information



exchange offices in the City. Most banks are open from 10 am to 2 pm from Monday to Friday, however some banks offer extended banking hours. 24-hour ATMs are located in shopping centers and many neighbourhood markets.

**Electricity:** Voltage in Mumbai and other parts of the country is 220 V, 50 Hz. The 2 / 3 -pin connecting plug is different from that used in some other countries e.g. USA, UK, Japan, etc. In India we have round pin plug and not flat pinned plug.

**Mobile Phones:** GSM handsets, either triband or quadband with 900 & 1800 mega hertz frequency will function in Mumbai / India. Local SIM card and hand set can be easily hired.

**Tipping:** Generally expected at restaurants, around 10 percent of the bill.

-----