

A walk to remember

Well, not just one walk — this list is packed with exciting Bumbaiya walk-throughs and tours that will surely delight both tourist and city dweller alike

| Suktara.ghosh@timesgroup.com | TWEETS @SuktaraGMIRROR

Mumbai, as anyone who has lived here will tell you, is not an easy city to survive. It's a place of stark contrasts, where the beautiful rubs shoulders with the

grisly, the commonplace with the startling. And yet, Mumbai inevitably manages to charm with its many delights. As a historic city thriving on economic turbo, it is where the young and the old meet to dive into

the eddies of life. There's no better way to know it than by walking into the nooks and bylanes that you'd otherwise miss. From art to history to nature, we bring you some of the best walks the Maximum City has to offer.

ARTY PARTY

Carpe Arte's Art Night Thursdays

If you've ever been interested in art, but have been hesitant to explore it, Carpe Arte's Art Night Thursdays is the thing for you. It's organised every second Thursday of the month, covering new exhibitions in around five to six galleries in the Colaba area, and is open to all. "You get to see great art, meet and interact with new people. The art world can be daunting and we help simplify it by giving you

access to all the know-how. Plus, it's free of cost and flexible on time. We have a schedule we share on social media and everyone is free to leave and join as and when they can throughout the evening," says artist Viraj Mithani, who conducts the walk with fellow artist Niteesha Tolani.

Price: Free. **Visit:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/carpearte/>



The Art X Company's midtown walkthrough

If you think the city's art hub is only at Colaba and Fort, then you're mistaken. Mumbai has a thriving art scene in Worli and Lower Parel as well. To promote this, Art Night Friday is held every three months, on the third Friday. It includes free, guided walkthroughs of ongoing exhibitions at six art galleries — Anupa Mehta Arts, Gallery Art & Soul, Piramal Museum of Art, Priyasri Art Gallery, Saf-

ronart and Tao Art Gallery. A hop-on-hop-off bus (Rs 250) ferries participants, and the night ends with a networking mixer at Café Zoe (Rs 250; bus + mixer combo ticket costs Rs 400). "Everyone from the curious but clueless to the connoisseur is welcome," say Rashmi Dhanwani of The Art X Company and Tarana Khubchandani of Gallery Art & Soul. **Price:** The guided walk is free. **Contact:** 9768722621



OLD IS GOLD

Khaki Tour's Gamdevi Walk

The Gamdevi Walk from the stable of Khaki Tours covers a precinct named after the village (gram) goddess (devi) of Girgaon. From the Indian freedom struggle to the social reform movement to Indian cinema, it has been the centrestage of many crucial developments in the history of the country. Many pioneering women — think Annie Besant, Rukmini Devi Arundale, Dr Kashibai Navrange and Durga Khote — from diverse fields also spent some part of their lives here, making it the fulcrum of women's emancipation movement in pre-Independence India. "The haphazard development of the old areas in the pre-plague era (before 1896) and the more planned layout after, also presents an interesting study in contrast with urban planning, and is a reflection of the larger city of the late 19th century," says Bharat Gothoskar, founder, Khaki Tours.

Price: Rs 699 per person for a group of 20. **Contact:** 88281 00111



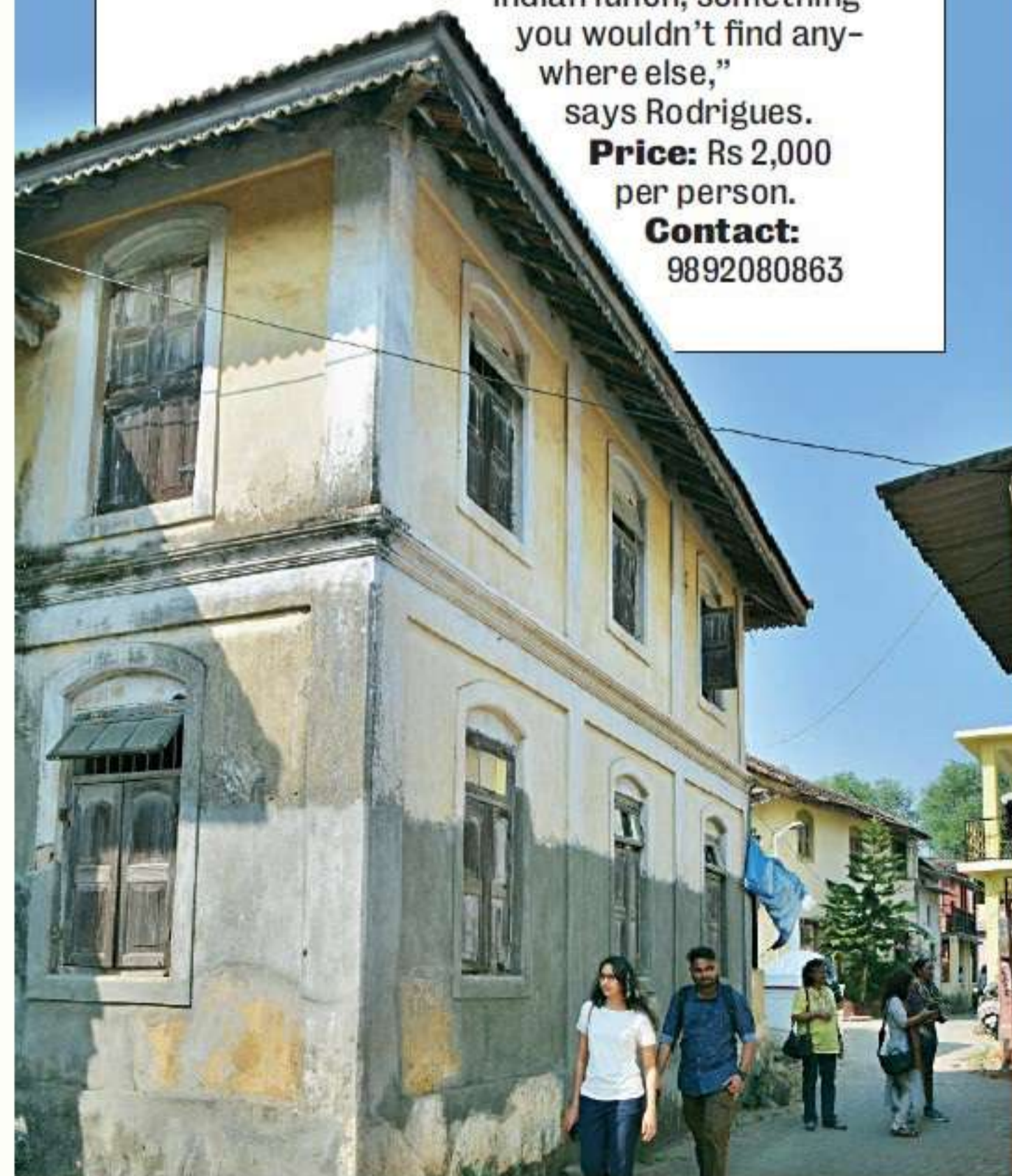
Mogan Rodrigues' East Indian Tour

Swadesee's specially curated walk with local expert Mogan Rodrigues takes you into the heart of the East Indian community, one of the earliest settlers of Mumbai. Conducted on Dharavi Island in the still charming villages of Uttan, Gorai and Manori, the tour includes visits to a koliwada, a 400-year-old Portuguese church, the East Indian Museum, set up by the Mobai Gauthan Panchayat, and more. A vehicle ferries you between locations where you get off for the walks. "We culminate the tour with an authentic, home-cooked East Indian lunch, something you wouldn't find anywhere else,"

says Rodrigues.

Price: Rs 2,000 per person.

Contact: 9892080863



CONTINUED ON PAGE 33 >>