

## Street Photography in Mumbai

### Chaos, Color & Humanity in the Heart of India

What's poppin', people? It's Dante.

Today we're diving deep into my **street photography from Mumbai, India** — one of the most electrifying and visually overwhelming cities I've ever photographed. I spent an entire month there in 2021, and I'm going to share some of my favorite photographs, behind-the-scenes stories, and advice for anyone who wants to photograph in this living, breathing masterpiece of chaos and beauty.

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### The Full Mumbai POV Series

Before we begin, if you visit [dantesisofo.com](https://dantesisofo.com) and head to the **Start Here** page, you'll find my *Mumbai Street Photography POV Full Movie* — a **2 hour and 45 minute** compilation of my entire Mumbai series. You can also find all the individual POV episodes on my YouTube channel under playlists.

This video is a short reflection and slideshow — but if you want to *walk the streets with me*, that's where you'll find the real experience.

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### Why Mumbai Is the Mecca of Street Photography

Mumbai is **the Mecca for street photography**.

If you're looking for a city that will push you, challenge you, and open your eyes to the full spectrum of humanity, this is it. The diversity — of people, scenes, textures, and light — is beyond anything I've ever seen.

New York might be iconic, but Mumbai is **raw, alive, and infinite**.

Every corner bursts with activity: from the sprawling bazaars to the fishing villages, from the high-rises to the slums, from mosques on the water to playgrounds made of metal. You could spend a lifetime photographing here and still only scratch the surface.

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## Best Locations for Street Photography in Mumbai

I'll publish a downloadable **list of locations** alongside this blog post — but here are a few of my favorite spots I kept returning to:

- **Dhobi Ghat** – The open-air laundry market. A maze of alleyways, workers, water, and color.
  - **Haji Ali Masjid** – A mosque floating on the water, reached by a causeway. Biblical.
  - **Sassoon Docks** – The most intense fish market you'll ever see. Arrive at 4:30 AM.
  - **Bandra & Bandra Fort** – Great mix of urban life, fort architecture, and community scenes.
  - **Dharavi** – The world's largest slum, full of life, kids, and endless compositions.
  - **Juhu Beach** – A daily theatre of life, where color, movement, and joy collide.
  - **Worli Village** – Perfect for photographing *Holi* celebrations and religious gatherings.
  - **Unnamed Fishing Villages** – Simply ask a rickshaw driver to take you “to the water.” The magic happens there.
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## The Spirit of the People

What makes Mumbai so special isn't just the visuals — it's **the people**.

They're open, friendly, and incredibly welcoming to photographers. When you engage honestly and respectfully, you'll be embraced. Even in the most crowded or

chaotic settings, there's warmth and generosity.

That human connection is what fuels my work. It's what turns a snapshot into a story.

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## Scenes & Stories Behind the Lens

### Dhobi Ghat

Narrow alleyways, steam rising, water splashing. People living, working, and sleeping in the same space. I wandered through with my Ricoh GR — unnoticed yet connected — capturing the rhythm of daily life.

### Haji Ali Masjid

Crossing the causeway at low tide felt biblical. The light bouncing off the water, pilgrims walking barefoot, the air thick with salt and devotion. It's one of those rare places where **photography feels like prayer**.

### Sassoon Docks

Hardcore chaos. The smell of fish. The slap of the ocean. Women shouting prices. I arrived before sunrise, camera in hand, ready to move with the crowd. It's raw, colorful, and emotionally charged — **a masterclass in thick-skinned photography**.

### Bandra & The Fort

One of my favorite photographs came from Bandra Fort — a moment of alignment between a man framed in a window, tourists in the foreground, and a bird mid-flight. It wasn't luck — it was *patience, repetition, and awareness*.

Street photography is about **positioning your body in relationship to moments** — that's where the magic happens.

### Dharavi Playground

Children playing on metal slides, swinging, shouting. I dropped low to the ground to separate the chaos from the sky. The frame came together naturally — kids laughing, dust flying, energy exploding.

In moments like these, the goal is simple: **find order within chaos.**

### **Holi in Worli**

I stumbled into Holi without even realizing it was happening. The village welcomed me in — I drank tea with families, photographed prayers, then returned for the evening celebration.

The next morning was pure mayhem — paint, water, dancing, laughter. It was **life at full volume.**

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### **The Philosophy of Exploration**

The best photographs often come when you stop planning.

I'd jump into a rickshaw and say, *"Take me to the water."*

No GPS. No map. Just curiosity.

That's how I discovered the hidden fishing villages — little seaside worlds where children played basketball, families gathered, and light spilled perfectly across colorful walls. Following intuition always leads to the best photographs.

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### **Techniques I Used**

- **Low Angles** – Separate chaos from the background.
- **Foreground Elements** – Create depth and layers.
- **Observation** – Study light, gesture, and rhythm.
- **Positioning** – Move your body, not your zoom.
- **Repetition** – Return to the same spots to master them.

Every photograph is an act of awareness — of seeing, listening, waiting, and trusting.

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## The Joy of Sharing

Photography made me who I am.

It's more than a medium — it's a way of *being alive*.

That's why I make these videos, ebooks, and blog posts.

If one person watches, reads, or gets inspired to go out and make photographs, that's enough. Because every time you improve your craft, you discover a deeper joy within the process.

So check out my ebooks on [dantesisofo.com](http://dantesisofo.com):

- **Ultimate Ricoh GR Street Photography Guide**
- **Contact Sheets: Behind the Scenes**
- **Mastering Layering in Street Photography**

Each one includes real behind-the-scenes videos, step-by-step breakdowns, and visual case studies — all designed to help you see and shoot more intentionally.

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## Final Thoughts

I wake up around 4 AM every morning, turn on my iPad, and start creating.

It's my way of meditating — of connecting with life before the world wakes up.

Mumbai reminded me that *photography isn't about taking pictures — it's about being fully alive*.

It's about curiosity, chaos, and connection.

It's about seeing the divine in the everyday.

So go out there, pick up your camera, follow your nose, and see where it takes you.

You never know — the next photograph might just change your life.

**Peace.**