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From newly weds to grandparents, Mumbai terror attracts all

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Even as the guns boom with occasional blasts ripping through the buildings of both Taj and Oberoi hotels here, the scene outside seems nothing less than that of a tourist spot.

From newly weds, eager to capture a perfect pose with the burning dome of the Taj in the background, to youngsters having a ball by coming in groups and reliving the worst hostage scene in the history of terrorism in the country, both Colaba and the Gateway of India at present are attracting a huge number of "tourists".

Also seen are many grandfathers showing their grandchildren around, coming, of course, loaded with chips and drinks.

"For many, it is about seeing terror live for the first time. They probably don't want to miss this chance to see a full-fledged combat with the terrorists," said a policeman busy asking people not to cross the barricade near the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower, one of city's most endearing landmark, now playing host to the bloodiest suicide attack by terrorists.

But for some action aficionados, it is not about seeing the terrorists but being just here among gun-totting NSG and Army Commandos.

"This has been the most barbaric terrorist act in the recent past. I just wanted to capture the moment of this struggle as part of our memory in the days to come," said a gleaming Anupama with her mehendi and marriage bangles still on as she displays her photo skills of getting the smoke-billowing dome in the picture with her husband.

Among other things, which are attracting people to this part of the city, is also the huge media presence, probably getting a one-time chance to appear on national television.

Many could be seen just hanging around reporters, especially around vernacular ones, as they give minute by minute coverage to the "spectacle".

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EDITORS' PICK



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