Manora beach

Introduction:

Manora or Manora ([Sindhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindhi_language): منهوڙو ٻيٽ, [Urdu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urdu_language): منوڑا) is a small peninsula that forms a protective barrier between [Karachi Harbor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karachi_Harbour) to the north and the [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea) to the south. Manor was formerly an island, but due to silting is now connected to the mainland by a 12 kilometer long natural sand bridge known as [Sandspit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandspit_Beach). The entrance to Karachi was once guarded against pirate raids by the [Manora Fort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora_Fort,_Karachi) built in the 1790s, which was later upgraded by the British, and then the [Pakistan Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Navy).

Geography:

Manora and neighboring islands form a protective barrier between [Karachi Harbour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karachi_Harbour) to the north and the [Arabian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabian_Sea) to the south. The western bay of the harbor contains mangrove forests which border the [Sandspit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandspit_Beach) and Manora island. The coastline is also home to the *Peel* tree (Salvadoran) that protects Manora's coast from erosion.[[1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-1)

## History:

The area of Karachi was known to the ancient Greeks. [Niarchos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nearchus), who commanded [Alexander the Great's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great) naval fleet, mentioned a hilly island by the name of [Morontobara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morontobara) and an adjacent flat island named *Barakat*, which colonial historians identified as Karachi's Manora Point and [Kiamari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiamari) (or [Clifton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clifton,_Karachi)), respectively, based on Greek descriptions.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-4) Both areas were island until well into the colonial era, when silting in led to them being connected to the mainland.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-5)

According to the British historian [Eliot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Elliott_(historian)), parts of city of [Karachi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karachi) and the island of Manora at [port of Karachi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_of_Karachi) constituted the city of [Debal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Debal" \o "Debal). Manora was mentioned by the [Ottoman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) [admiral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Admiral), [Seydi Ali Reis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seydi_Ali_Reis" \o "Seydi Ali Reis), in his 1554 book [Mir'ât ül Memâlik](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirat_ul_Memalik" \o "Mirat ul Memalik).

[Manora Fort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora_Fort,_Karachi) was built by the [Talpur dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talpur_dynasty" \o "Talpur dynasty) in 1797 in order to protect the port,[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-:0-6) which handled trade with [Oman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oman) and [Bahrain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahrain).[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-www.sindhidunya.com-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-8) The fort was used to repel [attacks by Qasimi pirates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piracy_in_the_Persian_Gulf) who threatened and sometimes raided Karachi Harbor in the early 19th century.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-9) Accounts of piracy have been contested, and piracy may have been simply used as a [*casus belli*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casus_belli) excuse for the [East India Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_Company) to seize control of the Persian Gulf region.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-10)

On 1 February 1839 a British ship, [HMS Wellesley (1815)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Wellesley_(1815)), anchored off the island of Manora. On 3 February the ship opened fire on the fort.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-:02-11) When British troops stormed the fort, they reportedly found it guarded by 4 or 5 men, who had no gun to fire back with, and so the fort was quickly surrendered,[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-www.sindhidunya.com2-12) and Karachi captured.[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-:02-11) St. Paul's church was built in the immediate vicinity of Manora Fort in 1865.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-:1-13) In 1888, the old fort was mostly removed, and the battery was reinforced.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-14) The Manora Point Lighthouse was designed by Canadian engineer Alain-Chartier-de-Lotbiniere Joly de Lotbinière,[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-15) and completed in 1889 to assist vessels approaching Karachi harbor.

After Pakistan's independence from Britain, the island of Manora was selected as a main base of the [Pakistan Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Navy), with berths for naval vessels located along the eastern edge of the island, and has been governed as a military cantonment. The opening of the new [Jinnah Naval Base](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jinnah_Naval_Base) at [Ormara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ormara), 250 kilometers away, has meant that approximately half of the naval vessels have moved away from Manora

## Tourism[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Manora,_Karachi&action=edit&section=3)]

Manora's long sandy beaches, which merge into the beaches of the [Sandspit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandspit_Beach) and then extend several kilometers to the beaches at [Hawkesbay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawke%27s_Bay_Beach), are a popular destination for Karachiites. Tourist infrastructure, however, is underdeveloped.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-:2-17)

At the southeastern end of Manora island is the Manora Point Lighthouse with a tower 38 meters (125 ft) high it is one of the tallest in Pakistan.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-unc-18)

## Infrastructure.

Manora Beach Road, connecting Manora to [Kakapir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kakapir) across Sandspit, was upgraded in 2020.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-:2-17) [KPT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karachi_Port_Trust) is planning to link Manora island with a Harbour Crossing Bridge which will link the West and East Wharfs of KPT. This bridge will reduce the difference between Manora and the areas of [Defense](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defence_Housing_Authority,_Karachi) and [Clifton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clifton,_Karachi) by almost 30 km.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-19)[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manora,_Karachi#cite_note-20)

## Demography[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Manora,_Karachi&action=edit&section=5)]

There are several ethnic groups in Manora Island including [Punjabis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punjabi_people), [Sindhis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sindhi_people), [Kashmiris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmiri_people), [Seraikis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saraiki_people), [Pakhtuns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pashtun_people), [Balochis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baloch_people), [Brahuis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brahui_people), [Memons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memon_people), and [Bohris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dawoodi_Bohra).