



MUMBAI

"The City of Dreams"

Mumbai Tourism

'The City that Never Sleeps', 'The City of Dreams' and 'The City of Seven Islands' are just a few of the epithets used to describe the wonderful city of Mumbai or Bombay, as it was known before. Located along the Konkan coast and home to India's film industry, the capital of Maharashtra and the financial capital of India is multi-faceted and provides a lot of exciting experiences. And it demands to be experienced!

The most striking feature about Mumbai is its rich diversity. The rich and the poor, movie stars and daily wage labourers, dazzlingly tall skyscrapers and large slum areas, grand cosmopolitan malls and local street bazaars all exist side-by-side in this city. The city of Mumbai offers everything to the bustling crowds that make up its heartbeat - beautiful lakes, beaches, parks and both impressive modern and historically significant architecture. The old city or the south of Mumbai has sprawling areas which are great for heritage walks. Marine Drive, popularly known as the "Queen's Necklace" is like a jewel adorning the city sea face. The Sanjay Gandhi National Park is popular for its lush greenery and serenity. Mumbai is often referred to as India's New York for its impressive skyline. There are also many famous religious sites in Mumbai, which stand testimony to the city's historical roots in Hinduism, Christianity as well as Islam. These include the likes of the Siddhi Vinayak Mandir, Mount Mary Church and the Haji Ali Dargah.

This Guide includes :

About Mumbai | Suggested Itinerary | Commuting tips | Top places to visit | Hotels | Restaurants | Related Stories

Suggested Itinerary

Day 1 - If you have reached Mumbai in the morning, get some rest and freshen up. Then head for the first focal point of tourism in the city, i.e. Regal Cinema Circle, which leads to some of the most popular destinations in Mumbai, be it the famous Colaba Causeway, also known as Mumbai's Cultural Square, or the Gateway of India. You should prefer to tour the Gateway complex in the evening as the scene is absolutely astounding.

Day 2 - The next day is perfect for an insightful tour of the city. Catch the famous local train if you are feeling adventurous, or opt for a taxi and go straight for Koli fishing village at Cuffe Parade. From the village, take a tour of the Fort District, which is the heart of finance in Mumbai. Then go for a tour of the Mahalaxmi temple and the adjoining Haji Ali Dargah in the evening.

Day 3 - You can begin your day with a taste of Bollywood by heading to Maratha Mandir for the 11.30am show of the iconic movie, Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge. Following that, go for a stroll to the Crawford Market via Dadabhai Naoroji Road, only 15 minutes away from the same, where you can get a vibe of the Victorian London market, without spending extra pennies! By evening, do go for a stroll or a drive to the famous Marine Drive, from where you can witness the charm of electric lighting in the form of Queen's Necklace. At one end is also the famous Chowpatty beach, where you can gorge on delicious snacks that Mumbai offers, from bhelpuri to chaat to missal pav. By the time you leave Mumbai on Day 4, you shall have packed a suitcase of enchanting memories along with your belongings.

Commuting in Mumbai

Public transport is very accessible, as well as affordable in Mumbai. Unlike most other parts of India, the auto rickshaws travel by meter and don't fuss about the destination. The base fare is Rs. 18 for the first 1.5 km, and then Rs. 12. 19 per km. Mumbai also has a good and extensive bus network, The BEST bus network, which runs AC buses as well. The local black and yellow or the kaali-peeli taxis are also a popular mode of commuting in the city as they run on reasonable rates and are readily available. However, the traffic conditions in Mumbai are terrible, making local trains the best option to reach somewhere on time.

The Mumbai local trains are considered the lifeline of the city. They operate for the major part of the day and are shut only for a few hours from 1:30 AM to 3 AM. They are cheap and provide excellent connectivity and reliability. Travelling by the local is an experience in itself. It is not for the weak hearted though, as both the trains and the stations, can get incredibly crowded during peak hours. There are daily, monthly and even quarterly passes (4 months) available which can be purchased either at the local railway station by presenting an ID proof or online through the UTs app. The trains run over many different routes and are connected to all major places in Mumbai. Both the Central and Western railway lines have both slow and fast trains. The Central line starts from CST and ends at Khasara or Kopoli, splitting at Kalyan Junction. The Harbor line is a sub-part of the Central line which ends at Panvel and has only slow trains. The Western line starts from Churchgate and ends at Dahanu road. There is also the Trans-Harbour and Trans-Western line, connecting Harbor line to Central and Western line respectively. No fast trains are available on these routes. Details of the local trains - such as timing, routes etc are available on the app m-Indicator.

The Mumbai metro and monorail also provide connectivity in some select areas of the city. The Line 1 of the Mumbai metro has been completed and is operational, which runs along the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar corridor. Two other lines: Dahisar - Charkop - Bandra - Mankhurd and Colaba - Bandra - SEEPZ are under construction and planned, respectively. The Mumbai monorail, which completed its construction under Phase 1 in mid-2017, connects Jacob Circle, Wadala and Mahul via Chembur, and provides a feeder service to the existing Mumbai Suburban Railway. It is the 5th largest mono-rail system in the world. The cable-stayed bridge - the Bandra-Worli Sea Link is also a popular commuting choice that links Bandra in the west to Worli in the south of Mumbai. There are 8 lanes of bridges and they are of strategic importance in providing good connectivity to the financial hub in Nariman point.

Waterways is also an option for the commute, primarily to some tourist destinations in the city. Regular ferry services have begun in 2017 from Mora jetty in Uran to the Elephanta Caves. Private ferries and jetties also run from the Gateway of India to Mandwa and Rewas. The introduction of the Roll on Roll Off (Ro-Ro) ferries has also resulted in better connectivity to the Alibaug region.

Top 10 places to visit in Mumbai

1. Marine drive



Open Time : Anytime

Cost : Free

Starting from the north of Nariman Point and ending at the famous Chowpatty beach, the Marine Drive is a 3km long arc shaped road along the sea coast of South Mumbai. The coast lines the Arabian sea and is the best place to watch the sunset in Mumbai.

2. Gateway of India



Open Time : Throughout the day

Cost : Free

One of the most distinguished monument in Mumbai, The Gateway of India was built in 1924. Now it has become a popular tourist hub in the city. Located at Apollo Bunder Waterfront, the monument overlooks the Arabian Sea in the most beautiful way.

3. Juhu Beach



Open Time : Anytime

Cost : Free

The most popular beach in Mumbai, Juhu beach is located close to Andheri and was once quite a beautiful beach. However, with so many tourists coming in here, the place has become dirty and water is also not clean because of effluents from nearby factories and industries.

4. Colaba Causeway



Cost : No entry fee

One of the most crowded and electrifying places to visit in Mumbai is the Colaba Causeway, famous for being a shopping paradise and having endless shops to choose from. It has a charm about it, which will suck you into its world of colourful shops and old-world cafes like a magnet.

5. Haji Ali Dargah



Open Time : 06:00 AM - 10:00 PM

Cost : Free

Situated at the backdrop of a beautiful view of the sea is the shrine of Haji Ali, a wealthy merchant turned into Muslim Sufi. People from all walks of life and religions come here to seek blessings.

6. Siddhivinayak Temple



Open Time : 05:30 AM - 10:00 PM

Cost : No entry fee

Located in Prabhadevi, Siddhivinayak is a Lord Ganesha temple, one of the most significant and frequented temples in Mumbai. Visitors visit this temple in large numbers on daily basis. It was built by Laxman Vithu and Deubai Patil in 1801. It is one of the richest temples in Mumbai. The wooden doors to the sanctum are carved with images of the Lord. The inner roof which is plated with gold has the central sculpture of Ganesha.

7. Girgaum Chowpatty



Open Time : After Sunset

Girgaum Chowpatty is a small sandy beach and a good place to chill, at the north end of Marine Drive, a must-go place for tourists visiting Marine Drive for the first time. Conveniently located next to Charni Road railway station, the beach is very crowded during evening hours and weekends and hosts street food stalls serving local delicacies. There are cafes/dine-in options available across the road as well.

8. Elephanta caves



Cost : Indians, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand citizens: INR 10

Foreigners: INR 250, Children (under 15 years): Free

Village entry fee: INR 10

Photography Charges: Free

Videography Charges: INR 25

An UNESCO World Heritage Site, Elephanta Caves is a specimen of rock cut art and architecture from the times of medieval India. It is an island and is located at a distance of 11km from the city of Mumbai. It also provides an amazing view of the Mumbai skyline.

9. Victoria Terminus



Open Time : All time

Cost : No entry fee

Also known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, the Victoria Terminus is the main railway station serving Mumbai. Constructed in the Victorian-Gothic style of architecture, the railway station is a declared as a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO. The station is one of the most famous historic landmark symbolizing the pre-independence British Raj in India.

10. Bandra Worli Sea Link



Open Time : Throughout the day

Cost : Car: INR 55 Single way, INR 82.50 Both ways and INR 137.50 Full day,

Tempo and LCV: INR80 Single Way, INR 120 Both ways (Return journey) and INR 200 Full day.

Buses and Trucks (heavy vehicles): INR 110 Single way, INR 165 Both ways and INR 175 Full day

Spanning across the arc of Mumbai coastline, this sea link is a civil engineering wonder that reflects the modern infrastructure of the city of Mumbai.

Other places near Mumbai



Lonavala



Matheran



Alibag



Manori






Khandala




Panvel

Restaurants in Mumbai




Swati Snacks

-  Gujarati, Snacks
-  11:30 AM to 10:30 PM
-  INR 700 For Two for two


People who're especially fond of Gujarati cuisine, this is the place for you! One can get the authentic taste of traditional Gujarati in the dishes here. The service isn't that great, but the tasty food makes up for it.

 248, Karai Estate, Opposite Bhatia Hospital, Tardeo Road, Mumbai, India




LSD

-  Bakery, Cafe
-  11:30 AM to 12 Midnight
-  INR 400 For Two for two


A renowned bakery in Mumbai, it's more popular for its cupcakes than cakes. Since it's a tiny place, takeaways are recommended over sitting and having the food in the bakery itself.

 31, Bajaj Arcade, Union Park, Near Olives, Khar, Mumbai, India




Indigo

-  European, Continental
-  12 Noon to 3:30 PM, 6 PM to 1:30 AM
-  INR 5000 For Two for two


With beautiful interiors and a sophisticated ambience, this place is one of the finest restaurants in Colaba. There is a wide selection of European dishes which one can choose from. The service is pretty good and the staff really hospitable. For the cocktail lovers, the Kiwi Margaritas are a must have.

 4, Mandlik Road, Colaba, Mumbai, India




Cafe Churchill

-  Continental, Italian, Seafood
-  11 AM to 11:30 PM
-  INR 1200 For Two for two

A tiny cafe with limited seating, one usually ends up waiting for a bit. Still, the ambience here is great and though the food options on the menu are rather narrow, the taste will leave you yearning for more.

 East West Court Building, Opposite Cusrow Baug, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Colaba, Mumbai, India




Samrat

-  North-Indian, Gujarati, Snacks
-  12 Noon to 11 PM
-  INR 800 For Two for two

This place serves some of the best Gujarati food in town. The rich, spicy, Gujarati thalis are a must have for every foodie, especially vegetarians

 Ground Floor, Prem Court, JT Road, Churchgate, Mumbai, India




Haji Ali Juice Centre

-  Beverages, Desserts, Snacks
-  5 AM to 1 AM
-  INR 600 For Two for two


A heaven for the diet and health conscious peeps, this place serves every possible kind of fruit juice. Also available are fresh fruits with cream, milkshakes and really yummy, cheesy sandwiches. A must visit for all.

 Lala Lajpat Rai Road, Haji Ali Circle, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai, India



Gaylord

-  Bakery, Cafe
-  12 Noon to 3:30 PM, 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM
-  INR 1000 For Two for two

Located near Marine Drive, this place is usually crowded with foreigners, owing mainly to it's European feel. It's bakery has some really delicious cakes, pastries and snacks to try. Coming to the main course, both Continental and North Indian dishes are well prepared and served. Overall, a great place.

 Mayfair Building, VN Road, Churchgate, Mumbai, India




Basilico

-  Italian, Mediterranean
-  9 AM to 1 AM
-  INR 2000 For Two for two

One of the few Mediterranean/European cuisine restaurants which give equal (if not more) attention to the vegetarian dishes. The salads and main course dishes, especially the pastas, are simply out of the world. The classy ambience just adds to the wonderful experience here. Highly recommended.

 Near HDFC Bank, Pali Naka, St. John Road, Pali Hill, Bandra West, Mumbai, India



Cafe Olympia

-  Mughlai, North-Indian, Biryani
-  7 AM to 11:45 PM
-  INR 450 For Two for two

One of the older restaurants in the city, this place has quite a reputation for serving tasty, homely food. For people who don't prefer a lot of spices in their food, this the perfect place for you.

 Rahim Mansion 1, SB Road, Colaba, Mumbai, India




Theobroma

-  Bakery, Cafe
-  9 AM to 11:45 PM
-  INR 750 For Two for two

Aptly named after the food of the Gods, this bakery serves heavenly brownies, cakes, tarts, sandwiches, pastries and other baked goods that go well with coffee. A confectionery delight.

 24, Cusrow Baug, Electric House, Colaba, Mumbai, India




Bagdadi

-  North-Indian
-  7 AM to 12:30 AM
-  INR 400 For Two for two


An old establishment that serves lip-smacking Mughlai food at unbelievable prices. Has a no-nonsense service owing to a bustling crowd. The facade reminds you of a nook in an old bazaar.

 11, Tulloch Road, Behind Taj Mahal Hotel, Colaba, Mumbai, India




Leopold Cafe

-  Chinese, Continental, North-Indian
-  7:30 AM to 12 Midnight
-  INR 1500 For Two for two

Going strong since 1871, this iconic place is always abuzz with travelers, particularly foreigners. Ideal for sharing travel stories in the afternoon over beer, this place has a laid back feel to it. The food and service is decent but the desserts are great.

 S.B. Singh Road, ColabaCauseway, Mumbai, India




Bademiya

-  North-Indian, Mughlai
-  7 PM to 3 AM
-  INR 700 For Two for two

A late night favorite with the townies, this eatery still retains its old charm. Rise in prices and shrinking portions notwithstanding, its Kebabs are still to die for.

 Tulloch Road, Apollo Bunder, Colaba, Mumbai, India




Cafe Mondegar

-  Cafe, Bakery
-  7:30 AM to 11:30 PM
-  INR 1400 For Two for two

One of the best places to hang out and soak in the quintessential ambiance of Bombay, this place offers good food and an eclectic crowd, with music playing from a jukebox. Breakfast at Mondy's is a must try.

 5A, Metro House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Near Regal Cinema, Colaba, Mumbai, India




Tea Centre

-  Cafe
-  8:30 AM to 10:30 PM
-  INR 700 For Two for two


An old establishment with liveried waiters and a colonial ambiance, it has a huge variety of amazing teas and some delectable continental dishes. Great for a light meal in a serene setting.

 78, Resham Bhavan, Veer Nariman Road, Churchgate, Mumbai, India




Pizza By The Bay

-  Italian
-  7 AM to 1:30 AM
-  INR 2000 For Two for two


Located on the Marine Drive, this restaurant has a beautiful refined ambiance, good service and provides a great ocean view. The Italian dishes and Indian wines served here are fabulous, but the prices lean towards the expensive side.

 143, Soona Mahal, Marine Drive, Churchgate, Mumbai, 400020, India




Brittania & Co

-  Parsi
-  11:30 AM to 4 PM
-  INR 850 For Two for two


A classic Irani restaurant and an endearing Mumbai icon since 1923, this place serves amazing non-veg dishes of the Irani-Parsi cuisine. This family-run institution is famous for dishes like berry pulao, dhansak, salli boti, spiced and boneless mutton and chicken and patra nu fish which are incredible

 Wakefield House, 11 Sprott Road, 16 Ballard Estate, Fort, Mumbai India




Badshah Snacks & Drinks

-  South-Indian, Snacks
-  7 AM to 12:30 AM
-  INR 450 For Two for two

Located opposite the Crawford Market, this place is famous for its sumptuous snacks and street food, particularly the faloodas. The faloodas are great and come in mind-numbing variety. The service is quick and the prices are decent.

 Dr DN Road, Crawford Market, Mumbai CST Area, Mumbai, India




Bachelor's

-  Desserts, Snacks
-  10:30 AM to 1:30 AM
-  INR 550 For Two for two


Located on the roadside, an ideal stopover for late night drives, this places has a wide variety of juices, milkshakes, amazing ice-creams including amusing specialties like the Green Chilli Ice cream.

 45, Sattar Sea View, ChowpattySea Face, Dr. Purandare Road, Marine Drive, Chowpatty, Mumbai400007India




Cream Centre

-  North-Indian, Snacks, Italian
-  12 Noon to 12 Midnight
-  INR 1100 For Two for two

Cream Centre is a great place to have vegetarian food. It has bright interiors and good service which adds to its charm. A wide variety of delectable dishes in Indian, Mexican, Continental, Middle eastern cuisine. The Chhole Bhature and Big Nachos are a must have.

 Fulchand Niwas, ChowpattySea Face, Chowpatty, Mumbai, India




Crystal

-  North-Indian
-  12 Noon to 3:30 PM, 7 PM to 10:30 PM
-  INR 250 For Two for two

A small restaurant with no ambience to speak of, it serves lip-smacking authentic Punjabi dishes at dirt cheap prices. The place is clean and the service is fast and courteous. Do not miss the fruit cream and kheer.

 19, Easter Emporium, Near Wilson College, Chowpatty, Mumbai, India

Hotel Ram Ashraya

-  South-Indian
-  5 AM to 9:30 PM
-  INR 400 For Two for two

Satisfy your love for authentic South Indian cuisine at this 80 year old, family run restaurant. The menu is written on a chalkboard and changes daily. This place doles out mouth-watering dosas, idlis, upma and filter coffee at reasonable prices

 Bhandarkar Road, Matunga East, Mumbai, India