CRICKET in the CITY MUMBAI
Mumbai is a beautiful mess, filled with dreamers and labourers, actors and gangsters, fisherfolk and millionaires. It is India’s financial powerhouse and a fashion epicentre. The crumbling architecture, the sea, its skyscrapers, food, and frenetic streets, all add up to an undeniably cinematic cityscape.

**TRANSPORT**

**GETTING THERE**
- **Air:** Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, 30km from Nariman Point, has three terminals (Domestic Terminal 1A, Domestic Terminal 1B and the international terminal, Terminal 2). T2 has a few domestic operations by Air India and Vistara.
- **Train:** Central Railways handling services to the east and south, operates from Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST or VT). Western Railways has services to the north from Mumbai Central.

**LOCAL TRANSPORT**
- **Auto:** They only ply from Bandra going north to the city. The minimum fare is ₹15, up to 1.6km, and ₹10 per kilometre.
- **Bus:** In local BEST buses fares start at ₹5 (day pass for ₹40).
- **Local Train:** The suburban train network runs along three main lines – Central, Western and Harbour – from 4–1am.
- **Metro:** Line 1 from Versova to Ghatkopar passes through 12 stations and the fare is from ₹10 to 40.
- **Taxi:** The black and yellow cabs start at ₹19 and after the first 1.6km, it’s ₹12 per kilometre. Radio taxis have to be pre-booked. The charges vary from ₹9 to 25 a kilometre.

**CONNECTIVITY**
Most big hotels offer free wi-fi. Restaurants and coffee shops may not provide wi-fi. Internet cafes are easily available.

---

**Quick Facts**

**STD Code:** 022

**Helpful Websites**
- www.maharashtratourism.gov.in
- www.lonelyplanet.com/india/mumbai-bombay

**TOP TIP**
If you like art festivals make sure you are in Mumbai during the two-week long Kala Ghoda festival held in February. It promises tons of exhibitions (www.kalaghodaaassociation.com).
**TOP EXPERIENCES**

- **Gateway of India** This bold basalt arch of colonial triumph faces out to the Mumbai Harbour from the tip of Apollo Bunder. It was built to commemorate the 1911 visit of King George V, completed in 1924 and used just 24 years later to parade off the last British regiment at India. Today boats depart from the Gateway’s wharfs for Elephanta Island and Mandwa.

- **Marine Drive** Built on land reclaimed from Back Bay in 1920, Marine Drive arcs along the shore of the Arabian Sea from Nariman Point past Chowpatty Seaface and continues to the foot of Malabar Hill. Its twinkling night-time lights earned it the nickname ‘the Queen’s Necklace’.

- **Juhu Beach** One of Mumbai’s busiest beaches that’s a great spot for watching the sunset and enjoying a mind-boggling variety of street food. Its perfect for an early morning walk or run on the beach.

- **Haji Ali Dargah** Floating like a sacred mirage off the coast, this mosque, one of Mumbai’s most striking symbols, is a lovely Indo-Islamic shrine. Built in the 19th century on the site of a 15th-century structure, it contains the tomb of the Muslim saint Haji.

- **Elephanta Island** This island, in the middle of Mumbai Harbour, is 9km northeast of the Gateway of India. The rock-cut temples on Elephanta Island are a Unesco World Heritage Site and are worth crossing the waters for.

- **Mahalaxmi Dhobi Ghat** This is a 140-year-old Dhobi Ghat. Every day hundreds of people beat the dirt out of thousands of kilograms of clothes and linen in 1026 open air troughs. A great spot for photography.

- **Mumbai Film City** An integrated film studio located near Sanjay Gandhi National Park, it is home to real-like gardens, mountains, lakes, homes, cities and villages. It is one of the most popular venues for Bollywood film and television shootings.

- **Town Hall** This is one of the most majestic structures among the other heritage buildings in the city of Mumbai. The Town Hall houses the ‘Asiatic society of Bombay’, which is a public state library in the city.
Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Better known as VT (Victoria Terminus), this imposing structure, overflowing with people, is the city’s most extravagant Gothic building. Designed by Frederick Stevens, it was completed in 1887 and is the busiest train station in Asia. It was added to the Unesco World Heritage list in 2004.

AROUND MUMBAI

Alibag 95km This is the common stand-in for a cluster of villages neatly laid amidst thick coconut plantations along the coast. Each of these is a tiny ecosystem in itself, with its own beach, private houses and hotels. Sleepy in some parts, vibrant in others, Alibag is a lovely mix of a pastoral landscape generously sprinkled with the lifestyles of the rich and the famous.

Khandala and Lonavala 117km The hill stations of Khandala and Lonavala have been popular hotspots for fun and leisure. Some prefer to visit during the rains; but just about any weekend is fine for the hills remain busy with touristic activities. Don’t forget to chomp down a hot vada pav and follow it up with sweet and crunchy chikki.

Mahabaleshwar 240km Its green mountains and red earth, sylvan lake and pleasant weather, have made this hill station a hit with holidaymakers and honeymooning couples. The place abounds with honey and strawberry farms, making it a sweet spot for a short escape from the city chaos.

Matheran 80km Literally meaning ‘Jungle Above’, Matheran is a tiny patch of peace and quiet capping a craggy Sahyadri summit. Endowed with shady forests criss-crossed with foot trails and breathtaking lookouts, it is easily the most elegant of Maharashtra’s hill stations. Motor vehicles are banned within Matheran, making it an ideal place to give your lungs some unpolluted air and your feet some exercise.

Sula vineyards 165km Just three hours out of Mumbai, Sula brings an authentic vineyard experience to India, complete with a tasting room overlooking lush vineyards, a luxury resort that’s a draw for wine lovers, and a winery tour that gives you reason to knock back a few before noon.

MUMBAI IS SURROUNDED WITH STUNNING GETAWAYS; ©IMAGESBAZZAR
With its sweeping arches, staircases and domes, the Taj really does feel like a palace. Following the 2008 terrorist attacks here, some 285 rooms were lavishly restored in fuchsia, saffron and willow-green colour schemes. Rooms in the tower wing lack the period details of the palace wing, but some have spectacular views of the Gateway. The hotel’s Harbour Bar is legendary.

**FARIYAS HOTEL HOTEL**

61416141; www.fariyas.com; 25 D Vyas Marg; rooms from 『11,000

This smart, friendly place has tasteful, traditional-style rooms (prices go up a couple notches for a harbour view) and a small pool, which non guests can use. With its peaceful spot on a residential street near the water, it’s also a comfortable distance from the fray.

**SUN-N-SAND**

66938888; www.sunnsandhotel.com; 39 Juhu Beach; rooms from ₹10,000

Sun-n-Sand has been offering up beachfront hospitality for decades. Not surprisingly, the best rooms are the sea-facing ones, where lots of silk and pleasant burnt-orange motifs complement the pool, palm-tree and ocean views outside the window.

**HOTEL REGAL ENCLAVE**

67261111; www.regalenclave.com; 4th Road, Khar West, rooms from ₹6000

Regal Enclave has a stellar location: in an exceedingly leafy part of Khar, right near the station and all of Bandra’s best eating, drinking and shopping. Rooms are quite spacious, with pleasant if unoriginal decor.

**JUHU RESIDENCY**

67834949; www.juhuresidency.com; 148B Juhu Tara Road, Juhu rooms from ₹5500

This quasi-boutique hotel has sleek marble floors, king-size beds in the premium rooms, dark wood and artful bedspreads. There are three restaurants – good ones – for just 18 rooms. A great choice if you’re looking for something hip that won’t cost a fortune.
INDIGO

66368980; www.foodindigo.com; 4 Mandlik Marg, Colaba
Among Colaba’s finest eating option, this gourmet haven serves inventive European cuisine, a long wine list, sleek ambience and a gorgeous roof deck. Favourites include the kiwi margaritas, Cochin oysters and zucchini-wrapped prawns with polenta and saffron butter.

STREET FOOD

Juhu Beach
The entrance to the beach is lined with stalls offering Mumbai’s famous and legendary street food like bhel puri, panipuri, sevpuri, ragada pattice, pav bhaji, vada pav, missal pav, bharji pav and dabeli. End the meal with coconut water and gola.

BADEMIYA

Tulloch Road
Formerly a popular late-night street stall, Bademiya recently added a dingy seating area across the street, a tiny eatery around the corner and a restaurant in Fort, which some say have been its downfall. It’s true that prices have gone up while portions have shrunk, but the kebabs and tikka rolls still hit the spot on a late night.

KALA GHODA CAFE

www.kgcafe.in; 10 Ropewalk Lane, Kala Ghoda
An artsy cafe that’s a favourite among journalists and other creative type, who come for the organic coffee sourced from sustainable plantations, organic teas, excellent sandwiches and salads, and delicious breakfasts.

BRITTANIA

22615264; Wakefield House, Ballard Estate
The signature dishes at this iconic eatery are dhansak and berry pulao – spiced and boneless mutton or chicken, or veg or egg, buried in basmati rice and tart barberries imported from Iran.

THEOBROMA

Colaba Causeway
Perfectly executed cakes, tarts and brownies go well with the coffee here. If you’re lucky, you’ll find the Portuguese vanilla cinnamon custard tart. For brunch, have the akoori – Parsi-style scrambled eggs – with green mango. They have a branch in Bandra as well.

I BHEL PURI, A SNACK THAT MUMBAI LIVES ON; © LONELY PLANET IMAGES
BUNGALOW 8
☎ 22819880; www.bungaloweight.com; 1st, 2nd & 3rd floors, Grants Building, Arthur Bunder Road, Colaba
Bungalow 8 is so cool, you’ll want to be in it. Original, high-end, artisanal clothing, jewellery, home decor and other objects of beauty.

BOMBAY ELECTRIC
☎ 22876276; www.bombayelectric.in; 1 Reay House Best Marg, Colaba
High fashion is the calling at this trendy, slightly overhyped unisex boutique, which it sells at top rupee alongside artisanal accessories and fashionable antiques.

SHRUJAN
www.shrujan.org; Sagar Villa, Bhulabhai Desai Marg, Breach Candy
Selling the intricate embroidery work of 3500 women in 114 villages in Kutch, Gujarat, the non-profit Shrujan helps women earn a livelihood while preserving the spectacular embroidery traditions of the area. The sophisticated clothing, wall hangings and purses make great gifts. There’s also a (hard-to-find) antiques here.

CHOR BAZAAR
This market is known for its antiques, though nowadays much of it is reproductions; the main area of activity is Mutton Street, where shops specialise in ‘antiques’ and miscellaneous junk. Dhabu Street, to the east, is lined with fine leather goods.

CRAWFORD MARKET
This is a popular spot for buying all the household items, whether you are planning on buying vegetables or poultry.

ZAVERI BAZAAR
As the name suggests, is a jewellery souk, close to Crawford Market. There are thousands of small jewellery shops selling precious gems.

BOMBAY HERITAGE WALKS
☎ 23690992; www.bombayheritagewalks.com
Run by two architects, BHW has the best city tours in heritage neighbourhoods. Two-hour guided tours are ₹2000 for up to four people; longer tours are ₹3000 for three people; both include a ‘handy keepsake’.