

Mumbai



A man flies by on a bicycle, laden with crates of bright red chilis. He passes a woman in a turquoise sari, a basket balanced atop her head. Down the road, students examine Victorian architecture, while fishermen drop anchor near the Gateway of India. Home to the world's largest film industry, an impressive performing arts complex, and a bustling harbor, Mumbai is a dynamic destination. But beyond the majestic monuments and tranquil temples, the heart of this enchanting city beats with the flow of its people. They have made their way to Mumbai from all over the subcontinent; and the nuances in their dress, their rituals, and their lifestyles are what make this city extraordinary.

Memorable Experiences

A Brilliant Promenade

Stroll down Marine Drive and watch the sun sparkle off the Arabian Sea.

Sporting Opportunities

Witness a professional cricket match at Wankhede Stadium.

Colorful Journey

See fabric shops and art galleries on a walk through Khala Goda to Fort.

Historical Liaison

Admire Ming vases and Bidri ware in Bhau Daji Lad's revitalized interior.

Distinctive Details

A glamorous interior of dark wood and satin awaits behind a majestic art deco façade. Dating from 1933, Colaba's Regal Cinema provides an integral setting for screenings of classic Bollywood films.

Starwood Preferred Guest Recommends

Chowpatty Beach

A long stretch of sand meets the sea at Chowpatty Beach, a refuge for Mumbaikars who flock here each evening to embrace cool breezes and a carnival atmosphere. Ice cream and street food vendors line up against the backdrop of a Ferris wheel.

Destination Information

Country India
Province Maharashtra
Elevation 10 meters to 15 meters
Population 13,662,885 (2008)
Language Marathai, Hindi, English



Country Code: 91
Area Code: 22



Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (BOM)



Transportation:
Car, Taxi, Train



Rupee

Nearby Luxury Collection Hotels and Resorts



The Grand Central, Mumbai

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Road
Mumbai, Maharashtra 400012

Phone: (91)(22) 24101010



Culture

Celebrate Indian culture in majestic and sacred places.

Highly Recommended



Prince of Wales Museum

A gleaming white dome rises triumphantly above a ring of towering palm trees. A majestic, early 20th century landmark building, the Prince of Wales Museum exquisitely depicts Indo-Saracenic architecture with its graceful Gothic and Moorish details. Set within a lush tropical landscape, the museum houses enchanting, light-filled galleries where Japanese screens flank intricately carved ivory figurines and Tibetan statues dance among ancient swords and sabers. The first floor features an extraordinary collection of seventeenth century Indian miniatures.

Address: 159/161 Mahatma Gandhi Road
Phone: (91)(22) 844519



Gallery Chemould

Clean concrete stretches across a five thousand square foot exhibition space, leading to more intimate rooms with strategic lighting and gentle wooden floors. Gallery Chemould started presenting artists from India's first modernist waves in 1963, and continues to feature today's most talented emerging artists in painting and sculpture. Housed in a British colonial building dating from the early twentieth century, the gallery has featured luminaries such as Tyeb Mehta, Bhupen Khakkar, and Nalina Malani.

Address: Queens Mansion, 3rd Floor, G. Talwatkar Marg Fort
Phone: (91)(22) 000211



National Centre for the Performing Arts

Golden silk falls into place as the Odissi dancers finish a rhythmic stepping sequence and pose, arms held aloft, eyes wide open. India's cultural legacy unfolds within five different theatres, gardens, and gallery centres. Together they comprise this unparalleled performing arts complex. From the vibrant murals that hang in Tata Theatre's modern foyer to the grand marble staircase of Jamshed Bhaba Theatre, each structure features magnificent elements of art and architecture that match the splendor of the music, theatre, and dance held within.

Address: Nariman Point
Phone: (91)(22) 824567



Shopping

From sleek design to traditional handicrafts, shopping options exude diversity.

Local Specialty



Philips Antiques

Hand-carved polished rosewood forms an extraordinary four-poster bed. Fit for a Maharani, the piece joins a staggering array of antique furniture, folk masks, silverware, porcelain, pottery, and original lithographs and engravings in this stimulating store. A vast, Victorian interior, with tall black columns that rise from diamond and rosette-patterned floors has featured remarkable relics from India's past, since 1860. Mirror frames inlaid with mother of pearl, boxes of carved bone, and marble plates are just a few of the distinctive items on offer.

Address: Indian Mercantile Mansion, Madame Cama Road
Phone: (91)(22) 020564

Shops & Boutiques



Bombay Electric

Compelling décor and progressive fashion converge at this stimulating boutique in Mumbai's prestigious shopping neighborhood, Colaba. Stunning collections by celebrated young fashion designers like Gaurav Gupta, Anuj Sharma, and, Rajesh Pratap Singh hang from racks of white tubes, spread out over three minimal floors. Distinctive jewelry is displayed beneath clear glass domes, upon elegant antique sewing machines, refreshed with a coat of white paint.

Address: 1 Reay House, Best Marg, Colaba
Phone: (91)(22) 22876276



Inheritance

Piles of silk-covered throw pillows allure with their mesmerizing shades of saffron and celadon. Hand-wrought earthenware jugs whisper secrets of timelessness while glowing candles infuse the air with their seductive scents. An atmosphere of comfortable calm pervades this enchanting boutique in the fashionable Mumbai neighborhood of Bandra. An emporium of exceptional linens, stunning rosewood chests, and serene images of Buddha, Inheritance is devoted to promoting quality living by providing fine household furnishings and décor from around the subcontinent.

Address: Bajaj Niwas, Near Vandana Sarees
Phone: (91)(22) 26482131



Chimanials

A fuchsia tulip combined with a spray of olive leaves forms an engaging pattern upon a turquoise background. Fine, handcrafted papers are inspired by the glorious landscapes and timeless traditions of India. From sumptuous gift-wrap covered in alluring prints to refined stationary embossed with simple motifs, environmentally friendly, wood-free products fill Chimanials. Alongside rolls of green, yellow, and purple paper and shelves of elegant handmade envelopes, lie batik notebooks, block-print picture frames, and distinctive gift sets.

Address: A-2 Taj Building, 210, D.N Road, Fort
Phone:(91)(22) 2077717



Cuisine

Cumin and curry mingle with Mediterranean flavors in the city's most renowned space

Acclaimed



Seijo and the Soul Dish

In a grand, soaring space, intimacy is achieved. Modernist, cream cushioned armchairs sit among pebble pathways and trickling waterfalls in this heady combination of Japanese garden and urban oasis. Natural textures, illuminated by candlelight serve as sophisticated coverings for hard wood tables upon which a medley of entrees, such as curried spring chicken with sweet potatoes, and grilled New Zealand lamb chops are served. Fresh Asian ingredients infuse the food as well as the cocktails, served in the restaurant's dynamic, Manga-decorated bar.

Address: 206 Krystal, Patkar Marg, Bandra (W)
Phone: (91)(22) 26405555



Mahesh Lunch House

Coconuts and red chilies infuse authentic Manglorean cuisine. Pomfret curries, prawn gassis, and fish roe masalas are counted among the southern Indian region's culinary specialties and all are served at Mahesh Lunch Home, a bright, pleasant restaurant, renowned as one of Mumbai's most extraordinary seafood restaurants. Friendly waiters in pinstriped vests offer a choice of fresh crustaceans. Once selected, crabs, lobsters, and prawns are marinated in herbs and masalas and cooked within a tandoor oven, their sweetness released completely.

Address: 8-B, Cawasji Patel Street
Phone:(99)(22) 870938



Olive Bar and Kitchen

A magical ambiance reminiscent of a seductive Greek isle pervades the whitewashed villa. Among teak tables, surrounded by white wicker chairs, long, couches covered in tangerine cushions offer a place to unwind on a sunny afternoon, or candlelit evening, with a passion fruit martini. Begin an outstanding Mediterranean meal with lobster ceviche, or mushroom carpaccio, before moving on to an exquisitely prepared rosemary roast lamb, or casserole of Italian chorizo and white beans. The extensive and artful menu is illustrated with sublime watercolors of food.

Address: 14 Union Park Khar, Pali Hill, Khar (W)
Phone: (91)(22) 26058228



Noteworthy

Islands, temples, and gardens offer moments of tranquility within a vivacious city.

Family



The Hanging Gardens

Leafy hedges pruned into the shapes of giraffes, elephants, and camels stand atop the western side of Malabar Hill in a carefully manicured, terraced garden. From this whimsical Eden fifteen meters above the teeming city of Mumbai, gentle breezes drift through the swaying palm trees while views of the sparkling blue Arabian Sea stretch out below. Created in the late nineteenth century over the city's main reservoir, the Hanging Gardens feature a distinctive terraced layout that is the perfect place from which to view a blazing Indian sunset.

Address: The western side of Malabar Hill, opposite Kamala Nehru Park

Further Afield



Elephanta Island

Three faces of Shiva project from ancient stone: the creator, the protector, and the destroyer. Known as the Mahesamurti statue, the holy Hindu icon greets visitors as they enter the northern entrance of the Elephanta Caves. This immense complex of temples and shrines dates back to the fifth century, and is filled with engaging reliefs, which illustrate the accomplishments of Lord Shiva. The island is located ten kilometers from the city, in Mumbai Harbor, and an hour-long boat journey from the Gateway of India, provides unrivaled views of Mumbai.

Address: Mumbai Harbor, 10 Kilometers from the Gateway of India

Highly Recommended



Jain Temple

The ring of a bell reverberates through the marble interior of this stunning Jain temple. Surrounded by vividly painted walls that illustrate the Jain path to enlightenment, monks, swathed in white, sing, while women place yellow roses in the folded hands of Tirthankar statues. One of the most extraordinary religious sanctuaries in Mumbai, Babu Amichand Panalal Adishwarji Jain Temple, was built in 1904. Disciples of the ancient, peace-loving, Indian religion perform rituals here frequently, beneath an emblematic dome, emblazoned with zodiac symbols.

Address: Ridge Road, Walkeshwar, Malabar Hill
Phone: (91)(22) 23692727

Neighborhoods



Kala Ghoda Arts District

Tree-lined boulevards reveal the historic facades of grand structures such as the Prince of Wales Museum, Regal Cinema, and Jehangir Gallery. Named after an equestrian statue of King Edward VII, Kala Ghoda, which means "black horse," is Mumbai's premiere arts district. A crescent-shaped region, where fine boutiques mingle with art galleries, Kala Ghoda has come to be known as an urban museum. Each February, the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival features art exhibitions, literary readings, film screenings, dance performances, concerts, and all sorts of workshops.

Address: Near Mahatma Gandhi Road between the Fort and Colaba neighborhoods