

Mumbai



Three centuries of development have transformed seven scrubby islands into a mighty metropolis of towering apartment blocks, colonial mansions, seafront promenades and air-conditioned shopping malls. If Delhi is the seat of history and Kolkata the seat of culture, Mumbai (Bombay) is the address of film and fashion – many leading designers are based here, where the Bollywood movie machine churns out more movies per year than Hollywood.

Mumbai is where Indian fantasies of wealth and glamour engage in a bizarre dance with poverty and slums, and where economic boom flirts with social collapse. More than 60% of Mumbaikers live in shantytowns, yet the city boasts some of the most expensive real estate in the country. Plans are afoot to build a futuristic new town of towering skyscrapers in the north of the city, transforming Mumbai into the Shanghai of India. From a visitor's perspective, Mumbai is easy to enjoy, and the longer you stay, the more you will.

Mumbai is the usual Indian gateway city for Goa, which is 600km south. Spend some time immersing yourself in the mayhem of Mumbai before seeking out the slower south, and your experiences will give you an appreciation of the juxtaposed worlds that comprise India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvel at the triple-headed Shiva sculpture on **Elephanta Island** (p67)
- Put on some comfortable shoes and explore the madness and mayhem of Mumbai's markets– head to **Crawford Market** (p78) for great food
- Immerse yourself in the festive air at **Chowpatty Beach** (p67)
- Gawk in awe at the sight and sounds of early morning laundry at the **Mahalaxmi Dhobi Ghat** (p69)
- Spend a long afternoon slowly soaking up the atmosphere at the **Gateway of India** (p67)



■ POPULATION: 16.4 MILLION

■ PHONE CODE: ☎ 022

WARNING: MUMBAI TERRORIST ATTACKS

Terrorists struck at a number of locations in Mumbai in a series of coordinated attacks in November 2008. Targets included several places frequented by Western visitors. In the aftermath of the attacks security forces remain on high alert and we recommend travellers check the usual travel advisories before travelling to Mumbai.

HISTORY

The seven islands of Mumbai were home to Koli fisherfolk from the 2nd century BC. The islands were ruled by Hindu dynasties from the 6th century AD, invaded by Muslims in the 14th century and ceded to Portugal in 1534. The British government took possession of the islands in 1665, but leased them to the East India Company.

Bombay then developed as a major trading port, and within 20 years the presidency of the East India Company was transferred to Bombay from Surat. Although Bombay grew during the 18th century, it stayed isolated from its hinterland until the British defeated the Marathas and annexed substantial portions of western India in 1818.

Mumbai hosted the first Indian National Congress in 1885, launched the Quit India campaign in 1942 and was home to Mahatma Gandhi for many years. Post-Independence, the city became the capital of the Bombay presidency. In 1960 Bombay became the capital of Marathi-speaking Maharashtra.

The city's multicultural milieu was shattered by the pro-Maratha regionalist movement (spearheaded by the Hindu Shiv Sena party), which discriminated against Muslims and non-Maharashtrians. After the Shiv Sena won power in 1985, communalist tensions increased. Nearly 800 people died in riots following the destruction of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in December 1992, and a bombing on 12 March 1993 killed 300 people.

In 1996 the city officially changed its name to Mumbai, the original Marathi name derived from the goddess Mumba.

ORIENTATION

Mumbai is an island connected by bridges to the mainland. The principal part of Mumbai is concentrated at the southern end known as south Mumbai. The southernmost peninsula is Colaba, the travellers' nerve centre. Directly north of Colaba is the commercial area known as the Fort. It's bordered on the west by a series of grassed areas known as maidans. The island's eastern seaboard is dominated by the off-limits naval docks. Further north, across Mahim Creek are the suburbs of Greater Mumbai and the international and domestic airports. Many of Mumbai's best restaurants and night spots can be found here, particularly in the upmarket suburbs of Bandra and Juhu.

Maps

Eicher City Map Mumbai (Rs 250) is well worth picking up if you're going to be spending any significant length of time in town.

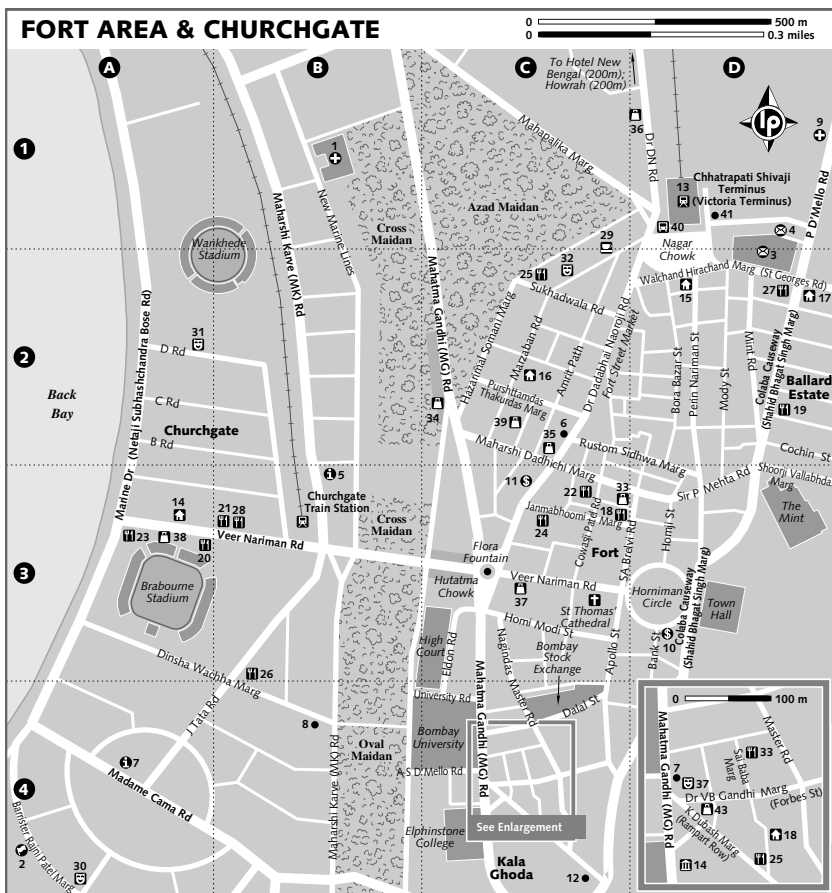
MUMBAI IN...**Three days**

Kick off at the **Gateway of India** (p67), strolling south past the **Taj Mahal Palace & Tower** (p67) towards colourful **Colaba Street Market** (p78). Grab a cab back to Kala Ghoda and explore the museums and art galleries before tucking into lunch: try the excellent seafood at **Mahesh Lunch Home** (p73).

Head next for the old **Victoria Terminus** (Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus; p67) and stroll back down Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd towards the Oval Maidan where the grand edifices of the High Court and Bombay University overlook impromptu cricket matches. Promenade in the early evening down Marine Dr towards **Chowpatty Beach** (p67), then return to Colaba for a chat over drinks at **Leopold's Cafe** (p72).

On the following day be sure to visit **Mani Bhavan** (p68): Gandhi's old home has been converted into an insightful and atmospheric museum.

Save the best till last: on your third day make the journey out to **Elephanta Island** (p67).



INFORMATION

Bookshops

In addition to the following, you can also find new and second-hand books at the roadside book market on the corner of MG Rd and Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd in Fort.

Crossword (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23842001; www.crosswordbookstores.com; Sitaram Patkar Marg, Kemp's Corner, Breach Candy; ☎ 10am-9pm) A 'palace to reading' with a vast stock of novels, picture books, cookbooks, children's books, stationery, CDs and DVDs. There's a café.

Magna Book Gallery (Map p64; ☎ 22671763; 2nd fl, 143 MG Rd, Fort; ☎ 10am-8pm) A scholarly selection of titles on Indian culture and history.

Nalanda (Map p66; ☎ 22022514; Taj Mahal Palace & Tower, Apollo Bunder, Colaba; ☎ 8am-midnight) Imported and home-grown books and magazines.

Oxford Bookstore (Map p64; ☎ 56364477; www.oxfordbookstore.com; 3 Dinsha Wacha Rd, Churchgate; ☎ 10am-10pm) This is a two floor Western-style superstore. The 2nd-floor café is a popular student hang-out.

Emergency

There is a police station on Colaba Causeway, just south of Leopold's Café.

Ambulance (☎ 102)

Fire (☎ 101)

Police (☎ 100)

Internet Access

Internet access is widely available in Mumbai and there are Internet cafés at the domestic and international airports. Internet

INFORMATION	SLEEPING ☑	ENTERTAINMENT ☑
ATM.....(see 41)	Ambassador.....14 A3	Inox Cinema.....30 A4
Bombay Hospital.....1 B1	Hotel City Palace.....15 D2	Mumbai Cricket Association.....31 A2
Bombay Hospital Pharmacy.....(see 1)	Hotel Outram.....16 C2	Not Just Jazz By The Bay.....(see 23)
French Consulate.....2 A4	Welcome Hotel.....17 D2	Sterling Cinema.....32 C2
General Post Office.....3 D2		
General Post Office Parcel Counter.....4 D1	EATING ☑	SHOPPING ☑
German Consulate.....(see 2)	Apoorva.....18 C3	Bombay Store.....33 C3
Government Dental College & Hospital.....(see 9)	Bharat Lunch Home.....19 D2	Fashion Street Market.....34 C2
India Tourist.....5 B3	Gaylord.....20 A3	Khadi & Village Industries Emporium.....35 C2
Lawrence & Mayo.....6 C2	Indian Summer.....21 B3	Planet M.....36 D1
Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation.....7 A4	Maresh Lunch Home.....22 C3	Reid & Taylor.....37 C3
Oxford Bookstore.....8 B4	Pearl of the Orient.....(see 14)	Tanishq.....38 A3
St George's Hospital.....9 D1	Pizzeria.....23 A3	Trafford House.....39 C2
State Bank of India ATM.....10 D3	Pratap Lunch Home.....24 C3	
Thomas Cook.....11 C3	Relish.....(see 26)	TRANSPORT
	Royal China.....25 C2	Bus Stand.....40 D1
	Samrat.....26 B3	Central Railways Reservation Centre.....41 D1
	Sher-e-Punjab.....27 D2	Western Railways Reservation Centre.....(see 5)
	Tea Centre.....28 B3	
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	DRINKING ☑	
Bombay Natural History Society...12 C4	Café Cofee Day.....29 C1	
Victoria Terminus.....13 D1		

cafés in Mumbai charge Rs 20 to 40 per hour. Reliable options:

Satyam i-way (Map p66; Colaba Causeway; ☎ 8am-11pm; per hr Rs 40) Entrance on JA Allana Marg.

Waghela Communications Centre (Map p66; ☎ 22048718; 23B Narowji F Rd, Colaba; ☎ 8.30am-midnight; per hr Rs 30)

Media

English-language publications:

City Info Free monthly listings booklet available in many hotels and guesthouses.

Indian Express (www.indianexpress.com) Has a Mumbai edition.

Mid-Day (www.mid-day.com) The main local English-language paper.

Time Out Mumbai (www.timeout.com/travel/mumbai) Published every two weeks, this is the best round-up of what's going on the city.

Times of India (http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/) Has a Mumbai edition.

Medical Services

For minor health problems, visit a pharmacist or contact India Tourism (p66) for a list of doctors. Consultations normally cost Rs 100 to 200. There are pharmacies all over Mumbai where you can buy common medicines without a prescription.

Bombay Hospital (Map p64; ☎ 22067676; New Marine Lines, Churchgate; ☎ 24hr) Close to Fort and Colaba.

Bombay Hospital Pharmacy (Map p64; ☎ 22067676; Bombay Hospital, New Marine Lines, Churchgate; ☎ 24hr)

Government Dental College & Hospital (Map p64; ☎ 22620668; St George's Hospital Compound,

P D'Mello Rd, Fort; ☎ 8.30am-4pm Mon-Fri & 2nd & 4th Sat)

Lawrence & Mayo (☎ 22076049; 274 Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd, Fort; ☎ 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) For replacement glasses and contact lenses.

Saifee Hospital (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23861418; Charni Rd, Girgaum; ☎ 24hr)

St George's Hospital (Map p64; ☎ 22620344; P D'Mello Rd, Fort; ☎ 24hr)

Money

Bank head offices are on Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd in Fort. Most banks have ATMs that accept major international credit cards. Banks and foreign exchange offices offer similar rates and commissions – typically 1% on each. Rates are similar for cash and cheques.

American Express (Map p66; ☎ 56385404; Regal Cinema Bldg, Shivaji Marg, Colaba; ☎ 9.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 9.30am-2.30pm Sat)

Citibank ATM (Map p66; SP Mukherji Chowk/Regal Circle, Colaba)

State Bank of India (Map pp62-3; ☎ 22661765; Bank St, Fort; ☎ 10.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri, 10.30am-1.30pm Sat) Changes cash and travellers cheques.

State Bank of India ATM (Map p66; Mandlik Rd, Colaba)

Thomas Cook (Map p64; ☎ 22048556; Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd, Fort; ☎ 9.30am-6.30am Mon-Sat)

Post

General Post Office (GPO; Map p64; Walchand Hirachand Marg, Fort; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat) Parcels are handled by the parcel office on the 3rd floor of the annex behind the GPO.

Tourist information

India Tourism (Map p64; ☎ 22074333, domestic terminal ☎ 26156920, international terminal ☎ 28325331; www.india-tourism.com; 2nd fl, Western Railway Reservations Office, Maharashtra Karve Rd, Churchgate; 🕒 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-2pm Sat) Stacks of information about India and Mumbai. Has counters at the domestic and international terminals of Mumbai airport.

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC; Map p64; ☎ 22024482; www.maharashtra-tourism.gov.in; Express Towers, 9th fl, Nariman Point; 🕒 9.45am-5.30pm Mon-Sat) Provides basic local advice.

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Crime is not a major problem for visitors to Mumbai, though petty theft and scams

COLABA

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Fariyas Hotel.....8 A4
- Gateway of India.....9 C2
- Taj Mahal Palace & Tower...(see 15)

SLEEPING 🏠

- Bentley's Hotel.....10 B3
- Gordon House Hotel.....11 B2
- Hotel Volga II.....12 B2
- Sea Shore Hotel.....13 B4
- Shelley's Hotel.....14 B4
- Taj Mahal Palace & Tower...15 B2
- YWCA.....16 B1

EATING 🍴

- Bade Miya.....17 B2
- Cafe Basilio.....18 A4
- Cafe Churchill.....19 A3
- Delhi Darbar.....20 B2
- Golden Dragon.....(see 15)
- Indigo.....21 B2
- Kailash Parbat.....22 A4
- Kamat Restaurant.....(see 5)
- Leopold's Cafe.....(see 24)
- Ming Palace.....(see 22)

DRINKING 🍷

- Cafe Mondegar.....23 B1
- Leopold's Cafe.....24 B2

ENTERTAINMENT 🎬

- Insomnia.....(see 15)
- Polly Esther's.....(see 11)
- Regal Cinema.....25 B1
- Voodoo Pub.....26 B4
- Western India Football Association.....27 A1

SHOPPING 🛍️

- Ancestry.....(see 13)
- Central Cottage Industries Emporium.....28 C1
- Colaba Street Market.....29 A3
- Framroz Sorabji.....(see 1)
- Phillips.....30 B1

INFORMATION

- American Express.....1 B1
- Citibank ATM.....2 B1
- MTDC Booth.....3 C2
- Nalanda.....(see 15)
- Police.....4 B2
- Satyam I-way.....5 B3
- State Bank of India ATM.....6 B2
- Waghela Communications Centre.....7 B2

TRANSPORT

- Best Bus Depot.....(see 31)
- Best Undertaking.....31 A2
- Bus Stand.....32 B1
- Colaba Bus Depot.....(see 31)
- Maldar Catamarans Ticket Office.....(see 3)
- PNP Ticket Office.....(see 3)

are reasonably common. Pickpockets can be a problem on public transport and at crowded tourist attractions. As in any big city, women should avoid walking around alone late at night. Avoid demonstrations and other potential flashpoints of violence.

For information about scams, see p215.

SIGHTS

Gateway of India

An exaggerated colonial marker conceived of after the visit of King George V in 1911, the **Gateway of India** (Map p66) was the point of arrival for thousands of British sahibs and memsahibs (gentlemen and gentlewomen). Facing out to Mumbai Harbour, the yellow basalt arch of triumph derives from the Muslim styles of 16th-century Gujarat. Officially opened in 1924, it was redundant just 24 years later when the last British regiment ceremoniously departed India through its archway, marking India's movement towards Independence. Try to visit in the late afternoon, when the light brings out the colours of the yellow basalt. Boats to Elephanta Island leave from nearby.

Taj Mahal Palace & Tower

Behind the Gateway is another famous landmark, the **Taj Mahal Palace & Tower** (Map p66), commonly referred to as the Taj Mahal Hotel. Even if you can't afford to stay here, it's worth popping inside for a peek at the sumptuous interior and magnificent central stairwell.

The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower stands with Singapore's Raffles as one of the classic colonial hotels, so you might be surprised to learn that this grand building was built as a challenge to foreign prejudice. The founder of the Taj was the Parsi industrialist JN Tata, who embarked on this grand endeavour after being refused entry to one of Mumbai's British-owned hotels, allegedly for being 'a native'. Tata had the last laugh – the Taj is still going strong after more than a century, while British hotels have faded into obscurity.

Elephanta Island

This **island** (admission Rs 250; ☎ 9am–5.30pm Tue–Sun) is easily the most popular sight in Mumbai. Carved into the basalt bedrock of the island is a series of Hindu caves containing some of the finest temple carvings in India.

The main temple on Elephanta is a honeycomb of shrines, caverns, open courtyards and prayer halls, created by the Maurya civilisation in the 6th century. The centrepiece is a massive statue of **Mahesh-Murti** (Trimurti), depicting Shiva as the creator, preserver and destroyer of the universe. Many carvings around the cave temple were damaged by the Portuguese, but the statue of Shiva as **Nataraja**, dancing the divine dance that created the universe, is still impressive. Uphill from the main temple are three smaller caves with unfinished carvings.

By the entrance to the archaeological zone is a small **museum** containing sculptures rescued from around the island. Local guides offering their services in exchange for tips hang around here.

Ferries to the island leave from the Gateway of India between 9am and 2.30pm, the last returning at 5.30pm. Boats (economy/deluxe Rs 90/110) pool their profits, so there's no advantage in choosing one over the other. Take advantage of the deluxe boat, which includes a guided tour.

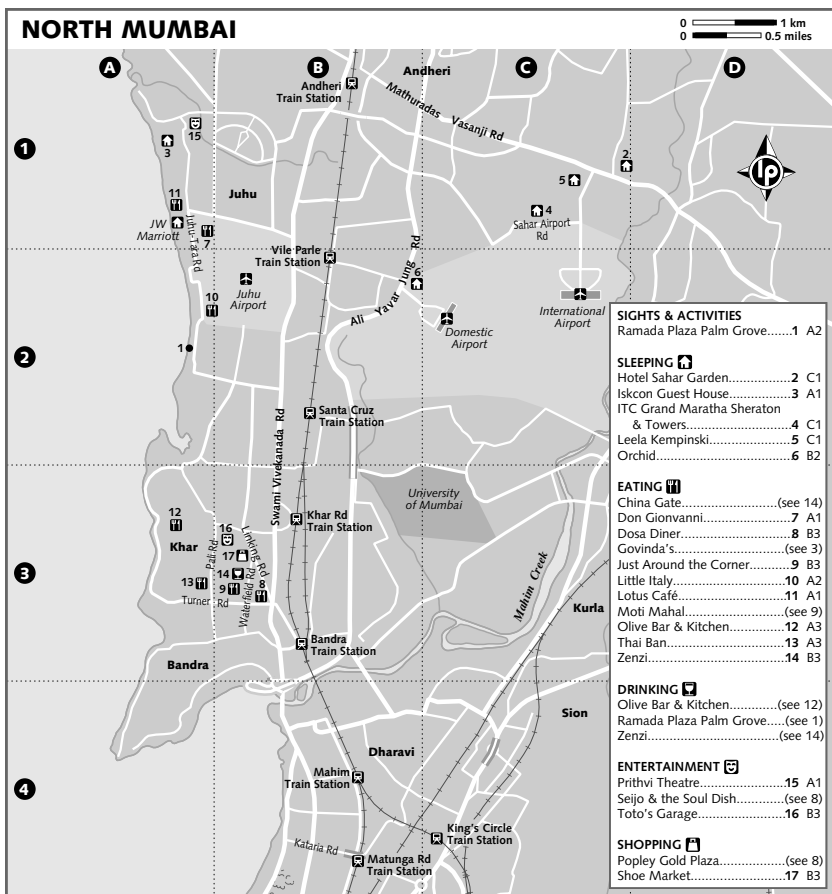
Chowpatty Beach

When India rebelled against British rule, this was where the crowds gathered to chant 'Jai Hind' (Victory to India). The **beach** (Map pp62–3) received a thorough makeover in the late 1990s and the new Chowpatty boasts a litter-free strip of golden sand, patrolled by lifeguards and lit by giant strip lights at night. The liveliest time to visit Chowpatty is during the annual **Ganesh Chaturthi festival** (p70), when clay effigies of the elephant-headed god are ritually immersed in the ocean, accompanied by water throwing, dancing and music. The 10th day sees millions descending on Chowpatty Beach to submerge the largest statues.

Visiting carnivalesque Chowpatty Beach at night, eating *bhelpuri* (a sweet and sour concoction of puffed rice with tomatoes, onions and chilli, eaten with chutney), and getting a vigorous head rub from a *malish-wallah* (head masseur) is an essential part of any trip to Mumbai.

Victoria Terminus

Travel writer Jan Morris once described **Victoria Terminus** (Map p64) as 'the central building of the entire British Empire' – not



bad for a municipal train station in the middle of Mumbai.

This glorious Victorian-gothic structure was created in 1887 by architect Frederick Stevens, a pioneer of the so-called 'hybrid' style, which fused mosque and temple architecture. Victoria Terminus is still Mumbai's largest and busiest train station, though many long-distance services now leave from Mumbai Central. After Independence, the station was renamed Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) in honour of the Maratha hero, but most locals still refer to it as 'VT'.

Get up close and admire the detail: the exterior is covered with carvings, statues, turrets and domes. Try to visit at lunch, when hundreds of tiffin-wallahs arrive from

the suburbs carrying packed lunches for Mumbai's office workers.

Mani Bhavan

Many of Mahatma Gandhi's core philosophies were conceived in a small room on the 2nd floor of this small but moving **museum** (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23805864; www.gandhi-manibhavan; 19 Laburnam Rd, Breach Candy; admission free; 🕒 9.30am-5.30pm), created in the building Gandhi stayed in during visits to Mumbai.

Inside is a diverse collection of objects relating to Gandhi, from photos and letters to the spartan room where he sat with his spinning wheel. On the lower level you'll see a letter Gandhi wrote to Hitler, calling for him to exercise restraint. Although some

exhibits are crumbling, it's a profound and evocative place that shows why Gandhi's words still resonate today.

Haji Ali's Mosque

At the end of a causeway snaking into the Arabian Sea is a whitewashed mosque (Map pp62–3) containing the tomb of Muslim saint Haji Ali. According to one story, Haji Ali was a wealthy Mumbai businessman who renounced material possessions and devoted himself to meditation after a pilgrimage to Mecca. In another version, he is said to have died en route to Mecca, his body thrown overboard with a message requesting that it be buried wherever it washed ashore.

The mosque becomes an island at high tide, but is accessible at other times via the concrete causeway. If you get stuck, there's nothing to do but sit and wait.

Mahalaxmi Dhobi Ghat

If you've recently handed in any laundry, it may well be down there somewhere among the tubs, troughs and washing lines. The sight of some 5000 dhobi-wallahs (washer-men and washerwomen) soaking, scouring and beating Mumbai's washing is one of the most memorable images you'll take home from this city.

The causeway next to Mahalaxmi station offers a panoramic view of the dhobi ghat (Map pp62–3); or follow the concrete steps down from the causeway for a closer look. Officially, visitors are discouraged from the compound, but enterprising launderers offer unofficial tours for around Rs 100. Photography is prohibited inside the compound, but you may be permitted to take a few shots if a launderer is showing you around.

Mumbai's original dhobi ghats were located on the site of Victoria Terminus, but the British preferred not to air their dirty laundry in public.

ACTIVITIES

Swimming

A few hotel pools accept nonguests for a fee of around Rs 500:

Fariyas Hotel (Map p66; ☎ 22042911; D Vyas Marg, Colaba)

Orchid (Map p68; ☎ 26164040; Nehru Rd, Domestic Airport, Andheri)

Ramada Plaza Palm Grove (Map p68; ☎ 26112323; Juhu-Tara Rd, Juhu)

Yoga

Dr Kataria's School of Laughter Yoga

(☎ 26316426; www.laughteryoga.com) Contact the school if you fancy joining one of 50 laughter clubs that meet at parks and beaches across Mumbai every morning.

Kaivalyadhama Khaivalyadham Ishwardas Yogic Health Centre (Map pp62–3; ☎ 22818417; www.kdham.com; 43 Netaji Subhash Rd, Chowpatty)

A renowned yoga institute that may accept experienced practitioners at some of its weekly classes – call for details.

WALKING TOUR

Mumbai's sprawling market quarter between Lokmanya Tilak and Grant Roads is crammed with stalls selling everything from sequins and saris to toothpaste and tin boxes. Start your walking tour at the **Crawford Market** (1; p78) and investigate the

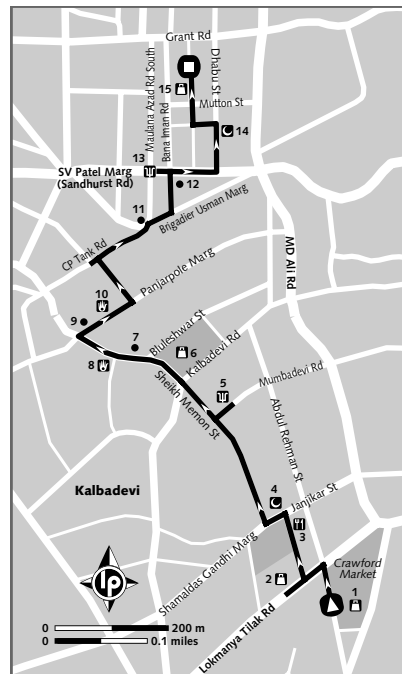
WALK FACTS

Start Crawford Market

Finish Mutton Street Market

Distance 2.5km

Duration 3.5 hours



wonderful **steel-pot shops (2)** on Lokmanya Tilak Rd.

Next walk up Sheikh Memon St for a tasty thali at **Rajdhani (3)**; p74), stopping for a peek at the eye-catching **Jumma Masjid (4)**, the most important religious site for Muslim Mumbaikers. This multidomed mosque was built in 1770 and is distinct for its many arches. On Fridays it is filled with and surrounded by devotees. Continue walking north along Sheikh Memon St to Mumbadevi Rd, ducking down the alley to atmospheric **Mumbadevi Mandir (5)**. Cross the next junction to Bhuleshwar St, passing by the ancient **Kalbadevi & Bhuleshwar Markets (6)**; p78). Just north is a series of fragrant lanes packed with **flower vendors (7)** and a **kabatur khana (8)**; Jain pigeon-feeding station). Visit the **religious market (9)** and **Jain Mandir (10)** on Panjarpole Marg, turn left onto Panjarpole First St, then right onto CP Tank Rd to reach **Yadnik Chowk (11)**, where plumbers and painters wait for customers on the roadside.

Walk east along Brigadier Usman Marg and turn left into Bara Iman Rd, passing a bustling **wet-and-dry market (12)**. Just west of the junction with SV Patel Marg (Sandhurst Rd) is a colourful **Shiv Mandir (13)**; Shiva temple), which is allegedly protected by supernatural snakes. Next walk east along SV Patel Marg and turn left on Dhabu St to reach the stately **Raudat Tahera Mausoleum (14)**. Turn left at the next junction and then turn right to finish off at the **Mutton St Market (15)**. Hail a taxi on Grant Rd to take you home.

TOURS

Taxi drivers by the Gateway of India run tours of downtown sights for Rs 550, though they often include a visit to a pushy souvenir shop.

Go to the Elephanta cruise booking desks by the Gateway of India for information on group bus tours and tours to Mumbai theme parks.

Other recommended tour operators include the following:

Bombay Heritage Walks (☎ 26055756; heritage_walks@hotmail.com) Hour-long walking tours of old Mumbai run by two female architects, on the third Sunday of every month (Rs 100). Tailored tours can be arranged for Rs 500.

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS; Map p64; ☎ 22821811; www.bnhs.org; Hornbill House, Shahid

Bhagat Singh Marg, Fort; Rs 10-20, plus membership for yr Rs 400; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri & 2nd & 4th Sat) Nature tours around Mumbai, including Sanjay Gandhi National Park. There are weekend tours for members. Dr Salim Ali (of Goan bird sanctuary fame) was the president of the BNHS.

H2O Water Sports Complex (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23677546; Chowpatty Seaface, Chowpatty; ☎ 10am-10pm, closed during monsoon) Short boat cruises around Back Bay (Rs 70). Groups of six or more can enjoy longer harbour cruises and night cruises (day/night Rs 150/250 per person).

India Tourism (Map p64; ☎ 22074333; 2nd fl, Western Railway Reservations Office, Maharshi Karve Rd, Churchgate; ☎ 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-2pm Sat) A half-/full-day tour for up to five people costs Rs 350/500.

MTDC (Map p64; ☎ 22026713; www.maharashtra-tourism.gov.in; MTDC Booth, Gateway of India, Apollo Bunder, Colaba; upper/lower deck Rs 40/90; ☎ at 7pm & 8.15pm Sat & Sun) Hour-long open-topped bus tours of downtown Mumbai between October and June. Book in advance.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Almost every week of the year there's a festival happening somewhere in Mumbai.

Banganga Festival Classical music festival held over two days in January at the Banganga Tank (reservoir).

Elephanta Festival Classical music and dance on Elephanta Island in February.

Indian Derby India's most popular horse race since it started in 1942. Held in February

Kala Ghoda Festival Two weeks of arts performances and exhibitions in February.

Nariyal Poornima Celebration of the start of the fishing season after the monsoon. Held in August.

Ganesh Chaturthi Held in August/September, this is Mumbai's biggest annual festival: a 10-day celebration of the elephant-headed deity Ganesh (see p67).

Colaba Festival Arts festival in Colaba, held in October; merges with Diwali festivities, depending on the year.

Prithvi Theatre Festival Contemporary Indian theatre and performances by international troupes and artists in November.

Larzsh Festival Daring celebration of queer film-making in November.

SLEEPING

At the top end of the market you can find real luxury, and Mumbai has no shortage of comfortable midrange accommodation, but the city is surprisingly bereft of cheap accommodation.

Budget hotels in Mumbai mostly have a bed in a box-room with a ceiling fan and a

choice of shared or private bathrooms; few cost less than Rs 500 and many charge more than Rs 1000. Midrange hotels are usually a better bet with spacious rooms, air-con, cable TV, phones, room service and attached bathrooms with hot showers.

The range of top-end hotels is infinite. All have expected features like Internet connections, minibars, and top restaurants, but some are far-out special.

Advanced bookings are recommended, especially from September to March. There's a useful **hotel booking service** (☎ 56048772) at the airport's international terminal.

Budget

Hotel New Bengal (Map p64; ☎ 23401951; www.biryas.com; Sitaram Bldg, Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd, Fort; s/d/tr with bathroom Rs 260/380/500, s/d deluxe Rs 1000/1150) Probably the best bargain in Mumbai, this neat Bengal-owned hotel has a Bengali restaurant on site. Choose a clean box-room without a bathroom, or a private room with a small bathroom. Beware of the 8am checkout time.

Hotel Lawrence (Map p64; ☎ 22843618; 33 Sai Baba Marg, Fort; s/d without bathroom Rs 400/500) This hotel is simple, clean and cheap as chapatis. Bathrooms are shared but all rooms have fans and windows. Eateries on K Dubash Marg are seconds away.

Sea Shore Hotel (Map p66; ☎ 22874237; Kamal Mansion, Arthur Bunder Rd, Colaba; s/d Rs 400/550) An enthusiastic team of Game Boy junkies run this clean hotel with good harbour views and the occasional sea breeze. Two rooms have air-con for an extra Rs 100.

Hotel Outram (Map p64; ☎ 22094937; Marzaban Rd; small s/d without bathroom Rs 460/520, r with bathroom & AC Rs 1200; ☎) A plain but welcoming establishment in a quiet location between Victoria Terminus and the maidans. Rooms with a bathroom are passably clean but lack sunlight.

Midrange

Bentley's Hotel (Map p66; ☎ 22882890; www.bentleyshotel.com; 17 Oliver Rd, Colaba; smaller/larger r Rs 1028/1308, AC extra Rs 200; ☎) A Colaba institution, spread over several apartment buildings. Rooms are spick-and-span with TVs and optional air-con. It's breezy and calm, and the staff are genuinely friendly.

YWCA (Map p66; ☎ 22826814; www.ywca.info; 18 Madame Cama Rd, Fort; dm Rs 625, s/d Rs 725/1360,

d/t with AC Rs 1590/2225) Perky staff, immaculate rooms, and free breakfast and newspaper in the morning make the YWCA one of the better choices in Fort. Men and women are welcome.

Welcome Hotel (Map p64; ☎ 56314488; welcome_hotel@vsnl.com; 2nd fl, 257 Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg, Fort; s with/without AC 980/676, d Rs 1320/936) Handy for Victoria Terminus and the GPO, the Welcome has pristine rooms with breakfast and snacks included in the rate. Book ahead.

Iskcon Guest House (Map p68; ☎ 26206860; guest.house.bombay@pamho.net; Hare Krishna Land, Juhu Church Rd; s with/without AC Rs 1432/1320, d Rs 2000/1600) This mock-Mughal guesthouse is over the top, but rooms have Gujarati furniture and massive balconies. There's also a top-notch veg restaurant.

Shelley's Hotel (Map p66; ☎ 22840229; www.shelleyshotel.com; 30 PJ Ramchandani Marg; r standard/deluxe/deluxe sea view Rs 1442/1622/1935) Shelley's is a charming leftover from the British Raj. Rooms are unshamedly old fashioned, with tasteful hardwood furniture and miles of open floor space. Occupants of inland-facing rooms can enjoy communal balconies with sea views.

Hotel Volga II (Map p66; ☎ 22885341; 1st fl, Rustam Manzil, Nawroji F Rd; s without bathroom Rs 400, d with/without bathroom Rs 900/600; ☎) Just around the corner from the travellers' haunt Leopold's, the Volga II's tiny but clean rooms will do for a few nights. Its central location often means it's full. Doubles with a bathroom have air-con and TV.

Well-located while you wait for your train or plane:

Hotel City Palace (Map p64; ☎ 22615515; www.hotelcitypalace.net; 121 City Tce, Walchand Hirachand Marg; s/d without bathroom Rs 750/950, with AC & bathroom Rs 1175/1375; ☎) Cramped but spotlessly clean rooms directly opposite VT.

Hotel Sahar Garden (Map p68; ☎ 28500409; sahargarden@indiainfo.com; MM Rd, Andheri; s/d 850/2000) Chintzy but cheerful rooms with TVs, black-marble bathtubs and easy airport access.

Top End

Taj Mahal Palace & Tower (Map p66; ☎ 56653366; tmhresv.bom@tajhotels.com; Apollo Bunder, Colaba; tower r US\$300-370, palace r US\$420-580) Mumbai's finest Raj hotel since 1903 is comprised of an old building, a magnificent fantasy of arches, domes and towers, and the modernist Taj

Tower, which looms high above Mumbai Harbour. Service runs to free afternoon cocktails and a complimentary bottle of wine in your room.

ITC Grand Maratha Sheraton (Map p68; ☎ 28303030; itcgrandmaratha.sales@welcomgroup.com; Sahar Airport Rd, Sahar; d US\$250-375) The ultimate in luxury, the ITC boasts the best spa, the best restaurants and the best interior designer in Mumbai. Rooms feature wi-fi, subtle lighting and sumptuous fabrics.

Leela Kempinski (Map p68; ☎ 56911234; www.theleela.com; Sahar Airport Rd, Sahar; d US\$175-385) The Leela was always the grandest hotel in Mumbai, and recent refurbishments have only lifted it higher. Traditional musicians play in a Mughal pavilion in the foyer and rooms contain every imaginable luxury, including plasma-screen TVs.

Orchid (Map p68; ☎ 26164040; www.orchidhotel.com; Nehru Rd, Domestic Airport, Vile Parle; d US\$270-435; 🚗) Built according to ecological principles, Orchid is surrounded by lush gardens, and is close to the domestic airport. This modern and understated place also has a rooftop pool and restaurant.

Ambassador (Map p64; ☎ 22041131; www.ambassadorsindia.com; Veer Nariman Rd, Churchgate; s/d Rs 7000/7800, ste Rs 25,000) A Mumbai icon and home to Mumbai's only revolving restaurant. The glittering interior of the Ambassador could have been designed by an Indian Versace.

Gordon House Hotel (Map p66; ☎ 22871122; www.ghotel.com; 5 Battery St, Colaba; s/d Rs 5500/6000) The most boutique of Mumbai's boutique hotels, Gordon House offers three floors of stylish rooms with Scandinavian, Mediterranean and 'country cottage' themes. Rooms are memorable and facilities, including Polly Esther's nightclub (p76), and the fresh and creative All Stir Fry Chinese restaurant, are excellent.

EATING & DRINKING

An incredible variety of restaurants, cafés and snack stands line the streets of Mumbai. Street vendors at Chowpatty, Juhu and Nariman Point close the gap between rich and poor by serving cheap, cheerful snacks to office workers and rickshaw-wallahs alike. At the other end of the scale are ostentatious luxury restaurants, where a meal can cost as much as many Mumbaikers earn in a month. In between are hundreds of relaxed cafés and

family restaurants. At certain hours, restaurants double as drinking holes.

The most popular eats in Mumbai are North Indian kebabs and curries, Mangalorean seafood and Chinese rice and noodles. You'll also find Parsi food and indigenous dishes from the Koli people. Many places serve interpretations of Western cuisine, which vary from unconvincing to sublime. Vegetarians are widely catered for.

The following reviews are divided into area and categorised as budget (mains for under Rs 150), midrange (between Rs 150 and 300) and top end (more than Rs 300). For more information on Mumbai restaurants, pick up the *Times Food Guide* from any bookshop.

Colaba

Colaba is the most popular place to stay and eat, with dozens of options. Try some of the cheaper *dhabas* (snack restaurants) – many serve excellent and hygienic food!

BUDGET

Leopold's Cafe (Map p66; ☎ 22020131; Colaba Causeway; 🕒 8am-midnight) Almost every traveller to Colaba visits the fan-cooled dining room at Leopold's for a quick meal or chilled Kingfisher. The laid-back ambience is conducive to striking up conversations with strangers, and the menu features memorable Indian and Chinese dishes.

Cafe Mondegar (Map p66; ☎ 22020591; 5A Colaba Causeway; 🕒 8am-12.30am) Café by day, bar by night, Mondy's is popular with international visitors. The interior has 1950s charm and a cartoon mural by Goan cartoonist Mario Miranda. The menu is classic foreigner fare: breakfasts are hearty and there are chips aplenty. Good as the continental dishes and fresh juice concoctions are, however, it's the beer which is the highlight.

Bade Miya (Map p66; ☎ 22848038; Tulloch Rd; 🕒 7-11pm) Every evening tables are set up along a narrow road near the Taj Mahal Palace & Tower and dozens of diners materialise from nowhere to feast on *seekh* kebabs and tandoori chicken.

The following are also noteworthy:
Kailash Parbat (Map p66; ☎ 22046079; 1st Pasta Lane; 🕒 8am-11pm) Childhood haunt for many Mumbaikers. Pure veg dishes from Sind are the highlight.
Kamat Restaurant (Map p66; ☎ 22874734; Colaba Causeway; 🕒 8.30am-10.30pm) Simple veg *dhaba*.

MIDRANGE

Ming Palace (Map p66; ☎ 22872820; 73 Apsara Bldg, Colaba Causeway; ☎ 11am-3.30pm & 7-11pm) A solid Chinese restaurant with a gregarious doorman. Serves huge portions of Korean, Chinese and Japanese food under a glittering golden roof.

Café Basilico (Map p66; ☎ 56345670; www.cafebasilico.com; Sentinel House, Arthur Bunder Rd; ☎ 7.30am-1.30am) Fork-twizzlingly good pasta, gourmet sandwiches and home-baked bread in a smart wooden dining room.

Also recommended:

Café Churchill (Map p66; ☎ 22844689; Colaba Causeway; ☎ 11am-midnight) European-inspired dishes. Opposite Cusrow Baug.

Delhi Darbar (Map p66; ☎ 22020235; Holland House, Colaba Causeway; ☎ 11.30am-midnight) Meaty Mughlai meals.

TOP END

Golden Dragon (Map p66; ☎ 56653366; Taj Mahal Palace & Tower, Apollo Bunder; ☎ noon-2.45pm & 7-11.45pm) This ostentatious Chinese restaurant at the Taj is all dark wood and ornamental screens. Dishes run the gamut from sweet-and-sour pomfret to beggars' chicken – a whole chicken cooked inside lotus leaves (24 hours' notice required).

Indigo (Map p66; ☎ 56368980; 4 Mandlik Marg; ☎ noon-3pm & 7.30pm-midnight) Mumbai's best European restaurant, Indigo serves intoxicatingly good food backed by a global wine list in stylish surroundings. Bill Clinton ate here and loved it.

Thai Pavilion (Map pp62-3; ☎ 56650808; Taj President Hotel, 90 Cuffe Pde; ☎ 12.30-2.45pm & 7-11.45pm) For fine Royal Thai food, head to this gem of a restaurant at the Taj President Hotel. The dining room resembles a Thai royal palace, and dishes are decorated with carved flower garnishes.

Fort Area & Churchgate

Fort is busy by day, but empty by night – the busiest areas after hours are Kala Ghoda and around Victoria Terminus.

In Churchgate, the centre of the action is Veer Nariman Rd, so much so that you might need to wait for a table.

BUDGET

Pratap Lunch Home (Map p64; ☎ 22871101; MB House, Janmabhoomi Marg; ☎ 11.30am-4pm & 5.30-11.45pm) Pratap Lunch Home has a similar seafood

menu to the posher 'lunch homes' in the area, but at half the price.

Howrah (Map p64; ☎ 23401976; Sitaram Bldg, Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd; ☎ 11.45am-3.45pm & 7pm-midnight) Chicken, mutton and seafood in Bengali sauces under a scale model of Kolkata's Howrah Bridge. From the Victoria Terminus, head north along Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd for a couple of hundred metres and you'll find it at Hotel New Bengal, on the right-hand side of the road.

Tea Centre (Map p64; ☎ 22819142; Resham Bhawan, 78 Veer Nariman Rd; ☎ 8am-11pm) A real culinary character, where waiters in turbans serve tea in silver pots. This lovely spot, run by the Indian Tea Board, is a perfectly civilised place for afternoon tea.

For a fuss-free feed:

Pizzeria (Map p64; ☎ 22856115; 143 Marine Dr; ☎ noon-12.30am) Pizza served pronto. Overlooking the sea.

Café Coffee Day (Map p64; ☎ 39515909; Capital Cinema Bldg, Marzaban Rd; ☎ 8am-midnight) There are branches all over town including at Chowpatty Beach.

Mocha Bar (Map p64; ☎ 56336070; Veer Nariman Rd; ☎ 9am-1.30pm) For caffeinated concoctions and a puff on a hookah.

MIDRANGE

Mahesh Lunch Home (Map p64; ☎ 22870938; www.maheshlunchhome.com; 8B Cawasji Patel St; ☎ noon-4pm & 6pm-midnight) A perennial favourite of Mumbai seafood buffs, Mahesh serves top-notch Mangalorean coastal cuisine. The house speciality is *gassi*, a rich seafood curry with coconut and tamarind.

Indian Summer (Map p64; ☎ 22835445; www.indiansummerindia.com; 80 Veer Nariman Rd; ☎ noon-3.30pm & 7pm-midnight) Indian Summer, with its smartly dressed waiters, is a relaxing place to enjoy veg and nonveg cuisine. The lunchtime buffet (Rs 270) is worth every paisa.

Other good Indian options:

Bharat Lunch Home (Map p64; ☎ 22618991; 317 Bharat House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg; ☎ 11.30am-4pm & 5.30pm-midnight) Mainly Mangalorean, with refreshingly cheap Bombay duck.

Sher-E-Punjab (Map p64; ☎ 22621188; 264 Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg; ☎ noon-11.30pm) Punjabi specialities.

Apoorva (Map p64; ☎ 22870335; SA Brelvi Rd; ☎ 11.30am-4pm & 6pm-midnight) Classy seafood.

Samrat (Map p64; ☎ 22820022; Prem Court, J Tata Rd; ☎ noon-10.30pm) Smart vegetarian.

TOP END

Khyber (Map p64; ☎ 22673227; 145 MG Rd; 🕒 12.30-3.30pm & 7.30-11.30pm) One of the finest places to dine in the whole of Mumbai, Khyber is styled like an Afghan palace. This atmospheric eatery is a maze of winding stairs, arched doorways and perforated marble screens. The exciting menu covers a fabulous range of Mughlai and North-West Frontier Province cuisine. Reservations are essential.

Joss (Map p64; ☎ 56356908; 30 K Dubash Marg; 🕒 12.30-3.30pm & 7.30-11.30pm) At Joss you can eat spicy beef with chillies and garlic in a room decorated like a gilded Thai temple. The Chinese, Thai and Southeast Asian menu is rewarding.

Trishna (Map p64; ☎ 22614991; 4 Sai Baba Marg; 🕒 noon-3.30pm & 6.30pm-midnight) This commendable seafood restaurant keeps getting better. Try the Hyderabadi pomfret and *koliwala* (fisherman's style) prawns.

Pearl of the Orient (Map p64; ☎ 22041131; Ambassador Hotel, Veer Nariman Rd; 🕒 1.30-3.30pm & 7.30-11.30pm) Take a spin at the revolving restaurant atop the Ambassador Hotel (and spin out when the bill mounts up on luxury taxes).

Royal China (Map p64; ☎ 56355310; Hazarimal Somani Marg; 🕒 noon-3.15pm & 7-11.15pm) Shine your shoes, don your best outfit and enjoy lunch-time dim sum, or a dinner of duck with plum sauce, surrounded by flickering candles.

Gaylord (Map p64; ☎ 22871101; Mayfair Bldg, Veer Nariman Rd; 🕒 11.30am-4pm & 5.30-11.45pm) Wrought iron, potted palms and waiters in cummerbunds add a touch of the Raj to this 1950s Mumbai institution. The Indian and continental food is consistently reliable.

Chowpatty Beach & Around

As well as Chowpatty's famous *bhelpuri* stands, there are several excellent cafés and restaurants close to the beach.

BUDGET

By the Way (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23803532; Pandita Ramabhai Rd; 🕒 11am-11pm) Run by Seva Sadan, a charitable organisation that cares for disadvantaged women, this budget canteen-style café serves fast food, including Western and Parsi dishes, and big slices of apple pie.

Cafe Ideal (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23630943; Chowpatty Seaface; 🕒 10am-10pm) North Indian staples

and cold beers by the beach. The food isn't as splendid as the sea breeze is.

New Kufi Centre (Map pp62-3; Chowpatty Seaface; 🕒 10am-10pm) A tiny ice creamery serving up freshly churned *kufi* (Indian rice-cream flavoured with cardamom).

Rajdhani (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23449014; Sheikh Memon St; 🕒 noon-4pm & 7-10.30pm) Tiny thali restaurant in an alley north of Crawford Market.

MIDRANGE

There are some good midrange to top-end options.

Cream Centre (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23679222; www.creamcentre.com; 25B Chowpatty Seaface; 🕒 noon-midnight) Queue at this imminently popular place, where you can feast on everything from nachos to Russian salad.

Revival (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23637834; Chowpatty Seaface; 🕒 noon-3.30pm & 7-11.30pm) This upmarket vegetarian restaurant has a swish dining room, and generous Sunday lunch buffet (Rs 325).

North Mumbai

Culinary activity and nightlife is spreading north to Bandra and Juhu. Bandra is notoriously faddish; the restaurants that have been recommended here are well established, but ask locally if any must-visit restaurants have opened up. In Juhu, don't forget to head to the beach for *bhelpuri*.

BUDGET

Dosa Diner (Map p68; ☎ 26404488; cnr Turner & Waterfield Rds; 🕒 11.30am-11.30pm) For quality cheap eats head here, where there are tasty dosas (paper-thin lentil-flour pancakes) and a special kids menu.

Just Around the Corner (Map p68; ☎ 26006717; cnr 24th & 30th Rds; 🕒 8am-12.45am) Quality pizzas, burgers, pasta and salads, plus Indian or Chinese concoctions scooped into foot-long subs.

MIDRANGE

China Gate (Map p68; ☎ 26432570; 155 Waterfield Rd; 🕒 noon-4pm & 7pm-12.30am) A swish Chinese restaurant with tiled pagoda roof. Reservations on weekends are essential.

Thai Ban (Map p68; ☎ 26458176; Gaspar Enclave, Dr Ambedkar Rd; 🕒 noon-4.30pm & 7-11.45pm) Tasty Thai curries, salads and stir fries more than compensate for the plain interior of this friendly restaurant.

Moti Mahal (Map p68; ☎ 26408577; cnr Turner & Waterfield Rds; ☎ noon-4pm & 7-11pm) Moti Mahal dishes up Mughlai delights in tidy surroundings. Starved white tablecloths and suited waiters put this place above the competition. There's an interesting array of tandoori kebabs on offer.

Govinda's (Map p68; ☎ 26200337; Hare Krishna Land, Juhu Church Rd; ☎ 12.30-3.30pm & 7.30-10.30pm) A midrange Indian establishment serving vegetarian lunch and dinner buffets accompanied by fresh juices, buttermilk and *jal jeera* (lemon water flavoured with cumin).

TOP END

Lotus Café (Map p68; ☎ 56933277; JW Marriott, Juhu-Tara Rd; ☎ 6.30am-12.30am) Set in the huge, airy foyer of the top-end Marriott hotel, Lotus Café offers one of the best buffets in Mumbai. Come for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Don Giovanni (Map p68; ☎ 26153125; www.don.giovanniristorante.com; Hotel Bawa Continental, Juhu-Tara Rd; ☎ 12.30-2.40pm & 7.30-11.40pm) Homemade pastas and hearty village stews by an Italian immigrant family.

Little Italy (Map p68; ☎ 56923266; www.littleitaly-india.com; 18B Juhu-Tara Rd; ☎ noon-3pm & 7-11.30pm) Vegetarian pastas and pizzas made with imported Italian cheeses. Slightly more expensive than Don Giovanni.

To see and be seen with the It girls and in boys of Mumbai:

Olive Bar & Kitchen (Map p68; ☎ 26058228; Pali Hill Tourist Hotel, 14 Union Park; ☎ 12.30-6pm & 7.30pm-2am) Mediterranean dishes drizzled with olive oil. Dress to impress.

Zenzi (Map p68; ☎ 56430670; www.zenzi-india.com; 183 Waterfield Rd; ☎ noon-1.30am) Gourmet French and Indochinese food for trendy yuppies.

ENTERTAINMENT

Mumbai has a laid-back attitude to alcohol. Officially, alcohol can only be served to over 21s, but foreigners are rarely asked for ID. City regulations prohibit the sale of alcohol after 1.30am, but many bars and clubs push on till 3am at weekends. A large beer costs anything from Rs 80 to 120, though more in glamorous venues. Set aside at least Rs 1000 for nightclub and lounge-bar entry fees.

Colaba has noisy cafés, smart nightclubs and sophisticated lounge bars that attract a mixed local and foreign crowd. The action in Churchgate is at Veer Nariman Rd and there are several drinking holes hidden

away in Fort. Recently, attention has shifted to the edgy venues of Bandra and Juhu.

Nightlife in Mumbai is frenetic; new places open in a trice and go under just as quickly. For the latest listings and entertainment news, pick up *Mid-Day*, the *Times of India* or the Mumbai edition of *Time Out*. The *Times Nightlife & Leisure Guide* sold with the *Times Food Guide* is another good source of information.

Bars & Pubs

Leopold'sCafe (Map p66; ☎ 22020131; Colaba Causeway, Colaba; admission free; ☎ 8am-midnight) Leopold's (of *Shantaram* fame) is the most popular drinking hole in Colaba. Beer and local wines are served in a nostalgic fan-cooled dining room.

Cafe Mondegar (Map p66; ☎ 22020591; 5A Colaba Causeway, Colaba; admission free; ☎ 8am-12.30am) Chilled beer served to chilled locals and foreigners every evening. There's a tiny air-conditioned room out the back for a more chilled-out (ahem) drinking experience.

Olive Bar & Kitchen (Map p68; ☎ 26058228; Pali Hill Tourist Hotel, 14 Union Park, Bandra; admission free; ☎ 12.30-6pm & 7.30pm-2am) Mediterranean restaurant by day, bustling terrace bar by night, this is where Mumbai's elite go to rub noses with the bright lights of Bollywood. Scruffy drinkers won't make it past the style police.

Zenzi (Map p68; ☎ 56430670; 183 Waterfield Rd, Bandra; admission free; ☎ noon-1.30am) Futuristic orange-and-grey décor and a 'sit back and chill' attitude have made Zenzi one of Bandra's favourite bars. Park by the indoor lounge bar or on an easy chair on the terrace.

Other interesting choices:

Lush Lounge & Grille (☎ 56634601; Phoenix Mills Shopping Centre, 462 Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel; admission Sun-Thu Rs 800, Fri & Sat Rs 1000; ☎ 7pm-1.30am) New York-style lounge bar full of steel surfaces and air-kissing socialites. From the Mahalaxmi Race Course, head northeast, parallel to the train track. After a kilometre or so you'll find it at the other end of the queue.

Provogue Lounge (☎ 24972525; High Street Phoenix, 462 Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel; admission before/after 11pm Rs 500/1000; ☎ 10.30pm-1.30am Mon-Sat) This designer clothing store packs away the clothes and pulls out the cocktails after hours. A kilometre out of town beyond Mahalaxmi Racecourse; in the heart of the trendy Phoenix area.

Seijo & the Soul Dish (Map p68; ☎ 26405555; 2nd fl, 206 Krystal, Waterfield Rd, Bandra; admission Fri/Sat

GAY MUMBAI

Although Mumbai has the busiest gay scene in India, don't expect Soho or Chelsea on Chowpatty Beach. Sex between men is still illegal in India and the only openly gay night in Mumbai is Saturday night at **Voodoo Pub** (below) in Colaba. However, **Gay Bombay** (www.gaybombay.org) organises occasional low-key events around town. Be warned that AIDS rates are soaring – around one in five gay men in Mumbai now carry the virus.

Rs 200/500; ☎ 7pm-1.30am) Futuristic Japanese-style bar with Manga cartoons on the walls.

Toto's Garage (Map p68; ☎ 26005494; 30th Rd, Bandra; admission free; ☎ 6pm-12.30am) Former auto-repair shop decorated with tools and engine parts. There's a VW above the bar.

Voodoo Pub (Map p66; ☎ 22841959; Kamal Mansion, Arthur Bunder Rd, Colaba; admission Rs 250; ☎ 8.30pm-1.30am) Hosts the only gay night in Mumbai on Saturdays.

Nightclubs

Most of Mumbai's nightclubs are inside luxury hotels so smart dress is a prerequisite for a big night out. Couples are preferred, but most clubs admit well-behaved stags and she-stags.

Enigma (Map p68; ☎ 56933000; JW Marriott, Juhu-Tara Rd, Juhu; couple Rs 1000; ☎ 9pm-3am Wed-Sun) Dominated by a sparkling crystal chandelier, the JW Marriott's nightclub shakes to house and Hindi pop.

Insomnia (Map p66; ☎ 56653366; Taj Mahal Palace & Tower, Apollo Bunder, Colaba; admission Mon-Fri Rs 600, Sat & Sun Rs 1000; ☎ 9.30pm-1.30am Tue-Sun) Deeply cool and knows it, this glitzy nightclub at the Taj Mahal Palace & Tower attracts the cream of the cream. Taj guests are spared the hefty cover charge.

Polly Esther's (Map p66; ☎ 22871122; Gordon House Hotel, 5 Battery St, Colaba; admission Rs 600-900; ☎ 9pm-1.30am Tue-Sat) Cocktail umbrellas, lava lamps and waiters in Afro wigs – Polly Esther's proudly embraces the 1970s, and Mumbai loves her for it. Stags are admitted on Thursday.

Red Light (Map p64; ☎ 56346249; cnr K Dubash Marg & MG Rd, Fort; couple/male/female Mon-Sat Rs 800/800/400, Sun Rs 600/600/300; ☎ 7pm-1.30am) A single red traffic light out the front, and dance, trance and hip-hop inside.

Cinemas

Mumbai has dozens of cinemas. The following screen Hollywood blockbusters as well as the latest Bollywood offerings.

Eros Cinema (Map p64; ☎ 22822335; cnr J Tata & Maharashtra Rds, Churchgate; tickets Rs 40-80) Art Deco cinema with a glorious façade.

Inox Cinema (Map p64; ☎ 56595959; 2nd fl, CR-2 Centre, Barrister Rajni Patel Marg, Nariman Point; tickets Rs 180-200) Mumbai's flashiest cinema.

Regal Cinema (Map p66; ☎ 22021017; SP Mukherji Chowk/Regal Circle, Colaba; tickets Rs 40-150) Classic Art Deco cinema.

Sterling Cinema (Map p64; ☎ 22075187; Marzaban Rd, Fort; tickets Rs 40-125) Smart air-conditioned cinema near Victoria Terminus.

Performing Arts

You can find listings of theatrical performances, concerts and dance in the free pamphlet *This Fortnight* in Mumbai, available from the India Tourism office near Churchgate station. Contact the following organisations for information about their current programmes.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Map pp62-3; ☎ 236 31261; KM Munshi Marg, Chowpatty) A philanthropic organisation striving to preserve traditional Indian arts. Hosts lectures on Indian culture and philosophy.

National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA; Map pp62-3; ☎ 22833737 www.ncpamumbai.com; cnr Marine Dr & Shri V Saha Rd, Nariman Point; tickets Rs 100-320) Government-sponsored organisation with a fast-changing schedule of theatre, music and performing arts. Performances are at 6.30pm or 7pm.

Nehru Centre (☎ 24964680; Nehru Centre Auditorium, Dr Annie Besant Rd, Worli) Mostly free dance, theatre and music performances. Follow Lala Lajpatrai Marg Rd north along the coast.

LIVE IN MUMBAI

Live music is fairly thin on the ground in Mumbai, but local bands strut their stuff at **Not Just Jazz by the Bay** (Map p64; ☎ 22851876; Veer Nariman Rd; Wed-Thu Rs 150, Fri-Sun Rs 200; ☎ 6pm-2am) in Churchgate. From Wednesday to Saturday, live bands play everything from Bollywood pop to Western rock, and you can sing along to your favourite *masti* (fun) hits on the karaoke machine from Sunday to Tuesday.

BOLLYWOOD OR BUST

The Bollywood movie industry, based in the suburbs of north Mumbai, is the largest in the world, producing a staggering 1000 movies a year. Bollywood stars – such as Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai – are adored by one-sixth of the world's population. Their faces are used to promote everything from Coke to politics – some temples even sell medallions with gods on one side and Bollywood stars on the other.

Until recently, behind-the-scenes Bollywood was off limits to mere mortals, but salvation has come in the form of **Bollywood Tourism** (☎ 5666 2777; www.bollywoodtourism.com), a private Bollywood tour run by senior figures from the movie industry. The day-long tour (adult/child US\$100/US\$75) starts with an visit to a purpose-built set (where visitors learn about acting, stunts, dance routines, directing and editing), followed by a visit to a working Bollywood studio.

Alternatively, you can pay Rs 50 to watch the Bollywood magic on the nearest big screen.

Take the inward bound fork at Patel Stadium; the Nehru Centre is about 100m down.

Prithvi Theatre (Map p68; ☎ 26149546; www.prithvitheatre.org; Janvi Kutir, Juhu Church Rd, Juhu; tickets Rs 50-100, Sun Rs 150; 🕒 shows 6pm & 9pm most evenings) Leading performance space for Hindi and Marathi theatre in Mumbai.

Sport

As elsewhere on the subcontinent, Mumbaiers are sports fanatics. Contact the **Mumbai Cricket Association** (Map p64; ☎ 22819910; Wankhede Stadium, D Rd, Churchgate; local matches free, interstate matches Rs 20, test matches Rs 50-10,000; 🕒 10am-5.30pm) to try to obtain tickets. You can also do some punting at the **Royal Western India Turf Club** (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23071401; www.rwitic.com; Mahalaxmi Race Course, Keshavrao Khadye Marg, Mahalaxmi; admission Rs 20-150; 🕒 2-5pm race days) or catch a game of amateur football through the **Western India Football Association** (Map p66; ☎ 22024020; Cooperage Football Ground, Mahharshi Karve Rd, Colaba; admission free; 🕒 4-6pm).

SHOPPING

In addition to government emporiums selling village-made souvenirs, this shopping mecca has manic markets, air-conditioned malls and designer-label boutique stores that rival those in Paris and Milan.

Colaba Causeway is lined with stalls selling clothing. Electronics, pirated CDs and DVDs and leather goods can be found on Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd between Victoria Terminus and Flora Fountain, and MG Rd from Flora Fountain to Kala Ghoda.

Antiques

Mumbai's antique shops are concentrated around the Taj Mahal Palace & Tower.

Prices can be high and much of the stock is about as old as an iPod.

Ancestry (Map p66; ☎ 22831358; Kamal Mansion, Arthur Bunder Rd, Colaba; 🕒 10am-7pm Mon-Sat) It's hard to trace the genealogy of the miscellaneous ceramics and glassware of Ancestry.

Framroz Sorabji (Map p66; ☎ 22021638; Shivaji Marg, Colaba; 🕒 11am-6pm Mon-Sat) Rummage through bits and bobs from Victorian jewellery to old Mughal coins.

Natesan's (Map p64; ☎ 22852700; www.natesanantiquarts.com; Jehangir Art Gallery, MG Rd, Fort; 🕒 10.30am-6.30pm) There is rare furniture, brassware and religious art to be perused at Natesan's, in the basement of Jehangir Art Gallery.

Phillips (Map p66; ☎ 22020564; www.phillipsantiques.com; SP Mukherji Chowk, Colaba; 🕒 10am-7pm Mon-Sat) Wooden carvings, Victoriana, brassware and genuine antiques in the heart of this heritage precinct.

Trafford House (Map p64; ☎ 22090129; 6 Prescott Rd, Fort; 🕒 10.30am-7.30pm) Antiques, as well as modern furnishings made from antique materials can be found here.

Emporiums

There are some fantastic government-run and private emporiums selling classic Indian souvenirs and handicrafts.

Bombay Store (Map p64; ☎ 22885048; www.thebombaystore.com; Western India House, Sir P Mehta Rd, Fort; 🕒 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 10.30am-6.30pm Sun) Indulge in Indian arts and handicrafts, ranging from incense and sandalwood to table lamps and T-shirts.

Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIE; Map p66; ☎ 22027537; www.cottageemporiumindia.com; 34 Shivaji Marg, Colaba; 🕒 10am-7pm) Established by the government in 1948 to increase the

profile of Indian crafts. Sells Indian ornaments for fair prices.

Khadi & Village Industries Emporium (Map p64; ☎ 22073280; 286 Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd, Fort; ☎ 10.30am-6.30pm) Charitable emporium inspired by the teachings of Gandhi. Sells handmade fabrics, knick-knacks and crafts produced by rural communities.

Jewellery

Expect no subtlety from classical Indian jewellery. Mughal-inspired creations dripping with gemstones are breathtaking but a tad over the top for everyday wear. Indian pearls are particularly good value at state-government emporiums.

Popley Gold Plaza (Map p68; ☎ 26511349; 118A Turner Rd, Bandra; ☎ 10.30am-8.30pm) An Aladdin's cave of glittering gems.

Tanishq (Map p64; ☎ 22821621; 7 Brabourne Stadium, Veer Nariman Rd, Churchgate; ☎ 11am-8pm) Distinguished designer jewellery.

Tribovandas Bhimji Zaveri (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23425001; www.tbztheoriginal.com; 241/3 Sheikh Memon Rd, Kalbadevi; ☎ 11am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Three floors of gold.

Vijay (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23639050; www.vijay-jewelers.com; 67 Hughes Rd, Chowpatty; ☎ 11.15am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Specialises in heavy gold Mughal-style necklaces.

Markets

Have a poke in these interesting markets:

Colaba Street Market (Map p66; Colaba Causeway, Colaba) Mock antiques, T-shirts, knick-knacks and silk scarves.

Crawford Market (Map pp62-3; Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd, Fort) Household products, luggage, dried fruit and bulk mangoes.

Fashion Street (Map p64; MG Rd, Fort) Discounted casual clothing, work shirts and baseball caps.

Fort Street Market (Map p64; Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd, Fort) Electronics, pirated DVDs, software and (curiously) marital aids.

Kalbadevi & Bhuleshwar Markets (Map pp62-3; Lokmanya Tilak Rd to SV Patel Marg, Kalbadevi & Bhuleshwar) Everything from flowers to temple statues.

Mangaldas Market (Map pp62-3; Sheikh Memon St, Kalbadevi) Kitchenware, bulk fabric and cheap saris.

Mutton Street Market (Map pp62-3; Mutton St, Nagpara) Rare antiques, among the junk.

Shoe Market (Map p68; Linking Rd, Bandra) Shoes of every shape and hue.

Music

Indian pop and Bollywood soundtracks are the choice of most local shoppers, but you can also find Indian classical music and instruments at the following stores.

LM Furtado & Co (Map pp62-3; ☎ 22013163; www.furtadosmusic.com; 540/4 Kalbadevi Rd, Kalbadevi; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat) Fiddles, guitars, drums and sitars are all on sale here.

Planet M (Map p64; ☎ 56353874; Times of India Bldg, Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Rd, Fort; ☎ 11am-9pm Mon-Sat, noon-8pm Sun) Come here for movie soundtracks, Bollywood DVDs and Western pop. You can listen before you buy.

Rhythm House (Map p64; ☎ 22842835; www.rhythmhouseindia.com; 40 K Dubash Marg, Fort; ☎ 10am-8.30pm Mon-Sat, 11am-8.30pm Sun) This place features modern and classical Indian music.

Tailors

Mumbai has dozens of tailors who can knock up a suit or gown for a fraction of the price you would pay in Europe or the USA.

Naina's (Map pp62-3; ☎ 23613613; www.nainashah.com; Khatau Mansion, 95 Bhulabhai Desai Marg, Breach Candy; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat) This couture fashion house of designer Naina Shah sells off-the-rack designer gear and made-to-measure items.

Reid & Taylor (Map p64; ☎ 22042630; 55A Veer Nariman Rd, Fort; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Reid & Taylor can turn out magnificent three-piece suits in 24 hours. Prices range from Rs 7000 for lightweight cotton to Rs 20,000 for the best-quality woollen worsted.

Telon (Map pp62-3; ☎ 22042630; 55A Veer Nariman Rd, Fort; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Head to Telon for Bollywood-meets-Versace designs for men.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Mumbai is a major hub for domestic and international flights and plenty of cheap deals are available. Trains and buses connect Mumbai to towns across India. There are numerous private operators and state government-run long-distance buses to/from Mumbai. Buses to almost everywhere leave from Dr Anandrao Nair Rd near Mumbai Central train station, including some sleeper buses to Goa. Travel to Goa and other southern destinations can also be arranged with the private bus agents near MG Rd or the cluster situated just west of Crawford market, near MRA Marg.

Long-distance state-run buses depart from Mumbai Central bus terminal close to Mumbai Central train station. Buses service major towns in Maharashtra and neighbouring states. They're marginally cheaper and more frequent than the private services, but they're not nearly as comfortable.

For more information on getting to and from Mumbai, see p230.

GETTING AROUND To/From the Airports INTERNATIONAL

The prepaid taxi desk in the arrivals hall charges fixed rates (Rs 110 to Juhu, Rs 200 to Bandra, Rs 325 to Colaba; plus Rs 10 per bag and Rs 5 service tax). You could try to negotiate a lower rate with a private taxi, but it's not really worth the hassle. Air-con rates are 20% higher. A 5% or 10% tip is appreciated.

Don't catch an autorickshaw from the airport to the city: they're prohibited from entering downtown Mumbai and can only take you as far as Mahim Creek. The cheap alternative is to catch an autorickshaw to Andheri train station (around Rs 25) and a suburban train to Churchgate or Victoria Terminus (Rs 9, 45 minutes). Don't try this during rush hours.

DOMESTIC AIRPORT

Taxis outside the domestic airport charge meter rates, plus Rs 10 per item of luggage. The journey to the centre of town should cost around Rs 300. Make sure your driver uses the meter and conversion card.

A taxi from the city centre (say Victoria Terminus) to either of the airports costs around Rs 300 with a bit of bargaining, plus extra for baggage. Taxi drivers in Colaba ask for Rs 350 (around 30% more between midnight and 5am). Alternatively, catch a suburban train to Vile Parle and an autorickshaw from there (Rs 50).

Boat

Both **PNP** (Map p66; ☎ 22885220) and **Maldar Catamarans** (Map p66; ☎ 22829695) run regular ferries to Mandwa (Rs 100 one way), useful for accessing Murud-Janjira and other parts of the Konkan coast, avoiding the long bus trip out of Mumbai. Their ticket offices are beside the Gateway of India.

Bus

Single- and double-decker buses run all over Mumbai. Routes can be confusing and there's a mad rush to get off at every stop. Route numbers are signed in English on the side of buses. Short journeys are only a few rupees; simply jumping on a double-decker bus can be an entertaining and inexpensive way of seeing the city (bus 103 passes some interesting spots).

For more information about bus routes, contact **Best Undertaking** (Map p66; ☎ 22185541; www.bestundertaking.com; Colaba Bus Depot, Colaba Causeway, Colaba).

Taxi

The most convenient way to get around the city is the black-and-yellow Premier taxi, India's version of a 1950s Fiat. In south Mumbai drivers almost always use the meter without prompting and give the correct change. The minimum fare is usually Rs 13 for the first 1.6km and Rs 7 per kilometre thereafter. Note that taxis hanging around tourist attractions are usually hopping for a longer fare; flag down a moving taxi for shorter trips.

North of Mahim Creek, autorickshaws do the job of taxis. Rates are similar but you may have to bargain as drivers are less inclined to use the meter. Ask to see conversion charts at the end of the journey.

Train

There are three main lines, making Mumbai's train network relatively easy to navigate. The most useful service operates from Churchgate heading north to stations such as Charni Rd (for Chowpatty Beach), Mumbai Central, Mahalaxmi (for the dhobi ghat), Vile Parle (for the domestic airport), Andheri (for the international airport) and Borivali (for Sanjay Gandhi National Park).

Commuter trains to the suburbs leave from **Victoria Terminus** (Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus; CST; ☎ 22620746; Nagar Chowk, Fort) and **Churchgate** (☎ 22039840; Veer Nariman Rd, Churchgate). Passengers have a choice of padded 1st-class seats and bench seats in 2nd. Women should take advantage of the ladies-only carriages and there are areas for disabled commuters. Trains only pause at suburban train stations for a moment, so be ready to jump off. Watch your valuables.