



# Mumbai (Bombay)

022 / POP 21.1 MILLION

## Includes ➔

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Peshawri (p763)
- ➔ Revival (p760)
- ➔ Dakshinayan (p762)
- ➔ Koh (p761)
- ➔ La Folie (p760)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai (p756)
- ➔ Residency Hotel (p757)
- ➔ Abode Bombay (p756)
- ➔ Sea Shore Hotel (p755)
- ➔ Juhu Residency (p758)

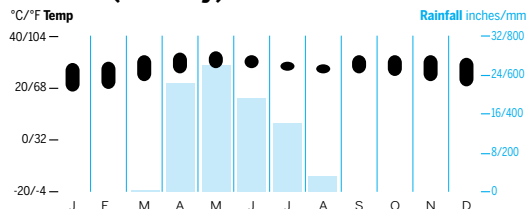
## Why Go?

Mumbai is big. It's full of dreamers and hard-labourers, starlets and gangsters, stray dogs and exotic birds, artists and servants, fisherfolk and *crorepatis* (millionaires) – and lots of people. It has India's most prolific film industry, some of Asia's biggest slums (as well as the world's most expensive home) and the largest tropical forest in an urban zone. Mumbai is India's financial powerhouse, fashion epicentre and a pulse point of religious tension. It's even evolved its own language, Bumbaiyya Hindi, which is a mix of...everything.

If Mumbai is your introduction to India, prepare yourself. The city isn't a threatening place but its furious energy, limited public transport and punishing pollution makes it challenging for visitors. The heart of the city contains some of the grandest colonial-era architecture on the planet but explore a little more and you'll uncover unique bazaars, hidden temples, hipster enclaves and India's premier restaurants and nightlife.

## When to Go

### Mumbai (Bombay)



**Dec & Jan** The very best, least sticky weather.

**Aug & Sep** Mumbai goes crazy for Ganesh during its most exciting festival, Ganesh Chaturthi.

**Oct–Apr** There's very little rain, post-monsoon; the best time of year for festivals.

## Mumbai Highlights

- 1 Marvelling at the magnificence of Mumbai's colonial-era architecture: **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus** (p739), **High Court** (p743) and **Gateway of India** (p738)
- 2 Investigating the labyrinthine lanes and stalls in Mumbai's ancient **bazaar district** (p769)
- 3 Dining like a maharaja at one of India's best restaurants such as **Indigo** (p759)
- 4 Feeling the love with the Krishna crowd at the unique **Iskcon Temple** (p749)
- 5 Exploring the self-sufficient world of Asia's largest shantytown, **Dharavi Slum** (p755)
- 6 Sleeping at the **Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai** (p756), one of the world's iconic hotels, or having a drink at its bar, Mumbai's first
- 7 Ogling the gorgeous Renaissance revival interiors of the **Dr Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum** (p745)
- 8 Beholding the commanding triple-headed Shiva at **Elephanta Island** (p751)
- 9 Catching the city's sea breeze among playing kids, big balloons and a hot-pink sunset at **Girgaum Chowpatty** (p745)

