



Mumbai (Bombay)

022 / POP 21.1 MILLION

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Best Places to Eat

- Peshawri (p68)
- Bastian (p69)
- Bademiya Seekh Kebab Stall (p64)
- Bombay Canteen (p69)
- Masala Library (p69)

Best Places to Sleep

- Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai (p62)
- Abode Bombay (p62)
- Residency Hotel (p62)
- Sea Shore Hotel (p60)
- Juhu Residency (p63)

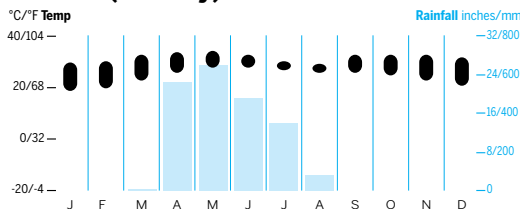
Why Go?

Mumbai, formerly Bombay, 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 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.

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 make 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 Ganesh-crazy during its most exciting festival, Ganesh Chaturthi.

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

Mumbai (Bombay) Highlights

- 1 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus** (p47) Marvelling at Mumbai's colonial-era architecture, including this monumental train station.
- 2 Bazaars** (p74) Investigating the labyrinthine lanes and stalls in the ancient bazaar district.
- 3 Restaurants** (p68) Dining like a maharaja at one of India's best restaurants, such as Peshawri.
- 4 Iskon Temple** (p56) Feeling the love with the Krishna crowd at this unique temple.
- 5 Dharavi Slum** (p52) Taking a tour through of Asia's largest shantytown.
- 6 Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai** (p62) Sleeping at one of the world's most iconic hotels, or having a drink at its bar, Mumbai's first.
- 7 Dr Bhau Daji Lad Mumbai City Museum** (p52) Ogling this museum's gorgeous Renaissance revival interiors.
- 8 Elephanta Island** (p57) Beholding the commanding triple-headed Shiva on this island.
- 9 Girgaum Chowpatty** (p53) Catching the sea breeze among playing kids, big balloons and a hot-pink sunset.

