

The City of Mumbai

*“Mumbai, formerly **Bombay**, is the capital of the Indian state of Maharashtra. As of 2009, Mumbai is the second largest city in the world in terms of population, with the city proper having a population of approximately 14 million inhabitants,^[1] and along with the neighbouring cities of Navi Mumbai and Thane, it forms an urban agglomeration with around 19 million people.^[3] Mumbai lies on the west coast of India and has a deep natural harbour. As of 2009, Mumbai was named an Alpha world city.^[4]*

The seven islands that came to constitute Bombay were home to communities of fishing colonies. For centuries, the islands came under the control of successive kingdoms and indigenous empires before being ceded to Portuguese settlers and subsequently to the British East India Company. During the mid-18th century, Bombay emerged as a significant trading town. Economic and educational development characterised the city during the 19th century. It became a strong base for the Indian independence movement during the early 20th century. When India became independent in 1947, the city was incorporated into Bombay State. In 1960, following the Samyukta Maharashtra movement, a new state of Maharashtra was created with Bombay as the capital. It was renamed Mumbai in 1995.^[5]

Mumbai is the commercial and entertainment centre of India, generating 5% of India's GDP,^[6] and accounting for 25% of industrial output, 40% of maritime trade, and 70% of capital transactions to India's economy.^[7] Mumbai is home to important financial institutions such as the Reserve Bank of India, the Bombay Stock Exchange, the National Stock Exchange of India and the corporate headquarters of numerous Indian companies and multinational corporations. The city also houses India's Hindi film and television industry, known as Bollywood. Mumbai's business opportunities, as well as its potential to offer a higher standard of living, attract migrants from all over India and, in turn, make the city a potpourri of many communities and cultures.

Mumbai has a tropical climate, specifically a tropical wet and dry climate under the Köppen climate classification, with seven months of dryness and peak of rains in July.^[120] The cold season from December to February is followed by the summer season from March to June. The average annual temperature is 27.2 °C (81.0 °F), and the average annual precipitation is 216.7 centimeters (85.31 in).^[124] In the Island City, the average maximum temperature is 31.2 °C (88.2 °F), while the average minimum temperature is 23.7 °C (74.7 °F). The record high is 40.2 °C (104.4 °F) on 28 March 1982,^[125] and the record low is 7.4 °C (45.3 °F) on 27 January 1962.”

SHOPPING

Soma

Soma is one of the best places to stock up on hand blocked textiles in India. The Mumbai location is just a few doors down from Ravissant, located on the second floor of a non-descript building. Everything from quilted tote bags to tablecloths and wash bags and quilts are available at reasonable prices, and there's a separate section for clothes for women and children.

Soma A-2 Amar Chand Mansion 16, Madam Cama Road Colaba Mumbai Phone: +91 22 2282 6050

FabIndia

FabIndia has several locations around the country, including Jaipur, Chennai and Delhi, but one of the largest is in Mumbai. This two-storey shop sells a wide variety of cotton fabrics for both upholstery and curtains, as well as a line of clothing for men, women and children. There is also a wide range of hand-printed block print tablecloths, bedspreads and napkins, as well as a small selection of furniture. There are several locations in Mumbai. *FabIndia, Jeroo Building, 137, M.G. Road, Mumbai Phone: +91 22 2262 6539*

RESTAURANTS FOR LUNCH & DINNER

Within and near the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel

INDIAN

MASALA KRAFT – Indian flavours come to life at this restaurant located in the Hotel Lobby.

KHYBER – Centrally located at Kala Ghoda, it is a two-level restaurant serving their all-time favorites in Indian cuisine.

KEBAB CORNER – An Indian cuisine restaurant at the Hotel Intercontinental Marine , which is a 10-minute drive from the hotel.

INDIAN SEAFOOD

TRISHNA – It's a seafood haven, offering seafood cooked in a variety of styles. Located 10 minutes away from the hotel at Kala Ghoda. The best crabs in town!!

MAHESH LUNCH HOME_- At Kala Ghoda, a 10-minute drive from the hotel. (Same cuisine as Trishna, but cheaper, not necessarily better.)

SOUL FRY CASA – A 10-minute walk from the hotel.

INDIAN VEG CUISINE (THALIS)

SAMRAT – A vegetarian, Indian cuisine restaurant famous for its Thalīs.

CHE'TNA: Indian vegetarian Thali (Rajasthani), at Kala Ghoda, 10- 15 minute walk from the hotel (close to art galleries).

RAJDHANI – Want to try some Rajasthani and Gujarati Thalīs? Try the Rajdhani located in the heart of the city at Crawford Market, a 15-minute drive from the hotel.

CHINESE

GOLDEN DRAGON in the Hotel Lobby

VONGWONG – Located in the heart of the city, it is a 10-minute drive to Nariman Point and is famous for its Chinese cuisine.

LINGS PAVILLION – Just a few steps away from the hotel, a place for good Chinese cuisine.

ITALIAN

INDIGO_– Known for having the best Italian and Continental cuisine and located right behind the hotel, it has a terrace area as well as a beautiful collection of wines and different varieties of alcohol.

OLIVE BAR & RESTAURANT (in the suburbs) – The original, an hour drive from the Hotel with a Bar as well, serving good Italian food. Another unit has opened at Mahalakshmi, a 30-minute drive away from the hotel.

CONTINENTAL CUISINE

ZODIAC GRILL – Located in the Hotel Lobby, it is an exquisite fine dining restaurant famous for its Continental cuisine.

TOTE ON THE TURF – An open air and indoor restaurant located on the racecourse.

JAPANESE CUISINE

WASABI BY MORIMOTO – Located in the Hotel Lobby. The entrance is through the Harbour Bar and it is one of the best and more expensive Japanese restaurants in town.

TETSUMA_– Located next to the Radio Club, it is a famous Japanese cuisine restaurant.

MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

SOUK – Soak in the view at this rooftop restaurant, Souk gives you a good feel of the harbour and is known for its Mediterranean, Lebanese, Egyptian and Moroccan cuisine.

MOSHE – A Mediterranean cuisine restaurant located at Cuffe parade, a 10-minute drive from the hotel.

THAI CUISINE

BUSABA – A Thai and Vietnamese cuisine restaurant situated next to Indigo restaurant.

THAI PAVILLION – Located in the The Taj President Hotel, famous for its Thai cuisine with a brand new décor.

VONG WONG – A very nice restaurant for Thai and Chinese cuisine at a 10-minute drive from the hotel.

MULTI CUISINE

SHAMIANA – A Multi cuisine, round the clock, restaurant located in the lobby of the hotel.

JOSS – A Multi cuisine restaurant located 10 minutes from the hotel (in Kala Ghoda).

FLAGS – A World cuisine restaurant well known for its Mexican, French, Italian and many other cuisines. A 15-minute walk from the hotel.

STATUS_– Recommended vegetarian restaurant in the Nariman Point area approximately, a 10-minute drive from the hotel.

LEOPOLD- Beer Bar and food. Relaxed place for drinks before dinner . Located behind the Taj Hotel, a 5-7 minute walk.