

Getting Around

In Mumbai city

<http://www.mapsofindia.com/mumbai/>

❖ Auto-Rickshaw:

The minimum fare for a rickshaw drive in Mumbai is Rs.10. Beyond that, the fare depends on the meter.

For instance, if the meter reads 14, then you pay Rs.13 (14-1).

This holds true for all journeys anywhere in the city by any auto-rickshaw. Basically, just deduct Rs.1 from the meter reading and that will be the final fare.

However, one must note that this does not hold true after midnight. The rates effectively double after midnight.

❖ Taxis:

Most taxis in Mumbai are small-medium sized cars, painted black-and-yellow (black on lower body and yellow on roof). You can hail a cab off the streets. Payment is through a complicated system of calculating meter charge by a certain figure (all taxis are supposed to carry a tariff card that simplifies matters).

However, if you want a comfortable, air-conditioned ride at a small surcharge of 25 percent over normal taxis it's best to travel by branded cab services that operate at government-approved tariffs. These services operate modern fleets with well-trained drivers. You can get them at 30-60 minutes' notice, they are clean, air-conditioned, equipped with digital, tamper-proof meters, punctual, honest, and GPS-equipped-monitored, which makes them far secure at any time. If you're using a mobile phone, you receive an SMS with the driver's name, mobile number and car number 30 minutes before scheduled departure. Charges are Rs 15 for the first km and Rs 13 for subsequent kms, with a 25 percent night surcharge (midnight to 5AM). Some can even be booked online.

Some branded cab services are:

First Cars (09766311830) <http://www.firstcars.in> email: firstcars@gmail.com

Mega Cab (022-42424242) <http://www.megacabs.com>

Meru Cab (022-44224422) <http://www.merucabs.com>

Fulora Gold Cab (022-32449999 / 32443333)

Priyadarshini Cabs (especially for single women/a service managed by women)(09820221107)

Unless you are taking a prepaid taxi, always ask taxis to go by the meter. At the start of the journey, ensure that the meter is visible and shows the flag-down fare/meter reading.

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It's quite handy to have the Taxi Meter Card issued by The Mumbai Traffic Police. You can access it online at <http://www.trafficpolicemumbai.org>

❖ Local Trains

You can download the application M-indicator on your phone to find out about Mumbai local trains departures times.



The Mumbai local train rail network runs from one end of the city to the other, from north to south. It's divided into three lines -- Western, Central, and Harbour Line.

The Mumbai local has three lines -- Western, Central, and Harbour (covering the eastern part of the city, including Navi Mumbai).

The Western Line, which terminates at Churchgate in south Mumbai, is regarded as the superior line because it goes through the better areas, has frequent services, and is the most reliable. However, it stops at many stations and can take quite a while to get anywhere.

The Central line, which runs from the Chhatrapathi Shivaji Terminus (previously known as Victoria Terminus) in south Mumbai, has less stops but is more crowded.

The Harbour Line, which also runs from Chhatrapathi Shivaji Terminus, is in dire need of upgrading, and is generally avoidable.

Mumbai local trains are either Fast (with few stops) or Slow (stopping at all or most stations). Each can be identified by "F" or "S" on the monitors at railway stations. Fast trains will stop at the stations listed in red on the Mumbai local train map.

Finding out which train will depart from which platform can be confusing. Trains are usually identified by their final destination. For south bound trains, ask for trains going to CST (Chhatrapathi Shivaji Terminus) or Churchgate. Usually, the first letter or two of the destination will be displayed on the overhead monitors, and alongside it either "F" or "S" for Fast or Slow train. For example, a train listed as BO F, will be a fast train terminating at Borivali on the Western line. Also, as a general rule, north bound trains will stop on Platform 1, and south bound trains on Platform 2.

Mumbai local trains have separate carriages for women (known as the ladies compartment).

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For the boys who need to use the Western Line train to get to their workplace, it is advisable to take a rickshaw to the train station of Goregaon rather than Jogeshwari for the simple reason that morning until +/- 10 am, a fast train starts its way to the station there and it's empty (even if it fills VERY quickly). The train leaves at 8:18, 9:00, 9:31 and 9:56, it always goes to Churchgate.

It's a fast train that stops only at major stations, the advantage is that it has a fixed schedule and takes on a less crowded platform. For girls, if they decide to take the same train (or another from Borivali), no need to go to Goregaon, as there will be space by taking it at the Jogeshwari station. The subscription for 3 months costs about 1800 rupees in the first class; it is required to provide a photo ID to get the pass.

In Pune city

<http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/maharashtra/pune-city-map.jpg>

❖ Auto-Rickshaw:

The minimum fare for a rickshaw drive in Pune is Rs.17 for first 1,5km; after it is Rs 12 per kilometres with a 50 percent night surcharge.

❖ Taxis:

Call up and fix a taxi for pickups and drop-off. Minimum 30 minutes advance notice. Fixed rates: Rs 16/km (regular hours). Driver/ car details are sent to mobile phone.

Some branded cab services are:

Wings Cab (020 40100100) <http://wingsradiocabs.com/>

Travel time (020 66 000 000)

Speed Cabs (020 64 006 444)

❖ Local Buses:

Some traveling information are available on these websites:

<http://tellmyroute.com/Pune>

http://yellowpages.sulekha.com/pune_city-bus-routes