Transport Options in Mumbai by Lek Boonlert

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- By bus

Run by Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport or BEST for short, buses travel to most of Mumbaiâ€™s main tourist attractions as well as to the city suburbs. Those planning to use the bus to explore Mumbai should bear in mind that buses can get rather crowded, especially during peak travel times. However, this is by far the cheapest way of getting around Mumbai and those on a tight budget may find that hefty savings make up for any slight discomfort over travelling by taxi or auto-rickshaw.

- Travel by train

More than five million people make use of Mumbai's suburban train network each and every day and this is a quick and convenient way to get around. Operated nearly 24 hours a day, there are three railway lines covering most parts of Mumbai, and many of the cityâ€™s main attractions are just a short walk away from stations. One of the best things about choosing to travel by train is that passengers donâ€™t have to worry about getting stuck in traffic jams.

- Taxis

Those who are new to Mumbai may prefer travelling by metered taxi to trying to work out the cityâ€™s public transportation network. Visitors should find taxis waiting to pick up passengers outside their Mumbai hotel, while taxis can also be hailed on the street as they pass. Most taxi drivers in Mumbai speak good English and are experts and negotiating their way through the cityâ€™s chaotic traffic.

- Auto-rickshaw

Although generally banned from travelling through the downtown areas of Mumbai, auto-rickshaws can be found in the western suburbs and beyond Sion. Auto-rickshaws are much cheaper than air-conditioned taxis and really come into their own during peak traffic times, when they are able to weave and dodge between stationary vehicles, saving passengers time.

- Ferry

Costing just 100 rupees each way, ferry trips are an ideal way to explore nearby areas of natural beauty such as Elephanta Island. Running at regular intervals throughout the day between Tuesday and Sunday, ferries are available to carry visitors to a wide range of destinations including the Esselworld amusement park, the Elephanta Caves, Manori Jetty and Gorai Beach. Those who want to soak up the sun for a few hours will be able to reach the beach in a mere matter of minutes by taking the ferry.

- Car hire

Available through most hotel Mumbai as well as travel agents, car hire is relatively simple in this city. This is the perfect way to explore the areas around Mumbai, which are difficult to reach by public transportation. While visitors can opt to hire a car directly from one of the cityâ€™s well-known car hire companies, hiring a chauffeur-driven vehicle directly from the hotel is a much more comfortable and convenient way to get around.

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Lek Boonlert - About Author:
Lek Boonlert is an editor and content reviewer at DirectRooms and is responsible for all a Mumbai Hotels content.

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