

Your Mumbai layover, *sorted* — on one page.

1 Visa — do this first

You need a visa to leave the terminal. Most travellers use the **e-Tourist visa**.

- Apply online ≈ **1 week before** you fly
- Cost ≈ **US\$25** (varies by nationality/season)
- Approval usually **24–72h** — print the ETA
- Only use the official indianvisaonline.gov.in
- Passport valid **6+ months**, 2 blank pages

2 Time budget

Your layover length ≠ your city time. Subtract immigration + drive + buffer.

- **<6h**: tight — maybe stay near the airport
- **6–8h**: one neighbourhood, done well
- **10–12h**: the greatest hits + a real meal
- **18h+**: a proper day in the city

Golden rule: never touch your airport buffer.

3 Luggage

BOM has a secure **left-luggage cloakroom** — pay per bag, explore hands-free.

- Keep on you: passport, ETA printout, phone, cash, meds, claim ticket
- Stash the heavy roller bag
- Allow a few minutes each end

4 Eat this (honest ₹)

Vada pav	₹20
Cutting chai	₹15–20
Pav bhaji	₹120–180
Dosa	₹100–160
Sit-down lunch	₹300–600

5 Safety basics

- Central areas are busy & fine — risks are petty, not dramatic
- App cabs (Uber/Ola), esp. after dark
- Sealed bottled water only
- Carry cash; know rough prices to avoid markup
- Solo women: share live location, ask for a female buddy

6 Money & getting around

- India runs on UPI — but **carry cash** as a visitor
- Airport → South Mumbai taxi ≈ **₹500–700**
- Sea Link toll **₹100**
- eSIM/roaming is easier than a local SIM for a few hours
- Monsoon (Jun–Sep): assume rain

+ Leave the airport in 6 steps

- 1 Sort your e-visa about a week before flying
- 2 Land & clear immigration (biometrics on arrival)
- 3 Drop bags at the cloakroom
- 4 Head into the city — buddy meets you at arrivals
- 5 Eat, wander, sea — keep an eye on the buffer
- 6 Collect bags & back to BOM, comfortably early

One rule above all: protect the buffer before your outbound flight. The best layover story is the one where you also made your flight. With Detour, a verified local student plans the route around your exact flight times and tracks the clock so you don't have to.