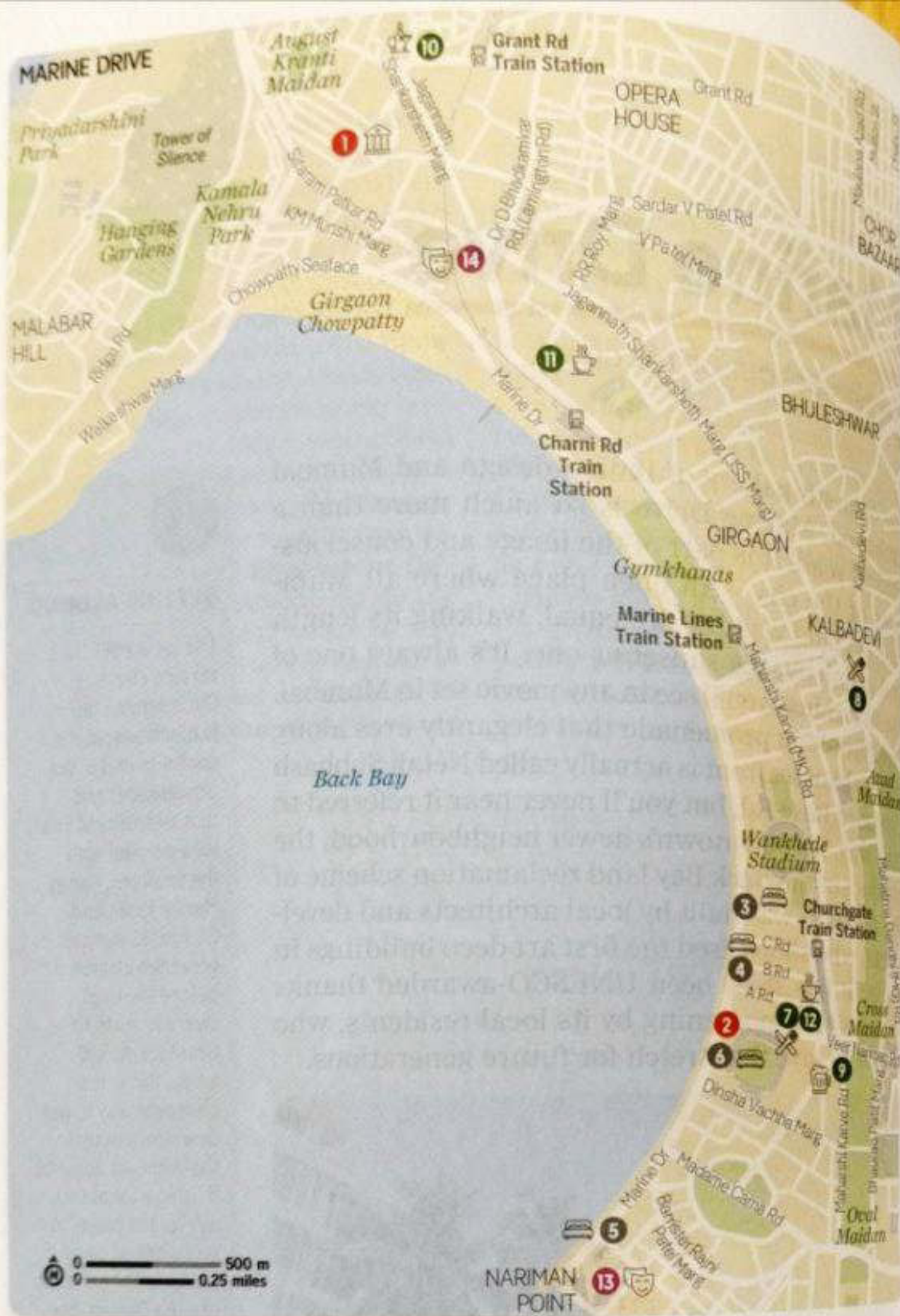


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India

Mumbai
walking tour
Train booking
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SIGHTS

- 1 Mani Bhavan
2 Soona Mahal

SLEEPING

- 3 Hotel Bentley
4 InterContinental
5 Oberoi, Mumbai

- 6 Sea Green Hotel

EATING

- 7 Foo Town
8 Kyai & Co
● Pizza by the Bay (see 2)

- Ziya Restaurant (see 5)

DRINKING & NIGHTLIFE

- 9 Beer Café
10 B-Lounge
11 Mish Cafe

- 12 Mockingbird Cafe Bar

- 13 National Centre for the Performing Arts
14 Royal Opera House

Bombay Deco

Where style and form meet

Mumbai has more art deco architecture than anywhere else in the world. Local cataloguers have recently documented 110 buildings across the city, surpassing Miami. Head to Marine Drive to see where it all started in the 1930s. The then freshly reclaimed stretch of land wafted fresh air and fresh development opportunities. As you amble along the 3km stretch, you'll notice that the gorgeous little apartment blocks are spaced equally and uniform in height, quite unusual for Mumbai. This is thanks to the local government being particularly health conscious at the time. Following a recent plague, buildings with space and fresh air were mandatory - you can thank those local bureaucrats for its wonderful skyline today. Get chatting to any locals and you'll soon learn just how much Mumbai's art deco means to its citizens. It was the first Indian-led architectural movement - most of the designers, funders and owners of the buildings were Indian. Sumptuous buildings sprang up throughout the 1930s and '40s, in tandem with the brewing Independence movement and growing local identity. Look for the references to the sea and nautical imagery: the **Soona Mahal** (above Pizza by the Bay) is a great example. Its stepped profile gives depth and dynamism, with streamlining that makes the block look like an ocean liner. **Art Deco Mumbai** (artdecomumbai.com) runs walking tours.

Gandhi's Mumbai House

Visit Gandhi's Mumbai home and headquarters

The **Mani Bhavan** Gandhi Sangrahalaya, a beautiful wooden house just north of Marine Drive, was Gandhi's home and headquarters in Mumbai (then Bombay) from 1917 to 1934. He held meetings with people from all walks of life here, from Congress leaders to mill workers. Gandhi chose Bombay as the base for his political action rather than New Delhi (the recently anointed capital city) as he could interact with a wide range of communities living and working in the commerce hub. He launched some of his biggest protest movements from this house, which you can visit between 11am and 5pm every day. The museum includes a library as well as Gandhi's personal things, such as his cotton spinning wheel. Classes in this skill are held weekly.



TOP EATS NEAR MARINE DRIVE

Pizza by the Bay: Thin, crispy pizzas are the main draw, but this airy art deco diner has more, from soups and salads to waffles. 7am-12.30am ₹₹₹

Foo Town: An ode to the rich heritage of Chinese cuisine in the area, with classy tasting plates and hearty meals. noon-1.30am ₹₹₹

Kyani & Co: Come for the impeccable baked goods at this heritage Parsi cafe and stay for the very cosy and retro vibes. 7am-7pm ₹

Ziya: Two-Michelin-star chef Vineet Bhatia serves an Indian fusion tasting menu at this opulent restaurant in the Oberoi. 12.30-3pm & 7-11pm ₹₹₹₹

ART DECO TRAVELS



Atul Kumar, founder trustee of Art Deco Mumbai Trust.
@artdecomumbai

Art deco has the ability to adapt to local influence; what you see in Shanghai is different from what's in New York. But there is a common thread that runs across what we call Tropical Deco. So Miami and Bombay have many similarities - ground plus three floors, a lot of east-west ventilation, and balconies and cantilever awnings providing open-air shade. In India the bas-reliefs incorporate religious symbols or images of Indian people working the fields, which was very popular because it represented India's agrarian economy at the time, everything was about farming. There are also waves from our coastline, local birds and nature. You won't see this in any other art deco capital in the world; not Cuba, not Cairo.