

ORIGINAL NIGHTS OUT:

MUMBAI

FHM and The Smirnoff Co. take a passage to India to visit a city whose nightlife is worth getting the jabs for...

Along with the smell and noise, it's a warped sense of *déjà vu* that hits you most upon arriving in Mumbai. The Indian mega-metropolis is just like a dustier and more densely-populated New York. And similar to Manhattan's impact over the last 100 years, Mumbai is set to become one of the 21st Century's defining cities. A population almost the size of Australia's (16.4 million - nearly half of whom live in slums) has somehow squeezed into its boundaries and shows no sign of slowing down. The behemoth that is the Bollywood film industry goes from strength to strength. Forthcoming Mumbai-based Johnny Depp flick, *Shantaram* is set to revitalise the city's tourist industry. Meanwhile, a string of vogueish bars, clubs and restaurants ensures the nightlife of the erstwhile Bombay is permanently abuzz. Here's *FHM* and the Smirnoff Co.'s guide to one of the most exhilarating places on earth...



OGLE THE QUEEN'S NECKLACE

The Queen's Necklace is a sweeping curve of lights along Marine Drive, and the finest place to view it is by taking the lift to the eighth floor of the Intercontinental Hotel and alighting at the Dome rooftop bar. With white cotton-draped furniture and a swimming pool, it's more Miami than Mumbai, but a quick glance down to Chowpatty Beach will remind you where you are with a flash. www.intercontinental.com

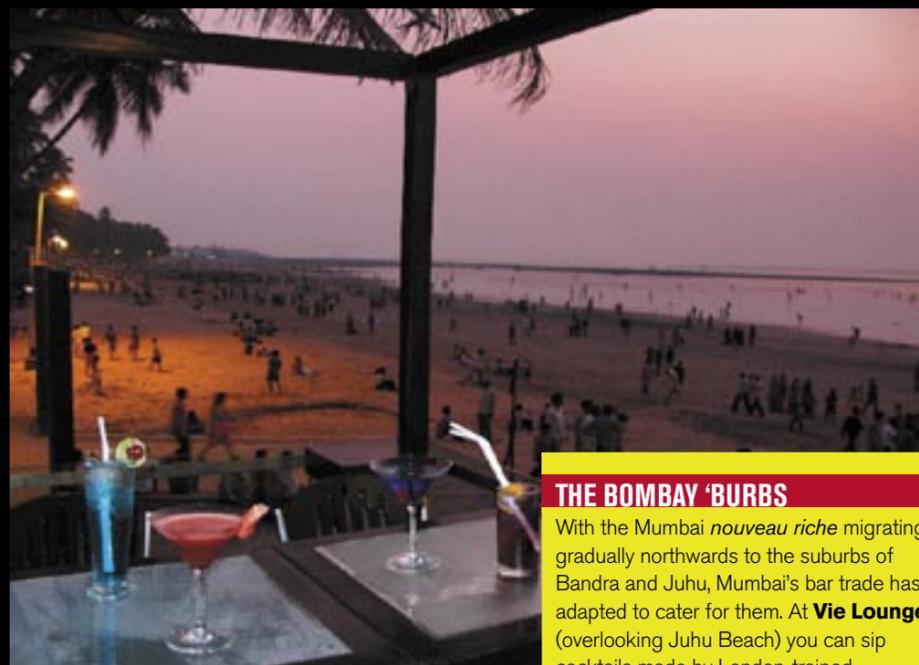
TOTO'S GARAGE

Traffic dominates Mumbai. Rickety Premier Padminis line the streets, while the cacophony of taxi horns drowns out all other noise. Seems apt then, that one of the city's liveliest niteries is a bar dedicated to all things jalopy-based. Toto's Garage is set in a former auto-repair shop, has a VW Beetle dangling from the ceiling, hubcap-emblazoned walls and Mario Bros-moustachioed staff in overalls.



FOLLICULAR FUN AT HAKIM'S

Forget leafing through copies of *OK!* magazine circa 2005 and conversations of the "what-did-you-do-at-the-weekend" variety - Hakim's Aalim is hairdressing with a nightclub-like flourish. The salon has its own in-house DJ, each booth comes with its own plasma screen and DVD player, while expect visiting rappers to perform gigs midway through your thatch maintenance. www.hakimsaalim.com

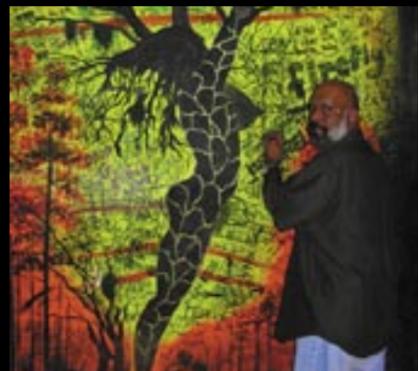


THE BOMBAY 'BURBS

With the Mumbai *nouveau riche* migrating gradually northwards to the suburbs of Bandra and Juhu, Mumbai's bar trade has adapted to cater for them. At **Vie Lounge** (overlooking Juhu Beach) you can sip cocktails made by London-trained mixologists, while watching people wade fully-clothed in the Arabian Sea below. www.vie.co.in

ROCK OUT AT GHETTO

Bathed in ultraviolet light and a paratha's throw away from the Haji Ali Dargah shrine, **Ghetto** is a rock-orientated cove favoured by Led Zeppelin. Mumbaikers have been flocking here since 1992, while a Facebook group has been set up enabling online wall-posters on the other side of the world to have their cyber-missives represented on the walls of the Mumbai bar.



BOLLYWOOD GLAM AT INDIGO

The premier place in India to rubberneck Bollywood icons, cricketing deities and politickers of the Bill Clinton ilk, **Indigo** has many things going for it - a waft of welcoming A/C, a raffish cigar bar, a fragrant candlelit terrace, one of the finest restaurants in India and reputedly some of the prettiest women on the subcontinent.

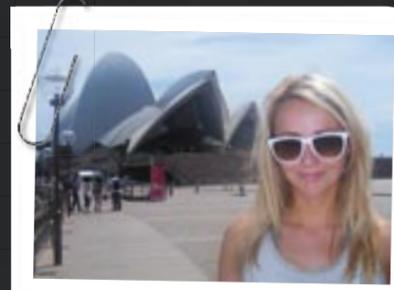
WIN A TRIP TO MUMBAI!

The Smirnoff Co. is offering one reader and a friend the chance to win a five night trip to Mumbai (worth £3,300) to sample the city's febrile delights for themselves. Staying in the palatial luxury of the Intercontinental Marine Drive, they'll get to sup cocktails at the hotel's Dome bar (left) plus eat dinner at Bollywood haunt Indigo too (above). For a chance to win visit fhm.com/smirnoff and enter the free prize draw before March 28 2008. Open to over-21s only. See fhm.com/smirnoff for full terms and conditions*.



SMIRNOFF EXPERIENCE SHANGHAI

Aside from 100,000 people metamorphising themselves into a huge panda at the opening ceremony for this summer's Beijing Olympics, last month's Smirnoff Experience Shanghai is the biggest party to hit the Far East in 2008. Staines' rockers Hard-Fi performed with a troupe of Chinese drummers, turntablists Sasha and Tom Middleton played exhilarating sets, and there was an interactive bar, where guests could select ingredients to make up one of a possible 1,300 Smirnoff cocktails. Next stop? Paris...



SMIRNOFF 10 UK REP

Steph Prentice's three most original nights out from the antipodean leg of the year-long Smirnoff 10 schlep...

- 1. Tatler, Sydney:** Underground Darlinghurst drinking den where you need a secret password to get in. I dressed up as a nun. Don't ask why.
- 2. Bungalow 8, Sydney Harbour:** Features bottles hanging from bungee cords.
- 3. Cookie, Melbourne:** Rooftop cinema where you can lounge in a deckchair while watching the latest films.

NEXT MONTH: GLASGOW
 Haunted nightclubs, posh haggis and Caledonian carousing galore, as we hit one of the UK's most vibrant cities...

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