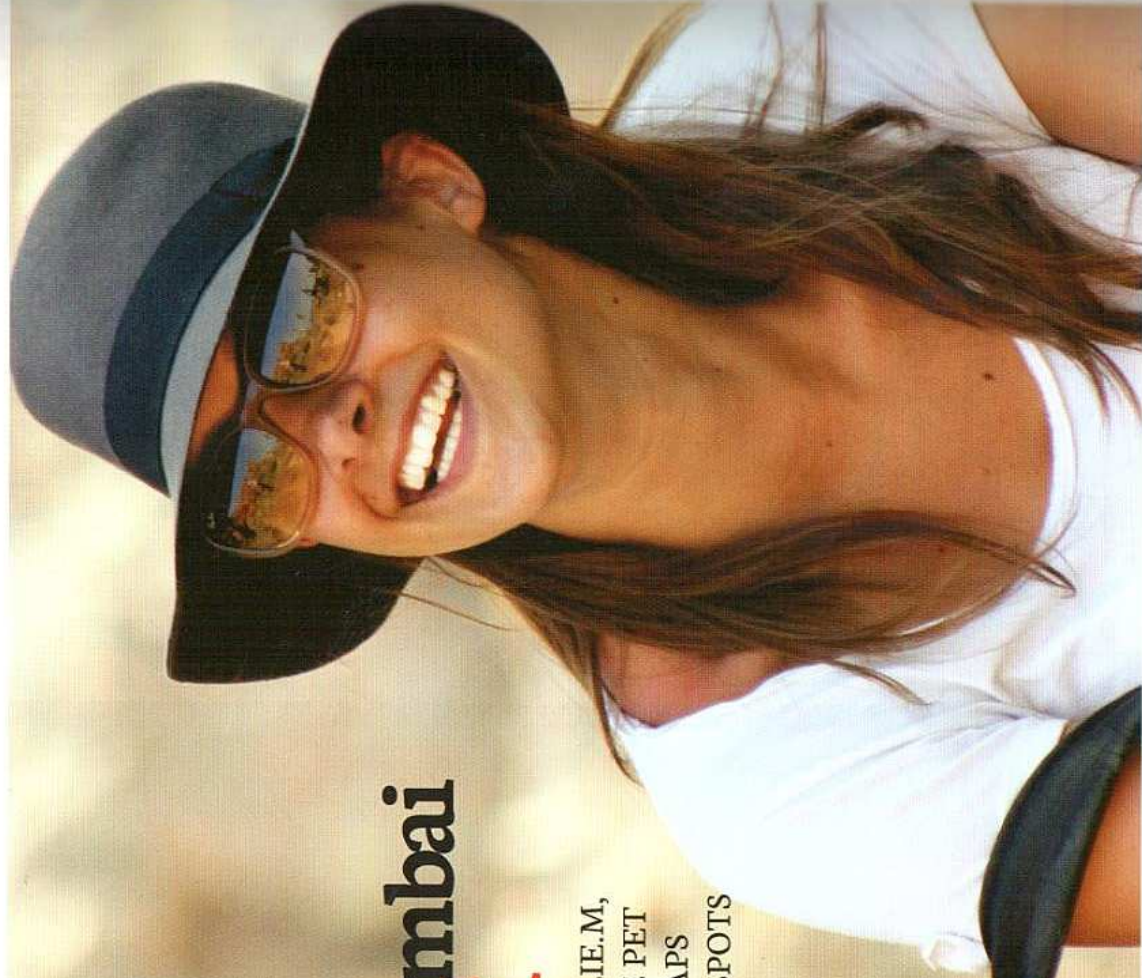


Look who's in town
Mumbai

The Mumbai Samurai

❏ **PARISIENNE EMILIE.M,
WHO WORKS IN THE PET
FOOD INDUSTRY, MAPS
OUT HER MUST-DO SPOTS
IN MUMBAI**



Emilie. M looks at life in Mumbai as a lively experience. Thinking back to a day at the Victoria Gardens brings a smile to her face. "We didn't know what to expect after seeing the elephant statue from the Elephanta caves. I spotted a very big queue and just joined in, only to realise we were at the zoo on a crowded Sunday. We were out in 15 minutes!" Five years, and many humid taxi rides later, Emilie's apprehension about Mumbai has transformed into appreciation. Her blog, www.indiansamurai.com, sets out her perspective of an expat's life in Mumbai. We tag along with Emilie as she fills her little black book with unique to-dos in India's financial capital.

The Paris Diary

Whenever I plan a visit back to Paris, my parents offer to book a play, an exhibition, a museum, or a concert. In France, sport facilities are also easily available, whereas in India, unless you are a member of a club - a British legacy - or willing to sweat it out by running on the busy roads, being sportive can be a challenge.

Mumbai Hotspots

After visiting the 10 spots every guidebook recommends, forget your map, hop onto a local train - and get lost! Walking is not easy, the pavement is uneven (when there is a pavement) and the traffic insane.

- You may stumble upon a heritage 'village' - quiet lanes with exquisite old bungalows. Try Chor Bazaar, Banganga tank (Malabar Hill), Ranwar village (Bandra), Khotachiwadi (Girgaon).
- Once your face is red, your shirt wet, your feet killing, take a

Seasons Hotel). Relaxing experiences like brunches by the beach, afternoons at the spa, and five-star dinners (Peshawri) may help to make the working days easier.

- Mumbai is famous for her street foods. Try *bhel puri*, *pani puri*, *vada pav*, *dosa*, goat brain (Bademiya). As you turn into a Mumbaikar, eating is likely to become your favourite pastime and will make you a restaurant-hunter. You will then hunt down the best Italian pizza (Metro Pizza), French crêpe (Suzette, Bandra), Belgian bread (LePainQuotidien, Bandra), Japanese sushis (Aoi, Bandra), Mexican fajitas (Sancho's, Bandra) and American hamburgers (Hard Rock Café) to forget you are living in India!

Tips to follow

- Mumbai is quite safe, so don't be paranoid about your handbag
- Drink a lot of water - the city can drain your energy very fast!
- Ask locals for help. If possible, learn some Hindi, people will really appreciate it.

When in France

The French are shy and may react rudely when accosted in the street. If you learn a few words to break the ice, they may actually be helpful!

French food is amazing. If there are not many veg dishes on the menu, ask the waiter and he will know what you should order.

Discovering France requires a lot of walking, so bring good shoes and energy! ❏