Mumbai

At Marine Drive’s north end lies Chowpatty Beach, site of some of Mumbai’s best street food vendors. Head to Bankelal Sharma (Stall #18) for pav bhaji, a fast food introduced in the 1850s for the city’s textile workers, made from vegetables mashed in spicy tomato sauce and sided with buttery buns. Pav refers to the soft bun — something you’ll also find sandwiched around a batter-fried spiced potato patty in another Mumbai mainstay called vada pav. At Stall #1, the chickpea batter is light and crispy, and the vada is garnished with mint-cilantro chutney and tamarind sauce. Finish off with dense and creamy kulfi (a frozen dairy treat) from Sharma’s Milky at Stall #2. It’s a popular family business that’s been here for more than six decades.

Genial Hideout

In a 120-year-old heritage mansion just off the Wellington Fountain traffic circle, the Woodside Inn provides a cozy respite from Colaba shoppers and museum crowds. Popular with locals for its veg and non-veg burgers, this tiny gastropub offers Gateway and Independence craft beers on tap, and a daily-until-5 pm array of international brunch options. www.facebook.com/WoodsideInn

Endemic Eats

When regional food is what you seek, head for Diva Maharashtracha, part of a trio of side-by-side restaurants helmed by Chef Deepa Suhas Achwat. Attentive staff serve authentic recipes sourced from every corner of the state. www.divamaharashtracha.com

AS FINANCIAL CAPITAL OF INDIA and home to Bollywood, Mumbai has long held a cosmopolitan outlook on culture and food. When the heat begins to fade from the day, the 3.6-kilometre promenade along Marine Drive is where Mumbaikars come out to play.

DELICIOUS DISPATCH

If you loved The Lunchbox and its chaos-defying scenes of Mumbai’s famous lunch delivery system, you’ll want to stop by Churchgate Station at midday to watch the dhaba walas work their tiffin-sorting magic. For a more structured encounter, guests of the Four Seasons Hotel Mumbai can enjoy an escorted behind-the-scenes look at the lunch-courier action, then unpack their own chef-prepared tiffin in the hotel’s “Lunch Like a Local” Experience. www.fourseasons.com/mumbai

ROOM WITH A VIEW

For great people-watching potential on Marine Drive without the tony prices, settle onto the patio at Pizza By the Bay. The decor is Art-Deco, the menu leans Italian, and pizza is far from the only option. But it’s clearly the star, with a long list of classic, nine-grain-crust, and flambeed (yes, flaming pizza!) selections, as well as creative entries like the Lombardia (topped with walnut pesto, bratwurst sausage, organic honey and roasted peppers). www.pizzabythebay.in