



Woman's World



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pg 19 We bring you our picks of some eco-friendly Ganpati idols

Afternoon Despatch & Courier

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>> Being single in the city can be a lot of fun

VOICES OF FREEDOM

Being a single woman in Mumbai has its upsides and **Rhea Dhanbhoora & Gargi Bansod** are here to help you find out how to make the most of it

Are your friends always trying to set you up and is your mother constantly hounding you about finding the perfect man? Being single in the city is a bit of a task, especially if you're touching 30 and if everyone expects you to get married and settle down, it gets just a little bit harder. But, what if you don't want to settle down? We may always seem to be telling you about the negatives of being a woman all by herself in this big, bad city, but being single in Mumbai isn't *that* bad. From ladies nights to brunches especially for women and a host of different, fun things you can do by yourself in the city, here's your guide to living and loving the single life.

I'M SINGLE... AND I LOVE IT!

Tired of explaining to the world why you're single and loving it? Here are a few fun reasons why being single and living alone is not so bad after all!

- You have your freedom! There's nothing better than utter freedom now, is there? You have the time to do anything you want at any time, without having to answer to anyone.
- You can dedicate more time to your job — without having to juggle a relationship alongside it. Which means, if you have to move or travel for your job, you won't need to give it a second thought.

- No fighting over the remote. EVER. You can watch *Pretty Little Liars* and *The Vampire Diaries* whenever you damn well please!
- Your social life will be soaring because you'll have the time and freedom to go out and let your hair down whenever you want to.
- Relationships are hard work and they're often quite stressful too. So, say goodbye to all that stress if you're single.
- Another great advantage of being single is that what's yours is, well, yours. You don't have to share anything.
- You'll stay fitter. No, we're not kidding. People in relationships have a history of

letting themselves go. Being single means you're likely to be in top form.

SINGLE WOMEN SPEAK

Being single and living alone in the city doesn't have to be a bad thing. We spoke to a few women to find out what they think of the single life.

SURROUNDED WITH LOVE

Amrita Hom Ray (25), a resident of Khar, doesn't miss anything about being in a

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« Feature

We bring you some of the best mushroom dishes from across the city

« Restaurant:

Read our review on Otto Infinito and what it offers

« Events

Mentalist Gerard Senehi plans to blow and bend your mind

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Find out what deals and discounts you can get this weekend

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Store reviews, workshops, Bandra fair and much more

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relationship — except the physical intimacy of course, since she doesn't believe in one-night stands. She says, "I have a supportive friend circle that is around whenever I need them." She also says she doesn't find it difficult being single in the city, even though she lives by herself. "I've been away from home for over six years, so I've more or less learnt how to manage things on my own. I manage fine on all fronts," she adds.

To women living alone in the city she says, "First, you need to find a good circle of friends, who you can depend upon in times of need. The thing about choosing your circle is that you need to be with people who love you for who you are and stay away from people who bring you down. The city tends to be wannabe-ish, so don't fall into that trap."

Good friends aren't all Amrita recommends to getting by in the city without a hiccup. She also says, "The second thing to remember is to start loving yourself, your job or have something to hold on to and work for. This will motivate you so it won't matter that you're single in the city. It could be anything — your job, your passions, dislikes, fear of impending marriage — anything that gives you the fortitude and courage to move forward on your own."

DO WHAT YOU LOVE

Santacruz resident, Tanvi Parikh (22), has literally fallen in love with singledom! She says, "Being single in any city is one of the best things, but in Mumbai it gets even better because everyday you get to meet such interesting people from all walks of life. The diversity that this city offers is unparalleled." So, what's the best part about her single life? Tanvi says, "Being single means you can do absolutely anything you like doing under the sun without being told what's good for you and what's not. For me, it's the time to catch up on all the chick flicks, hang out with all my crazy girlfriends and get that new look which I have been dying to try out!"

CITY SAFE FOR SINGLES

Neelima Balachandran (25), a resident of Goregaon, believes that if you're single, no city is better than Mumbai to be by yourself. She says, "I love being single in the city since it's safe and you can stay out all night. You don't need a man to escort you around or pick you up from your house. Partying with your girlfriends is the best thing about being single in this city. I spend time with myself reading at a café and catching up with friends as well."



>> Being single means you'll always have time to spend with friends

BOONS OF BEING SINGLE

Vying for every cute guy's attention is not the only perk of being single. If you can't see the bright side of it, we show you why the grass is so much greener on your side of the fence...



>> There are several advantages to being single in the city, including the freedom to socialise freely

You own your time: When you're single, you get to decide what to do with your time. You don't have to be concerned about your partner's needs or plan your day according to him. You can just get up and go anywhere you want, anytime you want.

Money matters: With singledom you can call your hard earned money your own. Once you have a partner your spending habits are affected and you need to keep many things in mind. No matter how impractical or frivolous, you can spend your money on whatever you want!

Know yourself: Being single gives you the chance to discover who you truly are. You will get a lot of time to make mistakes and find out what you really want — not just for yourself but in your partner as well.

Family ties: Apart from knowing yourself better, you'll end up spending some quality time with

your family as well. Since you are all grown up, you'll be surprised at how the relationship and rapport between you and your family members have changed.

Know your friends: Ah! You'll never find your friends complaining about you never having time for them. It is a known fact that the friends you make when you are single are the ones that remain closest to you for life. You can plan trips with your girlfriends and seal that bond for a lifetime.

Career freedom: When you're single, you can dedicate your time to building a successful career. You won't have to answer to anyone for putting in those long hours at work to get that promotion.

Travel: The biggest advantage of being single is that you can travel anywhere, anytime. You can have the best trips of your life — maybe with your girl gang or a random group of people. You don't have to give anyone any explanations!

SPECIALLY FOR THE LADIES

Being single does have its advantages and one of them is ladies night! Several bars across the city have special nights dedicated to women as well as lunches and brunches for the girls. Take a look at some of our picks:

FIRANGI PAANI: On Mondays, head to Firangi Paani for their Cocktails & Stilettoes ladies night, where they do everything in their power to help women feel like they're on top of the world. With free drinks all night, you can head down to enjoy a night out just for you.
When Mondays from 6pm to 11pm
Where Firangi Paani, Lokhandwala, Andheri (W)

LAGERBAY: Ladies can enjoy free cocktails all through the night at Lagerbay, with cosmos, martinis and sangrias accompanied by some great music by international women singers and bands. As if the delicious menu wasn't enough, here's a great reason to head down with your group of girlfriends.
When Tuesdays from 8pm to 11 pm
Where Lagerbay, Waterfield Road, Bandra (W)

OUT OF THE BLUE: Not up to a mid-week drinking session? Out of the Blue has a great W Day Lunch buffet every Wednesday, to help you enjoy yourself without feeling like you need a man, or anyone else for that matter. The restaurant even has special gifts for ladies, ranging from desserts and spa vouchers to beauty treatment vouchers.
When Wednesdays from 12 to 4pm
Where Out of the Blue outlets in Khar (W) and Powai

IBAR: If your idea of a mid-week treat is a ladies night though, don't worry. You can head down to the ladies night at IBar for a great buy one and get one free offer, all night. You can unleash your inner diva with great music or walk on the wild side with their beer pong games.
When Wednesdays from 9pm onwards
Where IBar, Road No. 2, Bandra (W)

TOTE ON THE TURF: Friday nights don't lag far behind. The perfect night to spend all night dancing and letting your hair down, Neel at Tote on the Turf has a great girl's night with great music and even better offers. They have a buy one get one free offer to help you kick start your weekends.
When Fridays from 7pm onwards
Where Neel at Tote on the Turf, Mahalaxmi

CELEB SPEAK

Rohit Pramar asked some Bollywood beauties to tell us why they love the single life and how they're living it up

ENJOYING THE FREEDOM



"I'm single because I want to wait for the right person. Till he comes along, I love the freedom that being single brings. I get a lot more attention too! I enjoy my own

company and that of other like-minded people. Singlehood is about fun and craziness, with absolutely no restrictions."

— Divya Dutta (34), Actor

BEING A TRAVEL BUG



"I completely enjoy being single because it gives me the freedom to travel wherever I want to and to do anything I want to do without any

responsibilities. I get to make my own decisions rather than being asked what I am up to. There's no feeling like freedom."

— Shaurya Chauhan (26), Actor

FAMILY TIME



"When you are single, you get so much time for yourself. In today's hectic lifestyle, it's difficult to make time for anything and being single allows you to spend more time

with yourself. You have more friends. You go out with family and friends more. And that's how I enjoy my singlehood!"

— Mukti Mohan (25), Actor