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## \$5 Worth of Food Around the World

We took a look at what \$5 fetches in different cities around the world — the results might surprise you

February 28, 2014 | 06:40 PM By [Jess Novak](#), Special Contributor



\$5 can buy some stellar street food in Mumbai.

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What kind of a meal can \$5 buy you anywhere in the world? While it's no struggle to find expensive restaurants the world over, finding a great, delicious deal is often much harder — but worth the trouble. So we took a look at what \$5 fetches in 11 cities around the world, and the results might surprise you.

### \$5 Worth of Food Around the World (Slideshow)

Going in, we assumed that there may be cities in which \$5 fetched less than half a french fry. But as it turns out, even some of the world's richest, priciest places can offer a great deal to the careful traveler.

Naturally, a lot of street food — from spicy, crisp falafels to marinated, juicy kebabs — made our list. But we were pleasantly astonished that there are some great sit-down joints at which you can score a delicious under-\$5 meal, too.

### \$5 Dubai:

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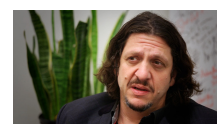
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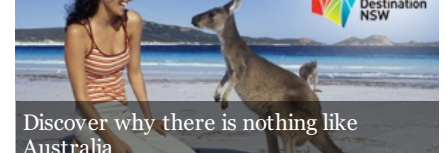
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Dubai is one of those cities in which it is easier to spend money than do practically anything else. The place is overflowing with incredibly lush restaurants like Al Mahara — a golden-hued establishment that features a gigantic aquarium in the dining room's center and requires semi-formal attire — that run about \$300 a head and offer luxe menu items like Alaskan King Crab and Foie Gras Ravioli.

You might reasonably think that \$5 buys about half a French fry in all of Dubai — but there are actually some great deals to be had in the city, too. Admittedly, these deals are for simpler tastes — and come without the aquarium, extended formal garden, or private beach you're sure to find at the ritziest spots.

A small, unassuming — but very well-reviewed — local Indian joint, [Ravi Restaurant](#), for instance, offers a delicious chicken biryani or mutton kadai for 14 dirhams — the equivalent of \$3.81.

### \$5 Jerusalem:

Dining in the city of Jerusalem is generally considered **comparable**, in terms of price, to major cities in the United States. Entrees at a fairly upscale Modern Israeli restaurant like [Angelica](#) — considered one of the best restaurants in Israel — are in the \$25 range.

There are some great deals in town, though, and we spoke with poet [Jacob Newberry](#), who recently spent a year in Israel on a Fulbright Fellowship in Creative Writing, to see what \$5 can get the hungry traveler in Israel.

If you want a good, cheap sit-down restaurant, though? “I enjoyed a restaurant that specialized in soup — [Hamarakia](#) — which was awesome. It's vegetarian and a bowl of soup on its own us in the \$5 range, although a full meal with bread and a drink costs more — but it's super delish!”

### \$5 New York:

While the city has no shortage of establishments at which you can spend a month's salary on a dinner, there are some surprisingly inexpensive options in Gotham. At [Prosperity Dumpling](#) in the Lower East Side, for instance, one order of dumplings will cost you \$1 — and you can take home 125 frozen ones for \$24.

For \$3.50, try one of the best tacos on the east coast at [Taco Mix](#) in East Harlem. [Bo Ky](#) in Nolita offers delicious \$5.50 “Cambodian noodles,” but don't be fooled — they're really Chinese. And for \$5 exactly, [Lam Zhou](#) in Chinatown will sell you a delicious combination of noodles, beef broth, steak slices, and bok choy.

### \$5 London:

London is identified as **the most expensive city** in the world: the cost of living puts other famously pricey places like New York and Paris to shame. The exchange rate is also not kind to the American dollar: the British Pound Sterling is the equivalent of about \$1.67.

So if you're trying to eat on the cheap side while on a trip to the U.K., expect that five dollars won't go nearly as far as you might like. [Lonely Planet](#) notes that “A good meal for two with wine is usually around the £80 to £100 mark,” but acknowledges that you can find cheaper fare at some market stalls.

At the [Lamb and Flag](#), a standard-fare London pub that

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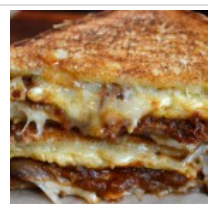
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Charles Dickens used to haunt, a normal lunch runs about ten quid for items like shepherd's pie and hamburgers. This is quite reasonable in London, but given that it translates to about \$17, eating out in the U.K. is hardly cheap on the wallet.

Even at **Poppies Chip Shop** in London (a classic take-away fried fish joint), just the chips — fries to the American ear — will run you about £3.29: we're just at the sides and already over \$5.

### **\$5 Paris:**

While the City of Love is not known for its inexpensive dining options, there are some great choices for the thrifty diner: a bevy of Vietnamese places offer banh mi sandwiches, a gorgeous fusion of South Asian flavors and classic French cuisine: one version includes braised pork belly, shredded carrots, sliced cucumber, a spicy vinegar-based sauce, and fresh cilantro on perfect, crusty baguette. **Saigon Sandwich**, for instance, offers several banh mi options for a scant €3, or about \$4.11

### **\$5 Dublin, Ireland:**

Dublin is not cheapest travel option in the world — but \$5 can still score you some delicious eats. While you'll probably pay \$11-20 for an average meal, you can score a taste of chunky, hand-cut chips from the most famous chipper in the capital for less than half that: **Leo Burdock's**.

### **\$5 Nizhnyi Novgorod, Russia:**

To navigate what \$5 will buy you in the third largest city in Russia, we asked Nizhnyi Novgorod native, travel writer, and **Women's Travel Fest** organizer **Masha Vapnitchnaia** what some of the most remarkable \$5 items are in her hometown.

“\$5 could buy you a full, three-course business lunch at Beerloga tavern, which offers different daily specials. One example on their menu: salad Olivier, chicken dumpling soup, and homemade mini meatloaf with buckwheat kasha, followed by tea.” Granted, the same restaurant's **regular dinners** fall more into the \$10-15 range.

### **\$5 Phnom Penh, Cambodia:**

Cambodia is definitely a place to score some great cheap dishes. Having recently traveled to Phnom Penh, **Masha** notes that **Cambodian meals** tend to fall “between two and six dollars.”

One traditional item to try: a Cambodian Amok fish curry, scented with lemongrass, kefir lime leaves, and a thick coconut cream laced with galangal and turmeric on a bed of rice. Served at almost all restaurants in the capital, Masha recommends trying one of the small riverfront cafés for a great \$5 deal.

### **\$5 Tallinn, Estonia:**

Tallinn, Estonia isn't nearly as expensive as its neighbor across the Gulf of Finland, Helsinki, but you won't be eating like a king for \$5 here either. We checked with regular The Daily Meal contributor Abbey Kos, who recently visited Tallinn, for her favorite \$5 recommendations.

There are some mid-range restaurants in Tallinn where you can find a small meal for the \$5 range. A soup, cheese, or



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dumplings can run you about \$5 at [Hell Hunt](#), for instance.

### \$5 Mumbai:

One of the largest cities in the world, Mumbai offers dining options that range from the impossibly elegant — such as San-Qi at the Mumbai Four Seasons — to some of the most fantastically flavorful street food in the world. [Shiv Sagar](#) is famous for its pav bhaji — a delicious, tomato-based dish of fresh vegetables, served with warm bread.

None of the great options on the menu for [Samrat](#) — a vegetarian-only restaurant that receives great reviews, from paneer palak to malai kofta — are above \$5.[slideshow:

### \$5 Buenos Aires:

While it's not nearly as cheap as it used to be back in the day — something you'll hear Argentinian expats complain about with some regularity — it's also **not as expensive** as it was a year ago. Cheaper establishments like [Club Eros](#) won't cost you more than \$5 per menu item, including classic dishes like steak and fries.

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