



India Habitat Centre
Habitat Library & Resource Centre
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Hauz Khas - the tomb of Feroz Shah Tughlaq and the Madrasa complex

Hauz Khas Complex

Hauz Khas Complex houses a water tank, an Islamic seminary, a mosque, a tomb and pavilions built around an urbanized village with medieval history traced to the thirteenth century of Delhi Sultanate reign. It was part of Siri, the second medieval city of India of the Delhi Sultanate of Allauddin Khilji_ Dynasty_ (1296-1316).



Madrasa

Madrasa Established in 1352, the Madrasa was one of the leading institutions of Islamic learning in the Delhi Sultanate. It was also considered the largest and best equipped Islamic_ seminary anywhere in the world. There were three main Madrasa's in Delhi during Firoz Shah's time. One of them was the Firoz Shahi madrasa at Hauz Khas. After the sack of Baghdad, Delhi became the most important place in the world for Islamic education. The village surrounding the Madarsa was also called Tarababad (city of joy). The madrasa structure has an innovative design. It was built in L-Shape as one contiguous structure on the south and east edges of the reservoir complex.

Firoz Shah Tomb

Firoz Shah, who established the tomb, ascended the throne in 1351 when he was middle aged, as the third ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty and ruled till 1388. He was considered a well-liked ruler. His wife was a Hindu lady. Feroz Shah died at the age of ninety due to infirmities caused by three years of illness between 1385 and 1388. Interesting features seen on the northern and southern sides of the tomb, considered typical of the Tughlaq period layout, are the ceremonial steps provided



at the ground level that connect to the larger steps leading into the reservoir. There are four graves inside the tomb, one is of Feroz Shah and two others are of his son and grandson.

http://delhi.gov.in/wps/wcm/connect/DoIT_Shahjahanabad/doiit_shahjahanabad/home/heritage+walk/hauz+khas

Hauz Khas

Hauz Khas is a blend of residential, commercial and ancient monuments. The famous and recently renovated Hauz Khas Complex has a water tank, a Mosque, Tomb of Feroz Shah Tughlaq and six domed Pavilions, Madrasa which is an Islamic School of Learning College and an Islamic Cemetery; all built during reign of the Delhi Sultanate in 13th Century AD. This town was a part of the second city named 'Siri' built by Alla-ud-din Khilji of the Khilji dynasty who ruled between 1296 AD and 1316 AD. Hauz Khas is derived from Urdu words which literally mean 'Water Tank' for 'Hauz' and 'Royal' for Khas.

History has that a water tank was excavated during the reign of Ala-ud-din Khilji in order to meet the demand in water supply and water needs of the newly constructed 'Siri' Fort. This water Tank was named as 'Hauz-i-Alai' after the Sultan; however, later, Feroz Shah Tughlaq [1351 AD - 1388 AD] of the Tughlaq dynasty re-dug the tank and cleared the inlet channels that were clogged by dirt and mud. This Tank measured 123.6 acres in area with a width of 600 metres and length of 700 metres with a water depth of approximately 4 metres. During that era, the Tank would fill to a capacity of 0.8 Mcum post monsoons; however, today, the size has considerably reduced due to siltation, modern developments, colony settlements and land encroachment. But despite these factors, the Water Tank is well maintained and has been preserved as a Historical and Protected Site.

Feroz Shah Tughlaq was also known for his keen interest in innovative architecture seen in several monuments, mosques and palaces constructed during his reign. A few of his architectural brilliance can be witnessed in the irrigation works and renovation of monuments like the Qutub Minar, Sultan Ghari and Suraj Kund. He is also known for erecting two Ashokan Pillars that he had specially ordered and had them transported from Meerut and Ambala. Similarly, the Sultan is also credited for establishing the Madrasa [Islamic School] and several Monuments on the eastern and southern banks of this reservoir or Water Tank.

During the 1980s, the Hauz Khas Village area was re-established into an upscale residential and commercial complex; however, steps were taken to ensure that the 14th to 16th Century Monuments remained untouched and protected. The current state of the Village still retains its old world charm that is further enhanced by the beauty of the well preserved Historical Sites. The entire site is seen planted with Tall Tress and dressed with well manicured green lawns, gardens and pathways. The tank itself has been refilled with water and boasts of fountains set amidst a well developed landscape area.

Today, the Hauz Khas Colony is surrounded by other colonies that include Greater Kailash, Green Park, Safdarjung Enclave and South Extension; also known as the elite colonies of South Delhi. This region also homes the world's most prestigious institutes that include the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the National Institute of Fashion Technology.

Places to visit in Hauz Khas are the Historical Sites situated within the Hauz Khas Village Complex that also showcases a light and sound show narrating the history of the complex, Deer Park which is situated at the entry point leading to the Water Tank and is a beautifully landscaped green park that is home to small animals like the spotted Deer, guinea pigs, peacocks, rabbits and so forth. Another feature to look forward to is the 'Eco Night Bazaar' whose main objective is to promote an eco-friendly environment where one can purchase organically grown food like grains, handmade paper products, seeds of rare plants and a safe venue like an open air theatre for conducting and showcasing cultural festivals. All the Shopping kiosks will be made with bamboo including a Bamboo Bridge to cross over an artificial Lake is also underway.

The Hauz Khas Residential, Commercial and Tourist area is also fringed with numerous Art Galleries, Elite Restaurants and Expensive Boutiques. It is well connected by road to other places in Delhi and offers a number of DTC Buses, Auto Rickshaws and Taxi Cabs on Hire. It is also easily accessible from Indira Gandhi International & Domestic Airports which is located approximately 18.1 Kms or 36 minutes way.

Hauz Khas is situated close to the Nizamuddin Railway Station which is just 8.6 Kms or 22 minutes away, the New Delhi Railway Station located just 12.2 Kms or 30 minutes away and the Old Delhi Railway Station situated just 18 Kms or 43 minutes away.

Source: <http://www.delhiinformation.in/areas/hauzkhas.html>

Vibrant Hauz Khas village walking tour

Hauz Khas is a perfect blend of history and modernity. Hauz Khas Village is mainly a center for upmarket boutiques, whereas the tank and the monuments surrounding it make for a rewarding heritage walk. The 13th century monuments have a backdrop of the beautiful water reservoir, along with the 21st century market place, best food, art galleries and antique stores. All this can surely ignite the idea of exploring this urban village.

After your guide meets you at the entry gate of Deer Park situated near the main gate of Huaz Khas Village. The guide will then lead the group inside Deer park while listening to stories of Delhi's past and also view the spotted deer. Then the group will walk around the Hauz Khas Lake/ water reservoir that was built as a part of the second city of Delhi by Alauddin Khilji. Then the group will move on to the monuments area situated on the end of Hauz Khas market. As the group enters the complex, the guests will first witness an unusual T-shaped building. It consists of a long, colonnaded hall that stretches from the north to the south and

known as an Assembly hall. Just beside the Assembly Hall is the mosque of the complex. This would have functioned as a place of prayer for those who lived and worked in the madrasa. As you move towards the other monuments, you will see several pavilions that stand scattered about the gardens. These are mostly tombs, probably containing the remains of teachers of the madrasa. The guests will go and visit the Madarsa built by Firoz Shah, known as Madrasa-e-Firoz Shahi or the 'College of Firoz Shah'. This was an institution of higher education, endowed by the emperor himself. The most beautiful monument of the complex is the tomb of Firoz Shah. Firoz Shah Tughlaq chose to have his own tomb built at a focal point of this complex. Then the guide will take the guests out to venture the market of this urban village. The guests will witness a number of food joints lined up all down the street catering to different cuisine styles. The guests also get to witness beautiful art galleries, antique shops and designer outlets. The guided tour will then expose you to a walled city that gives you food for thought via street art. Last year, Hauz Khas village hosted St. ART Delhi, part of India's first month-long street art festival. At the end of the tour you may choose to either shop, eat or generally enjoy the urban village on your own.

Source: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/india/delhi/activities/history-culture/vibrant-hauz-khas-village-walking-tour>

Firoz Shah's Tomb

Firuz Shah, who established the tomb, ascended the throne in 1351 (inherited from his cousin Muhammad) when he was middle aged, as the third ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty and ruled till 1388. He was considered a well-liked ruler. His wife was a Hindu lady and his trusted Prime Minister, Khan-i-Jahan Junana Shah was a Hindu convert. Firuz Shah assisted by his Prime Minister was responsible for building several unique monuments (mosques, tombs, pavilions), hunting lodges and irrigation projects (reservoirs) in his domains, apart from establishing and constructing a new Citadel (palace) in his new city of Firuzabad.^[14] Feruz died at the age of ninety due to infirmities caused by three years of illness between 1385 and 1388. On his death, his grandson Ghiya Suddin was proclaimed as his successor to the throne. During his enlightened rule Feroz abolished many vexatious taxes, brought in changes in the laws on capital punishment, introduced regulations in administration and discouraged lavish living styles. But the most important credit that is bestowed on him is for the large number of public works executed during his reign namely, 50 dams for irrigation across rivers, 40 mosques, 30 colleges, 100 caravanserais, 100 hospitals, 100 public baths, 150 bridges, apart from many other monuments of aesthetic beauty and entertainment.

Among the notable buildings of historical importance that he built within Hauz Khas precincts is the domed tomb for himself. The tomb which is very austere in appearance, is located at the intersection of the two arms of the L-shaped building which constitutes the madrasa. Entry to the tomb is through a passage in the south leading to the doorway. The

passage wall is raised on a plinth which depicts the shape of a fourteen-faced polyhedron built in stones. Three horizontal units laid over eight vertical posts that are chamfered constitute the plinth. Squinches and muqarnas are seen in the solid interior walls of the tomb and these provide the basic support to the octagonal spherical dome of the tomb. The dome with a square plan – 14.8 m (48.6 ft) in length and height – has a diameter of 8.8 m (28.9 ft). The maximum height of the tomb is on its face overlooking the reservoir. The domed gateway on the north has an opening which has height equal to two-thirds the height of the tomb. The width of the gate is equal to one-third of tombs' width. The entrance hall has fifteen bays and terminates in another doorway which is identical to the gateway at the entrance. This second doorway leads to the tomb chamber and cenotaph, which are accessed from the gateway through the L-shaped corridor. Similar arrangement is replicated on the western doorway of the tomb leading to the open pavilion on the west. The ceiling in the dome depicts a circular gold medallion with Quranic inscriptions in Naksh characters. Foliated crenellations are seen on the outer faces of the base of the tomb. Interesting features seen on the northern and southern sides of the tomb, considered typical of the Tughlaq period layout, are the ceremonial steps provided at the ground level that connect to the larger steps leading into the reservoir.

The tomb, a square chamber, is made of local quartzite rubble with a surface plaster finish that sparkled in white colour when completed. The door, pillars and lintels were made of grey quartzites while red sandstone was used for carvings of the battlements. The door way depicts a blend of Indian and Islamic architecture. Another new feature not seen at any other monument in Delhi, built at the entrance to the tomb from the south, is the stone railings (see picture). There are four graves inside the tomb, one is of Feruz Shah and two others are of his son and grandson.

The tomb was repaired during the reign of Sikandar Lodhi in 1507 AD, as is evidenced from an inscription on the entrance. The main impression is one of solidity and lack of decoration (typical of Tughlaq style)

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hauz_Khas_Complex

Madrasa

Established in 1352, the Madrasa was one of the leading institutions of Islamic learning in the Delhi Sultanate. It was also considered the largest and best equipped Islamic seminary anywhere in the world. There were three main Madrasa's in Delhi during Firuz Shah's time. One of them was the Firuz Shahi madrasa at Hauz Khas. After the sacking of Baghdad, Delhi became the most important place in the world for Islamic education. The village surrounding the Madarsa was also called Tarababad (city of joy) in

view of its affluent and culturally rich status, which provided the needed supporting sustenance supply system to the Madrasa.

The madrasa structure has an innovative design. It was built in L-Shape as one contiguous structure on the south and east edges of the reservoir complex. One arm of the L-shape structure runs in the North-South direction measuring 76 m (249.3 ft) and the other arm runs in the East-West direction measuring 138 m (452.8 ft). The two arms are pivoted at the large Tomb of Firuz Shah (pictured). At the northern end there is a small mosque. Between the mosque and the tomb two storied pavilions exist now on the northern side and similar pavilions on the eastern side, overlooking the lake, which were used as madrasa. The two arms are interconnected through small domed gateways passing through the tomb at the center. The North-South arm with balconies overlooking the reservoir is a two storied building with three towers of varying sizes. Ornamental brackets cover the upper storied balconies while the lower stories have corbelled support. Roof overhangs or eaves (chajjas) are seen now only in the upper stories though it is said that they existed on both stories when it was built.

From each floor of the Madrasa, staircases are provided to go down to the lake. Many cenotaphs, in the form of octagonal and square chhatris are also seen, which are reported to be possibly tombs of teachers of the Madrasa.

It is recorded that the first Director of the Madarasa was *one Jalal al-Din Rumi who knew fourteen sciences, could recite the Quran according to the seven known methods of recitation and had complete mastery over the five standard collections of the Traditions of the Prophet*

The madrasa was well tended with liberal donations from the Royalty. Timur, the Mongol ruler, who invaded Delhi, defeated Mohammed Shah Tughlaq in 1398 and plundered Delhi, had camped at this venue. Expressed in his own words, his impressions of the tank and buildings around Hauz Khas were vividly described as:

When I reached [the city's] gates, I carefully reconnoitered its towers and walls, and then returned to the side of the Hauz Khas. This is a reservoir, which was constructed by Sultan Feruz Shah, and is faced all round with stone and stucco. Each side of the reservoir is more than a bows-shot long, and there are buildings placed around it. This tank is filled by rains in the rainy season, and it supports the people of the city with water throughout the year. The tomb of Sultan Firuz Shah stands on its bank

While his description of the place is correct but his ascribing construction of the tank to Firuz Shah was a misconception.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hauz_Khas_Complex

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