

Heritage Walks

ENGAGING
WITH INDIA'S
RICH HERITAGE
New Delhi



In association with

INTACH
DELHI CHAPTER



India boasts of a rich heritage and cultural history, which resides in its diverse and profound architectural sites. Civil society participation with heritage through heritage walks is integral to the preservation and conservation of these sites. The model of heritage tourism works in tandem with the local community and has the potential to instill the values of self-pride to further the agenda of development. YES Global Institute's initiative to promote Heritage Walks and Cycle Tours in the national capital is aimed towards socio-economic up-gradation, improvement of the environment and cultural enrichment.

RANA KAPOOR

Chairman YES/Global Institute MD & CEO YES BANK

The rapid and far-reaching changes of the 21st century affect heritage practices in many significant ways. Whilst modern development plans take into account urban buildings, cities with a rich heritage demand a special approach. In the Indian context, development means preserving social and cultural character, alongside the implementation of sustainable models for economic growth. YES Global Institute-YES Culture's heritage walks play a vital role in strengthening creative networks and promoting stakeholder engagement to drive sustainable growth at a national level.



PREETI SINHA

Glocal Convenor YES/Global Institute Senior President YES BANK



INTACH is the leading non-governmental organization in the field of heritage conservation in the country. An important part of the mandate of INTACH is to increase awareness about heritage among the general public. To this end, the Delhi Chapter of INTACH has been leading heritage walks for a number of years, an effort that has been recognized through a National Tourism Award. Our recent partnership with YES Global Institute - YES Culture helps us to reach out to ever greater numbers, and spread the message of heritage further.

SWAPNA LIDDLE

Convenor, INTACH Delhi Chapter



OUR WALKS

Hauz Khas Village

Hauz Khas Village is a historic habitation that houses a water tank, an Islamic seminary, a mosque, a tomb and pavilions. With a medieval history that traces back to the 13th century, Delhi Sultanate reign, it is one tourist attraction that captures the vast culture and essence of the area.



Mehrauli Archaeological Park

Mehrauli Archaeological Park is an archaeological area spread over 200 acres, adjacent to the Qutub Minar, World Heritage site and the Qutb complex. It consists of over 100 historically significant monuments. It is the only area in Delhi known for 1,000 years of continuous years of occupation. It includes the ruins of Lal Kot built by the Tomar Rajputs in 1060 CE, making it the oldest extant fort of Delhi. There are also numerous architectural relics of the subsequent periods that still exist such as that of the Khilji dynasty, Tughlaq dynasty, Lodhi dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate, Mughal Empire, and the British Raj.



Lodhi Gardens

Lodhi Gardens is a city park spread over 90 acres. It contains Mohammed Shah's Tomb, the Tomb of Sikandar Lodi, the Shisha Gumbad and the Bara Gumbad as well as architectural works of the 15th century by the Lodhis. The Lodhis ruled parts of Northern India and Punjab as well as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of modern-day Pakistan, during 1451 - 1526.



Purana Qila

The Purana Qila or the Old Fort was constructed by Humayun and Sher Shah. The walls of the Purana Qila have three gates, the Humayun Darwaza, Talaqi Darwaza and the Bara Darwaza. The fort is surrounded by a moat, which was fed by the river Yamuna.



Humayun's Tomb

Humayun's Tomb is the tomb of the Mughal Emperor, Humayun. The tomb was commissioned by Humayun's son Akbar in 1569-70, and designed by Mirak Mirza Ghiyas, a Persian architect chosen by Bega Begum. It was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. The tomb was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993 and since then has undergone extensive restoration work involving the community from Nizamuddin Basti.



Qutb Complex

The Qutb complex refers to an array of monuments and buildings in Mehrauli, with the Qutub Minar standing out as the most famous. Qutb-ud-din Aybak, the first ruler of the Slave Dynasty, and his successor Iltutmish first constructed the complex in their new city, Qila-Rai-Pithora, near Prithivraj Chauhan's older city. Many subsequent rulers, including Iltutmish and Ala-ud-din Khilji as well as the British added to the complex.

In addition to the most famous monument in the complex, the Qutb Minar, other important buildings and structures stand in the complex, including the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque, the Ala-I-Darwaza, the Alai Minar, and the Iron Pillar. The complex is a unique, Indo-Muslim architecture, blending Jain and Hindu iconography with the architectural designs of Islam.

At YES BANK, we have established a practicing think-tank, YES Global Institute. The Institute, through its YES Culture initiative is dedicated towards the promotion, development and conservation of India's cultural heritage.

YES Culture is positioned to drive inclusive socio-economic development through the promotion of creativity and innovative Indian arts. We engage with the Government, industry, and academia to foster synergies between all stakeholders.

YES Culture works towards identifying stand-out initiatives that we can engage with as key participants and partners. We also focus on public engagement with heritage sites to promote the need for conservation. An important aspect of our work is advocating research on cultural issues and organizing platforms to augment awareness of India's rich cultural heritage.



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