

## 8. DIGAMBAR JAIN MERU MANDIR

There are several Jain temples in this area, and this is one of the most interesting ones. Built in the mid-eighteenth century, it has the usual elaborately carved façade, and inside the main shrine there are a large number of pillars, each topped with a four-sided image. The original paintings on the walls and ceiling are also fascinating.

## 9. DIGAMBARA JAIN NAYA MANDIR

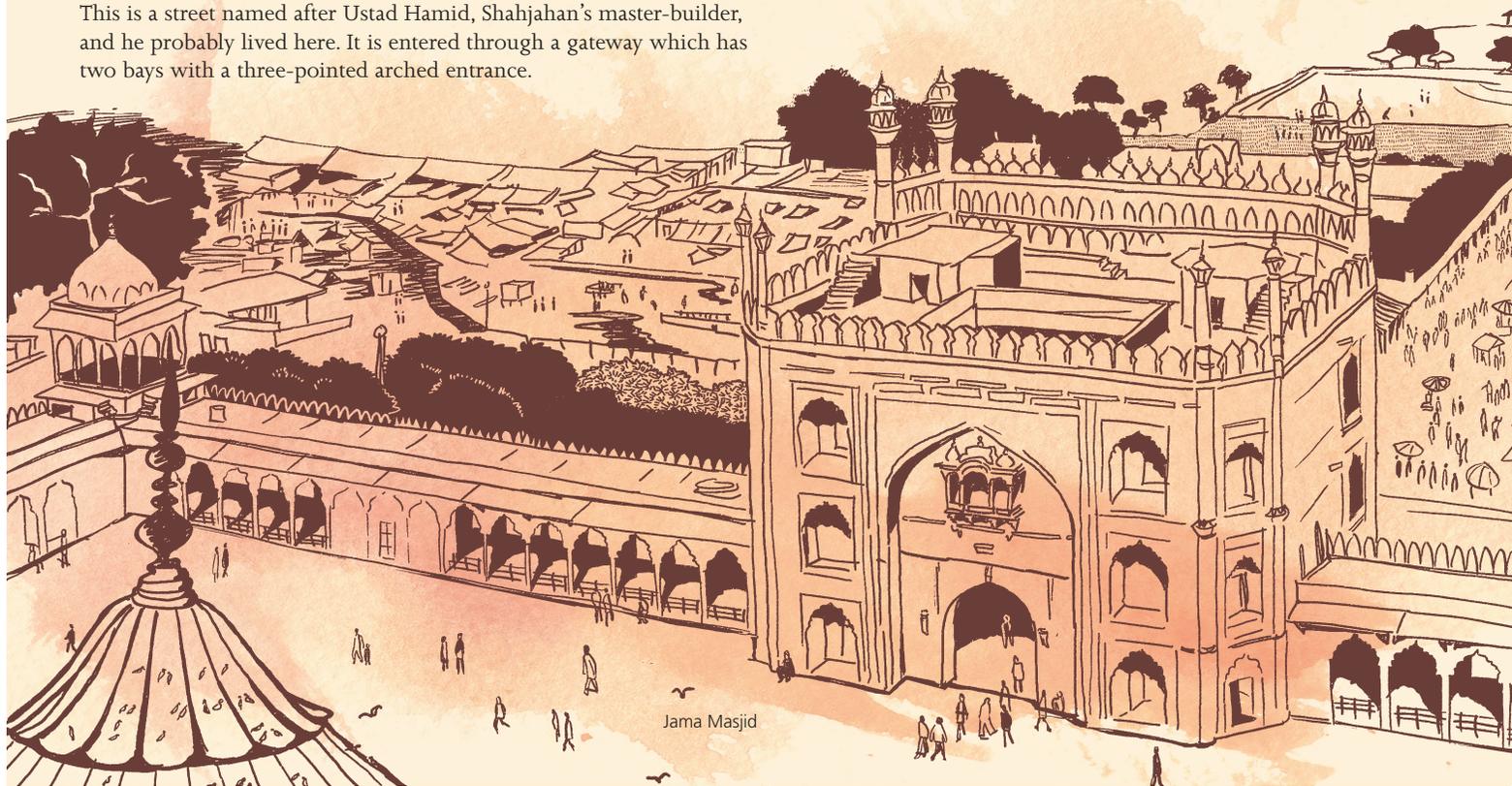
The Digambara Jain Naya Mandir is another important Jain temple. An exquisite sandstone gateway greets the visitor at the entrance. Built in 1807, by Lala Harsukhrai, the temple interior is adorned with paintings and intricate floral motifs.



Digambara Jain Naya Mandir

## 10. KUCHA USTAD HAMID

This is a street named after Ustad Hamid, Shahjahan's master-builder, and he probably lived here. It is entered through a gateway which has two bays with a three-pointed arched entrance.



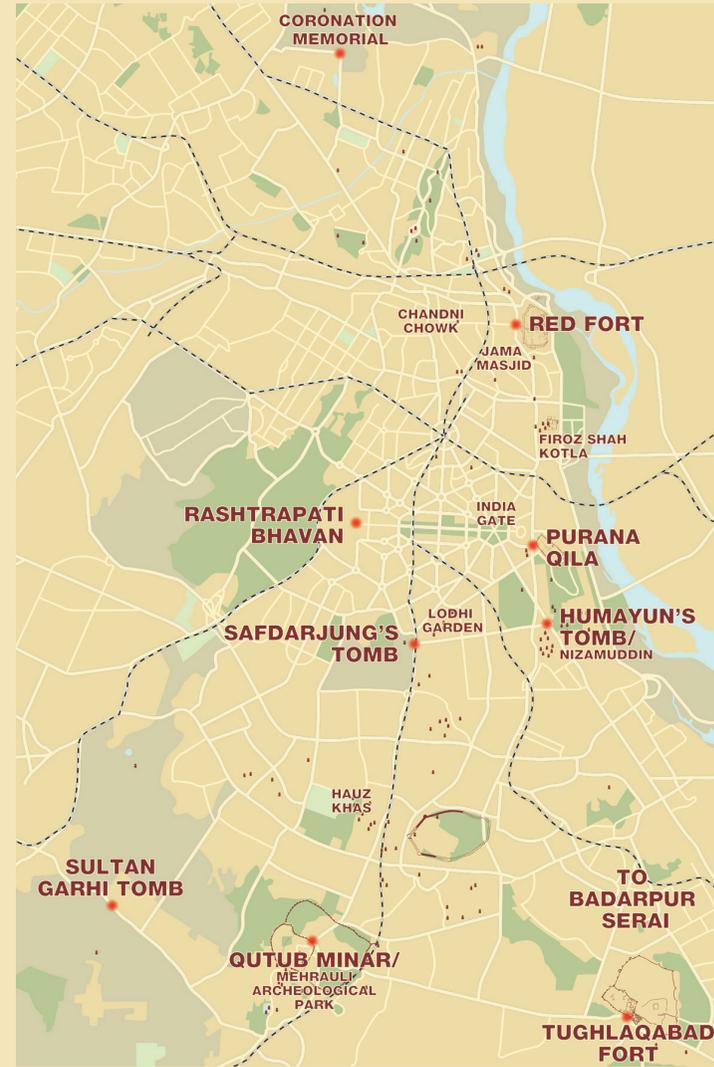
Jama Masjid

## 11. GALI GULIYAN

This is a street famous for its shops selling brassware and other antique objects. At the end of the street you will notice a few shops making delectable food including the popular bread known as *naan*.

## 12. JAMA MASJID

At the end of the street is the Jama Masjid, the main congregational mosque of Shahjahanabad. Commissioned by Shahjahan, the foundation of the mosque was laid on 26th September 1650, and it took six years to complete. Three large imposing gates were built on the south, north and east side. The courtyard is paved with red sandstone and has a marble tank in the centre. In a room in the northeast corner of the court, relics of the Prophet are preserved. The façade of the covered area at the western end of the court is stunningly beautiful. It is entered through eleven arched openings of which the central one is considerably larger than the rest. The whole is surmounted by three perfectly proportioned domes decorated with white marble with black stripes and gilded pinnacles. Over all except the central arch are panels of white marble with inscriptions in black stone. At either end are tall minarets which provide panoramic views over the city.



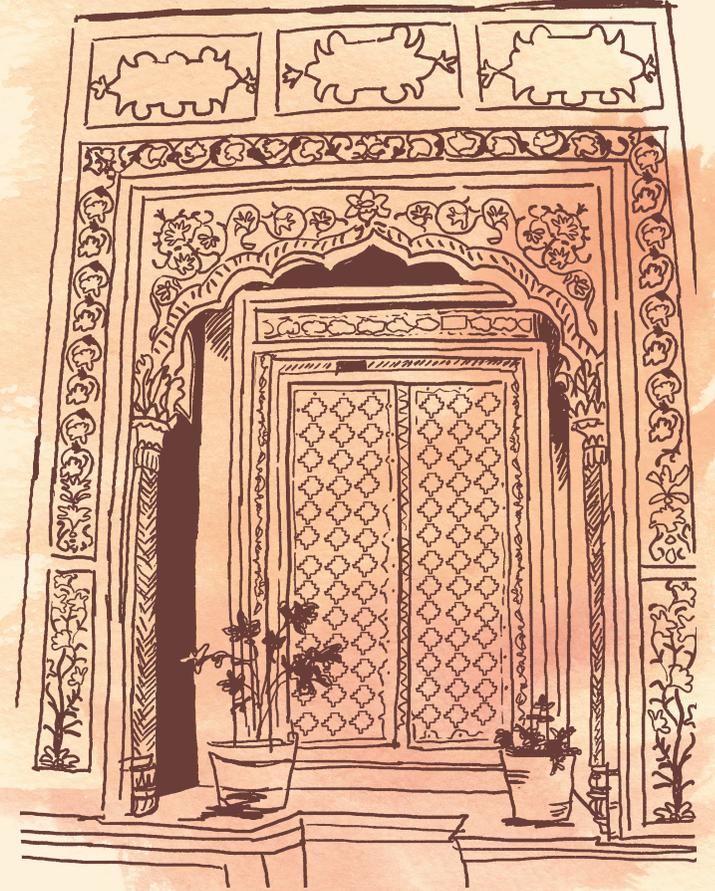
**Nearest metro Station:** Chandni Chowk  
**Nearest bus stop:** Red Fort & Jama Masjid  
**Bus route nos.:** 012, 021, 034, 044, 082, 104, 118, 164, 171, 172, 185, 189, 216, 245, 246, 255, 258, 260, 266, 270, 271, 302, 312, 402, 403, 404, 405, 419, 425, 429, 436, 489, 602, 622, 729, 751, 753, 760, 901, 936  
**Other places of interest:** Meena bazar, Lajpat Rai market



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# a walk around CHANDNI CHOWK & JAMA MASJID



## 1. DIGAMBARA JAIN LAL MANDIR

The Digambara Jain Lal Mandir, located opposite the western gate of the Red Fort, is believed to be the oldest Jain temple in Shahjahanabad and is perhaps the most famous of all Jain temples in Delhi. It dates back to the founding of Shahjahanabad and was known as Urdu Mandir, i.e. 'temple of the army' presumably because the worshippers were associated with the imperial army. The sanctum sanctorum enshrines idols of Jain tirthankaras Parsvanatha, Adinatha, Chandraprabhu and goddess Padmavati. The interiors are profusely decorated with floral motifs, images of dancers and musicians and geometrical patterns. The fluted marble columns, which support cusped arches, are examples of Shahjahani architecture. On its premises is also the Charitable Bird Hospital, founded by a Jain saint, Acharya Shri Shanti Sagar, in 1926.

Timings: 5.30 am – 11.30 am & 6.00 pm – 9.30 pm. Wheelchair access.



Digambara Jain Lal Mandir

## 2. GAURI SHANKAR TEMPLE

The Gauri Shankar Temple is dedicated to Shiva and Parvati. Though the temple has been situated here for a long time, the present building is a fairly modern one. As one traverses through rows of vendors selling roses and marigolds to shops selling clothes, electronic items, pavement hawkers urge you to stop and look.

Timings: 4.30 am – 11.30 am & 4.00 pm – 11 pm. Wheelchair access.



Gauri Shankar Temple

## 3. STATE BANK OF INDIA

A little further, on the opposite pavement is the State Bank of India building. Built on Begum Samru's estate, this building has been with the State Bank of India since 1955. It is a three-storeyed building with high ceilings, colonial style gateposts and large jali (screen) openings on the first floor level. Many alterations and additions have been carried out on the building over the decades. To restore its historic character, INTACH took up the restoration of the façade of the building in 2003.

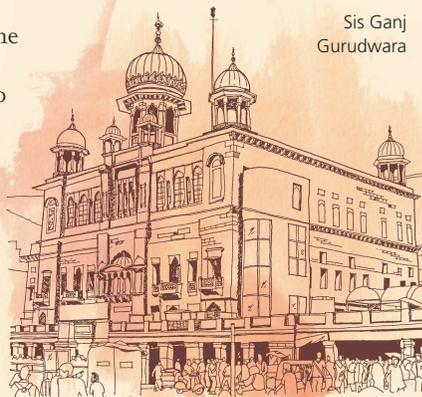
State Bank of India



## 4. SIS GANJ GURUDWARA

The Sis Ganj Gurudwara marks the site of the martyrdom of the ninth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Teg Bahadur. He resisted conversion to Islam and was beheaded on the orders of Aurangzeb in 1675. It is a large rectangular building with a hemispherical gilded chhatra (canopy) at each corner of the terrace. A portion of the banyan tree under which the Guru was martyred is preserved as a memorial within the Gurudwara. Several new additions have been made to the Gurudwara over the years.

Timings: Open 24 hrs. Wheelchair access.



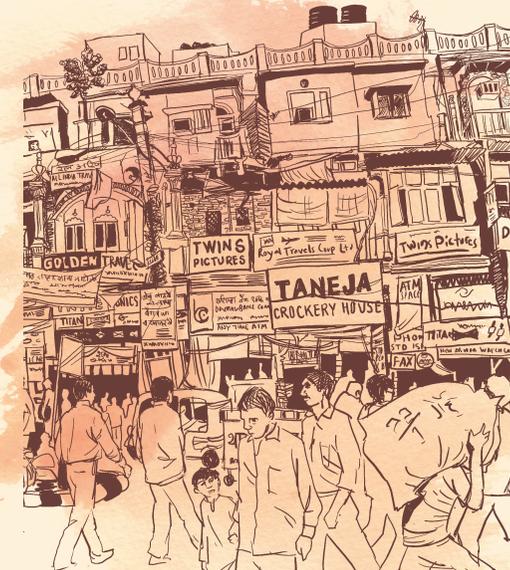
Sis Ganj Gurudwara



Chandni Chowk is the central street of the imperial city of Shahjahanabad, founded in the mid-seventeenth century. The street runs from opposite the western entrance to the Red Fort, right down the breadth of the original walled city to Fatehpuri mosque. The name Chandni Chowk was originally applied only to one of the squares located on the street which had a large ornamental pool that reflected the moonlight (chandni). The street has changed considerably over the centuries. Originally much wider, right until the mid-nineteenth century it had a channel of water running down its centre, and shady trees on either side. Today this is a busy commercial street, narrower and much more crowded than ever before in its history, but with many historic landmarks still remaining.

## 5. SUNEHRI MASJID

This mosque, on Bhai Mati Dass Chowk, was built in 1721-22 by Raushan-ud-Daulah Zafar Khan, a nobleman of the later Mughal period. The mosque stands on a high platform with shops on the lower floor which would originally have been endowed for the upkeep of the mosque. A narrow staircase leads to the



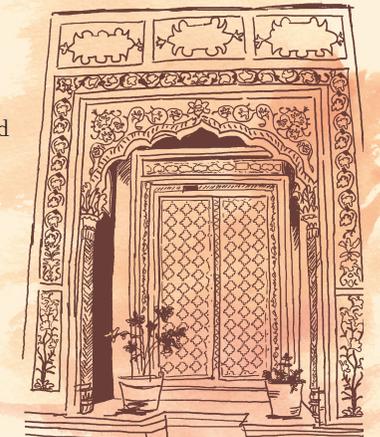
Street view

## 7. NAUGHARA

Off Kinari Bazaar is the quiet residential complex of Naughara. It is a row of nine houses, each of which has maintained its traditional appearance and style, with courtyards, high-ceilinged rooms and ornamental gateways. At the end of the enclosed street is a Jain temple, popularly known as the Jauhari's temple ('jewellers' temple). Built in the Mughal period, the temple has a well-preserved interior decorated with murals. Nearby, Katra Kushal Rai, Vakilpura, Gali Guliyan are other streets and neighbourhoods that still have some grand havelis (mansions) that have withstood the test of time. Their carved sandstone facades are all that are usually visible to passers-by, but are rewarding enough in their intricate and quaint carving.

Private Residences. No Entry

Temple Timings: 5.30 am – 8.00 pm.



Naughara

court. The prayer chamber is divided into three domed compartments. There are some dalans (arcaded galleries) on the south side. The domes of the mosque are covered with gilded copper. In 1739, the Iranian ruler Nadir Shah watched from here the massacre of the populace that he had ordered.

Timings: 5.00 am – 10.00 pm. Wheelchair access

## 6. KINARI BAZAAR

This street, known originally as 'Dariba Khurd', is a shopper's paradise. It has shops offering the most fascinating range of gilt laces, cloth, groom's turbans, garlands, rosettes and the like. You will see embroiderers at work with gold and silver threads. If you have an eye for detail you could chance upon a unique range in gold zari, beads and precious and semi-precious stones. The street eventually leads on to Dariba Kalan, which is primarily occupied by silversmiths.

Timings: 9.00 am – 10.00 pm, Sunday closed