Humayun’s Tomb

8. **Sundarwala Mahal**

Sundarwala Mahal is a fairly plain structure of rough rubble masonry, in the form of an oblong octagon. The interior is a series of dark interconnected verandahs that surround a central chamber with a vaulted ceiling (an underground chamber) under it. The roof would once have been topped by another structure.

9. **Bara Batashewala Mahal**

Now located within the Bharat Scouts and Guides complex (Bharat Scouts), the Bara Batashewala Mahal (constructed in 1603-4) is the tomb of Mirza Muzaffar Husain, the great-nephew of Humayun. It is four-sided and stands on a high platform. Beautifully painted plaster forms the main decorative feature.

10. **Chhota Batashewala Mahal**

The Chhota Batashewala Mahal is an unknown person’s tomb dating back to the early Mughal period.

11. **Tomb**

Located in the green area north of the Humayun’s Tomb complex, towards Guruvbirewa Damuana Sahib, this square tomb is of an unidentified person of the early Mughal period. The notable ornamentation is on the inside – Quranic verses are incised in plaster in a broad strip above the dado, and in the centre of the ceiling is a very fine circular design painted in deep blue and red.

12. **Nila Gumbad**

Located just outside the eastern wall of Humayun’s Tomb complex, the Nila Gumbad (literally, ‘blue dome’), is the tomb of Fakir Khan. He was the loyal attendant of Akbar’s general, Abdur Rahim Khan, who built the tomb in 1624-5. The seriously damaged but still striking glazed tile and painted brickwork pattern of the exterior is noteworthy. The interior decoration consists of incised plaster and boldly painted net vaulting.

13. **Tomb of Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan**

Located off the main road to the south of Humayun’s Tomb complex, this is the tomb of Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan, the son of Akbar’s regent Bairam Khan. Rahim was not only an accomplished general who reached great heights at Akbar’s court, but a great scholar and poet. He is counted among the great poets of Medieval India, and his poetry in the Braj language is still part of the required reading for Hindi language courses.

The square tomb, built in 1626-7, stands on a high platform with arched cells, on either side of which are medallion carved in a variety of motifs - floral and geometric designs, the name of Allah, and even a stylized peacock. Inside the tomb chamber, remains of very finely incised and polished plaster are the main decorative feature. The platform on which the tomb sits has remains of water tanks and channels.

The dome and arches of the exterior were stripped of their marble in the first half of the 18th century, to furnish the tomb of Safdarjang.
1. MOSQUE AND TOMB OF ISA KHAN

The mosque and octagonal tomb of Isa Khan Niyazi, a nobleman from the court of Sher Shah Sur, were built in 1547-8. In style these buildings are very different from Humayun’s Tomb, built mainly of grey quartzite with some sandstone, with incised and painted plaster and ceramic tile ornamentation. A mosque, also beautifully decorated with tiles, is built to the west of the tomb.

2. ARAB SARAI

Hamida Banu Begum is supposed to have built this enclosure in 1560-1, supposedly for some 300 Arabs whom she brought back to India from Mecca. The other belief is that the Arab Sarai was built as housing for the Persian artisans who were working on Humayun’s Tomb. Not much remains within the enclosure but the gates are interesting. The northern gate, 14m in height, is made of grey Delhi quartzite and red sandstone, embellished with an inlay of white marble. At the other end of the enclosure are an old well or stepwell and the remains of an old baoli – made of rubble masonry, now in ruins. At the other end of this enclosure is also the east gate, built during the reign of Jahangir by one Mirh Bano. It is decorated in blue, yellow and green glazed tiles, with traces of painted plaster.

3. GARDEN AND TOMB OF BU HALIMA

The grave platform is in a ruined state, but the gate is still largely intact. It’s 3m wide, with inlays of black and white marble, with inlays of black and white marble. The exterior is sparingly decorated with lines of features such as arches and columns. Two of the prominent decorative motifs are the lotus medallion and the six-pointed star, a popular cosmic symbol used in Mughal buildings. The tomb was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993.

4. MOSQUE AND TOMB OF AFSARWALA

‘Afsar’ literally means ‘officer’, so the un-named man buried here was probably an officer of some standing in early Mughal times. The domed mosque has three arches along the front. Each arch entrance façade has a narrow staircase built into the thick outer wall. The tomb adjacent to the mosque is in the shape of a square, with four corners lopped off. The exterior is sparingly decorated with lines of black and white marble on a background of red sandstone.

5. HUMAYUN’S TOMB

Humayun’s Tomb was built under the aegis of Humayun’s senior queen, Hamida Banu Begum, between 1564 and 1571. Apart from the emperor Humayun, who died in 1556, many later members of the Mughal royal family are buried here. Though there are more than a hundred graves in the crypt, a few cenotaphs are visible on the platform.

6. BARBER’S TOMB

Nothing is known of the barber who is said to be buried here, but the tomb, built in 1590, stands on a platform to the southeast of Humayun’s Tomb. The tomb has a large recessed arch on each of its four sides, but the only entrance is through the arch on the southern side. The interior houses two cenotaphs, one of a male and the other of a female (a male’s cenotaph is indicated by a ridge-like wedge atop it, known as a karan; a female’s cenotaph, on the other hand, has a flat strip on top, called a talik).

7. SUNDARWALA BURJ

Situated inside the Government-run Sundar Nursery, to the north of the complex of Humayun’s Tomb, this early Mughal tomb is a modest-sized square structure topped by a flatish dome. The ornamentation on the exterior consists of finely incised medallions on either side of the arched opening that faces the Sundar Nursery main gate. The compact interior of the tomb is profusely and exquisitely decorated with finely incised plaster covering almost every inch of the vaulted ceiling and the walls. The underside of the dome is covered in a pattern of six-pointed stars filled with delicate arabesques; and larger floral patterns spread across the walls, along with bands of Quranic inscriptions.

and furnished with relics and ornaments. Side chambers spread around the central chamber house the cenotaphs of the others who share this space.

Timings: Sunrise – Sunset, Open daily. Wheelchair access, parking Tickets: Indian Citizens – Rs. 10.00, Foreigners – Rs. 100.00.

Humayun’s Tomb and its surrounding monuments form a vast complex, with 30 acres of gardens surrounding the central platform on which Humayun’s tomb stands. Other than Humayun’s Tomb, there are a number of other structures within the enclosure and immediately outside.