



5. MOSQUE

The mosque would have functioned as a place of prayer for those who lived and worked in the madrasa. In most mosques, while the western wall (which faces the direction of prayer) has no openings and is usually marked by one or more arched niches known as *mihirabs*, in this mosque, the western wall is marked by decorative windows that overlook the water of the *haуз* below.



6. MUNDA GUMBAD

Facing Firoz Shah Tughlaq's Tomb at the north-western corner of the *haуз*, is a low hillock, atop which sits Munda

Gumbad or 'the Bald Dome', so named because it looks as if it's been beheaded. Belonging to the Khalji period, (early fourteenth century, when the *haуз* was first dug) it was originally a double-storeyed pavilion at the centre of the tank, giving one a fair idea of how big the *haуз* must have been. The stone bases of pillars that once formed part of the upper storey can still be seen, though the upper storey itself has completely disappeared.

DEER PARK

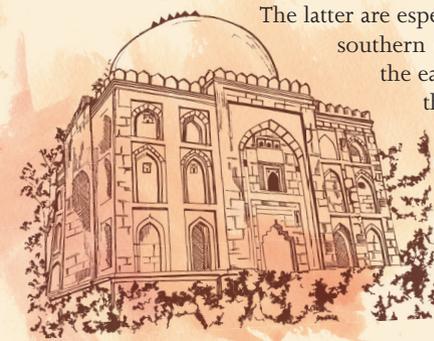
Adjacent to the Hauz Khas Complex (and blending into it, near the Munda Gumbad) is the Deer Park. While this park maintained by the Delhi Development Authority is highly popular with walkers, joggers, and nature-lovers, thanks to its dense vegetation and convenient jogging/walking trails, it has some interesting monuments that are worth visiting.

Timings: Sunrise – Sunset. Entry: Free

7. BAGH-E-ALAM KA GUMBAD AND ATTACHED MOSQUE

The largest monument inside the Deer Park is the Bagh-e-Alam ka Gumbad. Local dressed stone in myriad shades of grey, gold, and brown that has been used in the construction of the building, gives it a pleasing, patchwork effect. The exterior is adorned with many arched niches, panels, bands of red sandstone, and blue tile patterns.

The latter are especially beautiful on the southern (the main entrance) and the eastern façades. Just outside the tomb, to the west is the attached wall mosque, a pretty wall of arched *mihirabs* and incised plaster niches, a typical example of a Lodi wall mosque.



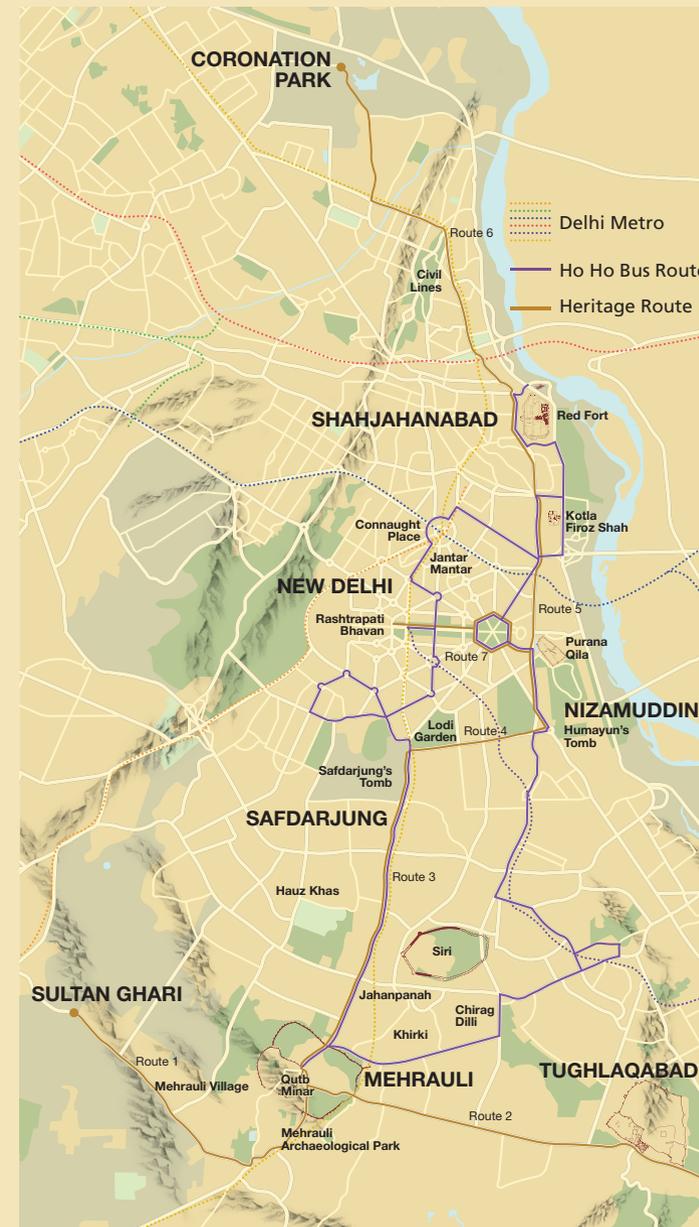
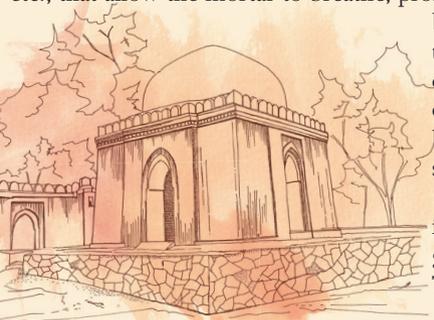
8. TUHFEWALA GUMBAD

Tuhfewala Gumbad contains a series of surprisingly well-preserved graves, nearly all of which are made of grey stone and topped with the traditional *kalam* (a stylized carving of a wedge-shaped pen) that indicates a male cenotaph.



9. KALI GUMTI

Kali Gumti or the 'Small Black-domed Building' is probably so-named because it is covered with traditional organic mortar, which contains materials like cow dung, lentils, fenugreek, yoghurt, etc., that allow the mortar to breathe, prolonging the life of the building. In the process, the growth of micro-organisms in the plaster cause it to swiftly turn black. This is a plain, simple little building (possibly a tomb, though it does not contain a grave) belonging to the Tughlaq or the Sayyid era.



This publication has been made possible by World Monuments Fund's Sustainable Tourism Initiative, sponsored by American Express.

SPONSOR



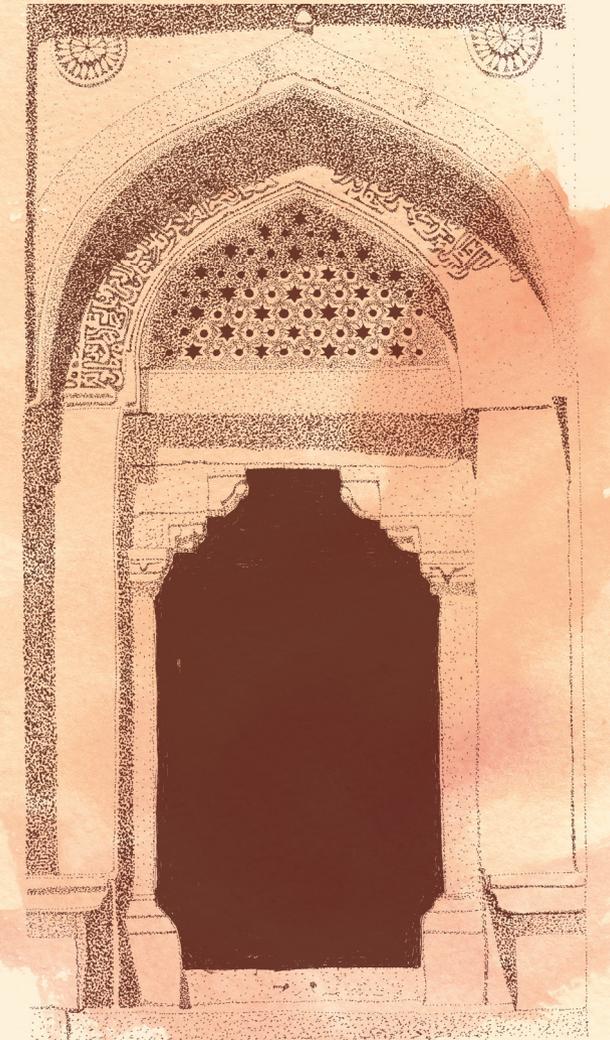
Created by

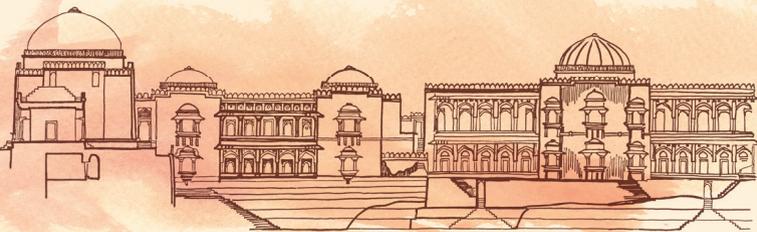


INTACH

Delhi Chapter

a walk around HAUZ KHAS





1. MADRASA

Madrasa-e-Firoz Shahi (‘College of Firoz Shah’), an institution of higher education, endowed by the emperor himself, had a reputation as a premier centre of learning. It employed teachers who were scholars of note, and attracted students from far and wide. The buildings were arranged in a L-shape around the south-eastern corner of the hauz (tank), affording a good view over the expanse of water on one side and on the other, the upper level rooms overlooked a garden filled with flowering shrubs and fruiting trees.

The top storey of the madrasa had open-pillared rooms while the lower storey had arcaded rooms with small residential cells for students. The dark cells had narrow openings for light and air and small storage niches. The structure was built of rubble masonry, combined with blocks of neatly-cut quartzite. Much of the exterior was originally covered in white plaster and painted in bright colours, with golden domes. The ornamentation that can still be seen consists primarily of some incised plasterwork and simple carving.



2. FIROZ SHAH'S TOMB

Although Firoz Shah died in AD 1388, he built his tomb at the same time as the madrasa, in the 1350s. An interesting feature on the outside of the tomb is a stone railing (now broken in places) that forms a yard in front. It is more reminiscent of a Buddhist stupa (structure containing Buddhist relics), than a Sultanate building. The grave in the centre of the chamber is that of Firoz Shah, while the other marble graves are supposedly those of his son and grandson. An inscription on the southern entrance mentions repairs of the building carried out under the orders of the Emperor Sikandar Lodi in AD 1508.

In the early fourteenth century, the second Khalji ruler, Alauddin founded the city of Siri, on the plains where his armies met the Mongols in battle. Due west, outside the walls of Siri, he built a large hauz or tank, that was known as Hauz-e-Alai, to supply water to the new city. In the years after Alauddin's reign, the channels that fed the tank silted and the hauz dried up.

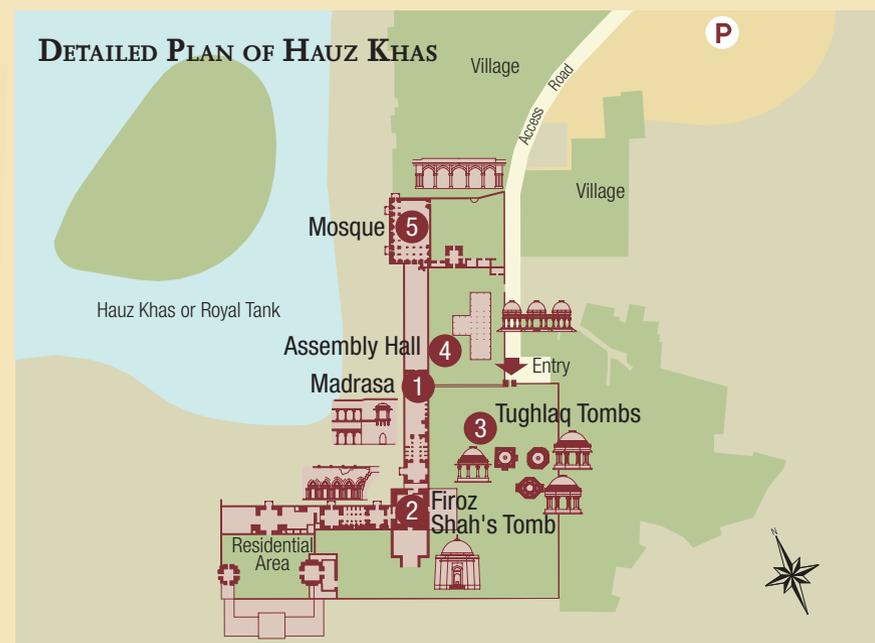
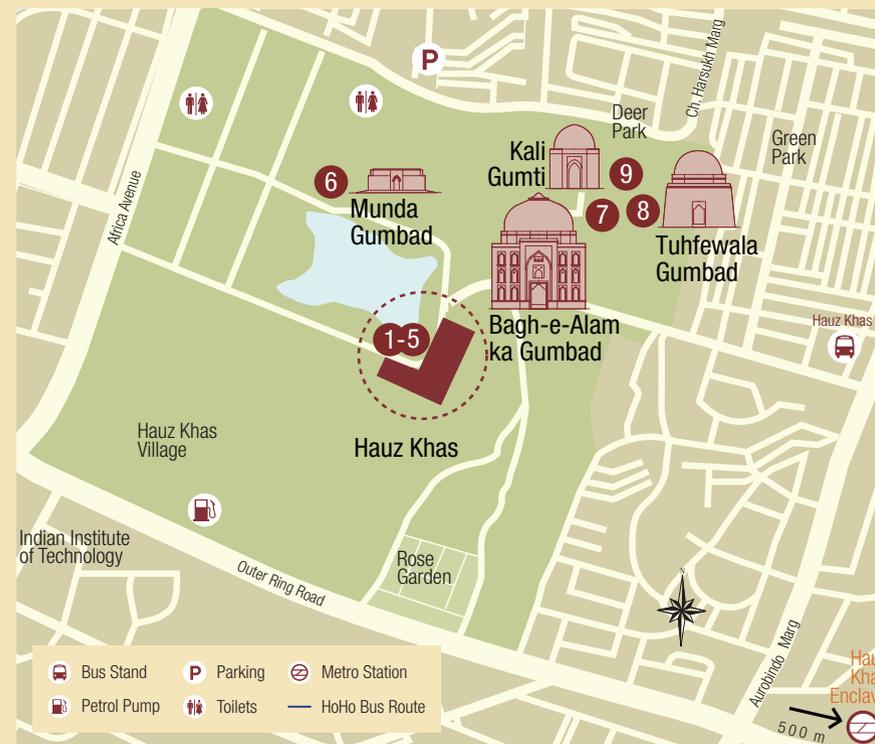
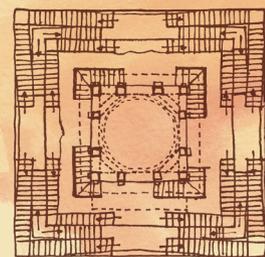
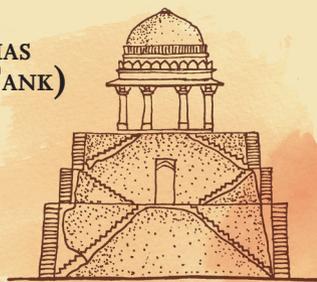
Firoz Shah Tughlaq (r. 1351–88), the most prolific of the Tughlaq builders, restored the abandoned hauz which then came to be called Hauz-Khas (royal tank). At the same time Firoz Shah built the Madrasa-e-Firoz Shahi as well as his own tomb at a focal point in the complex. The connection between the buildings and the royal tank was strengthened by the sets of steps leading down from the madrasa to the tank. On the other side, the buildings were edged by a beautiful garden. During the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries, Hauz-Khas, surrounded by an impressive madrasa, the tomb of an emperor, and a number of smaller tombs, mosques, and other buildings, invariably figured in the descriptions of the city by visitors in glowing terms.

Today, while the adjoining Hauz Khas Village Complex is mainly a centre for upmarket boutiques, the tank and its surroundings make for a rewarding heritage walk.

Timings: Sunrise–Sunset

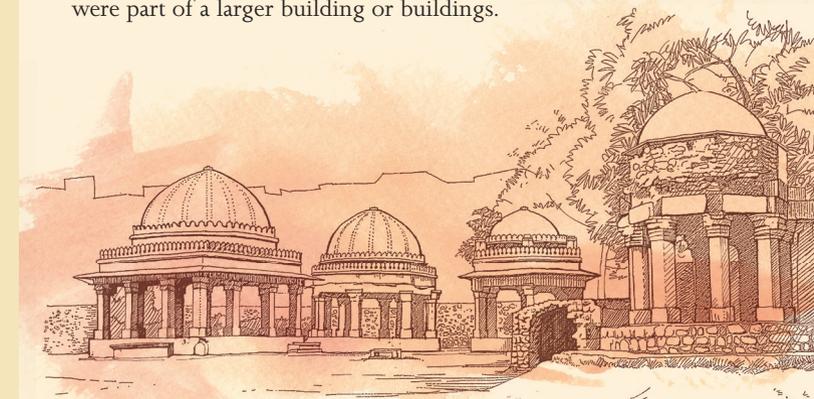
Entry: Free

HAUZ KHAS (ROYAL TANK)



3. TUGHLAQ TOMBS

Scattered about the gardens of the madrasa are several pavilions that are mostly tombs, probably containing the remains of teachers of the madrasa. It is possible that although they were tombs, they were designed in such a way as to allow them to be also used as study halls; perhaps it was expected that pupils could sit there and study in the shadow of their departed teachers. The two smallest pavilions in the complex, however, may not have been tombs, as these have heavy projecting stone beams just under the dome. It is possible that they were part of a larger building or buildings.



4. ASSEMBLY HALL

It is not sure what this unusual T-shaped building sitting within the madrasa complex really is. Some believe it was a tomb that contained a number of graves, although no traces of graves can now be seen. A more plausible theory is that it was a meeting place to accommodate gatherings, too large for the average classroom of the madrasa. After the madrasa fell into disuse, following the decline of the Tughlaq Dynasty, the building came to be used as a residence by the villagers of the surrounding area.

