

2. GHIASUDDIN TUGHLAQ'S TOMB

The self-built tomb of Ghiasuddin Tughlaq, the founder of the Tughlaq Dynasty, is one of the early examples of Indo-Islamic architecture and was possibly finished by his son and successor Muhammad bin Tughlaq in the year 1328. Located on the southern side of the fort, the tomb is approached through a causeway that runs over a vast, now-dry water reservoir. The causeway leads one to the entrance platform about 8 ft above the road level, shaded by a pipal tree.



The outer fortified wall is battered and strengthened at regular intervals with bastions. Fairly symmetric in plan, the square (8 m x 8 m) mausoleum inside encloses three graves. The one in the centre of the room is that of the sultan himself. Next to him lies his son Muhammad bin Tughlaq, and next to that is the grave of Ghiasuddin's wife's.

In the bastion over the entrance, along the north-west is another octagonal tomb in similar style. According to an inscription over

its southern entrance, this tomb houses the remains of Zafar Khan. His grave had probably been at the site prior to the construction of the outpost and was consciously integrated into the design of the mausoleum by the sultan himself.

The outer walls of the south-eastern bastion are punctured ingeniously with loopholes and this space was perhaps the most suited to spot the invaders. The cells underground are accessed from the peripheral corridor at places which now have been cautiously guarded by wire mesh doors to ensure security.



3. ADILABAD FORT

The fort of Adilabad was built in AD1327–28, soon after the death of Ghiasuddin Tughlaq, by his son Muhammad bin Tughlaq allegedly as a symbol of his own might and power. Perched over a hillock, the fort in fact seems to be an extension of the Tughlaqabad Fort, built in the same period with a similar style and materials used in construction.

The fort, though much smaller in scale than Tughlaqabad, has a similar layout with the outer and inner fortifications strengthened with double-storied bastions and gates at regular intervals. About a kilometre in length and half as wide, the fort from its north side offers an impressive view of Tughlaqabad Fort as well as the tomb on its left. The inner wall houses remnants of a palace complex, centrally aligned within the overall layout. A walkway along the inner enclosure travels around the double-storied cells along the fortification. One can also see a cluster of underground cells on the east side for storing grains and landscaped courts on either side of the palace.



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 TUGHLAQABAD





1. TUGHLAQABAD FORT

Tughlaqabad stands on a rocky hill part of the Aravallis, and spans across approximately 6.5 km. This magnificent fort was commissioned by the founder of the Tughlaq Dynasty, Ghasiuddin Tughlaq, in 1321, and was completed in a very short span of four years. It was essentially built to serve a dual purpose – to resist the threat of Mongol attacks and to serve as the capital of Ghasiuddin Tughlaq. Double-storied bastions and the tapered rubble-filled walls surfaced over with Delhi quartzite stone present a composition of extreme grandeur revealing the sensitivity and proficiency of both the patron and craftsmen during that time. According to popular lore, the fortress was cursed by Hazrat Nizamuddin and was abandoned within a few years after its construction.

The main entrance to the fort today is on the southern side, immediately facing the causeway that once linked it to the mausoleum of Ghasiuddin.

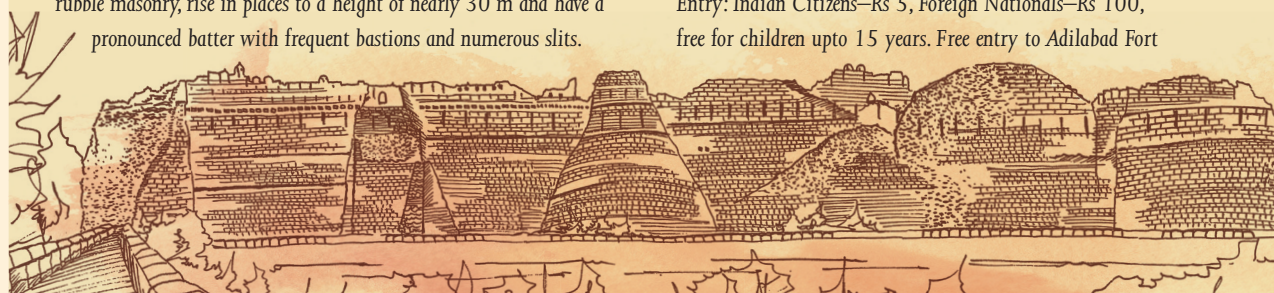
This causeway, which has now been pierced by the road, originally stood in a vast water reservoir created by erecting bunds between the hills. Approximately 13 ft above the entrance gate to the fort, originally a side entry used by Ghasiuddin to visit the site of the tomb, is an enclosed, vaulted alley that terminates at a vast open ground overlooking a now dry kund (tank). Towards the east, past a few steps and a raised walkway, is a large open space that gives a glimpse of the overall layout and the architectural style that prevailed back then. The walls here are the thickest you can find in any of the forts in India, at places about 10–15 ft thick rising up to 50–100 ft, strengthened by double storey bastions and gateways in between some of them. The city is believed to once have had fifty-two gates of which only a few remain till today.

On the right, a natural pathway leads to the citadel, fairly square in plan, which is about 25 ft above the inner entry. With a number of



Tughlaqabad is considered to be the third extant city of Delhi after Lal Kot and Siri. Ghasiuddin Tughlaq, the founder of the Tughlaq Dynasty, during his short reign (AD 1320–24) built the fortified city of Tughlaqabad, spanning nearly 6.5 km, over a period of only four years.

Tughlaqabad stands on a high outcrop of rock towards the south-eastern edge of Delhi and is distinctly divided into three parts: the wider city area towards the north; the citadel; and the adjacent palace towards the south-west. The fort with remarkably massive stone fortifications surrounds the irregular ground plan of the city. The walls built of random rubble masonry, rise in places to a height of nearly 30 m and have a pronounced batter with frequent bastions and numerous slits.



A mausoleum, built during Ghasiuddin's own lifetime, is sited within a vast (now dry) water reservoir which is connected to the city through a long lined causeway. Further south lies another fort named Adilabad built by Ghasiuddin's son, Muhammad Shah. It is similar in style, much smaller in scale, to the Tughlaqabad Fort, with an outer and inner fortification.

About 800 m south-east of Adilabad, is the Nai Ka Kot Fort, also believed to have been built by Muhammad Shah as a private residence before he built Adilabad.

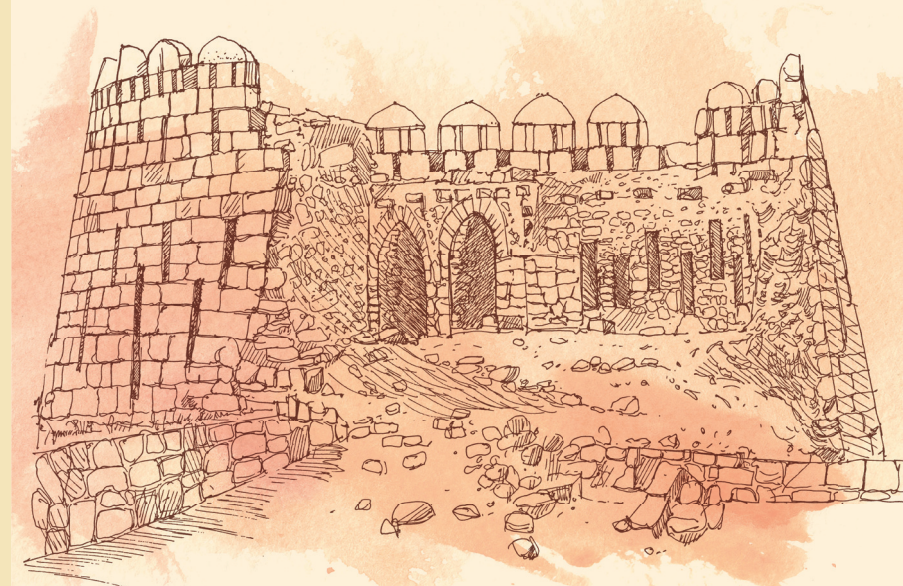
Timings: 7.00 am–6:30 pm.

Entry: Indian Citizens—Rs 5, Foreign Nationals—Rs 100, free for children upto 15 years. Free entry to Adilabad Fort

fascinating structures inside, the mosque and remains of houses on either side are the first to appear. The remains of the Mughal houses covering an extensive area show that this place was inhabited during Mughal times. Close knit, straight-lined interlocking planes at places also reveal signs of plaster over stone, which is the otherwise dominant building material in the rest of the fort. Storage tanks for construction materials, a linear market street underground, and a large mound

entire city from a single point. Almost reduced to rubble, this mound even today rises up to a height of 70 ft from the road and commands a panoramic view of the vast fort. On the south this provided a bird's eye view of the surrounding countryside and enabled advance warning of an approaching enemy.

Leaving the citadel and turning right is a walkway that leads to the once existing royal palaces. Amidst dense thorny vegetation is a vast excavated area, possibly a lake that



towards extreme east are a few features that are of particular interest. The market street below, quite well maintained till today, has partitions on either side with additional room for storage beyond every unit, while openings and arched niches address lighting concerns. Above the market street is a large open court that towards the east overlooks the Burj Mandal, which possibly is the highest spot within the entire complex and offers a comprehensive view of the

separates the private palace area from the populated citadel which is about 160 ft across. The stripped walls, arched gateways, and remains of the intersecting fabric of the palaces, residences, audience halls, and intersecting courtyards sprawl over an area of 120 acres symbolizing the power and opulence of the Tughlaqs.

The outer fortification walls and bastions include loopholes, designed ingeniously for ventilation, light, and especially defense.