

My City  
My Heritage

Chhatrapati  
Sambhaji  
Nagar

📍 TRAIL

# Three Capitals One City

📏 2.4 KM

📍 BIBI-KA-MAQBARA

**Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, formerly Aurangabad, has a rich history. Its beginning can be traced to after 1600, when Malik Amber, the regent minister of the Nizami Shahi state, moved his capital to Daulatabad from Ahmednagar.**

**Ambar was responsible for enlarging the fortified precinct of Daulatabad, and once the population and commerce of the town overgrew the fort, they founded the city of Khadki around 1610, on the site of a nearby village, and equipped it with water systems and urban conveniences. Khadki became the de facto capital of the Nizam Shahs under Malik Ambar, and he built the Naukhanda palace for himself in the city.**

Khadki was later to become Aurangabad, the Deccan headquarters of the Mughals, taking its name from Prince Aurangzeb, viceroy of the Deccan at the time. Most of the city was settled under Mughal rule. Aurangzeb commissioned major building projects such as the Bibi-ka-Maqbara and the Himayat Bagh palace. His long tenure in the city, first as a regional governor, and for the last three decades of his life as emperor, left a lasting mark.

It was in Aurangabad that the



Asaf Jahi kingdom (later based in Hyderabad) was founded in 1724, when the governor of the Deccan under the Mughals, declared independence in the Naukhanda palace. Rulers of this autonomous Asaf Jahi state seceded from the Mughal empire, and embellished Aurangabad and Khuldabad with numerous administrative and public institutions. Even after they moved their capital city to Hyderabad, Aurangabad continued to be the second-most important city in their kingdom.

This heritage trail traces the city's evolution through different periods, showcasing the legacies of its successive rulers.



## 1 Bibi-ka-Maqbara

The most celebrated monument of Aurangabad. The mausoleum was completed in 1661 and is credited to Azam Shah, Aurangzeb's son, who built it

for Aurangzeb's first wife and chief queen Rabia' Durrani/ Daurani. Aurangzeb himself sponsored the project, as it began in 1657 when he was viceroy. It is an original design in the lineage of Mughal tombs, and is not a lesser copy of the Taj Mahal as is often claimed. Set in a large quadripartite garden, Mughal landscape design is also evident. The suburb of Begumpura where it is located is also named after the queen.

## 2 Makkai Darwaza

The Delhi, Makkai, Paithan and Roshan Darwazas face the four cardinal directions of north, west, south and east respectively. The city was walled by the Mughals, and at least a dozen major gates controlled the flow of goods and people.

## 3 Lal Masjid

The Lal Masjid, is a red-brick mosque believed to date back to the Mughal era.



Its name comes from the red sandstone used in its construction. Located within the old city, the mosque features traditional Islamic architectural elements. It is raised on a high plinth, and has shops underneath, the rents from which pay for the upkeep of the mosque.

4

### Chitakhana

The building now known as Chitakhana is now part of the ensemble of buildings that houses the offices of the Municipal Corporation. The building is ascribed to Malik Ambar, but



we do not know its original function. The large octagonal building has a central courtyard which was originally provided with a large cistern fed by one of the nahrs. The building was converted to a town hall with the addition of a trussed roof in the early twentieth century.



5

### Bhadkal Darwaza

The city was not walled when it was built, and the Bhadkal Darwaza was not so much a gate as a ceremonial portal through which processions would pass. Built as a marker like the Charminar in Hyderabad, it has a space for musicians above. Malik Ambar's palace to the west of Bhadkal has a small gateway locally known as Chhota Bhadkal. The city was walled in the late seventeenth century under Aurangzeb, and the city gates were all constructed then.

6

### Naukhanda Palace

The former residence of Malik Ambar, it is now occupied by the Women's College of Aurangabad and the Model High School: Nothing remains of the palace built by Ambar in 1616, it was subject to substantial alterations and accretions





under the Mughals and Asaf Jahs. The seventeenth century gate and interior pavilion are worth visiting. The pavilion is where Nizam-ul-Mulk declared independence from the Mughals and had himself installed as the first Asaf Jah ruler in 1724.

on the Kham river. This gateway with two miniscule bangla-roofed *chhatris* on top, is interestingly constructed at an acute angle to the bridge forming a unique junction. One of the west-facing gates of the city, it overlooks the Kham river..

## 7 Mahmud Darwaza

The Mahmud Darwaza stands right outside the entrance of the Panchakki complex, situated on a bridge



## 8 Panchakki

The Panchakki, or Water Mill, despite its name, was built as the *khanqah* (house of rest for travelers of a religious order) of Baba Palangposh and his disciple Baba Musafir, both Sufis of the Naqshbandi order. In the complex, there is a large pool, a large water-operated mill grindstone (which lends its name to the shrine), a garden, a mosque, and a tomb. Most of the construction was during the Mughal period and can be dated to the late seventeenth century.



### Please note:

- Certain places in the trail are at a distance from each other and cannot be covered on foot alone. Please plan your day and transportation accordingly.
- There are entry fees for Bibi-ka-Maqbara and Panchakki. Please abide by the rules and regulations at each site.

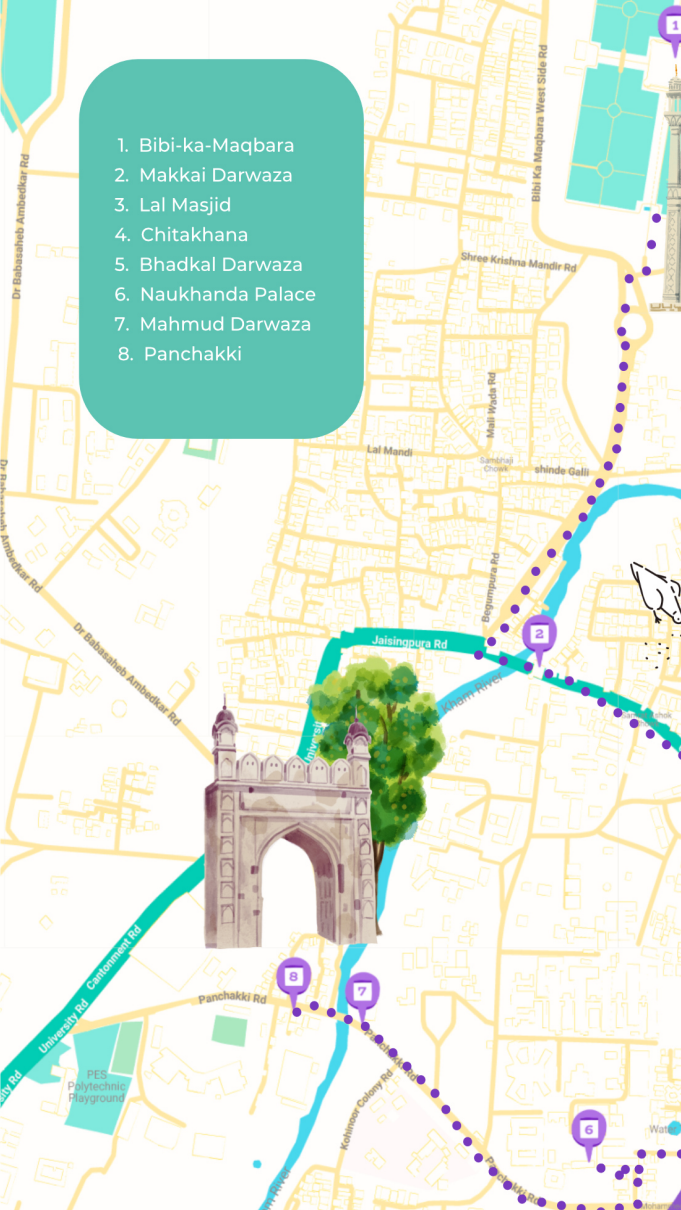
#### Heritage Experience/Walk Leader:

Dr Pushkar Sohoni  
(Conservation architect and art historian; Lecturer, IISER Pune)

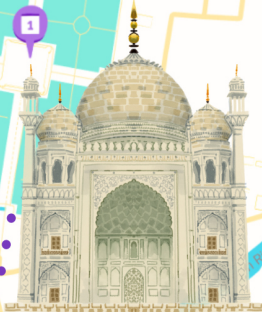
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1. Bibi-ka-Maqbara
2. Makkai Darwaza
3. Lal Masjid
4. Chitakhana
5. Bhadkal Darwaza
6. Naukhanda Palace
7. Mahmud Darwaza
8. Panchakki



MAPS



1

de Rd

de Galli



Was Colony Rd

Dilras Colony Rd

Dilras Colony Rd

Arif Colony Rd

Azad Maidan

3



4

Buddi

5

Water Tank

6

Khadkeshwar Rd

Naralbag Rd

HPO Rd

Hazrat Syed Shah  
Nooruddin  
Chisti Chowk