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**My Heritage**

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**now**

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# Qaisarbagh: Awadhi Begum, Nawab aur British

2 KM

BEGUM HAZRAT MAHAL PARK

**As the seat of power in the Awadh region, Lucknow was a dynamic backdrop against which stories of love, betrayal, and royal intrigue unfolded between the Nawabs, the Begums, the British and the Nobles of Awadh.**

The politics of the less than a century kept all parties involved in putting their best foot forward whether it was in culture, gastronomy, music, armament for the control of the throne of Awadh.

Through this heritage trail, we explore the cultural diversity that has shaped what came to be known as Lucknow. This trail is a mix of monuments and memories, tracing the history of a city as a regional seat of power cemented through wars and conquest as well as cultural diplomacy.

## 1 Begum Hazrat Mahal Park

The rendezvous point for the Qaiserbagh walk is the Begum Hazrat Mahal Park, where the stage will be set for Awadh. Nawab Wajid Ali Shah and his wife Begum Hazrat were deeply influential in defining the architecture in Qaiserbagh. The park was known as Old Victoria Park until 15 August, 1962, when Mahal was honoured at this park in Hazratganj, Lucknow, for her role in the first Indian struggle for independence in 1857. Along with the renaming of the



park, a marble memorial was constructed, which includes a marble tablet with four round brass plaques bearing the coat of arms of the Awadh royal family. The park has been used for Ramlilas and bonfires during Dusshera as well as Lucknow Mahotsav.

## 2 Neil's Gate/ Sher Darwaza

Built by Nawab Vazir Ghazi-ud-Din Haider in 1814 as Sher Darwaza, it was also called Burj-e-Asad or Bab-ul-Fateh. The monument is



known to have had two marble lions on either side, which were eventually lost. It is a classic example of the layers of Awadh and colonial histories in Lucknow. The gateway was later renamed Neil's Gate after General GJ S Neil was shot and killed when commanding British forces in 1857.

### 3 Saadat Ali Khan Maqbara

The beautiful *maqbara* (mausoleum) of Saadat Ali Khan II was erected by his successor and son Ghazi-ud-Din Haidar. It stands on a green sloped mound, which is likely the original plinth, the foundation arches and the crypt.



It is said that, originally, this was the site of Ghazi-ud-Din's palace, where he resided as heir-apparent. Upon ascending to the throne, the prince decreed the demolition of his former palace to build his father's mausoleum.

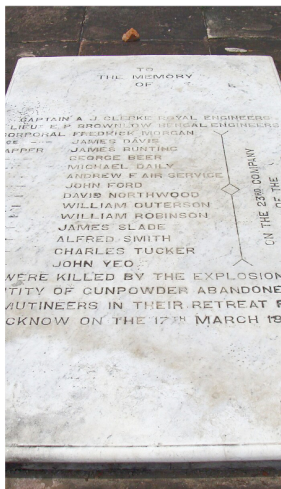
### 4 Khursheed Zaadi Maqbara

The *maqbara* of Khursheed Zaadi is located not far from San. As Khursheed Zaadi had died during her husband's reign, the construction of her tomb had begun during Saadat Ali Khan II's lifetime, but it was completed by her son, Ghazi-ud-Din Haidar, in 1824, ten years after her husband's *maqbara* was built.



## 5 Sapper's Tomb

Adjacent to the principal *maqbara* lies a humble, stone-flagged grave, enclosed by a low railing. Known as Sapper's Tomb, it is the final resting place of officers and men of the 23rd Company of Royal Engineers who died in 1858 during the siege following the Indian Rebellion of 1857. They lost their lives in a tragic explosion caused by abandoned gunpowder.



## 6 Butler Park (now Virangana Uda Devi Pasi Park)

The park is located between the Safed Baradari and Bhatkhande School of Music & Performance and has an elaborate bridge over the water moats which were part of the garden landscapes around the area.

The institute, formerly known as Marris College of Music was established in 1926 by the renowned musicologist Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande and is now known as Bhatkhande Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya. Bhatkhande building is also referred to as the site of Parikhana, a fabled building of dance and music built by Wajid Ali Shah. This building which is part of later colonial construction in Lucknow seems to have set the tone for the post modernism architecture in Lucknow.

## 7 Safed Baradari and Lakhi Darwazas (East and West)

Safed Baradari was built by Wajid Ali Shah in 1854 and was also called Qasr-ul-Aza, which translates to a sacred place of mourning. It is said that Nawab Wajid Ali Shah built the monument in the shape of an *imambara* to



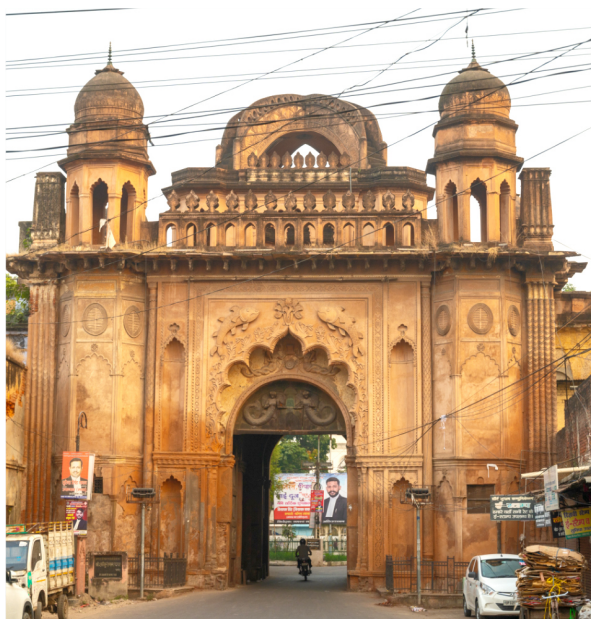
observe sacred *azadaari* (mourning) in remembrance of the martyrdom of Hazrat Hussain. The building was used later to host a number of events and house several occupants (including the Simon Commission) in the years since its construction.

The Lakhi Darwazas on either side of Safed Baradari. Its design draws inspiration from the Constantia built by Claude Martin. It has remarkable stucco motifs and beautiful Awadhi iconography, which we will explore.

# 8

## Amir-ud-Daulah Park

The park between the Amir-ud-Daulah library and Safed Baradari, which was built later upon the plinth of Lanka (the grand stage built by Nawab Wajid Ali Shah), has witnessed immense change in its landscaping and its surroundings. It is an integral part of Qaiserbagh much like its twin, Butler Park.



## Please note:

- There is no entry fee.
- Photography is allowed (in the interior and exterior of buildings).
- It is a leisurely stroll (in the Qaiserbagh Gardens) with a number of stops to sit, talk, and discuss.
- Wear comfortable footwear, and carry a hat/umbrella along with a bottle of water.
- Please be on time at the venue, as the roads tend to get busy, and the weather becomes less enjoyable later in the day.
- Kindly respect the cultural and religious significance/sentiments of the spaces as conveyed by the walk leader.

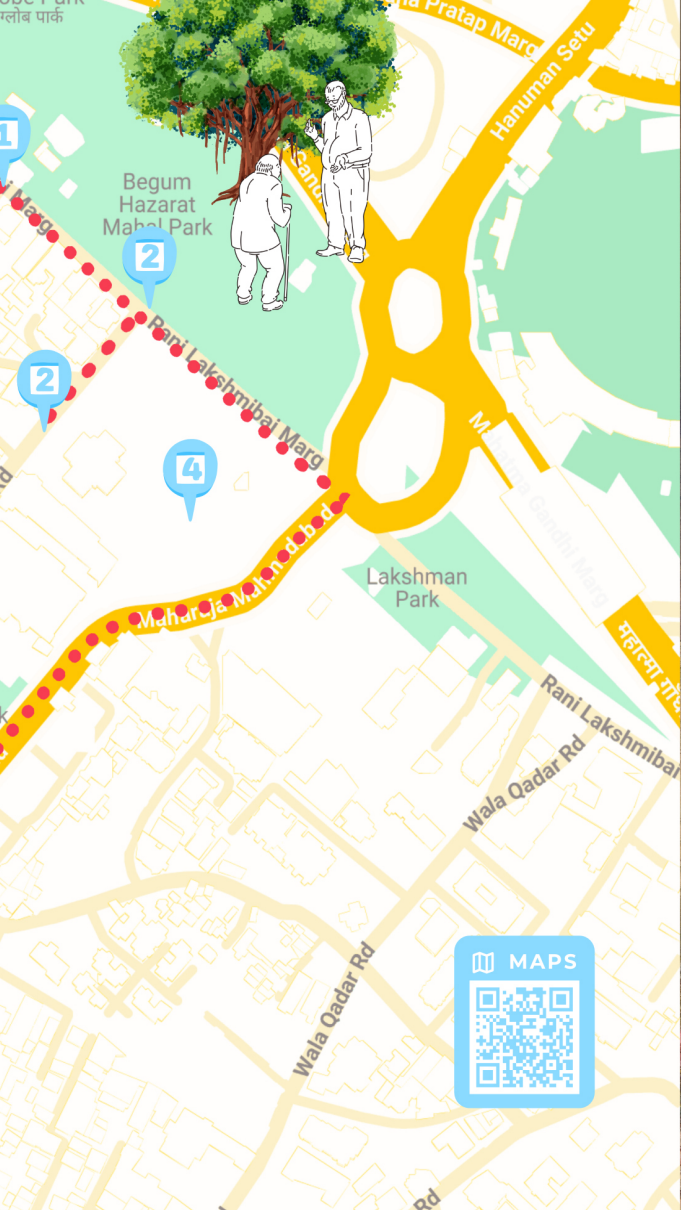
### Heritage Experience/Walk Leader:

**Nishant Upadhyay**  
(Conservation Architect;  
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1. Begum Hazrat Mahal Park
2. Neil's Gate/Sher Darwaza
3. Saadat Ali Khan Maqbara
4. Khursheed Zaadi Maqbara
5. Sapper's Tomb
6. Butler Park (now Virangana Uda Devi Pasi Park)
7. Safed Baradari and Lakhi Darwazas (East and West)
8. Amir-ud-Daulah Park





Be Park  
ग्लोब पार्क

1

Begum  
Hazrat  
Mahal Park

2

2

4

Rani Lakshmibai Marg

Maharaja Mahendra

Lakshman  
Park

Rani Lakshmibai

Wala Qadar Rd

Wala Qadar Rd

