

DON'T MISS



200

The number of spotted deer in Deer Park (delhitourism.gov.in), an oasis of peace in crowded Hauz Khas Village. This open park is popular with morning walkers, who come to see the animals in their enclosures.

NAPPA DORI

This popular boutique stocks a unique range of handcrafted leather goods, which include wallets and laptop bags (above) featuring local scenes and landmarks.
nappadori.com

DELHI HERITAGE WALKS

Take a guided walk through the Hauz Khas Complex (below), where its reservoir, mosque and tombs date back to the 13th century.
delhiheritagewalks.com

Hauz Khas Village

Once the site of a royal water reservoir, it's now among New Delhi's trendiest neighbourhoods, where cafes and boutiques sit cheek by jowl with crumbling monuments.

BY CHARUKESI RAMADURAI

1296-1316

Alauddin Khilji, ruler of the Khilji dynasty, builds a reservoir to supply water to nearby Siri Fort. Hauz Khas means "royal water tank" in Urdu.

1351-1388

Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq re-excavates the reservoir, and builds a madrasa (Islamic centre of learning), a mosque and his own tomb.

1988

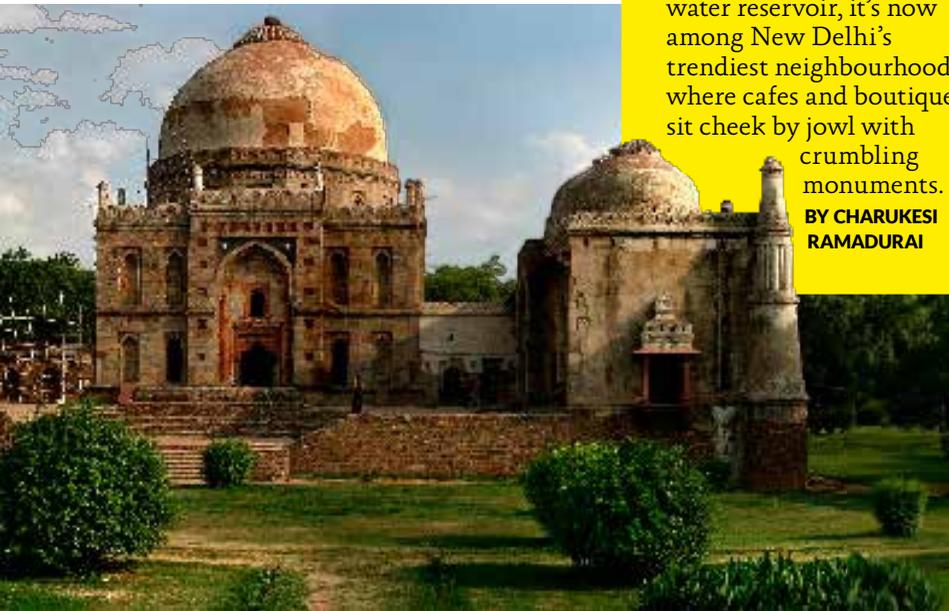
Fashion designer Bina Ramani opens a boutique. The Creative Arts Village Association is set up soon after, and by the early 1990s, numerous stores and restaurants open.

Mid 2000s

As New Delhi expands rapidly, Hauz Khas Village becomes popular as it fulfils a need for green spaces in the city, where people can eat and shop.

2009-2014

Offbeat outfits such as Kunzum Travel Cafe (kunzum.com; below) and Social Offline (socialoffline.in) continue to open, cementing the area's hipster status.



U R B A N E V O L U T I O N



CHANGING PACE



In the space of one generation, Hauz Khas Village has rapidly modernised. Sixty years ago, it was a drastically different place...

THEN

This place of agriculture teemed with buffaloes and bullock carts in the 1950s. Villagers in turbans and dhotis (a men's garment that covers the legs) smoked hookah.

NOW

Paved roads bustle with BMWs and Audis. Horns constantly blare. Western music blasts from pubs, where men and women are dressed in jeans and boho-chic tops.



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