



IMPERIAL ARCHIVE

Feroz Shah Kotla

Topra's Ashokan pillar in the citadel of Firozabad

ENTRANCE

LAT-PYRAMID / PILLAR

JAMI MASJID EXTERIOR

CIRCULAR BAOLI

PERIMETER LAWNS

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A4 KEPSAKE · PRINT EDITION

An hour under the lat

Keep this PDF for the pillar terrace and citadel shell. Live tickets, hours, Metro, and match-day traps stay on the visit guide—rates and cricket calendars change.

CITADEL

Firozabad · mid-14th c. (Firoz Shah Tughlaq)

PILLAR

3rd-c. BCE Topra shaft · moved unread

ON SITE

~60–90 min core circuit

METRO

Delhi Gate or ITO (Violet) · BSZ Marg

Verify ASI board & portal the week you travel · Stadium tickets are separate · Kotla’s Jami is not Old Delhi’s Jama Masjid · Full logistics: delhitaless.com/blog/feroz-shah-kotla. Designed for colour print; black-and-white remains readable. Author: **Delhi Tales Editorial Team**. Live logistics: delhitaless.com/blog/feroz-shah-kotla

WALK SEQUENCE

ENTRANCE → LAT-PYRAMID / PILLAR → JAMI MASJID EXTERIOR → CIRCULAR BAOLI → PERIMETER LAWNS

Read the citadel



SPECIALTY

Feroz Shah Kotla is the standing citadel scrap of Firozabad—Firoz Shah Tughlaq's mid-fourteenth-century Yamuna-edge capital—now on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg beside a cricket ground still called Kotla. Core loop: entrance → lat-pyramid / Ashokan pillar → Jami Masjid exterior → circular baoli (as open) → perimeter lawns. Budget about 60–90 minutes.

MEANING

The uniqueness is double exposure: a 3rd-century-BCE Mauryan pillar standing on a Tughluq pyramid inside robbed palace fabric—next to modern stadium lights. You came for that stack, not for a polished palace hotel.

TALE

Tickets, Metro (Delhi Gate or ITO), match-day diversions, and dual-tier ASI fees live on the visit guide. Arun Jaitley Stadium shares a toponym—separate product, separate ticket.



01 · BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG

Entrance approach

ASI fort approach with battered Tughluq wall vocabulary and open lawns beyond. Pin drivers to the ASI fort / Ashoka pillar—not only “Kotla,” which often means the cricket stadium.

Threshold discipline: you are entering a ruin citadel, not a haunt package or a match gate. Modest dress helps in the mosque precinct; grip shoes matter on rubble.

On cricket evenings, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg congests and drop-offs harden—prefer a non-match morning when you can. Details stay on the visit guide.



02 · TOPRA SHAFT · UNREAD PRESTIGE

Lat-pyramid & Ashokan pillar

Polished Mauryan sandstone shaft (3rd century BCE) from Topra, Haryana, re-erected on a purpose-built stepped pyramid beside the Friday mosque. Scholars identify Ashoka's Major Pillar Edicts 1–7 in Prakrit Brahmi here—the long seventh edict is distinctive to this Topra shaft—plus later Sanskrit Nāgarī from Chauhan king Visaladeva (Vigraharāja IV) around 1163–64 CE, cut while the pillar still stood at Topra. Short Lodī-era marks also appear.

The stone is ancient; the setting is Firozabad. This lawn is not proof of a Mauryan capital. Firoz wrapped, hauled, floated, and raised a wonder he could not read—chronicles give spectacular man-and-wheel colour; treat counts as spectacle, not a modern engineering census.

Stand under sixteen centuries of stack: Mauryan program, Chauhan boast, Tughluq pedestal, stadium lights. That is why Kotla earns an hour even when palace halls are rubble.



03 · CITADEL FRIDAY MOSQUE

Jami Masjid exterior

Raised congregational mosque shell of the Tughluq citadel—exterior reading is the honest visit when interiors are restricted. Follow ASI signage for access.

This is Kotla's Jami, not Shahjahanabad's Jama Masjid. Different century, ticket, and tourist script—do not let the shared “Friday mosque” gloss merge them.

Photograph the platform and battered massing; do not invent a complete interior tour from rubble.



05 · PALACE STUMPS · STADIUM IRONY

Perimeter lawns

Open lawns, palace and enclosure stumps, uneven stone. Good for a slow exit photograph of battered Tughluq massing against modern Delhi.

The citadel was robbed for later building stone; what remains is a short, honest ruin walk. Thursday letter-and-candle petitions at the ruins are living modern devotion—not proof of fourteenth-century jinn archaeology. Observe quietly or choose another day.

Leave before dark. Heat and AQI spike midday. Pair Old Delhi's Jama Masjid or India Gate only as separate logistics blocks—never as one ticket.



04

AS OPEN · SAFE VANTAGE

Circular baoli

Circular well-tank (baoli) in the citadel water system. Visit only as open and from safe signed vantage—drop-offs and grilled chambers are real.

If ropes are up, skip without inventing a tip-first dungeon tour. Haunt packages sold as archaeology are a trap.

Method & attribution

Desk synthesis against Tughluq chronicle traditions of the Topra haul, Ashokan Major Pillar Edicts scholarship on the Delhi–Topra shaft, Prinsep’s 1837 Brahmi unlock, and ASI/Archnet fabric notes. Companion PDF (keepsake); cite and plan from delhitales.com/blog/feroz-shah-kotla.

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IMAGE CREDITS

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READ THE CITADEL

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ENTRANCE APPROACH

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LAT-PYRAMID & ASHOKAN PILLAR — ASHOKAN PILLAR ON THE STEPPED LAT-PYRAMID AT FERUZ SHAH KOTLA

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LAT-PYRAMID & ASHOKAN PILLAR — BRAHMI AND NĀGARĪ LETTERING ON THE DELHI–TOPRA PILLAR

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