



IMPERIAL ARCHIVE

# Lodhi Gardens

Free Sayyid & Lodi tombs in a living South Delhi park

MUHAMMAD SHAH SAYYID

BARA GUMBAD & MOSQUE

SHISH GUMBAD

SIKANDAR LODI

ATHPULA BRIDGE

DELHI TALES EDITORIAL TEAM · AUGUST 2026

A4 KEPSAKE · PRINT EDITION

# A morning among the tombs

Keep this PDF for the Gate 1 → Athpula loop and the stories that stick. Live hours, Metro pins, and trap notes stay on the visit guide—park boards change.

## ENTRY

INR 0 · NDMC park · no foreigner tier

## ON SITE

~60–120 min · 90 min sweet spot

## START

Gate 1 (Lodhi Road) · Jor Bagh Metro

## WATCH

Fake gate tickets · not Safdarjung

No park entry ticket exists · Safdarjung's Tomb is a separate paid ASI site west on Lodhi Road · Tomb chambers may be roped without notice · Full logistics: [delhitaless.com/blog/lodhi-gardens](https://delhitaless.com/blog/lodhi-gardens). Designed for colour print; black-and-white remains readable. Author: **Delhi Tales Editorial Team**. Live logistics: [delhitaless.com/blog/lodhi-gardens](https://delhitaless.com/blog/lodhi-gardens)

## WALK SEQUENCE

MUHAMMAD SHAH SAYYID → BARA GUMBAD & MOSQUE → SHISH GUMBAD → SIKANDAR LODI → ATHPULA BRIDGE

# Read the park-necropolis



## SPECIALTY

Lodhi Gardens (often Lodi Gardens) is an NDMC public park of roughly 80–90 acres wrapping ASI-protected Sayyid, Lodi, and Akbar-period monuments. It is deliberately a living park—joggers, rose beds, Stein’s 1968 lake—not a fenced ticketed precinct like Humayun’s Tomb.

## MEANING

Walk dynastic time south to north: Sayyid octagon → Lodi craft → garden-tomb type → Mughal bridge. Place spelling Lodhi; dynasty spelling Lodi—same ground. There is no park entry ticket and no foreigner tier.

## TALE

Ignore anyone selling “heritage tickets” at the gates. Safdarjung’s Tomb, about ten minutes west on Lodhi Road, is a separate paid ASI product. Hours, Metro (Jor Bagh → Gate 1), and exit to Khan Market live on the visit guide.





01 • C. 1444 • OLDEST STANDING STORY

# Tomb of Muhammad Shah Sayyid

Octagonal Sayyid royal tomb raised around 1444–45 by Alam Shah for Muhammad Shah (r. 1434–1445). Eight chhatris ring the dome; buttresses slope against monsoon. Among the few surviving Sayyid monuments in India.

Start here for chronology, not spectacle. You are at the physical end of the Sayyid line in this park—before Lodi patronage scales up.

Plinth and veranda are usually open; interior may be roped—respect chains. East and south façades glow before 09:00.



02 · EMPTY DOME · DATED MIHRAB

## Bara Gumbad & 1494 mosque

Square “Big Dome” completed 1490—no grave inside. Adjacent Friday mosque dated by mihrab inscription to 1494 (900 AH) under Sikandar Lodi’s reign. Shared platform with guest-house bay.

Do not call it “Bara Gumbad tomb.” Historians commonly read the empty dome as gateway or ceremonial marker tied to the mosque. The dated mihrab is the solid chronological anchor.

Walk into the echo of the empty dome, then slow-look the mosque’s plaster bands and geometric cutwork from the courtyard if the hall is closed.





04 · 1517–18 · WALLED GARDEN-TOMB

## Tomb of Sikandar Lodi

Fortified garden-tomb enclosure with double dome and battlements, built 1517–18 by Ibrahim Lodi for Sikandar Lodi (d. 1517). West mihrab in the enclosure wall. ASI materials credit this as the first garden-tomb built in India in the lineage that later produced Humayun's Tomb and the Taj Mahal—one literacy sentence, not “first on earth.”

The park's most important architectural argument: burial in a walled garden as imperial type. Let the enclosure speak after the ASI line.

Walk the battlemented circuit; interiors may be closed. Handheld exterior photos are normal; tripods need ASI permission.





05 • AKBAR-ERA BRIDGE

## Athpula & the lake

Athpula (Athpul / Khairpur ka Pul)—seven arches, eight piers—built in Akbar's reign by Nawab Bahadur over a former stream, now Stein's ornamental lake. ASI N-DL-72. Not a Lodi-built bridge.

Mughal coda on a Sayyid-Lodi walk: water and reflection after stone chronology. Early and late light earn the postcard.

Exit toward Gate 4 for Khan Market lunch, or auto west to Safdarjung for a paid garden-tomb coda—separate ticket, separate story.



## 03

GLASS DOME · UNKNOWN GRAVES

### Shish Gumbad

“Glass Dome” nickname from cobalt and turquoise glazed tile bands that still fleck the façade. Multiple cenotaphs inside; no inscriptions name the dead.

Short look for tile traces in sunlight, then move north to Sikandar’s enclosure. Ten minutes is enough.



# Method & attribution

Desk synthesis against ASI monument inventory for Lodi Gardens, Archnet/MAP Academy architectural notes, the ASI Humayun page's garden-tomb lineage line for Sikandar Lodi, and NDMC park framing (Lady Willingdon Park 1936; Stein-Eckbo 1968). Companion PDF (keepsake); cite and plan from delhitales.com/blog/lodhi-gardens.

**Author:** Delhi Tales Editorial Team · **Last verified:** August 2026 · Delhi Tales / Imperial Archive

## IMAGE CREDITS

### COVER — LODHI GARDENS

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### READ THE PARK-NECROPOLIS

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### TOMB OF MUHAMMAD SHAH SAYYID

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### BARA GUMBAD & 1494 MOSQUE

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### SHISH GUMBAD

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### TOMB OF SIKANDAR LODI

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### ATHPULA & THE LAKE

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