

Qutb Minar

The **Qutub Minar** (Hindi: कुतुब मिनार, Urdu: قُطْب مینار) is a minaret that forms a part of the Qutab complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Mehrauli area of Delhi, India.^{[1][2]} Qutub Minar is a 73-metre (239.5 feet) tall tapering tower of five storeys, with a 14.3 metres (47 feet) base diameter, reducing to 2.7 metres (9 feet) at the peak.^[3] It contains a spiral staircase of 379 steps.^[4] Its design is thought to have been based on the Minaret of Jam, in western Afghanistan.

Qutab Ud-Din-Aibak, founder of the Delhi Sultanate, started construction of the Qutub Minar's first storey around 1192. In 1220, Aibak's successor and son-in-law Iltutmish completed a further three storeys. In 1369, a lightning strike destroyed the top storey. Firoz Shah Tughlaq replaced the damaged storey, and added one more. Sher Shah suri also added an entrance to this tower while he was ruling and Humayun was in exile.^[5]

The Minar is surrounded by several historically significant monuments of the Qutab complex, including Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, which was built at the same time as the Minar, and the much older Iron Pillar of Delhi.^[1] The nearby pillared Cupola known as "Smith's Folly" is a remnant of the tower's 19th century restoration, which included an ill-advised attempt to add a sixth storey

Contents

- History
- Architecture
- Accident
- In Literature
- In popular culture
- Gallery
- See also
- References
- Further reading
- External links

History

Qutab Minar was established along with Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque around 1192 by Qutab-ud-din Aibak, first ruler of the Delhi Sultanate.^[6] The mosque complex is one of the earliest that survives in the Indian subcontinent.^{[7][8]} The minaret is named after Qutab-ud-din Aibak, or Qutabuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, a Sufi saint.^[9] Its ground storey was built over the ruins of the Lal Kot, the citadel of Dhillika.^[10] Aibak's successor Iltutmish added three more storeys.^[9] The minar's topmost storey was damaged by lightning in 1369 and was rebuilt by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, who added another storey. In 1505, an earthquake damaged Qutub Minar; it was repaired by Sikander Lodi. On 1 September 1803, a major earthquake caused serious damage. Major Robert Smith of the British Indian Army renovated the tower in 1828 and installed a pillared cupola over the fifth story, thus creating a sixth. The cupola was

Qutub Minar

कुतुब मिनार

قُطْب مینار



Qutb Minar in Delhi, India

Height73 metres (240 ft)

UNESCO World Heritage Site

TypeCultural

Criteria4

Designated1993 (17th session)

Reference no.233

Country India

ContinentAsia

Constructed byStarted construction by Qutub-ud-din Aibak & completed construction by Altamash

taken down in 1848, under instructions from The Viscount Hardinge then Governor General of India. It was reinstalled at ground level to the east of Qutab Minar, where it remains. It is known as "Smith's Folly".^[11]

Architecture

The tower's style is basically Iranian, though likely patterned on Afghanistan's Minaret of Jam, and adapted to local artistic conventions by the incorporation of "looped bells and garlands and lotus borders into the carving".^[12] Aybak also started Qutub Minar along the patterns of Iranian minarets but built by Hindus artisans.^[13] Numerous inscriptions in Parso-Arabic and Nagari characters in different sections of the Qutab Minar reveal the history of its construction, and the later restorations and repairs by Firoz Shah Tughluq (1351–89) and Sikandar Lodhi^[14] (1489–1517).

The tower has five superposed, tapering storeys. The lowest three comprise fluted cylindrical shafts or columns of pale red sandstone, separated by flanges and by storeyed balconies, carried on Muqarnas corbels. The fourth column is of marble, and is relatively plain. The fifth is of marble and sandstone. The flanges are a darker red sandstone throughout, and are engraved with Quranic texts and decorative elements. The whole tower contains a spiral staircase of 379 steps.^[15] At the foot of the tower is the Quwwat ul Islam Mosque. The minar tilts just over 65 cm from the vertical, which is considered to be within safe limits, although experts have stated that monitoring is needed in case rainwater seepage further weakens the foundation.^[16]

Accident

Before 1974, the general public was allowed access to the top of the minaret, via the internal staircase. On 4 December 1981, the staircase lighting failed. Between 300 and 400 visitors stampeded towards the exit, and 45 were killed in the crush and some were injured. Most of these were children.^[17] Since then, the tower has been closed to the public.^[18]

In Literature

Letitia Elizabeth Landon's poem *The Cootub Minah, Delhi* is a reflection on an engraving in Fisher's Drawing Room Scrap Book, 1833.

In popular culture

Bollywood actor and director Dev Anand wanted to shoot the song "Dil Ka Bhanwar Kare Pukar" from his film *Tere Ghar Ke Samne* inside the Minar. However, the cameras in that era were too big to fit inside the tower's narrow passage, and therefore the song was shot inside a replica of the tower.^[19] The site served as the pit stop of the second leg of the second series of *The Amazing race Australia*.

A picture of the minaret is featured on the travel cards issued by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. A recently launched start-up in collaboration with the Archaeological survey of India has made a 360° walkthrough of Qutab Minar available.^[20]

Gallery



Kuttull Minor, Delhi. The Qutab Minar 1805



Qutab Minar in Mehrauli in Delhi. Clifton and Co., around 1890



The Minar in context: Alai Darwaza (left), Imam Zamin's tomb (right), Qutb Minar (back)



Calligraphy on upper-base section



Decorative motifs on upper levels



Close-up of balcony



Smith's cupola (foreground, right), with the Tomb of Imam Zamin, Alai Darwaza, and Qutb Minar in background

See also

- [Red Fort](#)
- [Agra Fort](#)
- [Chand Minar](#)

References

- "WHC list" (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/233>) whc.unesco.org. 2009 Retrieved 27 October 2011.
- Singh (2010). *Longman History & Civics ICSE 7* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=JcqySqzQtwC>) Pearson Education India. p. 42. ISBN 978-81-317-2887-1 Retrieved 27 October 2011.
- "Qutb Minar Height" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150629080441/http://qutubminardelhi.com/qutub-minar-height/>) qutubminardelhi.com. Archived from the original (<http://www.qutubminardelhi.com/qutub-minar-height>) on 29 June 2015. Retrieved 15 June 2015.
- Qutub Minar (<http://www.qutubminar.org/>)
- "Qutub Minar" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150622134800/http://qutubminardelhi.com/>) qutubminardelhi.com. Archived from the original (<http://www.qutubminardelhi.com/>) on 22 June 2015 Retrieved 15 June 2015.
- Qutub Minar (<http://www.qutubminar.org/>)
- "Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150725164517/http://qutubminardelhi.com/quwwat-ul-islam-mosque/>) qutubminardelhi.com. Archived from the original (<http://qutubminardelhi.com/quwwat-ul-islam-mosque/>) on 25 July 2015 Retrieved 15 June 2015.

8. Ali Javid; 'Alī Jāvīd; Tabassum Javeed (July 1, 2008). *World Heritage Monuments and Related Edifices in India* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=54XBIf9LFgC&q=minar#v=snippet&q=minar&f=false>) Google Books. pp. 14, 105, 107, 130. Retrieved 26 May 2009.
9. "Qutub Minar Height" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150629080441/http://qutubminardelhi.com/qutub-minar-height/>). qutubminardelhi.com. Archived from the original (<http://www.qutubminardelhi.com/qutub-minar-height>) on 29 June 2015. Retrieved 15 June 2015.
10. Ali Javid; 'Alī Jāvīd; Tabassum Javeed (2008). *World Heritage Monuments and Related Edifices in India* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=54XBIf9LFgC&q=minar#v=snippet&q=minar&f=false>) Google Books. pp. 14, 105, 107, 130. ISBN 9780875864822 Retrieved 26 May 2009.
11. "Qutub Minar and Smiths Folly - an architectural disaster" (<https://rangandatta.wordpress.com/2012/08/15/qutub-minar-and-smiths-folly-an-architectural-disaster/>) Wordpress.
12. "Index 1200-1299: Qutb ud-Din Aibak and the Qubbat ul-Islam mosque" (http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealc/pritchett/00routes/1200_1299/index_1200_1299.html) Columbia University
13. M. K. Agarwal, 2013, "The Vedic Core of Human History: And Truth will be the Savior" (<https://books.google.com.sg/books?id=zObPAwAAQBAJ&pg=PA433&dq=qutub+minar+hindu+temple&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj89Km0tNTXAWhIqo8KHR21BYwQ6AEISzAH#v=onepage&q=qutub%20minar%20hindu%20temple&f=false>). 433, ISBN 1491715952
14. Plaque at Qutub Minar
15. Qutub Minar (<http://www.qutubminar.org/>)
16. Verma, Richi (24 January 2009). "Qutub Minar tilting due to seepage: Experts" (http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2009-01-24/india/28019525_1_qutub-minar-tilt-qutubuddin-aibak) *The Times of India*. Retrieved 30 June 2012.
17. "Around the World; 45 Killed in Stampede At Monument in India" (<https://www.nytimes.com/1981/12/05/world/around-the-world-45-killed-in-stampede-at-monument-in-india.html>) *The New York Times*. 5 December 1981 Retrieved 13 February 2018.
18. Khandekar, Nivedita (4 December 2012). "31 yrs after tragedy Qutub Minar's doors remain shut" (<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india/31-yrs-after-tragedy-qutub-minar-s-doors-remain-shut/story-MtNgQtIDsYbalrcmQOZvaM.html>) *Hindustan Times*. Retrieved 13 February 2018.
19. Mehul S Thakkar, Mumbai Mirror 22 Nov 2011, IST (22 November 2011). "30 years later, Qutub ready to face the camera — Times of India" (http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-11-22/news-interviews/30428151_1_qutub-minar-dev-anand-filmmakers) Articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com Retrieved 26 September 2012.
20. "Qutub Minar in MEHRAULI, Delhi - 360-degree view on Wonobo.com" (<http://places.wonobo.com/delhi/Qutub-Minar/1041176/interior>) Places.wonobo.com Retrieved 2014-05-17.

Further reading

- Ali Javid (July 1, 2008). *World Heritage Monuments and Related Edifices in India (Full Set Bound in 20 Volumes)*. Algora Publishing. ISBN 978-0875864822

External links

 Media related to Qutb Minar at Wikimedia Commons

- Qutub Minar
- Archaeological Survey of India | Qutab Minar and its Monuments, Delhi

Retrieved from 'https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Qutb_Minar&oldid=834411870

This page was last edited on 5 April 2018, at 16:03.

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.