

Design Resource

Monuments of Bijapur

Ancient Masterpiece - Karnataka

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral, Divyadarshan C. S. and

Lija M. G.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/monuments-bijapur>

1. Introduction
2. Gol Gumbaz
3. Ibrahim Roza
4. Jod Gumbaz
5. Jamia Masjid
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<http://www.dsource.in/resource/monuments-bijapur/introduction>

Introduction

Bijapur is known as one of the place of India that has the ancient history with conquests of various forces and different cultures, religions. Islamic religion has remained strong in the city of mosques and the remnants of the Adil Shahi dynasty of about two century till it fell to Aurangzeb in 1689.

Bijapur is also called as Vijapura which was first settled by the Chalukya dynasty of Kalyani of the 11th century. In the 13th century the city came under the influence of Khilji Sultanate of Delhi and then this area was ruled by the Bahmani Sultanate of Gulbarga and after that this place was mostly referred to as Vijapur or Bijapur.

The first Adil Shahi ruler Yusuf Adil Shah was the son of Turkish Prince Mahmud II, tradition tells that Adil Shah was of the Ottoman descent with a crescent symbol on all the monuments of Bijapur. It is said that he was an escapee to be persecuted from his brother who sold him as a slave to Bidar court. Since he had an exceptional intelligence with a courtly behavior he rose to be the governor of the province of Bijapur in the year 1489 AD.

Bijapur is a land flanked by Narmada and Tapti in the north, Godavari in the middle and Krishna and Tungabhadra to the south filled with lava boulders. In Bijapur around 50 mosques, more than 20 tombs and numerous palaces belongs to the Adil Shahi's. It is said that Adil Shahi Sultans ruled Bijapur for nearly 200 years which had spent their utmost authority and also on the architecture and allied arts.

Adil Shahi's had deep interest in architecture especially in Persian, Ottoman and Turkish type as these were their interest in building architectures. The monuments were mostly built with the centre of the two concentric circles of the circumferential length of 400 meters. The forts are strongly fortified with the huge materials with ninety six large bastions of various designs. It is said when the Bijapur Sultanate reigned the whole Deccan territory the forts were fortified with more than 1000 canons generally made of brass and iron.



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Gol Gumbaz

Gol Gumbaz which is popular in the Bijapur area is by itself very famously known as round dome or a roof top in a rounded shape. It is known as the tomb (mausoleum) of the ruler Muhammad Adil Shah II who lived in the year (1627-57 AD) and generally known as the seventh Sultan of Bijapur of the Adil Shahi dynasty of the 17th century.

This mausoleum covers an area of about 15,000 sq.ft with an external diameter of 144 sq.ft and inner part generally referred to as the architectural wonders of the world, with an internal diameter of 37.92m. The construction of this was done between the years 1626 to 1656. Gol Gumbaz is one of the mausoleum masterpiece of Islamic architecture with a huge proportions of the architectural summit of Adil Shahi dynasty. The floor area is covered with about 1703.56 m² almost the major under any domed building in the world.

It is in one of the artistic manner in which the hemispherical dome has been built on a square base. This dome structure is supported by a system of eight interlocking pendentives with massive brick dome that bears the load of the dome. Though the domes are repeatedly raised on the square bases system of interlocking pendentives that are present here is very unique.

It is generally known as a whispering gallery around the base of the tomb that gain access through the winding staircases in the four corner towers. At present only two towers are used as the passage one used as the entrance of Gol Gumbaz and the other as they exist passage where the people move through to experience the echoing effect. Due to its acoustical properties the feeblest sound made at one end of the Gol Gumbaz can be heard at the other end with echoes of 10-20 times with vibrations for 26 seconds(eleven times) that the building has the longest vibrations count of any building.

It is said on the platform in the centre of the tomb space are the tombstones of Muhammad Adil Shah with his two wives, son, daughter, his mistress the dancing girl Rambha and grandson which are located in the real graves of the cellar below. Gol Gumbaz also houses mosque Naqqar Khana, gateway and a Dharamshala, the building opposite to Gol Gumbaz has been turned into a gallery which contains the history about Adil Shah dynasty that constructed the Gol Gumbaz. It usually consists of consistent of concrete reinforced with bricks of a thickness of 10 inches with a fine piece of Islamic architectural style design as per the Persian style. This monument has four with seven storeyed towers at the corner with each of unique whispering gallery.

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Brief information Board.



Gol Gumbaz view from the entrance.



A beautiful garden surrounding the Gol Gumbaz.

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Elephant carved on the stone which is sited in garden.



Museum at the entrance of Gol Gumbaz.



Cannons kept at the entrance of Museum.

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Design carved on pillars.



Beautifully crafted cannons.



Design carved on pillars.

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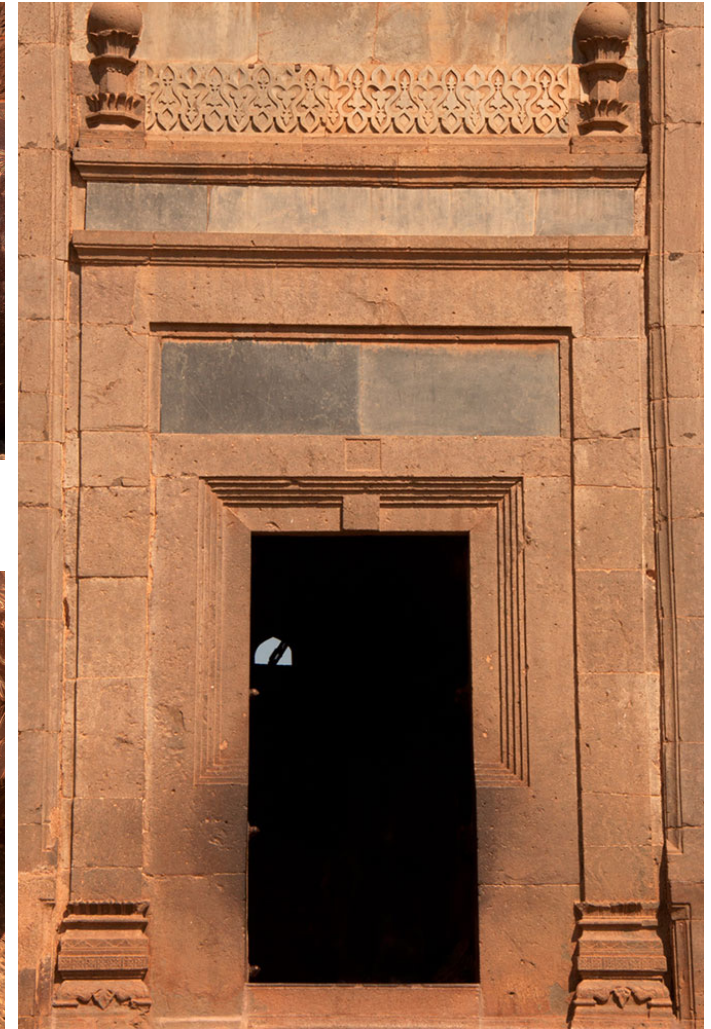
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Beautifully crafted cannons.



Design curvature on cannon.



The main Entrance of the museum Nagarkhana.

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A rear view of museum from Gol Gumbaz.

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Historical monument Gol Gumbaz.



Historical monument Gol Gumbaz.



Mughal Architecture at the main Entrance of the Gol Gumbaz.

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Carvings on the wall.



The cenotaphs.



The cenotaphs.

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Dome with intersecting arches.

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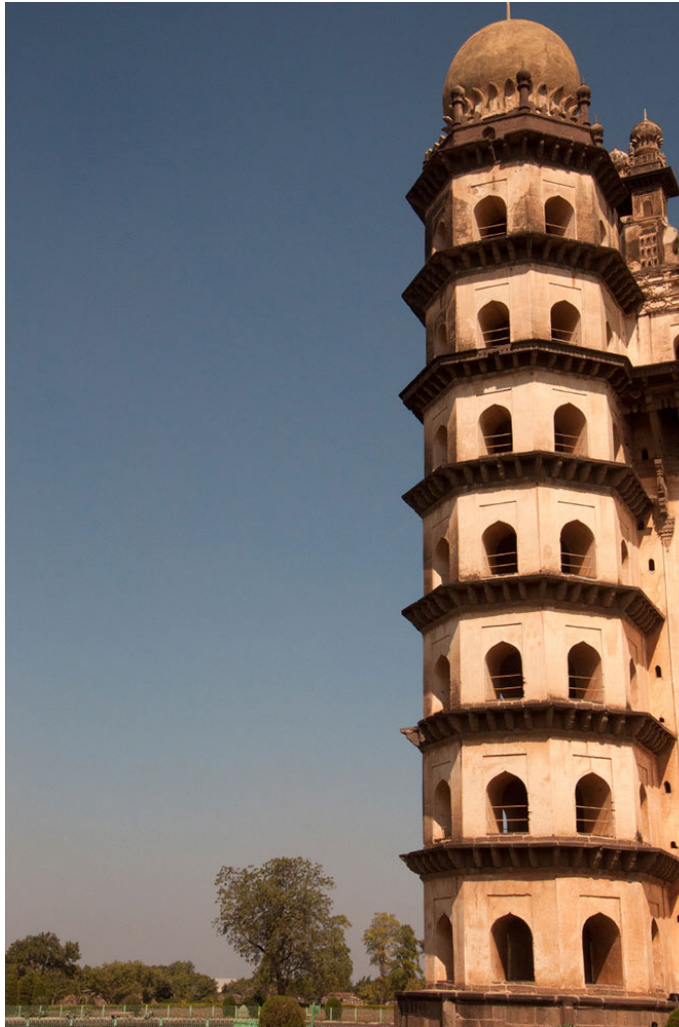
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Seven Floors Winding staircase.



Fatigued stair case.

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Arched openings at each floor of Winding Staircase.



A view from the seventh floor.

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One of the minars viewed from the terrace.

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Scene at the terrace.



One of the minars viewed from the terrace.

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A beautiful view from the terrace of Gol Gumbaz.

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Ibrahim Roza

This is also known as the Ibrahim Rauza which is the tomb complex where Ibrahim Adil Shah II is buried along with his wife queen Taj Sultana. It is one among the supreme achievements of the Adil Shahi's which is remarkably considered and finely decorated. It was completed in the year 1627 by Ibrahim Adilshah –II, it is a square structure with twin buildings and delicate carvings. The building was designed by the Persian architect Malik Sandal with the sentence of Quraan are beautifully covered on the walls.

Ibrahim Roza is the tomb of Ibrahim Adil Shah II with his two sons and his mother on the left and on the right side with a mosque set in a walled garden facing over an attractive pond. The tomb is in a chamber of 13 meters and has the ceiling divided into nine squares with curved sides. It is one of the splendid mosque and tomb of Bijapur, it is known for its graceful arches, halls, intricate designs with a large crowning onion dome.

The dome is rising from a lotus petal base, it is said to be a creativeness of the Taj Mahal at Agra with 24 meters. The big fountain and reservoir divide the mosque from the tomb, it is counted one among the beautiful instances of Islamic architecture. This consists of the interconnected buildings, with the faultless domes topped with the crescent moons and surrounded on the four corners with the symmetrical minarets that manages the structural simplicity with intricate stonework with point arches that leads to cool high ceiling chambers and walls richly decorated with sculptures and hangings.

The construction was between the 15th to 17th century of the Ibrahim Roza and the mosque built in the walled garden facing the ornamental pond. This was located at about 2 km from Bijapur on the western outskirts of the city. It has significant sculptural decorative work with intricate design works.

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Beautiful view of Mausoleum Ibrahim Rauza.

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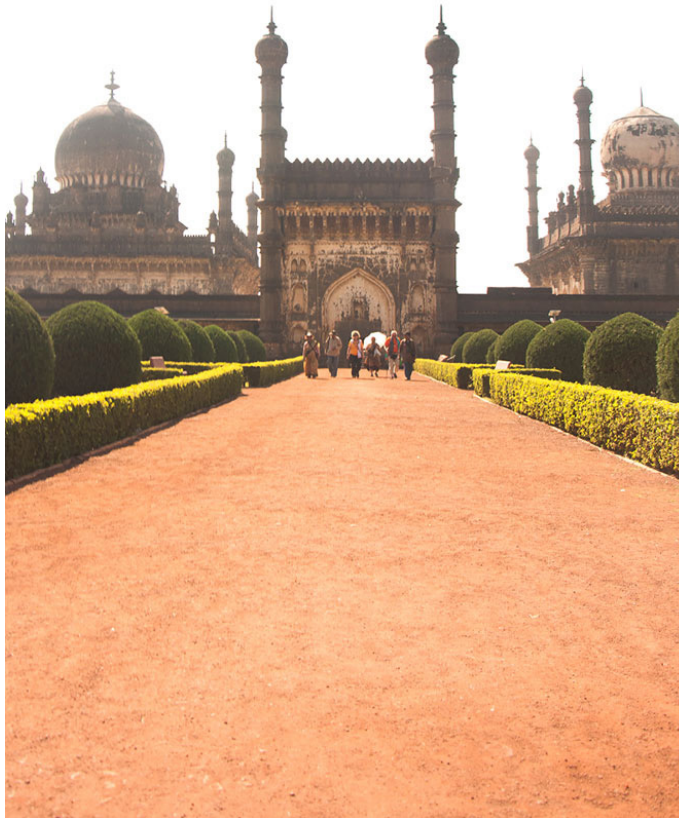
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Beautiful view of Mausoleum Ibrahim Rauza.



Basement of the mosque.

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Rear view of the entrance.



Rear view of the entrance.

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Basement chamber.



4 minars on the top of the entrance.



A view of tomb.



A view of tomb.

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A heart-gladdening architecture of the tomb.



Lotus petal base for the doom.



Overhanging and decorative roof.



Overhanging and decorative roof.

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Carved design on the stone.



Leaf shaped design wall inside the tomb.

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Leaf shaped design wall inside the tomb.



Architecture inside the tomb.

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Architecture inside the tomb.



Design on ceiling.



Design on ceiling.

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Mosque opposite to tomb.

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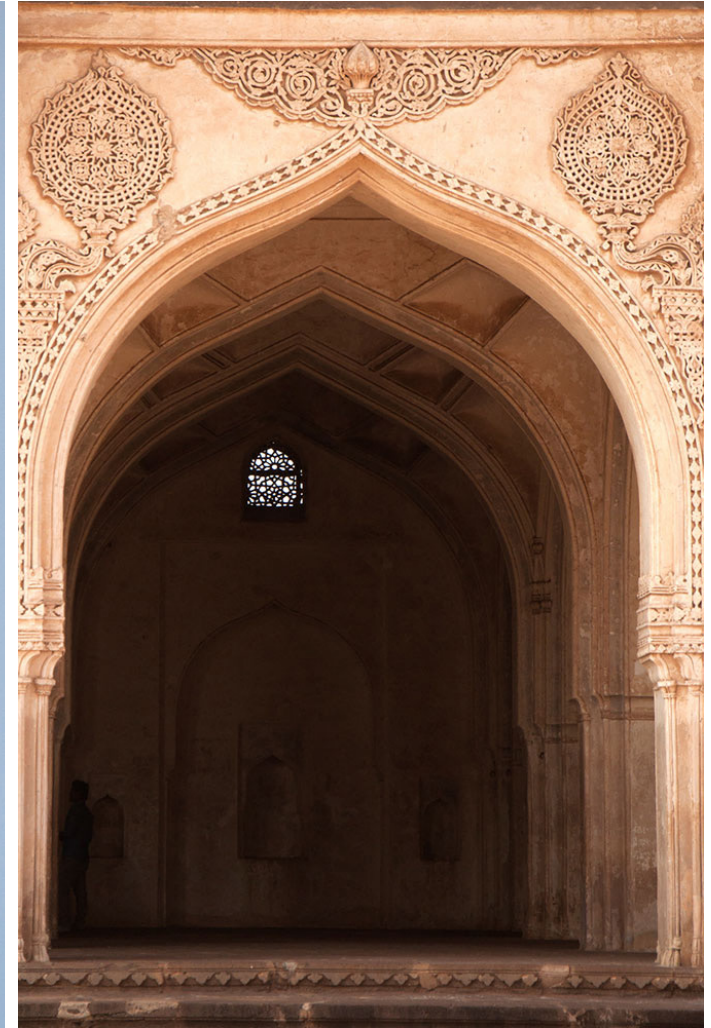
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One of the structural design of Minar.



Design on the entrance.

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Decorated entrance to inner chamber.



Scripts written on wall from Quran.

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Scripts written on wall from Quran.



Design on the wall.



Quran design on wall.

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Jod Gumbaz

This is also known as Abdul Razaq darga built in the year 1687 with a pair of tombs housed in this. The tombs have been in substantial elevation since the graves are built at the floor level with galleries within the domes. It was at the initiation of Afzal khan that the splendid tomb was constructed in his lifetime though his mortal remains was buried in another tomb. In Jod Gumbaz which is one km away from Afzal khan's tomb is the tomb of his wives in 11 rows on the masonry platform.

There is a saying that, as per the prediction of one of the astrologer that he would not return after meeting Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj to Bijapur, drowned all his 64 wives before his journey therefore there are 63 graves with one grave empty. This monument is located behind the Government High School in the present day (21st century) which is in the southwest part of Bijapur city. This is generally referred to as the twin domes of the tombs of Khan Muhammad and Abdul Razzaq Qadiri situated near the Mecca Gate also referred to as 'Two Sisters'.



Dome of Khan Muhammad & Khawas Khan's mausoleum.

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Tonga (carriage) - Tonga is a light carriage or curricle drawn by horse used for transportation in India.

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Cloth shop near Jod Gumbaz.



Local hotel and shop near Jod Gumbaz.



Tomb/Dargah of a muslim saint.

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Flower shape design done on stone pillar base.

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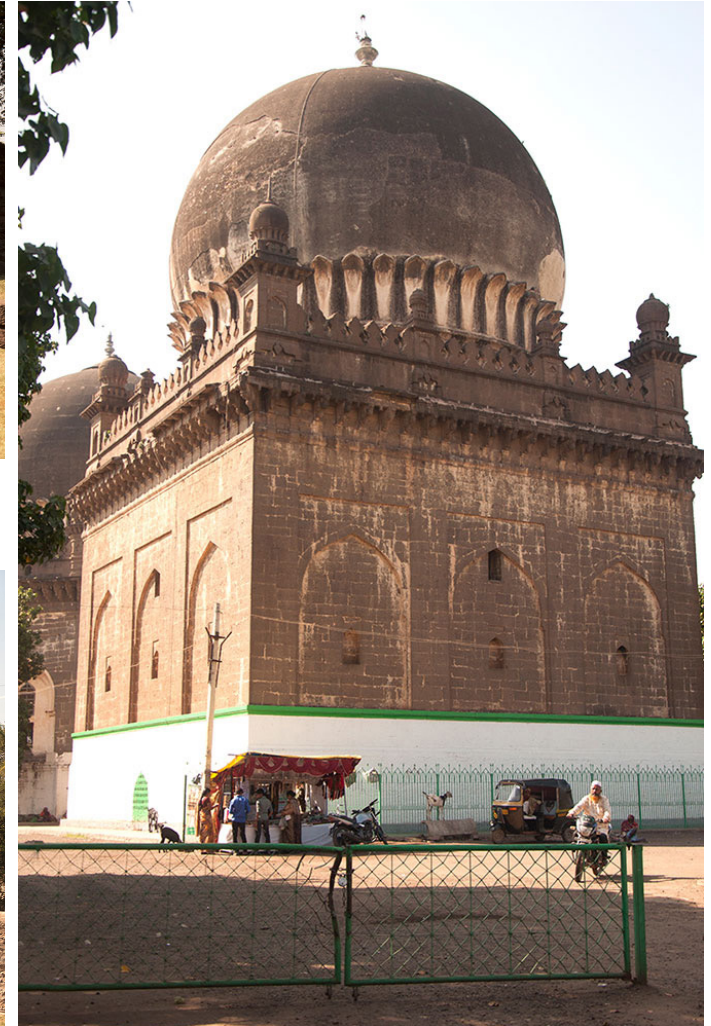
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Ruins near Jod Gumbaz.



Another ruins near Jod Gumbaz.



Jod Gumbad's twin domed tombs were built in memory of Khan Muhammad and Abdul Razzaq Qadiri. The two were considered traitors as the general and the spiritual advisor helped the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb defeat the young Adil Shahi ruler Sikandar. The structure was built in 1687 and is also known as Abdul Razzaq Dargah.

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Siddi Rahan's tomb / ASI guest house.

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Tomb of Siddi Rahan view from outside.



Tomb of Siddi Rahan.

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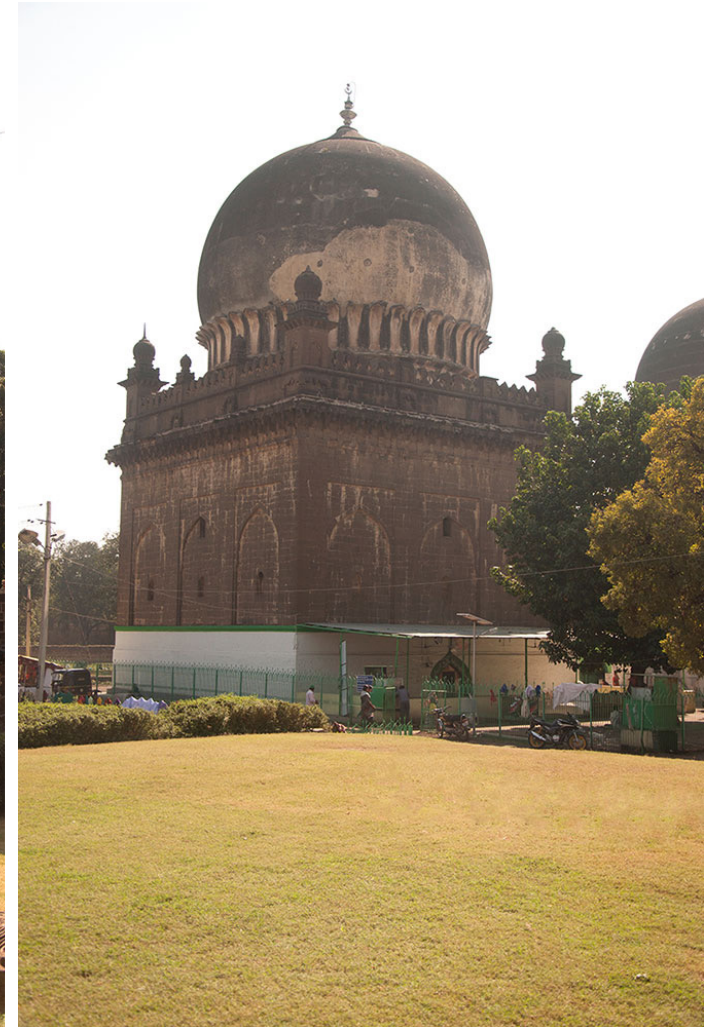
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Back view of Tomb of Siddi Rahan.



The Dargah offers a spoon of holy water to all visitors. The reason why tombs for traitors was built and considered holy is unknown. The structure has beautiful bulbous domes and the garden in which these tombs are sited is a popular picnic spot.

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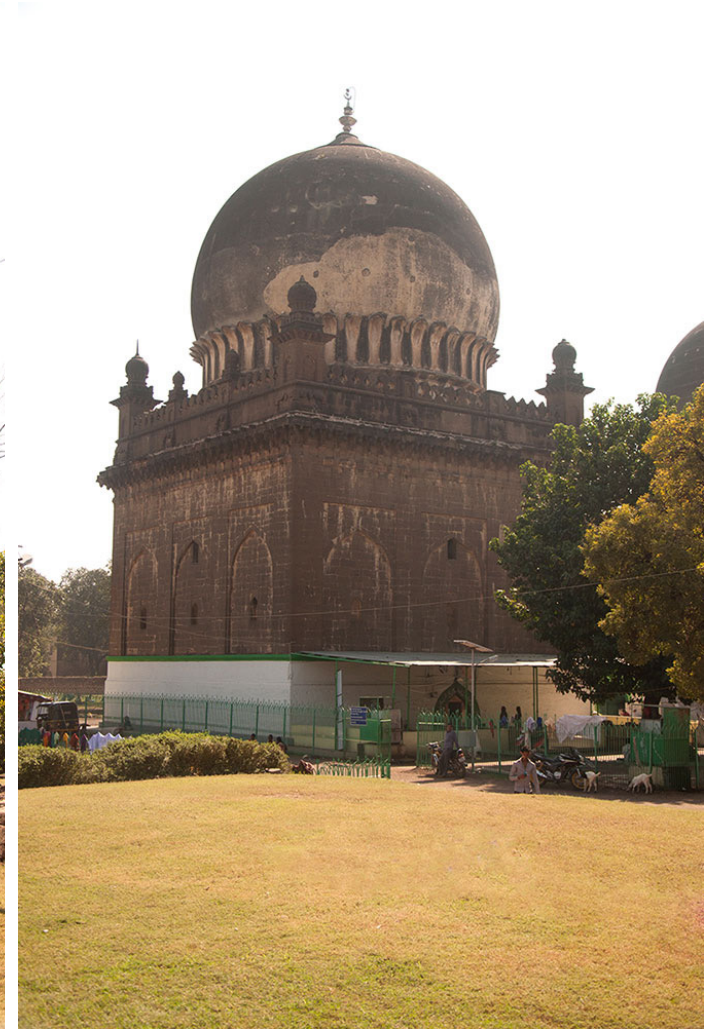
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Beautiful view of Siddi Rahan.



Mausoleum of Abdul Razzak Qadri.

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Tomb of Siddi Rahan.



Tomb of Siddi Rahan.

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Jamia Masjid

The unique feature in this masjid is the Quran written in gold at the Masjid's mehrab. This masjid is generally located in the south east part of the city which spreads over an area of about 10,810 square meters. The mosque building is in the shape of rectangle with 170 meters X 70 meters with a large courtyard with a water tank, along with the small sitting arrangements on two sides of the water tank. Where the person who practices the Islamic religion cleans his own feet, hands and face before reading/ listening to the Quran reading at the masjid.

At the front it represents with nine large arches with five inner arches of 45 compartments. It was built around in the year 1565 without full completion, this masjid is a prayer hall with fine aisles supported on piers with an impressive dome in the frontage with nine inlets. It is also very interesting to see the 2250 inlaid rectangular tiles in the form of prayer rugs in the masjid with the dome in semicircular shape. It is said in the year 1636 the mosque was gilded and inscribed with Persian verses and the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb got the mosque extended with eastern gates and verandahs to the east, south and the north. It is also known as Jami masjid or Jumma masjid, it is one of the largest and first constructed mosque of Bijapur built during the rule of Ali Adil Shah who acquired the land after conquering Ramaraja of Vijayanagar.

It was built to celebrate the Talikote victory and is one of the cost impressive and sublimity built by Ali Adil Shahi with a biocast door and 33 designer windows to the east. It has about 2250 grand arches. Many Quraan Slokas with beautiful designs of about 91000 sq. ft. Liger Kaman called Aurangzeb Gate.



Jamiya Masjid also known as Jumma Masjid is a greatest and one of the largest mosques in South India, It was built by Ali Adil Shah I (1558-1580) in the year 1578 after the victory over Vijaya Nagara at the Battle of Rakkasagi – Tangadagi in Talikoti in 1565. Considering the galloping number of worshippers Set in a perfect square of 1,16,300 sq. ft. 2250 to 2500 persons can offer prayers at a stretch. The Central Mihrab on the western wall is inscribed with lines from the Holy Koran. This inscription was completed in 1676 by Malik Yakut, under the orders from Sultan Muhammad Adil Shah. Bijapur has many domed monuments Jamiya Masjid 's dome is one of the finest dome among all.

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The jama masjid is 1200 yards to the east of the citadel which is in the city of bijapur. This mosque is built in rectangular shape, about 400 feet from east to west and 280 feet from north to south. This mosque stands unique in the city and doesn't coincide or look like any other in the city. There are columns in the main building which divided it to 45 equal square parts. The most attractive and beautiful feature in the building is the dome, it is beautifully painted and is unique in the city.

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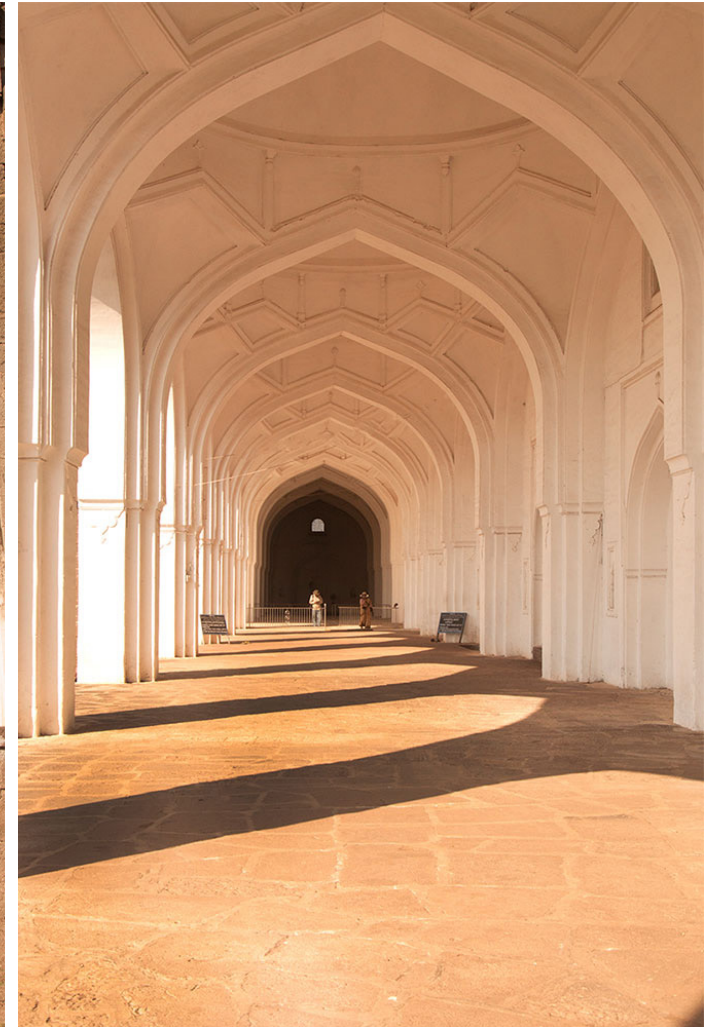
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The arch & pendent details.



Arch & pendentive detail inside the south liwan.

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Symmetry at Jumma Masjid.



One of the many bays at Jumma Masjid.

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One of the many bays beside the Mihrab.



The interior of the sanctuary is a large hall 208' X 107', divided into five aisles by arches on large masonry piers.

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Indo Islamic mixture of architecture is used for the construction of this beautiful mosque.



There is a fountain at the center, many arches and rooms, a hall and a dome with another 33 domes surrounding it. The masjid also has 12 arches built with 12 interleaving arches and a gateway designed by Aurangzeb.

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The arches intersect at the top to form an octagonal cornice for supporting the base of the dome.



Indo Islamic style designs done on arches.

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Indo Islamic mixture of architecture.

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The central bay with its mihrab.



Around 2,250 black squares have been erected on the polished floor, for the worshippers. It has been counted as one of the first mosques in India and holds a copy of the Quran written in gold.

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The exit gate on the North.



The twin minarets of Jumma Masjid are decorated with numerous pigeon-holes.

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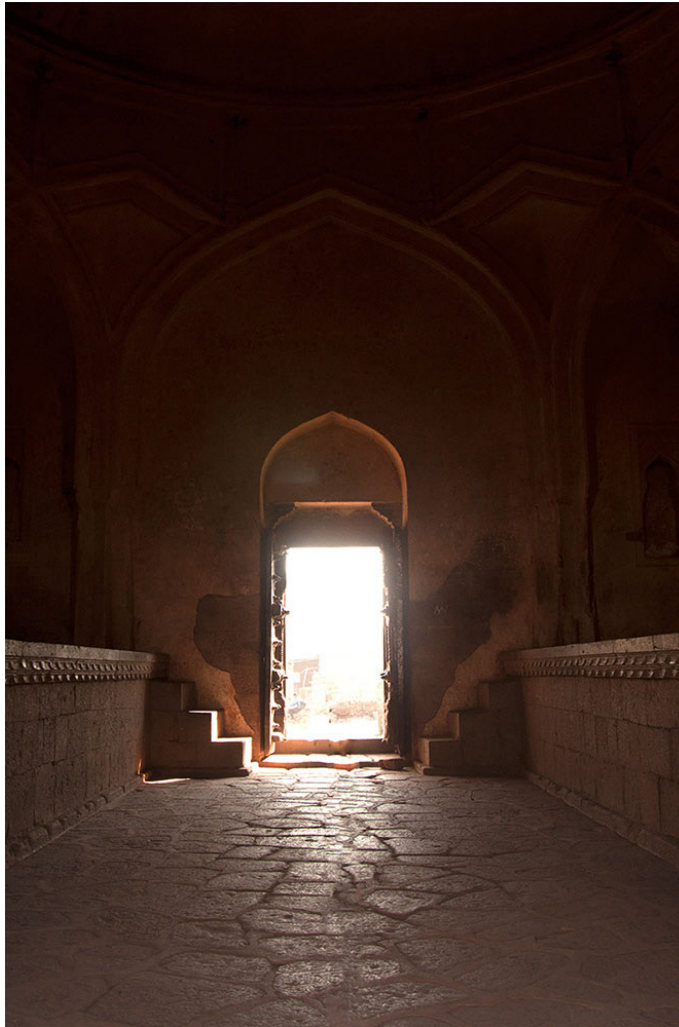
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The side door on the north.



A small side wooden door on the North.

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An entrance gateway was added later by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.



Ancient monument in black colour.

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The north faced entrance way.



The darwaza on the North façade.

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View of the musafir khana on the north.



The waiting place on the North side.

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The waiting rooms on the North side.

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The north faced entrance way.



The waiting rooms.

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View of the musafir khana & waiting rooms on the north.



The door on the north.

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The darwaza on the North façade.



View of the musafir khana.

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Musafir Khana.



The steps to the next floor.

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The waiting rooms.

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Muluk Maidan Tof

Mulukmaidan Tof is nothing but the machine gun that seemed to be used in the warfare of Talikote against the Vijayanagar kings in the year 1549. It is one of the largest artillery of the world that have been used, which weighs about 55 tons used in the decisive battle against Vijayanagar empire that spilt the end of the great dynasty.

Design of the artillery are exquisitely stylized with a lion holding an elephant and with a goat caught in its mouth. It is generally made up of the mixture (alloy) of five metals. This also has a green sheen and is cool to touch under the burning sun and produces a tinkling sound when struck. Another important aspect is that it is cast in Ahmednagar with Arabic and Persian writings as one of its main fascinations. It also gives a general view of the Bijapur city and the climb is an experience as the step railings are only one side of the steps. A person has to move safely especially with the children, as they may fall and get injuries or even to death, as this is one of the old monument built long years ago.



A beautiful view of the cannon/gun position in Mulukh Maidan.

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The steps to the on top of Mulukh Maidan.



The entrance gate to the Mulukh Maidan.

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Small room built on top of Mulukh Maidan fort.



The entry way to the fort top.

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The cannon at Mulukh Maidan - It is the largest medieval cannon in the world. Being 4 meters long, 1,5 meters in diameter and weighing 55 tons, this gun was brought back from Ahmadnagar in the 17th century as a trophy of war and drawn by 400 oxen, 10 elephants and hundreds of men. With 50-kg cannon balls, it used 600 kg of gunpowder in one go! Ten gunners were required to set it off and they had to jump into a tank of water to avoid going deaf.



A large cannon with a 700 millimeters (28 in) bore.



The cannon's nozzle is fashioned into the shape of a lion's head with open jaws & between the carved fangs is depicted an elephant being crushed to death.

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Written some message on cannon.



Holding hooks was attached to the cannon for transport or to move the cannon.

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The cannon at Mulukh Maidan - It is said that after igniting the cannon, the gunner would remain under-water in a tank of water on the platform to avoid the deafening explosion. The cannon remain cool even in strong sunlight and if tapped, tinkles like a bell.



Mulukh Maidan wall got destroyed during the battle.

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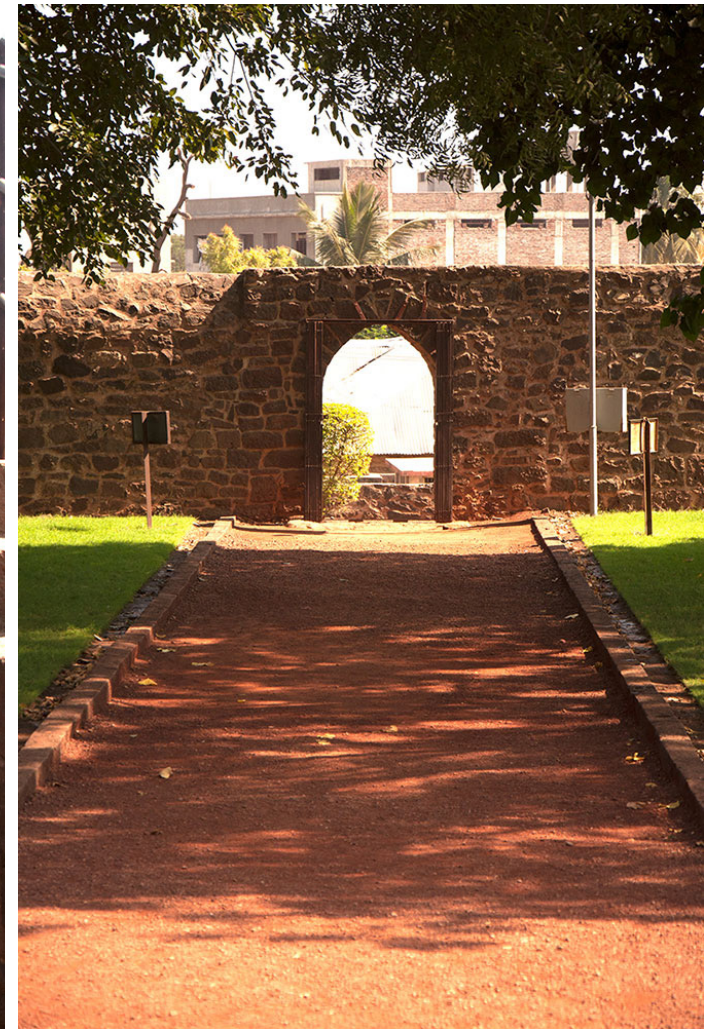
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A small gate way.



An exit gate way from Mulukh Maidan Tof.

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A beautiful Mukukh Maidan fort view from the cannon place.

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Taj Bawadi

This monument was built by Ibrahim Adil Shah in the honor of his wife Queen Taj Sultana in the year 1620. It is in a total area of 224 sq.ft with an outside area of 35 sq.ft and height of about 52 ft. At the entrance there is an arched entrance of the Gothic style that is bordered by the two octagonal towers. It is known as the water reservoir that was built to commemorate Ibrahim II's first wife Taj Sultana, the east and the west wings of the towers are used as rest house which provided accommodation for voyagers. The steps leads to the water edges nearby the high enclosing wall in terrace with low parapet wall.



Beyond the archway is a small platform and a flights of stairs on either sides of the platform leads one to the water.



A view of Taj Bawdi well and a structure of arch.

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A lancet shaped arch.



Traveler's rooms with lancet shaped windows.



Taj Bawdi constructed in 1620, is one of the interesting sights in Bijapur. Ruler Ibrahim Adil Shah built this well in honor of his queen Taj Sultana. It measures 223 sq feet and 52 feet deep. The entrance to the well has a 35 feet span majestic arch.



Traveler's room built near entrance.

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Octagonal tower.



The entrance arch is very impressive and has two octagonal towers; the east & west wings of the two towers were used as rest houses.

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The entrance arch.



Another tower with a rest house.

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Bara Kaman

It was the mausoleum of unmatched 12 arches of architectural quality built in the year 1672. It is one of the incomplete monuments of the Adil Shahi dynasty where the work was left incomplete for unknown reasons and only two arches were raised vertically. At the beginning this was referred to as Ali Roza later on changed by Shah Nawaz Khan to Bara Kaman as this was going to be the 12th monument to be built in his reign.

It is referred to as the twelfth commemorative built where many tombs have been placed. This monument of Bijapur has seven arches with the mausoleum which are positioned inside houses the memorials of Ali and the queens. This is located behind the Traveller's Bungalow at the station road, with seven arches on each side of the tomb. Bara Kaman consists of the tomb of Ali, his Queens and eleven other females with even greenish tomb laid with art work in itself. This is built of brown basaltic stone in Gothic style built on a raised platform with 215 feet (66m) square building.



Arches are built vertically as well as horizontally surrounding the tomb of Ali Adill Shah II.

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Street view near Bara Kaman.



The structure has raised walls in concentric arches.



The Bara Kaman was built in 1672AD, by Ali Adil Shah II. Bara Kaman is the incomplete mausoleum. Ali Adil Shah, ruler of the Adil Shahi Dynasty, wanted to build a tomb of exceptional quality. According to the plan, twelve arches were to be placed vertically and horizontally around the tomb.



Arches are purely Gothic in outline, being struck from two centers with the curves continued up to the crown.

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Incomplete arch.



Tomb of Ali Adill Shah II.



The structure of this building was proposed to have twelve arches, which are built vertically as well as horizontally surrounding the tomb of Ali Adill Shah II.

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Purely Gothic style concentric arch.



Concentric arch.



The architect Malik Sandal, initially raised solid walls in the form of concentric arches and once the entire wall was erected, the inner arches were toppled off and only the outermost arch was left intact.

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The most mystifying in the unfinished edifice is known as the Bara Kaman, or twelve arches.

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Inside Bara Kaman (12 Arches) is the unfinished mausoleum of Ali Adil Shah II.



Inside view of Bara Kaman.

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Solid wall in the form of concentric arches.



Concentric arch view from inside Bara Kaman.



Unfinished mausoleum concentric arches.



Mausoleum concentric arches in inside Bara Kaman.

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Concentric arch form of window on solid wall.



Solid wall in inside Bara Kaman.

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