

Rohtas Fort (Pakistan)

A Marvelous Historical Monument and a Memorable Work of Architecture

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Rohtas fort, 109 km from Rawalpindi (Pakistan) and 6km south west of Dina town is a marvelous piece of art which reflects the strong architectural sense of Muslims.

The gigantic fort is on steep rock jutting into the river Kahan, its ramparts protected on the western and northern sides by a river and by high hills in the east and south.

The fort is one of the most impressive historical monuments in Pakistan. It was built between 1540 and 1547AD by the Afghan ruler Sher Shah Suri, who recognized the strategic importance of Rohtas.

The 'Ghakkhars' who lived around Rohtas persuaded the people not to allow a supply of raw materials, such as bricks and stones, to the builders of the fort. They also

blocked various tracks leading to the site. But Sher Shah declared that any one who brought a stone would get a rupee. It was not expected that Sher Shah's men would honour the agreement but once they supplied the stones they were paid one rupee for each stone.

There were plenty of bricks for the construction of the fort as one rupee was a considerable amount of money at that time. All the Gakkhars attempts to undermine the project failed and the fort was completed in 1543 A.D. It served as a huge fortified base for Sher Shah's military operations against

the Ghakkhars and was later used by the Mughal emperor Akber and Sikhs.

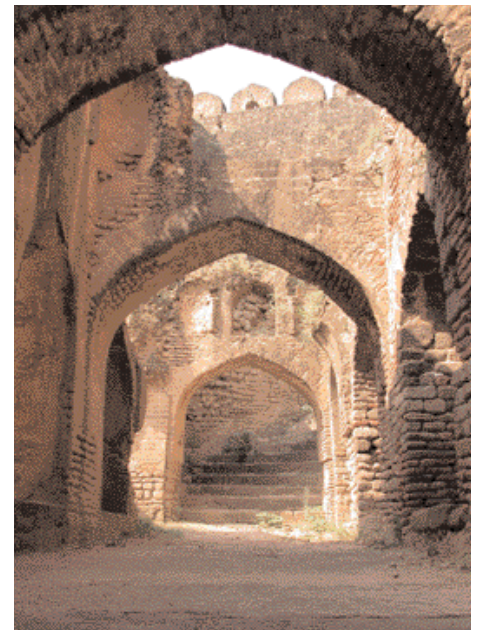
The perimeter of Rohtas Fort is about six kilometers. It is surrounded by a massive wall and twelve gates. Its most sticking feature is its majestic wall with 68 bastions. As well as strengthening the wall, these bastions give a touch of elegance and grandeur to the fort.

The height of the fortification wall ranges from 30 to 40 feet. It is made of sand stone and coarse rubble masonry, laid in lime mortar and mixed with granular brick grit. ▶



Entrance Gate

بوابة المدخل



Arches

أقواس



Arches

أقواس



Stairs

درج

Within the huge terraced rampart walls, there is another fortress, as well as palaces and ancillary buildings.

Sohal Gate, (21.34 m x 20.7m), has a central opening of 4.72m wide guarding the south west wall. It is in a fair condition even today and is being used as a rest house. It is flanked by elaborate balconies carried on brackets and sturdy bastions. As it is more than eighty feet in height it provides a grand entrance to the magnificent fort complex.

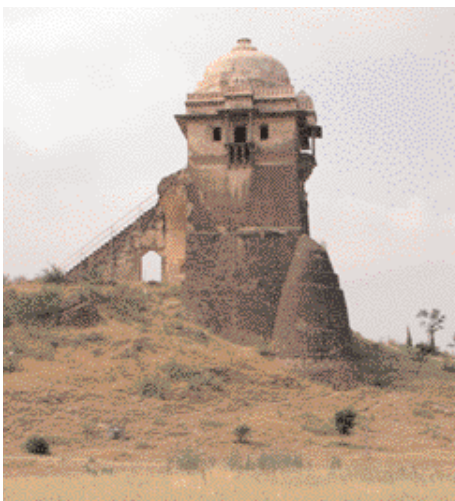
A small town has developed inside the fort and several thousand people live there. The size of this town can be judged from the fact that there are more than ten schools

and twelve mosques. There is enough space in the fort for the development of two similar towns. There were more buildings inside the fort but they either collapsed due to neglect, or were demolished during the Mughal or later periods.

Rohtas Fort, an excellent example of the military astuteness of Sher Shah Suri, has marvelous qualities of strength and solidity and is the finest specimen of medieval military architecture in Pakistan. It was declared a world heritage list, by UNESCO, in 1997.

UNESCO has stated that the Muslim military architecture of central and South Asia blends architecture and artistic traditions from Turkey and the Indian sub-continent to

create the model for Mughal architecture and its subsequent refinements and adaptations. Rohtas Fort has an outstanding universal appeal. It is protected under the Antiquities Act 1975 and is maintained by the Pakistan government's Department of Archaeology. It is a marvelous historical monument and a memorable work of architecture. The fort derives its fame from the architectural beauty, which captivates visitors. Thousands of visitors come to experience its enhancement and never forget its beauty, the land which encircles it and river which flows nearby. This fort is a vital source of annual tourism revenue and provides tourists with a wonderful site for recreation and relaxation. ■



Sufaid Mahal

صوفي محل



Entrance Gate

البوابة الرئيسية