

## **Heritage Arch of Uttar Pradesh: The Cities of Living Heritage(Agra, Lucknow & Varanasi) with Special Reference to Lucknow.**

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### **Abstract-**

Uttar Pradesh Government has created Heritage Arc to boost tourism in the state. The heritage Arc tourist circuit of Uttar Pradesh covering the cities of Agra, Lucknow, and Varanasi. Tourism in Uttar Pradesh also include historical importance of these three cities. The heritage Arc runs across the heart of Uttar Pradesh, this circuit effortlessly traverses great epochs of Indian history , heritage,art, culture, myriad cuisine and spiritual traditions. The heritage Arc is well connected through the air,rail, and road expressway.The heritage Arc of Uttar Pradesh provides an opportunity to explore the state in all its glory.The Arc takes travellers though a kaleidoscope journey of monuments, architectural wonders, pilgrimage centres, spiritual experiences and wildlife. Lucknow is one of the most important centre of heritage Arc and in this paper I would like to present the historical and cultural importance of Lucknow and its role in the development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh.

**Key words-** Circuit, Heritage.

### **Introduction:-**

Lucknow the City of Nawab's is the capital of Uttar Pradesh. The city has also known for their Nawab's & Tehzeb in all over the country. Everybody knows that the people of this city are very cultured & make delicious Lucknow foods. As a capital of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow is the political and administrative hub of Uttar Pradesh. It is the busiest city of Uttar Pradesh. Not only for official and political works it is also famous for there heritage and legend history. Lots of Historical Monuments are situated here and a large number of tourists come to Lucknow to visits these historical monuments. So Lucknow has become one of the important destinations of Heritage arch in Uttar Pradesh.

### **History of Lucknow-**

Vibrant and cosmopolitan Lucknow earned fame as the seat of Nawabs of Awadh in 18th Century. Its history and heritage however goes back much further. The city is believed to have been founded by Lakshman, the younger brother of Lord Rama who gave his name to it. As Lucknow grew it came under the rule of various kingdoms including the Delhi Sultans and The Mughals. The city finally came into its own in the 18th & 19th centuries as the capital of Nawabs of Awadh, who were feudatories of Mughals. They lavished such attention on it then it came to be known as the "Golden City" and "Constantinople of the East." The disintegration of the Mughal Empire made Awadh a kingdom in its own right. The rise of the East India Company in India ushered in the new era which saw fall of awadh and the state being annexed to British India in 1856. The last Nawab, Wajid Ali Shah, was exiled to Kolkatta. The next year Lucknow emerged as one of the main center of the revolt of 1857. In the fierce of fighting that ensued much of the historic city was battered. The British regained control of Lucknow and it later became the capital of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Lucknow continue to play an important role and after Independence was Named Capital of the New State of Uttar Pradesh.

### **Lucknow as a part of Heritage Arch in Uttar Pradesh-**

As Heritage City such as Lucknow can be expected to be littered with monuments and buildings. While many important buildings were destroyed and many more are passed their best days, many remains reflect the City's Glory. Lucknow's social and cultural milieu is such that history Art and Culture are part of its everyday fabric and visitors can find many things that interest them. The major tourist attraction of Lucknow are

- 1- Bara Imambara-** The Bara Imambara of Lucknow is one of the most famous monuments in the city. The Imambara is primarily known for its incredible maze, known as Bhulaiya locally, which is located on the upper floor of the monument. It is said that there are 1024 ways to get inside the maze but only 2 to come out. Also known as Asfi Imambara, after the name of the Nawab of Lucknow who got it constructed. It is an important place of worship for the Muslims who come here every year to celebrate the religious festival of Muharram. Said to be the world's largest structure that is considered a marvel of engineering and a fine specimen of Mughal architecture. The Imambara has a unique style of construction. Moreover, no wood or metal has been used in the construction of this mosque. One can also have a view of the grave of Nawab Asaf- Ud- Dowlah and his crown, which is kept in the central hall which is said to be the largest vaulted chamber in the world.

### **2-Chota Imambara-**

The Chhota Imambara, or the Imambara of Hussainabad, is one of the most beautiful and attractive buildings in the old city of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. This imposing monument lies to the west of Bara Imambara and is a true sight to behold. The Chhota Imambara was initially a congregation hall for Shia Muslims that was built by Muhammad Ali Shah, who was the third Nawab of Awadh, in 1838. The Imambara was to serve as his own mausoleum as well as that of his mother, who is buried beside him in this prestigious monument. The Imambara is beautifully adorned with decorations and chandeliers at the time of special festivals, especially Muharram. In fact, this 19<sup>th</sup>-century building is also referred to as the 'Palace of Lights' by European visitors and writers because of the profuse decorations of the monument at specific events.

It is a beautiful amalgam of Charbagh, Indo-Islamic and Persian structural and architectural designs. The exterior is complete with Quranic verses which are written in Islamic calligraphy on the walls of the monument. However, it is not just the exterior of the Imambara which catches the fancy of the eager visitors. Even the interiors of the monument are designed and maintained with intricate details and utmost care.

### **3-Rumi Darwaza-**

The famous Rumi Darwaza is a striking gateway standing tall at sixty feet tall in the old city of Lucknow. It lies between the Bara Imambara and Chhota Imambara exhibiting ancient Awadhi architecture. Built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula, it is also known as the Turkish Gate because it is modelled after Bab-i-Humayun gateway in Turkey. The creation of Rumi Darwaza has a very charitable reason behind it. When famine struck North India during 1748, the then Nawab of Lucknow came up with a plan that would feed his countrymen as well as give him something to cherish and be proud of. As per the plan, the Awadhi workers built the great Rumi Darwaza for him, in exchange for everyday meal. Rumi Darwaza in the heart of Lucknow looms over the busy everyday traffic of Lajpatnagar like an old guardian angel that has seen the city rise and fall. Through the arch of the Rumi Darwaza run roadways to both sides and they remain busy, crowded and cacophonous all day long. The rush of vehicles and the brunt of time have weakened it, but it still stands ever strong and majestic, looking even more resplendent when lit up at night.

#### **4-British Residency-**

The British Residency of Lucknow, which is also a Residential Complex served as the headquarters for the generals of the British East India Company. However, with the 1857 uprising, this once composed complex turned into a British refugee camp during that revolt. The fort is now in ruins and a British cemetery nearby sites the graves of all the colonisers who died during the Lucknow siege. The ruins are now protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. The Residency also hosts a light and sound reminiscing the 1857 revolt show every evening.

#### **5-ChattarManzil-**

ChattarManzil or popularly known as Umbrella Palace was built by Nawab Ghazi Uddin Haider and was later on used by the ruler of Awadh and his wives. Located on the banks of the river Gomti, the building is a glowing example of Nawabi and European architecture. The ChattarManzil has large underground rooms and a huge chhatra adorning its dome. It has also made special appearances in the 2013 Bollywood film Jolly LLB 2. This palace was initially constructed in 1781 by Claude Martin, the French Major General of the time. Today, the ChattarManzil sites the CDRI or the Central Drug Research Institute.

#### **6-JamaMasjid-**

The Jama Masjid is one of the most beautiful mosques in India. Built on lines similar to the one in Delhi, this mosque too is an architectural splendour. The construction of this mosque was started in 1839 by Nawab Mohammad Ali Shah Bahadur. The mosque is rich in history and is one of the favourite haunts of history enthusiasts. The mosque has a central prayer hall with eleven massive arches. The pillars in the mosque are covered with beautiful and intricate carvings that are reminiscent of Indo-Islamic art.

#### **7-Dilkusha Kothi-**

Of all the major Places to visit in Lucknow Dilkusha Kothi holds a special place. It is the ruins of a house that was built on the lines of baroque houses found in England. Although, this house was the summer resort for Nawabs, yet it was built by a Britisher, Major Gore Ouseley. The house stands witness to the splendour of British India. It was designed on lines of the major palaces and halls in England. The Kothi is a beautiful culmination of Indian and British style of art and architecture.

#### **8-Constantia House-**

The Constantia House is a part of the grounds of the La Martiniere College of Lucknow. It is also a major historical spot because during the Sepoy Mutiny the British forces had converted this house into a fortress. You can still see the plaques commemorating the contribution of the young students of La Martiniere College in protecting the Residency against the mutineers. Other than being a historical spot, the Constantia House is also known for its extensive burial grounds.

#### **9-State Museum-**

The Lucknow State Museum is located within the grounds of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Zoological Gardens, in Banarasi Bagh. This museum has an extensive collection of archaeological artefacts, coins and paintings. You will also find a wide collection of ancient weapons and musical instruments in the museum.

#### **10-Satkhanda-**

You want to visit a place that has been built on the lines of the Leaning Tower of Pisa then pay a visit to Satkhanda in Lucknow. It is a historical spot in Hussainabad and it stands just outside the grounds of the Chota Imambara of Lucknow. The construction of this tower was started by King Mohammed Ali Shah. However with the death of the Nawab the

construction of the watch tower was abandoned. Hence, only four levels of the tower had been built. Originally, it was planned that the tower would have seven levels and hence, the name 'Satkhanda'. It is one of the major landmarks of Lucknow.

### **11-Shaheed Smarak-**

This monument was built to pay tribute to the mutineers of the Revolt of 1857 who have been recognized as the first freedom fighters of India. The Shaheed Smarak stands opposite the Residency Building in Lucknow. The white monolith pays homage to all those unknown soldiers who laid down their lives in the hope to free India from British dominance. When you visit the Smarak you must pay tribute to the fallen heroes of India. After that you can enjoy walking in the gardens that surround the structure. You can also go for paddle boat rides in the water body near the Smarak.

### **12--Hazratganj-**

Hazratganj is a bustling market **Built** that lies in the heart of Lucknow. The foundation for this market was laid in the year 1827 by Nawab Nasiruddin Haider. However, the market was renamed in the year 1842 and came to be known as Hazratganj. It has been so named after Nawab Amjad Ali Shah who was known as 'Hazrat'.The market is rich in history as well as culture. If you are looking for beautiful chikankari items or exclusive handicrafts of Uttar Pradesh, then Hazratganj is the place to be.

### **13-Lucknow Chowk-**

The Chowk area in Lucknow is one of the oldest markets in the state as well as the whole of North India. It is one of those places in the city that are a window into its rich cultural heritage. Beginning from chikan to succulent kebabs and makhana malai, Lucknow Chowk is one of the prime shopping and food hub.The Chowk market has more than 5000 shops spread around the narrow, labyrinthine cobweb of streets on both sides and sometimes taking much of the road itself. In these quaint shops, both bricked shops as well as temporary ones, you will find authentic chikankari and zardozi dresses, traditional handmade jewellery, handcrafted home décor items from wood, bamboo and ivory, nagara shoes, ittar or perfume made from essence of real flowers, and innumerable other small and big items, in varieties beyond your imagination.Other than these, to soothe your tingling culinary senses, there are a handful of shops selling authentic Awadhi food – kebabs, biryanis, paratha with chicken or mutton and milk products as well. Though a modern business hub selling products suitable for the urban, metropolitan tourists, somewhere, Lucknow Chowk market still holds on to the Awadhi ambience of the past and remains true to its roots.

### **14-Moti Mahal Palace-**

Built by Nawab Saadat Ali Khan, the Moti Mahal is popularly known as the Pearl Palace. This historical monument located on the banks of river Gomti is constructed next to Mubarak Manzil and Shah Manzil. A former residence of the Nawabs of Lucknow during the time, Moti Mahal was initially a part of the Qaisar Bagh complex.The deteriorating flawless white structure of the palace is a great birdwatching spot, as the Nawabs of the time used to love sighting birds and other animal fights for entertainment. Today, the surrounding gardens are used to hold conferences, parties and other such special occasions.

### **15-Husainabad Clock Tower-**

Standing tall adjacent to the Rumi Darwaza, the Husainabad Clock Tower was built in 1881 and since has been the tallest clock tower in India. It is 67 meters high, displaying Victorian-Gothic brilliance with a 14 feet long pendulum and a dial in the shape of a 12 petalled flower.It was only in 2010 that this manually operated clock was upgraded to an electrical clock. Towards the end of 2011, this clock gradually made the tall clock tower metal

noise after 27 years. This four-faced structure of the clock is said to have been replicated based on the famous clock tower in England, the Big Ben. This tower is surrounded by vegetable and fruit vendors even local food stalls. There is also a Husainabad reservoir nearby.

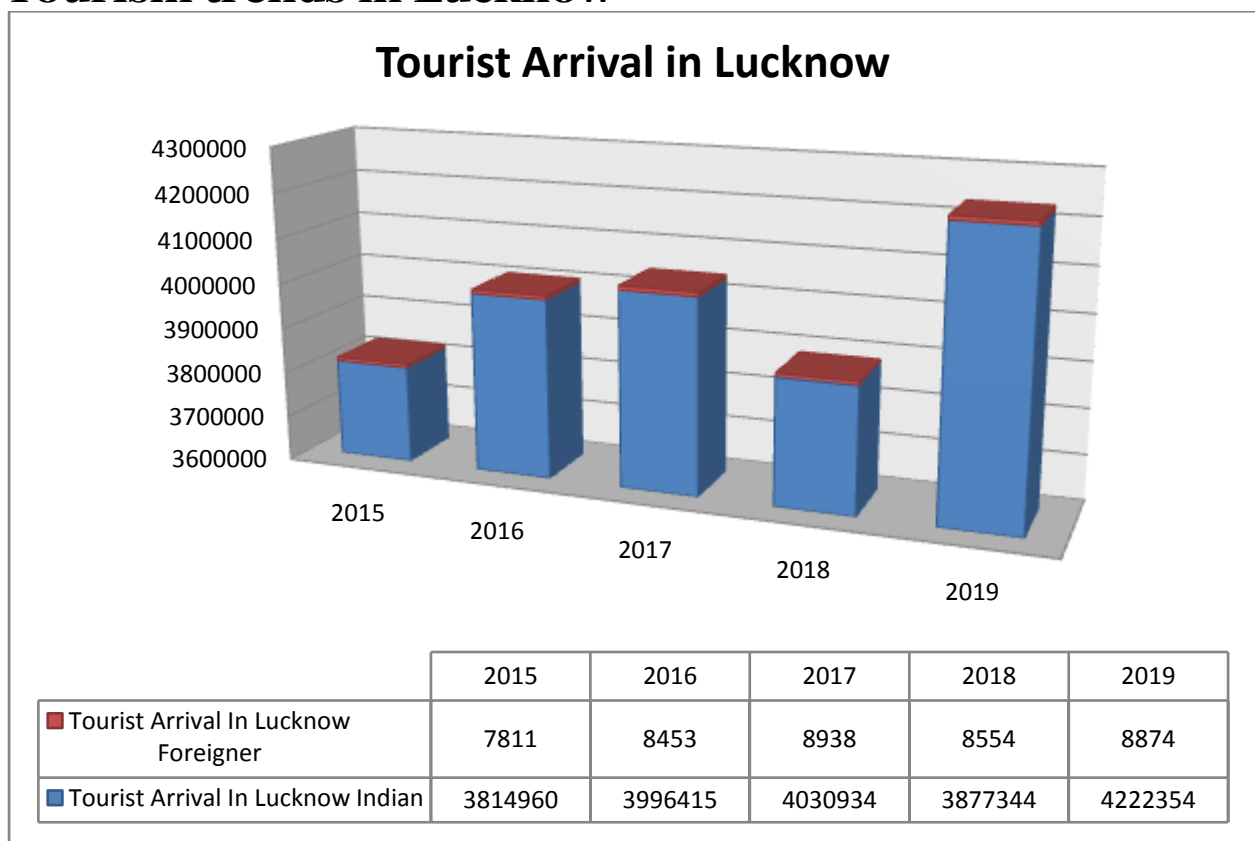
### Festivals of Lucknow

Lucknow has a cosmopolitan population with people from across North India and other parts of the country. Many festivals including Makar Sankranti, Holi, Basant Panchami, Ram Navami, Teej, Raksha Bandhan, Id-ul-Fitr, Dusshera, Id-ul-Zuha, Karva Chauth, Diwali, Bhaiya Dhoj, Muharram and Christmas are celebrated here. Lucknow Mahotsav held during November-December showcases the city's culture with literature, music, dance and food.

### Gastronomy of Lucknow

Lucknow is a gastronomic paradise. Developed over centuries, cooking has acquired the level of a fine art here. The dum style of cooking was invented in the city during the days of the nawabs. From the humble street corner stall to five-star establishments, a variety of delicious dishes satisfy the most fastidious palates. These include kababs, kormas, nahari, kaliya and paya to be relished with a range of breads including kulchas, zarda, sheermal, roomali roti and warqi paratha. Biryani is cooked in the unique Awadhi style. A variety of other dishes, chaats and sweets cater to different tastes. Visitors can savour all these traditional delicacies in the heart of the city.

### Tourism trends in Lucknow



(Source from UP Tourism Website)



City	Visitor Destination	Importance	Grade
Lucknow	Residency	Historically significant spot	B
	Chota Imambada	Historically significant spot	A
	BadaImambada	Historically significant spot	A
	RoomiDarwaza	Historically significant spot	A
	Kaiserbagh Palace	Historically significant spot	B

(Source from UP Tourism Website)

### Conclusion-

The state of Uttar Pradesh is bestowed with a rich cultural, historical, religious and spiritual heritage. The purpose of the Heritage Arc is not only to increase the tourist footfall to catch a glimpse of the architectural finesse of the historical monuments but also let the tourists gain useful information on the history of religion , spirituality, cuisine, ,art and culture associated with Agra , Lucknow and Varanasi.Lucknowthe city of Nawab is not far behind when it comes to revival of the cultural heritage , beautification and development works. The capital city is quite appropriately located on the midst of the Heritage Arc of Uttar Pradesh. Currently development is in progress on the banks of the river Gomti. All the heritage building of Lucknow plays an important role to promote tourism in Uttar Pradesh not only the monuments but also the Awadhi cuisine which includes the all time kebabs and biryani, so that the tourists in the city get to relish the teste of delectable recipes created for the Nawabs of Awadh. Thus the Heritage Arc initiative by the UP government is expected to increase the tourist inflow in the state of Uttar Pradesh and make it one of the most favoured tourism destinations in India.

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