

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK'S POTENTIAL & PROBLEMS – A REVIEW OF TRIPADVISOR REVIEWS



Mehrauli's Archaeological Park unfolds like a journey through time. From the remains of the Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty of the early 1200s to the British repurposing of Mughal sites in the 1800s, from the baoli (step-well) of the Lodhi's in the early 1500's to 21st century outdoor exercise equipment, this peaceful jungle park is fascinating. As of the writing of this post, TripAdvisor listed it as a 4.5 dot experience, #24th of 439 things to do in Delhi (https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction_Review-g304551-d3971182-Reviews-Mehrauli_Archaeological_Park-New_Delhi_National_Capital_Territory_of_Delhi.html).

Here are a few of the reviews espousing the great potential of the Archeological Park:

- Representation of a Rich Heritage: whistlinghound from Wroclaw, Poland wrote on August 5, 2018: "Of the numerous architectural prowess that Delhi boasts of, Mehrauli Archeological Park is one of the most exciting... Visit the place to behold the flourishing Persian art, architecture, and rich heritage preserves, which happen to be a gift from the imperials." (https://www.tripadvisor.in/ShowUserReviews-g304551-d3971182-r603014878-Mehrauli_Archaeological_Park-New_Delhi_National_Capital_Territory_of_Delhi.html)
- Peaceful Getaway: Nishit7 from India wrote on February 24, 2015: "There have been people living in the area for over 900 years now and you can feel that because the ruins are from different eras. It's one of my quiet places in Delhi to go and think and introspect and get back in touch with nature."

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Yet a closer look at the 300+ reviews reveal the problems:

- Difficult-to-find entrances: Lisa from Kuala Lumpur wrote on April 4, 2019, “Our driver did not know the way to the entrances and the locals that we stopped to ask didn’t know either. It took us quite a while to find the entrance.” (https://www.tripadvisor.in/ShowUserReviews-g304551-d3971182-r663642993-Mehrauli_Archaeological_Park-New_Delhi_National_Capital_Territory_of_Delhi.html)
- Trash: Babak from London wrote on March 7, 2019: “...There is litter everywhere...” and Hazel wrote on February 23, 2019: “unfortunately the tombs and mosques are surrounded by rubbish. Disappointing.” (https://www.tripadvisor.in/ShowUserReviews-g304551-d3971182-r656921242-Mehrauli_Archaeological_Park-New_Delhi_National_Capital_Territory_of_Delhi.html)
- Lack of Guides and Good Signage: Mayday1942 on December 23, 2018 sums it up, “The park presents a picture of apathy and total neglect. A thousand years' magnificent historical monuments are allowed to rot and wither away. Guides are conspicuous by their absence. Due to poor signages, one has to blunder along and feel happy when he locates an interesting monument.” (https://www.tripadvisor.in/ShowUserReviews-g304551-d3971182-r641103994-Mehrauli_Archaeological_Park-New_Delhi_National_Capital_Territory_of_Delhi.html)

The reviews reveal a consistent theme: “Mehrauli’s Archeological Park is an amazing place that is worth seeing, BUT...”

What if we removed the “but?” What would it take to solve the problems listed above? We don’t know the answers, at least not yet, but at Project Mehrauli we want to do something. We long to preserve and restore the glory of this place for the enjoyment of people from Mehrauli to Miami and everywhere in between.