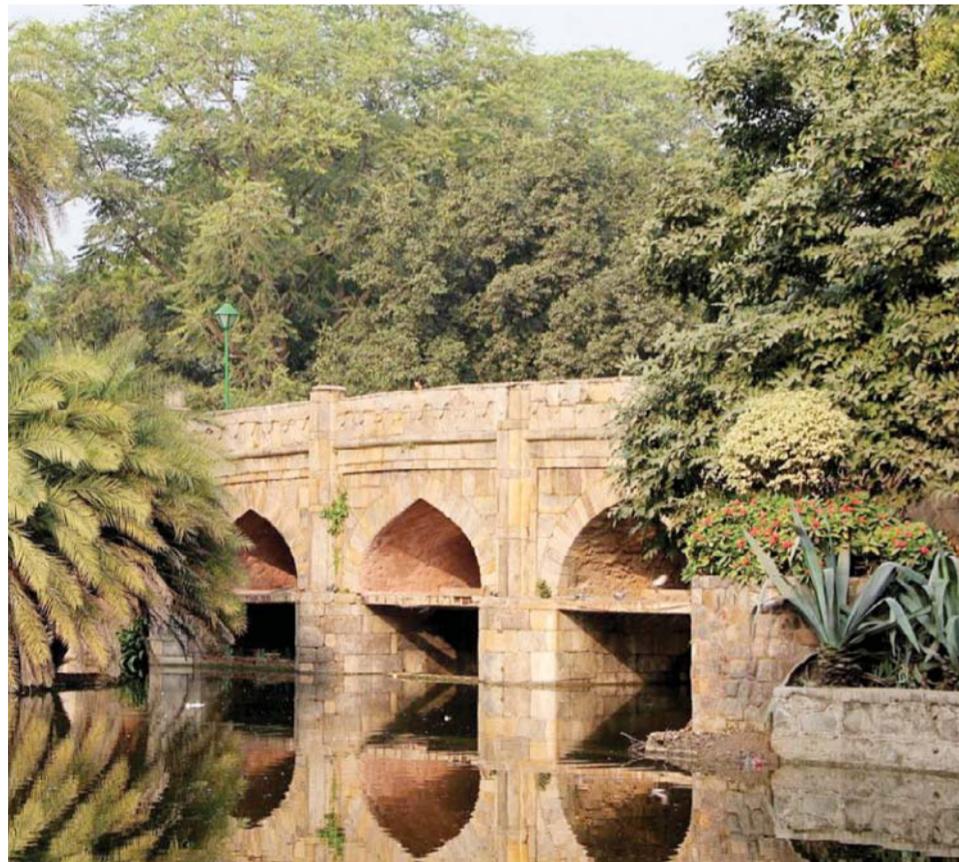




The last resting place of Mohammed Shah Sayyid, Lodi Gardens.



Islamic motifs on the Athpula Bridge.



There's no mistaking the inspiration for Delhi's lotus-shaped Bahai House of Worship.

If there's one thing you can guarantee when travelling somewhere new, it's an unexpected cost you didn't budget for - an irresistible detour, a magical moment you just have to have, a few extra days in somewhere amazing. Take heart though; in Delhi, you can stretch your budget by exploring a string of free sights and attractions, leaving more left over for those little indulgences. When visiting India's historic capital, it's worth paying out for big-hitting sights such as the Red Fort and Qutb Minar, but don't overlook the abundant free sights and experiences in this fascinating city. Take your pick from verdant parkland, centuries-old monuments, mysticism and faith, colonial pomp and circumstance and exploring contemporary Indian culture and the arts.

Keeping the faith at the Bahai House of Worship
This lotus-shaped temple was conceived and created by architect Furiburz Sabha in the suburbs of South Delhi, close to the burgeoning commercial district of Nehru Place. In step with the tenets of the Bahai religion, the house of worship is open to all and everyone is invited to worship according to their own customs. Reflected in nine encircling pools, the gleaming marble structure is set in expansive gardens that teem with visitors, yet it retains a peaceful air of prayer and contemplation. Dusk finds the monument painted in surreal colors by floodlights as the sun sinks over the cityscape.

Soulful stirrings at the Nizamuddin Auliya shrine
You can step back seven centuries at the shrine of

Delhi's most beloved Sufi mystic. Every Thursday evening, singers fill the air with soulful qawwalis (spiritual songs) honoring both the Sufi mystic Hazrat Khwaja Syed Nizamuddin Auliya and his disciple, the poet Amir Khusrao, also buried here. A warren of narrow streets lined with hawkers, mendicant holy men and snack stands leads to the shrine, which is a riot of colours, fragrant with heady incense and sweet-smelling rose petals. Irrespective of faith, gender, or age, the Nizamuddin Dargah is one of Delhi's most emotive and stimulating spots.

Calm green spaces and crumbling mausoleums
The Lodi Gardens, formerly Lady Willingdon Park, are one of the city's favorite green spaces, visited by neigh-