



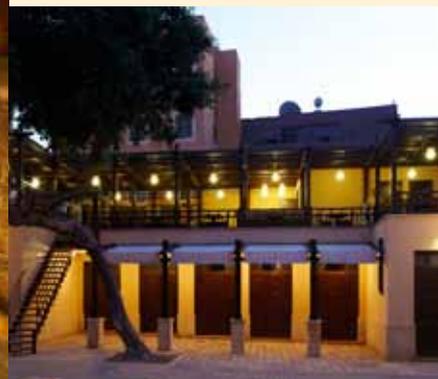
The Cultural Heritage of
Al-Darb Al-Ahmar
Historic Cairo - Egypt



Aslam al-Silahdar Mosque

Al-Darb al-Ahmar area, one of the most vibrant and lively parts of Historic Cairo, is very rich in cultural heritage and has a number of magnificent and valuable historic buildings, significant architecture and traditional handicrafts. The Aga Khan Trust for Culture is engaged in a serious process of heritage conservation and restoration of these gemstones, as well as the rehabilitation and development of the area.

Visiting the Azhar Park and al-Darb al-Ahmar area provides the visitors with a unique historic experience of Cairo, its architecture and traditions. The visitors can start by visiting the recently excavated archaeological site (at the north of the park) with important Fatimid (969-1171), Ayyubid (1171-1250) and Mamluk (1250-1517) remains indicating the foundation of al-Qahira (Cairo) and its development. This can be followed by a walk on the ramparts of the Historic Ayyubid Wall (12th century) or on the promenade beside the wall.



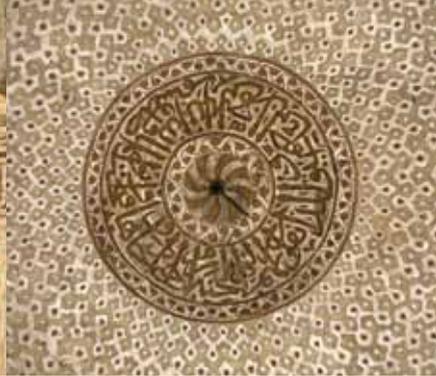
Aslam Square & Gallery

Bab al-Mahruq (one of the important gates of the Historic Wall) provides easy and direct access to al-Darb al-Ahmar district and a pleasant square (Aslam square) that houses Aslam al-Silahdar Mosque* (14th century) and a gallery* selling handicrafts produced by local and traditional craftsmen in the community. Bab Zuwayla (the famous gate of Cairo), the Qijmas al-Ishaqi Mosque, the Maridani Mosque, the Umm al-Sultan Sha`ban Madrasa and Mosque*, the house of al-Razzaz, the Mosque and Mausoleum of Khayer Bek*, the Aqsunqur-Blue Mosque*, the Alinaq Palace* and the Tarabay Mausoleum* are among many of the authentic gemstones of al-Darb al-Ahmar district dating back to the Mamluk and Ottoman periods.

A walk through the district of al-Darb al-Ahmar with its small busy streets, significant and historic buildings, traditional crafts and authentic spirit is indeed a must.



Umm al-Sultan Sha`ban



Tarabay Mausoleum



Aqsunqur-Blue Mosque



Khayer Bek Complex



Street View



Historic Ayyubid Wall



1. The Ayyubid Wall; Bab al-Mahruq (12th century AD)*
2. Mosque of Aslam al-Silahdar (1344-45 AD)*
and Aslam square & gallery*
3. Mosque of Qijmas al-Ishaqi - known as Abu Hriba (1480 - 81 AD)
4. Mosque of Altinbugha al-Maridani (1339 - 40 AD)
5. Bayt al-Razzaz (15th century AD)
6. Madrasa and Mosque of Umm al-Sultan Sha'ban (1368 - 69 AD)*
7. Minaret of Zawiyat al-Hunud*
8. Mosque of Aqsunqur - known as the Blue Mosque (1346 - 47 AD)
later interventions during the Ottoman period by Ibrahim Aga
Mostahfizan (1652 AD)*
9. Ottoman houses (17th century)*
10. Khayer Bek Mausoleum and Mosque (1502 - 20 AD)*
11. Alinaq palace 14th century AD*
12. Mausoleum of Taraby al-Sharifi; early 16th century AD*
13. Ribbat of Azdumur; early 16th century AD*
14. Archaeological Park with Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk Remains
(10th - 16th century AD)*

Conservation and Restoration Projects funded, managed and carried out by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in cooperation with the local Egyptian authorities (such as the Supreme Council of Antiquities, the Cairo district, etc) and a number of institutions. Some projects received co-funding from the World Monuments Fund and the American Research Center in Egypt [USAID grant].



AGA KHAN CULTURAL SERVICES - EGYPT

www.alazharpark.com