The Cultural Heritage of
Al-Darb Al-Ahmar
Historic Cairo - Egypt
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.
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.
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 Zawiyyat 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)*

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