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# BHADKAL DARWAZA

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Bhadkal Darwaza is very popular in Aurangabad town due to its old and massive structure constructed in the centre of the city on the south west of Naukhanda palace. This gate was used as the entrance gateway of the city. It is the biggest gate in the Deccan. The original name of this gate was Bharkul Darwaza meaning a large gate.

The History of this gate tells the story of the Mughal Governor of Gujarat Abdullah Khan who attacked Nizam Shahi Kingdom, but was badly defeated by a brave general Malik Ambar in the Battle. The victory Gate (or Bhadkal gate) was probably raised on the place where the victory was sought. This gate is an independent gate raised on a high ground and is not attached or connected to wall of the Naukhanda palace. It is one of the largest and most remarkable gateways built in the Deccan. The technology of the construction of this gate is altogether different than other gates or buildings

constructed in Aurangabad during those days. The scheme of ribbed vault, was first introduced in the construction of Bhadkal gate (1611 A. D) and this technique was later on used after fifteen years. In the construction of the world famous Gol Gumbaz of Bijapur (1527 A. D.) The ingenuity and variety of the ribbed vaulting in the Bhadkal gate is extraordinary. The whole mass of the roof is based on the eight vertical pillars. The central vault of the roof of the gate forms a square with the ends of the ribs meeting the centres of the sides of the square bay. The arch and groin ribs intersect each other by forming a star pattern at the apex of the dome. This massive structure was built in heavy blocks of black igneous rock, which were chiselled and arranged by the experienced hands of the Deccani artisans. The surface of the gate at one time must have been coated with lime plaster, which is not seen now except at the first floor of the gate. This gate building measures 62 ft. 3 inches by 60 ft. and the height is 62 ft. 5 inches.

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