

Heritage Awareness Walk

Heritage walk Kolkata is a city replete with rich history, one that till today basks in her glorious past with glimpses of her colonial past still parading proudly at almost every nook and corner. Humans have been explorers since the beginning of civilization; we were nomads by nature who walked great distances to explore the land. Walking actually is a great way to see things you didn't know you wanted to see, it unfolds the whole scope of rediscovering old and known places. This was the idea that triggered the plan to organise my first heritage walk in Kolkata with my friends who were also very keen to know more about the city's built heritage, culture, architecture and historical importance.

Given that heritage walks are a great way to learn and recognize our culture, tradition, philosophy, myths and associated rituals, I teamed up with a tour guide and organised a walk in and around The Lalit Great Eastern Hotel. Asia's first luxury hotel and a heritage landmark located in Dalhousie, the prime business district of the City of Joy, Lalit is the longest continuously operating hotel which has been operating for the last 165 years. Joined by my friends, the heritage walk offered us a delightful glimpse into the rich history of the city's colonial past. The area boasts some of the finest examples of colonial heritage, reflecting the architectural influence reminiscent of London, highlighting the city's roots in British colonialism. Starting from The Lalit Great Eastern, the walk took us through buildings that are integral to Calcutta's imperial legacy. The structures showcase the grandeur and architectural finesse of the colonial era, providing insights into the city's historical development and its resemblance to London's layout and design.

The Dalhousie area preserves significant landmarks, such as churches, government buildings, and other architectural marvels, each with its unique story contributing to Kolkata's cultural tapestry rooted in its colonial history. Exploring this area allows visitors to appreciate the fusion of Indian and British influences that shaped the cityscape during the colonial period.

As we sauntered through the lanes and by-lanes, a sense of awe and pride mingled making us fall in love with the city all over again. The experience was so riveting and fun filled that we were immediately enthused to do more such walks. The learning has stayed with us till today and has made us better and more responsible citizens who love their city and feel proud of its past.