



Lucknow - the city of Nawabs

History of Lucknow ...

History through myths and fables...

An Ancient Hindu state, Awadh, one of the old names of Lucknow, its history can be traced back to the ancient times of the Suryavanshi Dynasty. It is said that Lakshmana, brother of Lord Rama, laid the foundation of this city, near the Gomti River on an elevated land and named it Lakshmanpur.

Archaeological excavations at the **Hulaskhera mound** which are about the six meter high suggest that the city of Lucknow can be linked to pre historic times to the **Sunga and Kushan era**. Remains such as terracotta figurines, beads; shell beads and ivory bangles indicate a settlement of the **5th century BC** mainly pre-Buddhist period. There were silver coins excavated belonging **10th century AD**. At the end of the twelfth century, **Awadh** came under the control Sultan of Ghazni and became part of the **Muslim empire** of Delhi. It was under the rule of **Mughals** and their appointment of Nawabs including the well known ones such as **Sadat Khan** in order to ensure smooth administration; it was with the coming of a new royal family, which changed the history of this city. During the reign of **Babur**, Awadh became a subah or province of the Mughal Empire. Lucknow flourished like never before under the nawabs especially under the rule of the fourth **Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula** after 1755. As the Mughal Empire disintegrated, Awadh grew stronger and more independent with its capital city, **Faizabad**. The city grew in every sphere including poetry, dance, music and the fine lifestyle etc.

Name two Bollywood movies which show us the culture of Medieval Lucknow.

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City under the Mughals...

Baburnama mentions that Babur crossed the river Gomti on his way to Faizabad and was impressed by its climate and flavors of rice, which also indicates the political and strategic importance of the region. Under the reign of Humayun, Lucknow became a permanent part of the Mughal Empire despite frequent risings rebellious Afghan chiefs. Court Historian Abul Fazl in his Akbarnama, writes about the rising importance of Lucknow because of its climate and vegetation.

City under the British...



The East India Company was attracted to the wealth possessed by Awadh. After winning the battles at Plassey in 1757 and Buxar in 1764, British rooted out Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula. Slowly and gradually the Nawabs surrendered, were asked to pay for the protection of British forces and assistance in war. Lucknow was made an administrative capital. One of the English factory records show that English were involved in the business of sugar, indigo and calico at Lucknow. Cloths were bleached at Lucknow and send to important trade centers in India. There were many uprisings including 1857 mutiny and other incidents during the British rule leaving behind many bad memories in Lucknow. After independence, Lucknow was declared the capital of Uttar Pradesh by the Government of India.

Awadhi Cuisine is world wide known for its exquisite taste and aroma. Can you name few authentic foods of Lucknow? Which is your favourite?



Lucknow- 'abode of fine arts and culture'

Built heritage of Lucknow...

The buildings of Lucknow reflect are a class apart. It's splendid, huge and wonderful buildings have been constructed with small brick plates known as 'Lakhauri', symmetrical arches, Baradaris, Naubatkhanas etc.



- ❖ **Imambara-** includes the popular Bara Imambara of 1784, the Shah Najaf Imambara, Chota Imambara also known as Husseinabad Imambara, it also sometimes referred as 'The Palace of Light' in British History Chronicles because of its decorations during festivals.
- ❖ **The British Residency-** Constructed during the 1800, it is a witness to the Mutiny war of 1857.
- ❖ **La Martiniere-** a funerary monument, the largest of this kind in India.
- ❖ **The University of Lucknow-** founded in 1867 by Raja Dakshinranjan Mukherjee. The foundation stone of the University was laid on March 19, 1921, and on July 17, 1921 teaching classes commenced.
- ❖ **Christ Church-** designed by General Hutchinson, built in memory of those who died in the revolt of 1857.
- ❖ **Charbagh Station-** Built at a huge price of Rs. 70 lakhs
- ❖ **Chhatar Manzil-** also known as **Umbrella Palace** because of its gilt dome. It is believed that it was used as harem by the nawabs. Today, it houses the Central Drug Research Institute.
- ❖ **Rumi Darwaza-** also known as **Turkish Gateway** and neither wood nor iron was used in its construction.

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