

THE HOUSE OF MANGALDAS GIRDHARDAS

An Urban Heritage Hotel

● History

The House of Mangaldas Girdhardas (MG) was the home of Mr. Mangaldas Girdhardas – and his younger brother, Chamanlal Girdhardas (CG), amongst Ahmedabad's foremost businessmen and philanthropists of the early 20th century. Young Mangaldas started his career as a store-keeper in a textile mill. Within a decade, he and his brother started their own mills and soon after, they were overseeing an empire comprising of a clutch of mills and other related businesses. With their increasing influence in the community, they decided to build a new residence for themselves and their family in the year 1904, across from the famous Sidi Saeed Mosque.

With the growing members in the joint family, in 1924, they built an adjoining wing to the residence and Mangaldas shifted there. From late 30's, members of both the families started moving out to independent residences on the other side of the river, the new Ahmedabad, and by 1950, all family members had shifted out, leaving this mansion vacant.

A large portion of the house was subsequently rented out and the portion that was retained was used by the family accounts offices and independent small businesses. (The CG Wing of the house was also home to the country's first department store called 'Parekhs'). From 1994 onwards, one branch of the MG family started to take an interest in restoring this (by then) crumbling edifice. By 2007, the entire MG Wing of The House was restored and ready for business as a heritage hotel. The restoration of the CG Wing started in 2007 and it opened for business, as part of the same hotel, in December 2014.

● Facilities

Thirty eight rooms & suites, two restaurants (one for fine Gujarati thali dining & another for mixed cuisine, fresh juices & ice cream, a gift shop, a spa, an indoor swimming pool and health club and a banquet & conference space are the facilities in this hotel. A textile gallery of Traditional textiles of India and a Heritage Bookstore are the latest additions to the hotel.

● Neighbourhood

The House of MG is located within the UNESCO World Heritage City precinct of Ahmedabad. Lal Darwaja or Red Gate, is the name of the area and the world famous Sidi Saeed Mosque with its intricately carved stone screens is just across from the hotel. Within a short walk are the famous Bhadra Fort and Teen Darwaza or Three Gates with its bazaars and the Juma Masjid Mosque a little further along the way. The House of MG has now become the defacto entry point to the Heritage Precinct of Ahmedabad. It is also surrounded by small restaurants and less than 200 meters away is the famous River Front with its river view boulevards. Within a 10 minute taxi ride can get you to the heart of the business district of Ahmedabad.

The Hotel organises Heritage Walks and auto tours of the Heritage City daily.

● Layout

Spread over a 5500 square yards, the building has a built-up area of approximately 80,000 square feet. Its architecture is a confluence of different styles. An ornamental façade with a Baroque influence, Italian mosaic and marble flooring, stained-glass windows along with courtyards and passages spread over multiple levels with asymmetric rooms. It is a building with surprises around every corner. The aim of the project is to adaptively reuse the spaces to cater to a modern lifestyle without losing either the historical perspective or the traditional customs of a Gujarati home.

The House of MG

It feels like coming home