

BEGUM SHAHI MOSQUE



Colloquially known as the “Mother of all Mosques,” the Begum Shahi Mosque was built between 1611 and 1614 under Emperor Jahangir in honor of his mother, Mariam Zamani. The relatively small mosque sits across the way from the famous Lahore Fort, and is one of the oldest historical places in Lahore and is actually the city’s oldest surviving Mughal Era structure! The architectural design of Begum Shahi gave inspiration to the Wazir Khan Mosque that was built several decades later. The mosque itself is impressive- complete with elaborate 400+ year old frescoes and unique geometrical embellishments- but its namesake even more so Mariam Zamani was far from average herself- the former Hindu princess was known for expanding the Mughal kingdom’s racial and religious tolerance when she married Emperor Akbar.