



A large, ornate building with intricate stone carvings, arched windows, and a balcony with a decorative railing. The building is light-colored and has a traditional architectural style.

# Shikwa

HERITAGE HOMESTAY

OCTOBER - APRIL

AT



*The Haveli of the Winters*

[www.shikwa-heritagehomestay.com](http://www.shikwa-heritagehomestay.com)

CERTIFIED  
**GOLD**  
CATEGORY

Incredible!India

# Preview

The ruins of Haveli

Shikwa - Mehrabon Wali Haveli, less than 30 Kilometres from the historic Red Fort of Delhi is located on the mound of village Katha on the banks of river Yamuna in the National Capital Region of Delhi on Delhi-Saharanpur-Gangotri (The source of river Ganga) Highway.

The 15 year long painstaking and meticulous process of extensive restoration, reconstruction, renovation, refurbishing and furnishing, completed in 2009, has brought this more than 700 hundred years old structure to its glory of the era gone by. Today, commanding a majestic view of the Yamuna, the fields and the vast plains as far as the eyes can see, the Mehrabon Wali Haveli is adorned with Chajjas, Chhatris, pillars and columns, stone jalis, jharokas, fountains, exquisite doors and hundreds of Mehrabs.

The Haveli's six Guest Rooms, five Lounges, two Halls and two Special Rooms have been aesthetically, tastefully, elegantly and artistically furnished, preserving the great heritage and ambience of the era gone by with the comforts of now.

In the middle of a living Indian village but away from all distractions and yet so close to the capital city of Delhi, Shikwa – Mehrabon Wali Haveli with its beautiful and romantic Guest Rooms, Lounges, Halls, Special Rooms, Gardens and Courts, Baradari and the loving and affectionate hospitality of its owner Shariq Bin Raza, his wife Alka and son Sahil, is an ideal place for an experience of the lifestyles of the royals, the nobles and the landlords of yesteryears, for rest and recuperation and the luxury of leisure.

The glory of renovated Haveli





The Terrace

## *History and Heritage*

The presence of the widely respected Qazis (Judges and Justices) of Katha is indicated well before the 13th Century AD. The Royal Decrees (Shahi Firmans) of the Rulers of Delhi and the Delhi Sultanet indicate the award of lands and estates to the Qazis of Katha whose principal and honoured vocation, as the word suggests, was the Dispensation of Justice.

During the period of 13th to 18th centuries, a number of noble houses and mansions were built on the elevated mound of Katha by the Qazis. The Headquarters, the principal residence and the flagship of these noble mansions, the oldest and the largest of them all built more than 7 centuries ago, was The Haveli.

During the Mughal period, The Haveli and Katha maintained their prominence. The Qazis of Katha continued to occupy the prominent and key positions of “Qazis -Judges and Justices” in the Mughal Empire and The Court was convened in Katha to dispense justice. The region also became a popular hunting ground for the Moghul Kings and Nobility with Katha as one of the favourite “Shikargahs” during the Mughal era. After the Mughal Empire came to an end, like the pre-Mughal periods, the practice of convening of the Court at the Haveli in Katha continued well until early 20th century.

The Haveli, during its existence for centuries, has witnessed the dynasties, the empires, the kings and the sultans in their heydays and their down falls; Invaders like The Tamerlane camping and holding his durbar nearby and moving on; has hosted the nobles on hunting expeditions; has been the venue of the courts dispensing justice; has seen grand celebrations and tragedies; the exodus; has felt abandoned, deserted, uncared, doomed and decayed.

In mid 1990s, Shariq Bin Raza, an (ex) international civil servant with his wife Alka Raza, a writer and journalist initiated the gigantic task of consolidation, extensive restoration, reconstruction, renovation and refurbishing of the remnants and ruins of the Haveli which now is known as “Shikwa - Mehrabon Wali Haveli”. Shariq and Alka who have lived for more than 24 years overseas in 12 countries and territories and have travelled to more than 90 countries around the world, along with their son Sahil, returned to Katha in 2009 and live in “Shikwa - Mehrabon Wali Haveli”

# *The Rooms*

JUDGES ROOM

HUNTERS ROOM



PEARL ROOM

PEACOCK ROOM

RIDERS ROOM

PRINCESS ROOM

# *The Bathrooms*



# *The Lounges*

THE BURMA LOUNGE



THE AFRICA LOUNGE

THE EURO LOUNGE





THE TEA ROOM



THE CRYSTAL ROOM

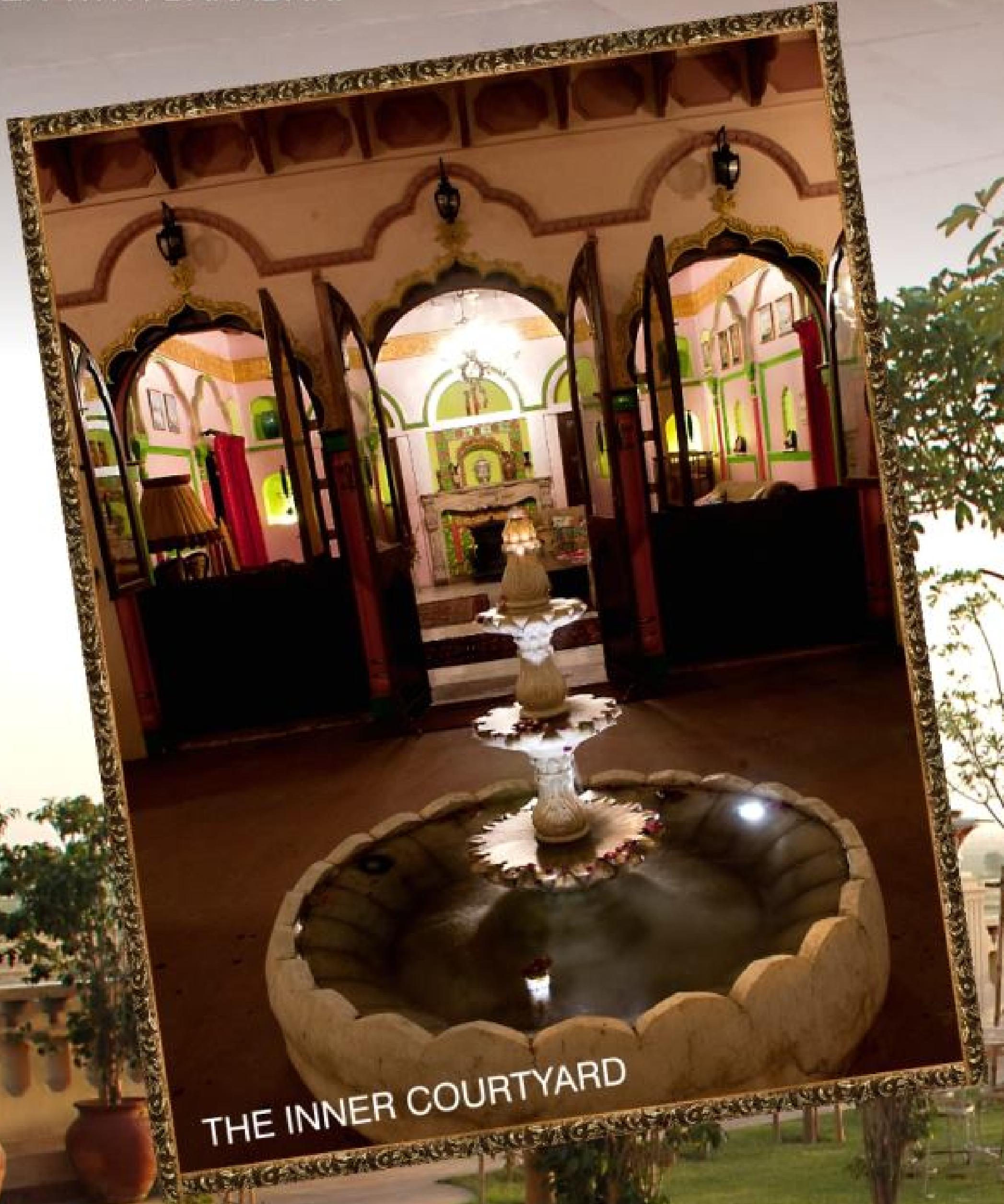


THE MUSIC ROOM

# Courts and Gardens



THE ROOFTOP TERRACE  
GARDEN WITH BARADARI



THE BAGH-E-BAHISHT  
(GARDEN OF HEAVENS)





## Other Facilities

- ✓ **Lounges:** The Burma Lounge, The Africa Lounge, The Euro Lounge, TV Lounge, The Forecourt Lounge
- ✓ **Special Rooms:** The Tea Room, The Music Room (Ghazal Room)
- ✓ **Gardens and Courts:** The Bagh-e-Bahisht (Garden of Heavens), The Rooftop Terrace Garden with Baradari, Principal courtyard, Inner Courtyard
- ✓ **The Gym** on the Rooftop Terrace
- ✓ **Sports Court**
  - Outdoor: Sports Lounge, Badminton, Table Tennis, Golf Putting (under development)
  - Indoor: Pool Table, Cards Table, Poker Set, Carom Board, Darts, Chess, Board Games
- ✓ **Travel & Tour Operator** (On Request)
- ✓ **Pick-up** from the Railway Station(s), Airport etc. (On Request with Prior Arrangements)
- ✓ **Special/Diet Food** for Guests with Dietary Restrictions; Diabetics etc. under the personal supervision and care of the Lady of the House. (On Request)
- ✓ **Dining:**
  - Indoor Dining; Informal Dining in Burma Lounge, anteroom with Kitchen, Formal Dining in the Dining Hall-The Crystal Room (Depending on the number of Guests)
  - Outdoor Dining; In the Principal Courtyard, Inner Courtyard and Bagh-e-Bahisht (Garden of Heavens) with Fire on Stands/Bonfire (Depending on the weather)
- ✓ **Reading Material:** Books, Magazines, Newspapers etc.
- ✓ **Internet**
- ✓ **Car Park Facility**
- ✓ **Bed(s)/Sleeping Arrangement** for the Driver(s)



## Social Responsibility

Sensitive to the fellow human beings, particularly the underprivileged and the disadvantaged, Shariq Bin Raza and Alka Raza have worked extensively, inter-alia, in the areas of diplomacy, development, rights of the people, democracy, media and communication in different parts of the world and in India.

Committed to the welfare and development of the people, on their return to village Katha, Shariq and Alka, along with their son Sahil, with their personal resources - financial and non-financial, initiated a number of programs and activities to support and contribute to the development of the underprivileged and the disadvantaged.

One of these initiatives is



**NJB**  
*Women Empowerment Centre*

**25 per cent of all income from the Home Stay Programme goes to the welfare and development of the underprivileged and the disadvantaged through the Social Responsibility initiatives.**

**On-sight:**

Mobile: +91 9899430845 E-mail: shikwa.katha@gmail.com

**Reservations:**

Tel.: +91 11 41640565/66/68 E-mail: contact@outboundtravels.com

### **SHIKWA – MEHRABON WALI HAVELI**

Village Katha, Delhi - Baghpat Road, Baghpat 250609, Uttar Pradesh,  
National Capital Region of Delhi, India.