

## Kankaria lake

Kankaria lake can be found in the south-eastern section of Ahmedabad near the Maninagar area, in Gujrat. It is said to be the second largest lake in the city. Multiple tourist spots like the zoo, kids city, toy-train, hot-air balloon ride, water-based rides and other such entertainment attractions are in abundance in the lakefront that has been developed around Kankaria lake. However, it wasn't like this since the beginning.

Recently there was reconstruction and reworking of the lakefront, by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC). In the past, due to negligence, Kankaria lake dried up and became dirty thereby rendering it useless, but with the joint efforts of AMC and the government, it is now a revamped place that is a major tourist attraction. Various kinds of social, cultural and similar activities take place here.

In fact, a carnival festival is also celebrated surrounding Kankaria lake in December, during the final week of the month, usually from the 25th of December to the 1st of January.

## Architecture of Kankaria Lake

The construction of the lake was done by some of the finest Mughal architects of the time as evident from the different cuttings and designs in the stones that have been employed to construct the polygonal shaped reservoir that resides right in the middle of this lake.

Kankaria lake consists of an island that encompasses Nagina Wadi, which is a garden, right in the middle of it. This place in itself is a beautiful tourist spot here. Nagina means jewel here. The garden further consists of a summer palace which goes by the name of Ghattamandal.

A bridge connects with the bank that was originally 48 arches long. Many have mentioned this kind of architecture as a magnificent piece of the Mughal era, and just like a centre piece in jewellery, it is also known as the centre jewel of the lake.

## History of Kankaria Lake

The actual origin for the name Kankaria is unknown, yet various stories roam about. One of them says that the name Kankaria was chosen due to the huge piles of limestone that was dug out during its excavation for formation of the artificial lake.

Another story says that Sultan Qutb-ud-Din had posed a question to Shah Alam, who was a saint, to select a location for the garden and the tank, who then scattered pebbles and built the lake, thereby owing the name Kankaria lake.

Another popular story suggests that Hazrat-i-Shah Alam, who was also a saint, got injured by a pebble when he was passing through the excavated site and he acknowledged the pebble that injured him, thus giving the excavation site the corresponding name.

Merutunga, a chronicler of the 14th century, said that Karna, the ruler of Chalukya origin, after defeating the Bhil chief Asha, ordered for a temple to be built. This temple was dedicated to Kochharba, a goddess, wherein Karnavati city, which is nearby, was also established by him along with many more temples like Jayantidevi and Karnamukteshwara temples.

Karna also established a tank in the city of Karnavati, next to the Karneshvara temple and this tank was named as the Karnasagara tank, which is presently known as the Kankaria Lake. However, the validity of the origin of this story is questionable.

Sultan Muizz-ud-Din Muhammad Shah II started construction of this lake back in the 15th century and there's an inscription that clearly states that it was infact finished during the rule of Sultan Ahmad Shah II in the year of 1451, thereby adding to the further confusion of an already confusing origin of the name of Kankaria Lake.