Qaisergarh or Kaiser Bagh is a complex in the city of Lucknow, located in the Awadh region of India. The site includes several buildings and gardens and was constructed under the order of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, who envisioned the place as a paradise.

Paintings and photographs of the Kaiser Bagh gardens taken before 1857 indicate that the main quadrangle, which was the heart of the palace complex, had an elaborate charbagh. One entered and exited the charbagh through two identical gates known as Lakhmi gates, named after their price - one lakh rupees. It was known as the "Paree Kha-na-" translation: Place of Fairies). This part of the complex is where the queens of the King lived and remains intact today.

The Kaiser Bagh complex included residential quarters for the royal ladies were two stories high and had large courtyards; however, these quarters did not include exterior windows. The royal ladies also were able to enjoy two ba-za-ru named "Meena-Ba-za-r" and "Kaptan Ba-za-r"; these ba-za-ru were included in the Kaiser Bagh complex.

After the India's First War of Independence, the British ordered the demolition of Kaiser Bagh, as it was the stronghold of the Nawabs under the leadership of Begum Hazrat Mahal, who had assumed leadership after her husband, Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, who was exiled in 1856. Nonetheless, some structures of the original complex still stand today; moreover, the Government of Uttar Pradesh in close co-operation with the Archaeological Survey of India has plans to revitalize the complex.

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**Kaiser Bagh Heritage Walk**
Kaiser Bagh Heritage Walk, a concept of Debashish Nayak e-mail: debashishnayak@rediffmail.com
Wajid Ali Shah of Avadh in the Kaiser Bagh, 1850-56, Opaque watercolor and gold on paper.

Legend:
1. Tarawali Kothi
2. Jilani Khana
3. Stables
4. China Bazaar
5. Mermaid Gate
6. Hazrat Bagh
7. Badshah Mandi
8. Hazarat Bagh
9. Begum's Prison
10. Chaudhuri Kothi
11. Juki Gate
12. Sultani Baradari
13. Lathi
14. Kaiser Bagh
15. Pare Khana
16. Kaiser Pasand
17. Sher Darwaza
18. Nawab's Tomb
19. Begum's Tomb
20. Chhattar Mandi
21. Gomti River

Map of Kaiser Bagh 1857

Jogiana Mela View

The British Map of Lucknow showing Kaiser Bagh

1857

1858
The Great vine and the Lanka, Kaiser Bagh

Lakhi Gate leading out of the Jilaun Khana, Kaiser Bagh

Jal Pari (The Mermaid Gateway) and spiral staircases

Lakhi Gate leading out of the Jilaun Khana, Kaiser Bagh

Roshan-ud-daula Kothi, North Side

The Birth of Khayal

To a Different Beat

When Delhi's years of glory declined, and arts like music, dance and poetry were on the verge of extinction, it was Lucknow that offered lavish patronage and dance. Lucknow occupies a very prominent place among the important musical centres. This city has witnessed the efflorescence, the decline and the renaissance of Hindustani classical music and Kathak dance through more than three centuries.

Courtesans and the rise of Thumri

A unique style of Kathak

An enriched Tabla gharana

British soldiers looting Kaiser Bagh, Lucknow, after its recapture (steel engraving, late 1850's). The steel engraving depicts the Time correspondent looking on at the sacking of the Kaiser Bagh, after the capture of Lucknow on March 15, 1858. "Is this string of little white stones (pearls) worth anything, Gentlemen?" asks the plunderer.

Ustad Khurshid Ali Khan

Ustad Sadique Ali Khan

Dr. S.N. Ratnajankar

Begum Akhtar, the Queen of Lucknowi thumri and ghazal. She was given the title of Mallika-e-Ghazal (Queen of Ghazals)

Pandit Birju Maharaj

Khalifa Abdul Hussain

Khalifa Wajid Hussain

Shambhu Maharaj

Maharaj Bindadin

Vishnu Narayan Bhatkonde

Lallanpya