

A visit to Calcutta's
Victoria Memorial
Hall is a must



This week's winner: Britain's architectural legacy in Calcutta

I really enjoyed Stephen McClarence's feature on the buildings of New Delhi (December 10). Readers might also be interested in the British architectural legacy in Calcutta. After more than two centuries as the headquarters of first

the East India Company and then the British Raj, it has some outstanding historic buildings. A walk around the old centre takes you past 18th-century churches, 19th-century commercial buildings and the

magnificent former villas of colonial administrators, wealthy merchants and the Bengali elite. A visit to the Victoria Memorial Hall is also a must. For a real insight into the British in India, however, head for the South Park Street

Cemetery. Established in 1767 as a burial ground for British officials, it is full of fabulously ornate and often overgrown tombs. When I last visited, a group of boys cheerily led me to a grave dedicated to one Rose Aylmer, who died

aged 20 after eating "a surfeit of pineapples". Like Calcutta itself, the cemetery is a poignant but fascinating place.

✉ Emailed by James Parry, who wins two easyJet flights to Amman in Jordan