

Code: **Cu- 109**

Best season: **Spring / Autumn.**

Duration: **15 days**

Brief

**Tehran, Hamadan, Kermanshah, Ahwaz, Shiraz, Yazd, Isfahan, Kashan, Tehran**



### Day 1: Tehran

Arrivals at Tehran, meet and assist at airport and then transfer to Hotel. After breakfast visit Glass Museum, Carpet Museum and Bazaar.

O/N: Tehran.

**Glassware Museum:** is one of the museums in Tehran is. This historic house built in Qajar era and in Tehran. Avenue C bar is located. The effect on 7 Persian date Ordibehesht 1377 with registration number 2014 as one of the national monuments has been registered. Museum of Glass Museum of Glass and pottery. This sets up 1330 home and work Qvamalsltnh and then for seven years was in the hands of the Egyptian Embassy. Then, to the Embassy of Afghanistan, Bank of Commerce, in 1355 with the cooperation of Iranian and Austrian engineers began to change.



**Carpet Museum of Iran** exhibits a variety of Persian carpets from all over Iran, dating from the 16th century to the present.

The museum's exhibition hall occupies 3,400 square meters (10,200 ft<sup>2</sup>) and its library contains 7,000 books. The museum was designed by the last Queen of Iran, Farah Diba Pahlavi. The perforated structure around the museum's exterior is designed both to resemble a carpet loom, and to cast shade on the exterior walls, reducing the impact of the hot summer sun on the interior temperature.



The **Grand Bazaar** is an old historical market in Tehran, the capital of Iran.

Located at the Arg Square in Southern Tehran, it is split into several corridors over 10 km in length, each specializing in different types of goods, and has several entrances, with the main being the entrance of Sabze Meydan. In addition to shops, the Grand Bazaar of Tehran has contained banks, mosques and guest houses.

While the current bazaar is most associated with the 19th century onwards, its roots go back much further.

The area around Tehran has been settled since at least 6,000 BCE, and while bazaar-like construction in Iran as a whole has been dated as far back as 4,000 BCE, Tehran's bazaar is not this old. It is hard to say exactly when the "bazaar" first appeared, but in the centuries following the introduction of Islam, travellers reported the growth of commerce in the area now occupied by the current bazaar. The Grand bazaar is a continuation of this legacy.

Research indicates that a portion of today's bazaar predated the growth of the village of Tehran under the Safavids' dynasty, although it was during and after this period that the bazaar began to grow gradually.





### Day 2: Tehran - Qazvin - Hamadan

Early morning, drive to Hamedan (322 km), in the way visit of Soltaniyeh Dome. Then continue to Hamadan.

O/N: Hamadan.

**Dome of Soltaniyeh** in Soltaniyeh city, Zanjan Province.

The structure, erected from 1302 to 1312 AD, has the oldest double-shell dome in Iran. This erroneous view of the construction was made by Dieulafoy but is totally disputed by Andre Godard. In Godard's view it is a normal, if spectacularly large dome, with a thin skin on top for the faience and is in no way a double dome. Its importance in the Muslim world may be compared to that of Brunelleschi's cupola for Christian architecture. It is one of the largest brick domes in the world, just at the theoretical engineering limit for a brick dome and the third largest dome in the world after the domes of Florence Cathedral and Hagia Sophia. The Dome of Soltaniyeh paved the way for more daring Iranian-style cupola constructions in the Muslim world, such as the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasavi and the Taj Mahal. Much of its exterior decoration has been lost, but the interior retains superb mosaics, faience, and murals. People have described the architecture of the building as “anticipating the Taj Mahal.”

The estimated 200 ton dome stands 49 meters (161 ft.) tall from its base, and is currently undergoing extensive renovation.



### Day 3: Hamadan - Kermanshah

After breakfast, visit the tomb of Ester and Mordekhay, Avicenna's Mausoleum. Continue to Kermanshah (184 km) on the way visit Anahita Temple ruins near Kangavar, Bisotun bas-relief Carvings. In Kermanshah, visit Taq-e Bostan.

O/N: Kermanshah.

**Mausoleum or tomb of Esther and Mordechai** among the most important shrines of the Jews of Iran and the world. The tomb is part of the cultural heritage of registration. These shrines are an important factor in the formation and persistence of the Jewish community was in Hamadan.



The **Mausoleum of Avicenna** is a complex located at Avicenna Square, Hamadan, Iran.

Dedicated to the Iranian polymath Avicenna, the complex includes a library, a small museum, and a spindle-shaped tower inspired by the Ziyarid-era Kavus Tower.

The Pahlavi government had plans to build the mausoleum since at least 1939. The mausoleum was eventually dedicated in a grand ceremony in May 1954, and the avenue running in front of it was also renamed in honor of Avicenna.

As the monument was a central element of the propagation of Iranian nationalism by the Pahlavi government, it was consequently in danger of being defaced, but as Khomeini himself was an admirer of Avicenna, the square was not renamed after the 1979 Revolution.



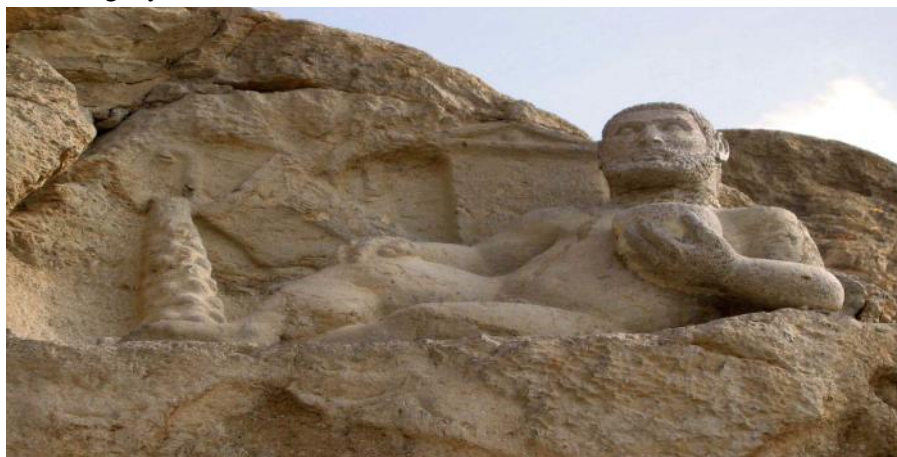
The **Bisotun** is a multilingual inscription and large rock relief on a cliff at Mount Behistun in the Kermanshah Province of Iran, near the city of Kermanshah in western Iran. It was crucial to the decipherment of cuneiform script.

Authored by Darius the Great sometime between his coronation as king of the Persian Empire in the summer of 522 BC and his death in autumn of 486 BC, the inscription begins with a brief autobiography of Darius, including his ancestry and lineage.



Later in the inscription, Darius provides a lengthy sequence of events following the deaths of Cyrus the Great and Cambyses II in which he fought nineteen battles in a period of one year (ending in December 521 BC) to put down multiple rebellions throughout the Persian Empire.

The inscription states in detail that the rebellions, which had resulted from the deaths of Cyrus the Great and his son Cambyses II, were orchestrated by several impostors and their co-conspirators in various cities throughout the empire, each of whom falsely proclaimed kingship during the upheaval following Cyrus's death.



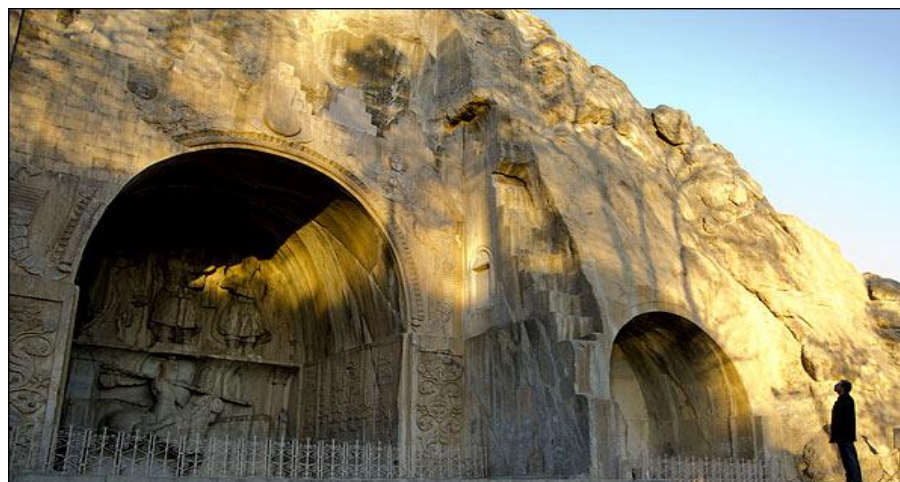
**Temple of Anahita** monument in the city today Kangavar is located. Kangavar in the middle of modern Hamadan, Kermanshah and the historical way Hegmataneh Ctesiphon is located. The building with an area of 6.4 hectares, on a rocky ridge overlooking the plain Gngavr was created. Anahita, the angel and the guardian of water and an abundance of beauty and fertility among Iranians has been the official and dignity. "It remains a magnificent temple is the largest stone buildings in Building 209 at 244 meters Foursquare rectangular in size over the low-lying bed of silica volcanic rocks in Kermanshah Province is located in the city Kangavar. Anahita temple, like the tall buildings built from scaffolding practices (the account of) Iran Bob was in the plains and subsequent periods is also important monuments, temples and some government buildings have been built on the platform. Over this monument was erected a row of stone columns that the

height of each column is 54/2 meters. Verdi according to a two-way staircase built on the southern side and in front of the northeast stairs one-way access road to the site has made it possible.

Forty Maran quarry is located 2 km west of the building and is now cutting the pillar stones and stone facade at the same time remain mine. The building dates back to the period of the Parthian and Sassanid attributed, symbols and words carved on the rocks Grdydhast Sassanid era.



**Taq-e Bostan** is a site with a series of large rock reliefs from the era of Sassanid Empire of Persia, the Iranian dynasty which ruled western Asia from 226 to 650 AD. This example of Sassanid art is located 5 km from the city center of Kermanshah in western Iran. It is located in the heart of the Zagros Mountains, where it has endured almost 1,700 years of wind and rain. Originally, several sources were visible next to and below the reliefs and arches, some of which are now covered. Sources next to the reliefs still feed a large basin in front of the rock. The site has been turned into an archaeological park and a series of late Sasanian and Islamic column capitals have been brought together. The Taq-e Bostan complex comprise a rock relief standing on its own and several more reliefs associated with two rock cut arches. They illustrate the investiture ceremonies of Ardashir II, Shapur II, Shapur III and Khosrau II. They also depict the hunting scenes of Khosrau II.



#### Day 4: Kermanshah - Shush - Ahwaz

Early morning, drive to shush (369 km). Upon arrival, visit Apadana Palace, Choghazanbil Ziggurat and Daniel Holy's Shrine and Museum of Shush continue to Ahwaz (121 km).

O/N: Ahwaz.

**Apadana Palace** Winter Palace Achaemenid kings were. The palace on the orders of Darius king of the Achaemenid in the early 515\_521 BC in Susa (ancient city) and the remains of the Elamite was founded. House walls of bricks and columns made of stone.

The area of the hall or Apadana Palace 10434 meters. The House called the court or Padanh by Artaxerxes II was rebuilt.



**Chogha Zanbil** is an ancient Elamite complex in the Khuzestan province of Iran. It is one of the few existent ziggurats outside of Mesopotamia. It lies approximately 42 km (26 mi) south-southeast of Dezful, 30 km (19 mi) south-east of Susa and 80 km (50 mi) north of Ahvaz.

The main building materials in Chogha Zanbil were mud bricks and occasionally baked bricks. The monuments were decorated with glazed baked bricks, gypsum and ornaments of faïence and glass. Ornamenting the most important buildings were thousands of baked bricks bearing inscriptions with Elamite cuneiform characters were all inscribed by hand. Glazed terracotta statues such as bulls and winged griffins guarded the entrances to the ziggurat. Near the temples of Kiririsha and Hishmitik-Ruhuratir, kilns were found that were probably used for the production of baked bricks and decorative materials. It is believed that the ziggurat was built in two stages. It took its multi-layered form in the second phase.

The ziggurat is considered to be the best preserved example in the world. In 1979, Chogha Zanbil became the first Iranian site to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.





The **Tomb of Daniel** is the traditional burial place of the biblical prophet Daniel. Various locations have been named for the site, but the tomb in Susa, Iran, is the most widely accepted, it being first mentioned by Benjamin of Tudela, who visited Asia between 1160 and 1163.



**Haft Tapeh an archaeological site** in the province about 15 kilometers southeast of the city of Susa is located and a series of hills Bastani, probably in Tekken or Kabnak of Elam civilization has the place itself. The extent of the archaeological site far attracted the attention of various explorers located. According to the city as an important center of political theories during the reign of the kingdom of Elam and Tptyahr in the prior fifteen centuries AD after the destruction of it, the city of Susa was mentioned that the center of power conversion by Nyamdhasht Shdhasht, Although strong evidence to support it.





### Day 5: Ahwaz - Kazerun - Shiraz

After breakfast, drive from Ahwaz to Shiraz (527 km), via Kazerun. In Kazerun visit Sassanian bas-reliefs, Palace of Bishapur. Continue to Shiraz.

O/N: Shiraz.

**Bishapour** one of the ancient cities of the opoid and in Fars province at the time of the Sassanids built and today only ruins of it remained. Bishapour two hundred hectares, have been the major cities of his time and the importance of communication. The city's oldest cities with a history of making it written in stone is available. Bishapour in the North West of opoid located and in good weather and has been designed and engineered especially at that time. In the history books, the city's name with titles Bishapour, Bishabor, Shapur, Byshavr and "Andyvshapvr" has been recorded. Bishapoor City, the state capital and furnaces Ardshyrkhvrh was. Bishapour to the seventh century AD, the prosperous and residential served and then was destroyed. Bishapour a wealth of valuable works of Sassanid such as Temple is. Architectural style party style is. Temple monument in the city today Kangavar is located. Kangavar in the middle of modern Hamadan, Kermanshah and the historical way Hegmataneh Ctesiphon is located. The building with an area of 6.4 hectares, on a rocky ridge overlooking the plain Gngavr was created. **Anahita**, the angel and the guardian of water and an abundance of beauty and fertility among Iranians has been the official and dignity.

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### Day 6: Shiraz - Perspolis - Shiraz

Today, drive to visit Perspolis, Naqsh-e Rostam. Afternoon visit Bazaar-e Vakil.

O/N: Shiraz.

**Persepolis** the name of one of the ancient cities of Iran that joined over the years, the capital 's stately and ceremonial monarchy at the time of the Achaemenid Empire was. In this ancient city called Persepolis palace that during the reign of Darius , Xerxes and Artaxerxes was built and was built for about 200 years.

On the first day of the New Year , many groups from different countries representing Satrapyha or governments gathered in Persepolis with diverse took offerings and gifts were presented to the king.



Persepolis in 518 BCE as the new capital of the Achaemenid the gamers began. Founder of Persepolis, Darius was, of course, after his son Xerxes and his grandson Artaxerxes I to extend this series to expand it added. Many existing knowledge about the history and culture of the Achaemenid stone inscriptions and Flznvshthhay is available for the palaces and on the walls and the tablet is engraved. Sumner has estimated that the plain of Persepolis which contains 39 residential camp was in the Achaemenid period 43, 600 people had. Historians believe that Alexander the Macedonian commander Greek in 330 BC, invaded Iran and burned Persepolis and probably a large part of the books, Achaemenid art and culture destroyed by it. However, the ruins of this place is still up and archeology of its ruins signs of fire and rush to acknowledge it. This place since 1979, one of Iran's record on the UNESCO World Heritage is. Persepolis in the northern city near Shiraz , south of Fars province (northeast of Shiraz ) is replaced. At a distance of six and a half kilometers from Persepolis, Naqsh-e Rostam is located.



**Naqsh-e Rostam** name of the ancient collection Zangiabad village located in the northern city of Shiraz in Fars province of Iran , which is 6 kilometers from Persepolis is located.

Yadmanhayy the archaeological site of the Elamite , Achaemenid and Sassanid in its place and has around 1200 BC to 625 AD was the focus of attention because the tomb four kings Achaemenid, Sassanian reliefs of a

number of major events, building the Kaaba of Zoroaster and Vyranshdhay relief from the Elamite era in this place and in the Sassanid era, Naqsh-e Rostam area of religious and national importance have been.

In the past, this place was Dogonbadan Segonbad or among the people of the region were caught by the names of the mountain, the mountain was also called Nfsht pool or mountains after the Iranians and possibly the name of Naqsh-e Rostam between Rostam , the hero of Shahnameh and communicate the Sassanid kings were Sngngarhhay It was to this place.

The oldest role in Naqsh-e Rostam is the Elamite period and the king and queen of the gods and goddesses were portrayed, but later in the Sassanid era, Bahram II parts of it wiped and his role and his courtiers erected in its place. Kaaba of Zoroaster and Brjmand in the Mhvthast stone building that was built during the Achaemenid period is likely to be unclear and its application is based on three corners of the building has two inscriptions of Shapur I and Kartir written that historically are of great value.

Four Tomb dungeon in the bosom of the Mountain of Mercy have been dug that belonged to Darius the Great , Xerxes , Artaxerxes I , and Darius II that all of them have the same properties.

Ardashir the first one who in this area, Sngngarhhay shaved and Tajgyryash scene of Ahura Mazda recorded. He also Tajgzaryshan Sassanid kings scenes or descriptions of battles and Aftkhardtshan on the breast of the mountain. That Artaxerxes and his son Shapur II Nqshbrjsthayy counterparts in the Achaemenid reliefs in Naqsh-e Rostam shaved, probably in imitation of the past have been the political and cultural sequences.



### **Day 7: Shiraz - Firouz Abad - Shiraz**

Morning drive to Firuz Abad (123 km) to visit ruins of Sassanian Palace of Ardashir I. Afternoon visit Zansiyeh Complex and tombs of Hafiz & Saa'di.

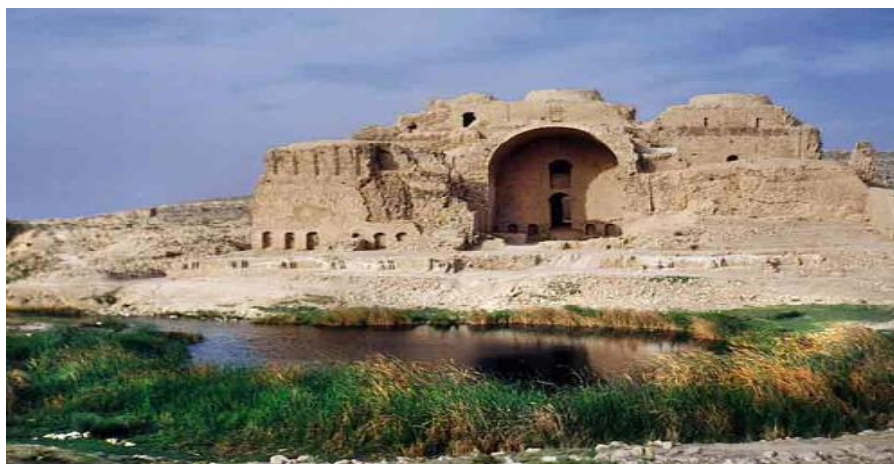
O/N: Shiraz.



**Firozabad city:** county in Fars province is. The center of the city, Firozabad is. The population of the city according to the 1385 census, 116. 622 people were.

Current city Firuz Abad 3 kilometers southeast of a monument to the grave by Ardashir Babakan, the founder of the dynasty of the Sassanids made is real. Gore was the regional center Ardashir leprosy Muslim Arabs in the 28- 29. BC. Captured. There are many historical monuments in the city are mostly left over from Sassanid era. The city is the birthplace of the founder of the dynasty, the Sasanian, Ardashir Babakan, dating back to 3500 is the year before.

**The Palace of Ardashir,** also known as the Atash-kadeh, is a castle located on the slopes of the mountain on Which Dezh Dokhtar is situated? Built in AD 224 by King Ardashir I of the Sassanian Empire, it is located two kilometers (1.2 miles) north of the ancient city of Gor, i.e. the old city of Piruz-Apad in Pars, in ancient Persia (Iran).



**Zandieh** set of buildings that included the market, and the bathroom is Vakil Mosque of Shiraz, as follows

- **Vakil Bazaar** in Shiraz, Iran is one of the most traditional and historical markets at the behest of Karim Khan Zand (1172 - 1193 AD) and is now at the center of the city (East Martyrs' Square) is located. Lawyer historic mosque and baths are also next to the market.
- **Bathroom lawyer Karim Khan Zand** was built by the Zand period. The bathroom in the center of the city and other nearby buildings Zand period such as markets and mosques lawyer's lawyer. The interesting part is the bathroom alcove called for the king Bvdh. part of the building number 917 has been registered in the national index Iran.
- **Vakil Mosque** in Shiraz Zand set of buildings, next to bathrooms is a lawyer at the center of the city. It is one of the beautiful buildings and the Zand period is very strong, which is important in terms of art and architecture, the mosque order of Karim Khan Zand and has made plans for both the southern and eastern porch and yard are two. South yard integrated with stone columns and architectural characteristics from the spiral of Attraction is the mosque, which has 48 stone pillars integrated



The **Tomb of Hafez** and its associated memorial hall, the Hafezieh, are two memorial structures erected in the northern edge of Shiraz, Iran, in memory of the celebrated Persian poet Hafez. The open pavilion structures are situated in the Musalla Gardens on the north bank of a seasonal river and house the marble tomb of Hafez. The present buildings, built in 1935 and designed by the French architect and archaeologist André Godard, are at the site of previous structures, the best-known of which was built in 1773. The tomb, its gardens, and the surrounding memorials to other great figures are a focus of tourism in Shiraz.





The **Tomb of Saadi** is a tomb and mausoleum dedicated to the Persian poet Saadi in the Iranian city of Shiraz. Saadi was buried at the end of his life at a Khanqah at the current location. In the 13th century a tomb built for Saadi by Shams al-Din Juvayni, the vizir of Abaqa Khan. In the 17th century, this tomb was destroyed. During the reign of Karim Khan was built a mausoleum of two floors of brick and plaster, flanked by two rooms. The current building was built between 1950 and 1952 to a design by the architect Mohsen Foroughi and is inspired by the Chehel Sotoun with a fusion of old and new architectural elements. Around the tomb on the walls are seven verses of Saadi's poems.



### **Day 8: Shiraz – Yazd**

Morning drive to Yazd (438 km), on the way visit tomb of Cyrus in Pasargadae, continue to Abarkou  
 Continue to Yazd.

O/N: Yazd.

**Pasargadae World Heritage** collection is a set of ancient structures Brjaymandh from the Achaemenid the city of Pasargadae in Fars Province lies.

This total includes buildings such as Tomb of Cyrus the Great , Pasargadae mosque , declared the king's garden , the palace gates , bridges, levee House , House suite , two pavilions , waterfront, garden cress, Tomb of Cambyses , defensive structures Tel bed , inn Mozaffari , sacred ground and Bolaghi Gorge is.

This set the fifth set is registered in the World Heritage List in Iran at a meeting of UNESCO in July of 1383 in China was held due to many factors hundred per cent on the World Heritage List was registered.

In 529 BC, Cyrus the tribes of the Scythians in Central Asia (North East of Iran) attacked and are at war with massagetae was killed. He was buried in Pasargadae.



Day 9: Yazd

Full day city tour to visit Fire Temple, Jame Mosque, Dolat Abad Garden.

O/N: Yazd.

Yazd fire whereabouts of the **Zoroastrian** sacred fire in the city of Yazd and **Temple Zoroastrians** residing in the city. The main building temples on height of about 21 meters off the ground and in the large yard trees evergreen cypress and pine covered, is located. Figure Forouhar and stone capitals that gives it a special beauty blue pond in front of the building. The temples of properties Altar of the water.

The Hall's main building and a wall of stone capitals flowering gems work of artists from Isfahan. This rock artists in Isfahan shaved and then to Yazd have. Tile journalist Forouhar on the entrance, a tile Yazdi artists and architecture of this building of architecture Corp fire temples was persuaded impact.

Fire inside the fire burns more than 1,500 years remains bright. This fire is the fire Frvz·hay Carian temple in LARESTAN that Aghda Yazd was brought and kept clear there was nearly 700 years and then in 522 of Aghda in Ardakan Ardakan, Yazd were also nearly 300 years, and in year, 852 ducks were taken to the city. First, in a neighborhood called " Khalaf Ali Khan " a great priest in the house called " priest Adhargushashb shooter " was held in the year 1313 after the construction of the temple was brought into it.





The **J meh Mosque** of Yazd is the grand, congregational mosque (J meh) of Yazd city, within the Yazd Province of Iran. The mosque is depicted on the obverse of the Iranian 200 rials banknote.

The 12th-century mosque is still in use today. It was first built under Ala'oddoleh Garshasb of the Al-e Bouyeh dynasty. The mosque was largely rebuilt between 1324 and 1365, and is one of the outstanding 14th century buildings of Iran.

According to the historians, the mosque was constructed in the site of the Sassanid fire temple and Ala'oddoleh Garshasb commenced building the charming mosque. The previous mosque was constructed by order of Ala'oddoleh Kalanjar in 6th century A.H., however the main construction of the present building was done by order of "Seyyed Rokn Al-din Mohammad QAZI".



**Dolatabad garden** from the gardens of the old city of Yazd in Iran and the rows Fin Garden in Kashan and Shazdeh Garden in Kerman is.

Windward Windward adobe building the tallest tower with a height of 33/8 meters known in the world. The garden on 23/12/1346 in row No. 774 national monuments are located, and also one of the Persian Gardens registered in the World Heritage Site by UNESCO is.

Dolat Abad Garden in Yazd in late Afsharieh and in 1160. AH by Mohammad Taghi Khan, known as (Great Khan) that he was Yazd SrsIslh Khans dynasty was established. The late Mohammad Taqi Khan's first aqueduct during construction and 65 Kylvmtrra water from Mehriz to Yazd Dolat Abad Garden's current location and then rule sets (Daralhkvmh) founded their own. The garden has an area of about 70/000 square meters, including buildings, ponds and waterfront, a lot of space between them in the gardens with trees, pomegranates and grapes and ... Baglhay abundance adorn their environment.



### Day 10: Yazd - Nain - Isfahan

After breakfast, leave Yazd to Isfahan (322 km), on the way visit Jame Mosque of Nain, Continue to Isfahan.

O/N: Isfahan.

**The Jameh Mosque of Nain** is the grand, congregational mosque (Jameh) of Nain city, within Isfahan Province of Iran. Although the mosque is one of the oldest in Iran, it is still in use and is protected by Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization.

The mosque is one of the oldest in Iran, dating back to the 9th century. The interiors however are Seljuki in brick craftsmanship, and therefore allude to the 11th century.



### Day 11: Isfahan

After breakfast, full day visit for Chehel Sotun Palace, Naqsh-e Jahan complex (Imam Mosque, Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, Ali Qapu Palace and Bazaar).

O/N: Isfahan.

**Chehel Sotoun ( "Forty Columns"**) is a pavilion in the middle of a park at the far end of a long pool, in Isfahan, Iran, built by Shah Abbas II to be used for his entertainment and receptions. In this palace, Shah Abbas II and his successors would receive dignitaries and ambassadors, either on the terrace or in one of the stately reception halls.

The name, meaning "Forty Columns" in Persian, was inspired by the twenty slender wooden columns supporting the entrance pavilion, which, when reflected in the waters of the fountain, are said to appear to be forty. As with Ali Qapu, the palace contains many frescoes and paintings on ceramic. Many of the ceramic panels have been dispersed and are now in the possession of major museums in the west.



They depict specific historical scenes such as the infamous Battle of Chaldiran against the Ottoman Sultan Selim I, the reception of an Uzbek King in 1646, when the palace had just been completed; the welcome extended to the Mughal Emperor, Humayun who took refuge in Iran in 1544; the battle of Taher-Abad in 1510 where the Safavid Shah Ismail I vanquished and killed the Uzbek King. A more recent painting depicts Nader Shah's victory against the Indian Army at Karnal in 1739. There are also less historical, but even more aesthetic compositions in the traditional miniature style which celebrate the joy of life and love.

The Chehel Sotoun Palace is among the 9 Iranian Gardens which are collectively registered as one of the Iran's 17 registered World Heritage Sites under the name of the Persian Garden.



**Naqsh-e Jahan Square**, known as Imam Square, formerly known as Shah Square, is a square situated at the center of Isfahan city, Iran. Constructed between 1598 and 1629, it is now an important historical site, and one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. It is 160 metres (520 ft) wide by 560 metres (1,840 ft) long (an area of 89,600 square metres (964,000 sq ft)). The square is surrounded by buildings from the Safavid era. The Shah Mosque is situated on the south side of this square. On the west side is the Ali Qapu Palace. Sheikh Lotf Allah Mosque is situated on the eastern side of this square and at the northern side Keisaria gate opens into the Isfahan Grand Bazaar. Today, Namaaz-e Jom'eh (the Muslim Friday prayer) is held in the Shah Mosque. The square is depicted on the reverse of the Iranian 20,000 rials banknote.



**The Lotfollah Mosque :** The Lotfollah Mosque had a secret entrance that spanned underneath the Maidan, from the Palace on the opposite side of the square.

Of the four monuments that dominated the perimeter of the Naqsh-e Jahan square, the Lotfollah Mosque, opposite the palace, was the first to be built. The purpose of this mosque was for it to be a private mosque of the royal court, unlike the Shah mosque|Masjed-e Shah, which was meant for the public. For this reason, the mosque does not have any minarets and is of a smaller size. Indeed, few Westerners at the time of the Safavids even paid any attention to this mosque, and they certainly did not have access to it. It wasn't until centuries later, when the doors were opened to the public, that ordinary people could admire the effort that Shah Abbas had put into making this a sacred place for the ladies of his harem, and the exquisite tile-work, which is far superior to those covering the Shah Mosque.



**Ali Qapu** is in effect but a pavilion that marks the entrance to the vast royal residential quarter of the Safavid Isfahan which stretched from the Maidan Naqsh-i-Jahan to the Chahar Bagh Boulevard. The name is made of two elements: "Ali", Arabic for exalted, and "Qapu" Turkic for portal or royal threshold. The compound stands for "Exalted Porte". This name was chosen by the Safavids to rival the Ottomans' celebrated name for their court : Bab-i Ali, or the "Sublime Porte"). It was here that the great monarch used to entertain noble visitors, and foreign ambassadors.



Shah Abbas, here for the first time celebrated the Nowruz (New Year's Day) of 1006 AH / 1597 A.D. A large and massive rectangular structure, the Ali Qapu is 48 m (157 ft) high and has six floors, fronted with a wide terrace whose ceiling is inlaid and supported by wooden columns.

On the sixth floor, the royal reception and banquets were held. The largest rooms are found on this floor. The stucco decoration of the banquet hall abounds in motif of various vessels and cups. The sixth floor was popularly called (the music room) as it was here that various ensembles performed music and sang songs. From the upper galleries, the Safavid ruler watched polo games, maneuvers and horse-racing below in the Naqsh-i-Jahan square.



The **Bazaar of Isfahan** is a historical market and one of the oldest and largest bazaars of the Middle East. Although the present structure dates back to the Safavid era, parts of it are more than a thousand years old, dating back to the Seljuq dynasty. It is a vaulted, two kilometer street linking the old city with the new.



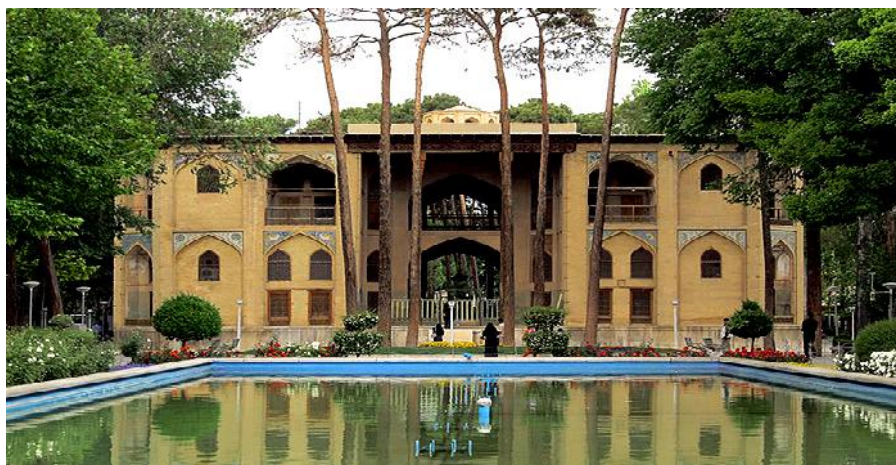
## Day 12: Isfahan

Full day visit of Hasht Behesht Palace, Shaking minarets and Armenian Vank Cathedral.  
Afternoon visit of old bridges of Si-o-Se Bridge and Khaju Bridge.

O/N: Isfahan.

**Hasht Behesht**, meaning "Eight Paradises" is a Safavid era palace in Isfahan.

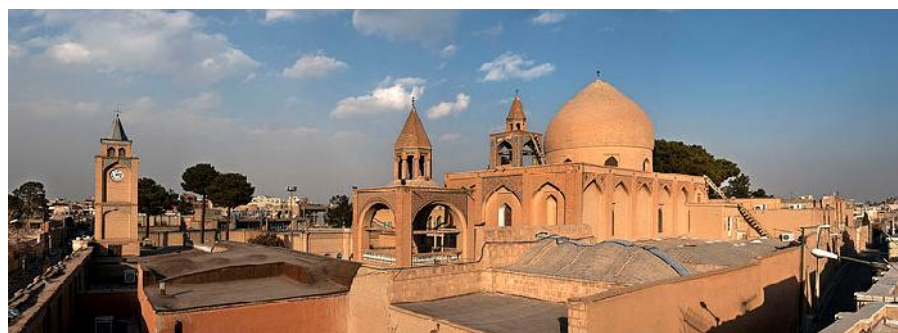
It was built in 1669 and is today protected by Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization. Of more than forty mansions which existed in Isfahan during the rule of Safavids, this is the only one left today.



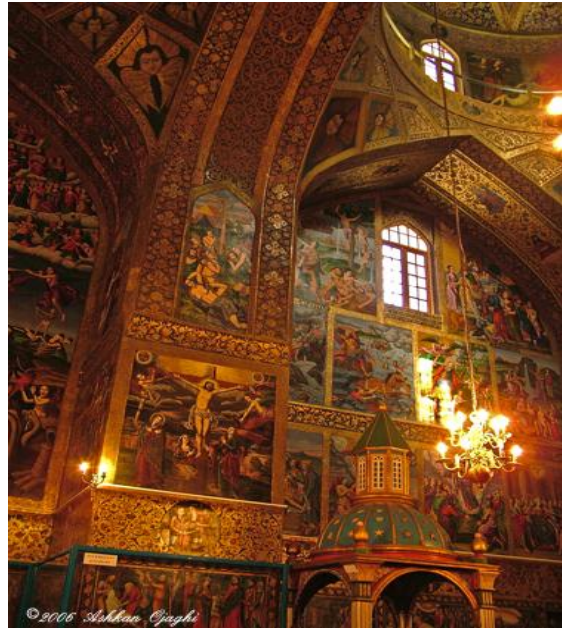
**Holy Savior Cathedral** is a cathedral located in the New Julfa district of Isfahan, Iran. It is commonly referred to as the Vank (Վանք), which means "monastery" or "convent" in Armenian language.

The cathedral was established in 1606, dedicated to the hundreds of thousands of Armenian deportees that were resettled by Shah Abbas I during the Ottoman War of 1603-1618.

The varying fortunes and independence of this suburb across the Zayande River and its eclectic mix of European missionaries, mercenaries and travelers can be traced almost chronologically in the cathedral's combination of building styles and contrasts in its external and internal architectural treatment.

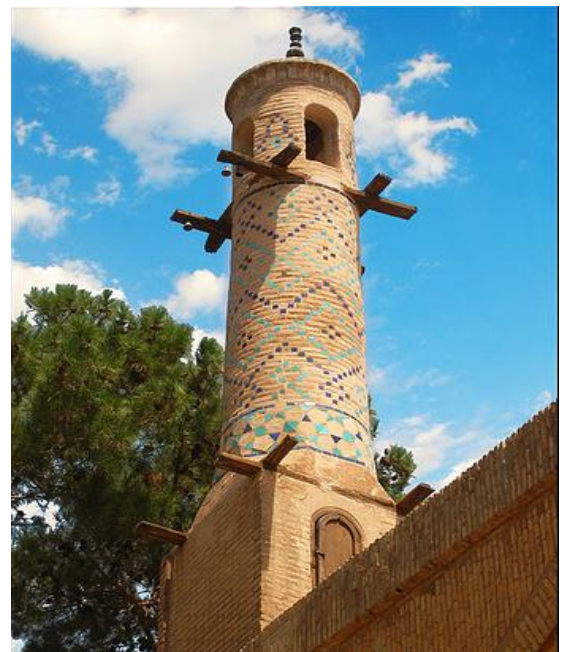






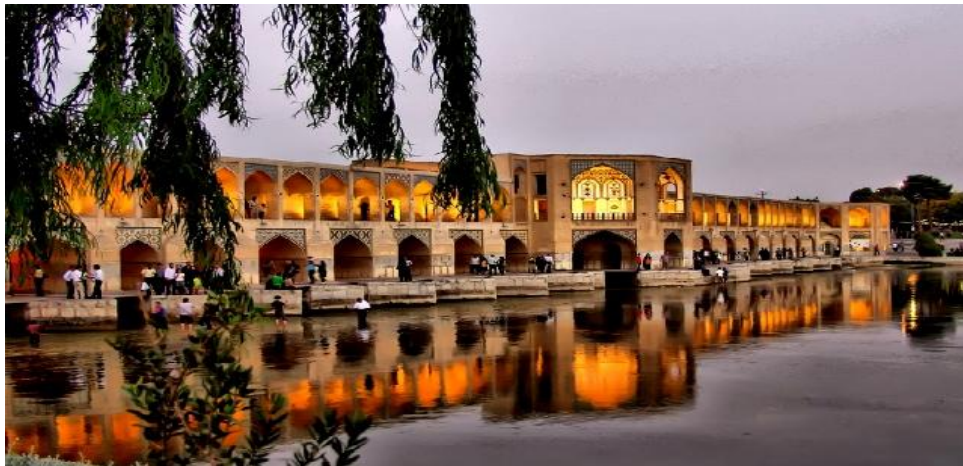
**Monarjonban** of one of the city's history Aref called " Uncle Abdullah Karladany " it was buried. The remarkable thing about this monument is that by moving a minaret , minarets also comes to movement and mobility should be noted that each have a width of nine meters tall minarets are seventeen yards. Uncle Abdullah historic stone written over 716 AH shows that in the period of Öljaitü Aylkhan is Muslim.

In Iran, some minarets have the ability to shake the so-called Monarjonban say to them. Iran is one of the most Mnarjnbanhay in Isfahan and another in the city of Ardakan and are located in the Khranq.



**Khaju Bridge** is a bridge in the province of Isfahan, Iran, which has been described as the finest in the province. It was built by the Persian Safavid king, Shah Abbas II around 1650, on the foundations of an older bridge.

Serving as both a bridge, and a dam (or a weir), it links the Khaju quarter on the north bank with the Zoroastrian quarter across the Zayandeh River. Although architecturally functioning as a bridge and a weir, it also served a primary function as a building and a place for public meetings. This structure was originally decorated with artistic tilework and paintings, and served as a teahouse.



**All hverdi Khan Bridge**, popularly known as **Si-o-seh pol** “The bridge of thirty-three spans” is one of the eleven bridges of Isfahan, Iran and the longest bridge on Zayandeh River with the total length of 297.76 metres (976.9 ft). It is highly ranked as being one of the most famous examples of Safavid bridge design.

It was constructed by the finance and the inspection of Allahverdi Khan Undiladze chancellor of Shah Abbas I, an ethnic Georgian, it consists of two rows of 33 arches from either sides, left and right. There is a larger base plank at the start of the bridge where the Zayandeh River flows under it, supporting a tea house which nowadays is abandoned due to the shortage of water and the river drought.





Day 13: Isfahan – Kashan

After breakfast, drive to Kashan (218 km). Have a stop in Natanz to visit Jame Mosque.  
Continue to Kashan, have a visit of Sialk Hill and broujerdies' and Tabatabais' old houses.

O/N: Kashan.

**Mosque or Friday Mosque of Natanz** set of religious monument city of Natanz in Isfahan province , all of which took Oljaito Khodabande and his son Abu Sa'id Bahadur Khan made. Buildings of different times, but each time making them small. The complex includes a mosque and a monastery and mausoleum of Sheikh Abdul Samad and a 37-meter minaret.



**Tepe Sialk** is a large ancient archeological site) in a suburb of the city of Kashan, Isfahan Province, in central Iran, close to Fin Garden. The culture that inhabited this area has been linked to the Zayandeh River Culture.

The Sialk ziggurat was built around the 3000 BC. A joint study between Iran's Cultural Heritage Organization, the Louvre, and the Institute Francais de Recherche en Iran also verifies the oldest settlements in Sialk to date back to 5500–6000 BC. Sialk, and the entire area around it, is thought to have originated as a result of the pristine large water sources nearby that still run today. The Cheshmeh ye Soleiman ("Solomon's spring") has been bringing water to this area from nearby mountains for thousands of years. The Fin garden, built in its present form in the 17th century, is a popular tourist attraction. It is here that the kings of the Safavid dynasty would spend their vacations away from their capital cities. It is also here that Piruz Nahavandi (Abu-Lu'lu'ah), the Persian assassin of Caliph Umar, is buried. All these remains are located in the same location where Sialk is.





**Home Borujerdi** the historic city of Kashan is. The building is located in the neighborhood Sultan Mir Ahmad and in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Hijri built in Qajar era and was registered under the number 1083 in the national index.

The house has a beautiful crescent-shaped symmetrical vents on the roof of the hall and pergola on one of the most beautiful manifestations of Persian architecture to display it. So that the inscriptions on all four sides of the hall, the building dates back to 1292 BC E...

Paintings, valuable and Gchbryhay this house, under the Sani-ol-Molk, the great Iranian painter and uncle Kamalolmolk been implemented. The owner of the house, Haj Seyed Mehdi Natanz Natanz businessmen residing in Kashan and architect of the master Ustad Ali Maryam was. Because of his many trips to the city of Boroujerd have known Boroujerdi. He loved the girl's Tabatabai Tabatabai also one of the largest carpet merchant, and then leaves to consent to the marriage condition. His beautiful home which is now called the house Tabatabaian known as lived and Mehdi says he must build a house like my house to get my daughter to Hmsryt in. Mehdi also accepts and ends after 7 years to build the inner courtyard and living at home after 11 years in the main hall is completed. Boroujerdi House in Kashan Cultural Heritage Administration is now home.

Bryjrdyhay historic house in Kashan in terms of popularity tourist attraction as a top choice UNESCO in 2015 and 2016 respectively.



**Home Tabatabaian** which was registered under number 1504, in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century AH by Haj Seyed Jafar Tabatabai merchants Natanz resident of Kashan in the neighborhood Sultan Amir Ahmad was built.

Architect manufacturer of the master Ustad Ali Maryam and plaster involved in the art and drawings by students Mirza Abul Hassan Sani-ol-Molk Ghaffari Kashani, and under him were doing.

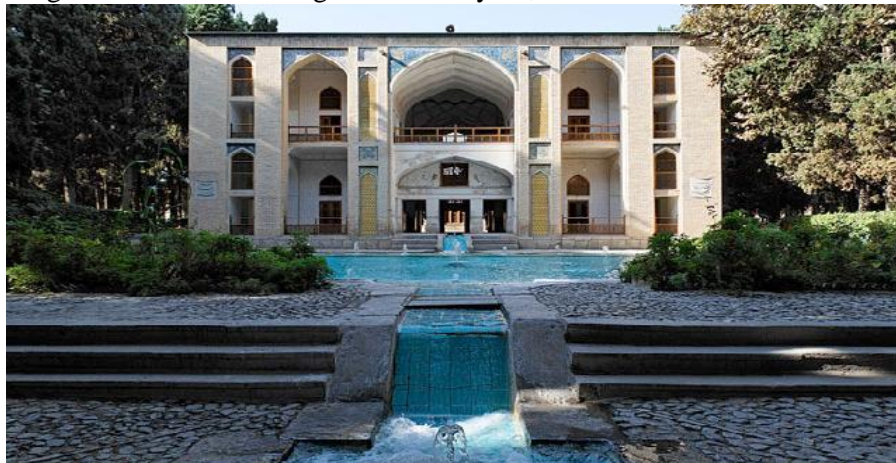


#### Day 14: Kashan - Tehran

After breakfast visit Fin Garden, Agha Bozorg Mosque. Evening drive to International airport.

O/N: Tehran.

**Fin Garden**, or Bagh-e Fin, located in Kashan, Iran, is a historical Persian garden. It contains Kashan's Fin Bath, where Amir Kabir, the Qajarid chancellor, was murdered by an assassin sent by King Nasereddin Shah in 1852. Completed in 1590, the Fin Garden is the oldest extant garden in Iran. The origins of the garden may be anterior to the Safavid period; some sources indicate that the garden has been relocated from another place, but no clear picture of it has been found. The settlements of the garden in its present form was built under the reign of Abbas I of Persia (1571-1629), as a traditional bagh near the village of Fin, located a few kilometres southwest of Kashan. The garden was developed further during the Safavid dynasty, until Abbas II of Persia (1633-1666). It was highly recognized during the reign of Fat h Ali Shah Qajar and was considerably expanded. The garden subsequently suffered from neglect and was damaged several times until, in 1935, it was listed as a national property of Iran. On 2007, 8 September, Bagh-e Fin was submitted to the Unesco's Tentative List. Unesco declared the garden a World Heritage Site on July 18, 2012.



**Agha Bozorg mosque** is a historical mosque in Kashan, Iran. The mosque was built in the late 18th century by master-mimar Ustad Haj Sa'ban-ali. The mosque and theological school (madrasah) is located in the center of the city.

Agha Bozorgh Mosque was constructed for prayers, preaching and teaching sessions held by Molla Mahdi Naraghi II, known as gh Bozorgh.

The mosque has been described as "the finest Islamic complex in Kashan and one of the best of the mid-19th century". Noted for its symmetrical design, it consists of two large iwans, one in front of the mihrab and the other by the entrance. The courtyard has a second court in the middle which comprises a garden with trees and a fountain. The iwan in front of mehrab has two minarets with a brick dome. It was here where Ustad Ali Maryam as a pupil started his career as an architect.



### **Day 15: Departure**

Flight to your home.