



**Geo Spatial
Conference**
Oct. 12-14, 2019
University of Tehran



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Post-conference Tour

Visit Esfahan and Kashan, The Best Cultural Destinations in Iran

October 15-17th 2019

The tour itinerary:

Date	Travel	Activity	Overnight
Oct 14 th	Driving to Kashan (4 Hours)	Driving to Kashan after the conference finished.	Ameriha Hotel Kashan
Oct 15 th	City Sightseeing in Kashan Driving to Esfahan	Visiting Fin garden, Borujerdi and Tabatabaai historical houses, Soltan-Ahmad bathhouse, Aqa-bozorg mosque Then driving to Esfahan and visiting Abyaneh Village en-route	Traditional hotel of Esfahan
Oct 16 th	City Sightseeing in Esfahan	Visiting Naqsh-e-Jahan square, Shah-Abbasi and Shekh-lotf-allah mosques, Ali-qapu and Chehelsotun palaces, Esfahan Bazar	Traditional hotel of Esfahan
Oct 17 th	City Sightseeing in Esfahan Driving to Ika airport (4 Hours)	Visiting Jame mosque of Esfahan, Vank Armenians church, Si-o-se-pol and Khaju bridges. Then driving to Esfahan airport or Ika airport (depends on your departure flight)	

The tour price:

- ***SNG 360 Euro***
- ***DBL 340 Euro***

Included in the Tour:

- *Invitation letter and reference number for visa*
- *3 nights accommodation*
- *Transportation by private car, van, minibus or bus according to the group size*
- *Professional English speaking tour guide*
- *All entrance fees as the itinerary*
- *Lunches*
- *Transfer from conference place and to the airports at the end*

Not included:

- *Extra costs like room services, phone . . .*
- *Entrance fees for extra visits*
- *Dinners*



Briefly introducing the visiting sights

Fin Garden



Fin Garden is one of the most famous and beautiful garden which is considered as a complete example of the Persian Gardens. Fin district in Kashan was very popular among kings due to the presence of an exhilarating spring. The construction of Fin Garden dates back to Safavid Dynasty but several buildings were added to the central part through different periods. Water is an important factor in decorating Fin Garden. There are different gutters and pools which make the garden and its view more pleasant. It is really lovely to watch fountains splashing water in the middle of a pool in a green yard. The pools are decorated with turquoise blue tile, they look awesome. Interior sections were also decorated with nice tile works, colorful and breathtaking, it truly double the splendid of Fin Garden.



Tabatabaii House



Geographically located near many landmarks in Kashan, Tabatabai House is a traditional house dating back to the early 1880s. The house belonged to an affluent family named Tabatabai. It really worth going to Kashan and visiting Tabatabai House because it magnificently depicts the beauties of the Persian architecture. The house, just like other traditional houses in Iran, has two parts. One of them which was allocated to the public was called Biruni and the other one which was used by women or known as the private section was called Andaruni. A famous architect, Ali Maryam, constructed eye catching Tabatabai House. Forty rooms, four courtyards and four basements are what made this house. Three wind catchers were used to ventilate the air in hot summer days of Kashan and thus it was cool and pleasant inside. Beautiful pools and gardens in the yard add to the beauty and amaze every visitors. Visiting Tabatabaei House is a must see and provides an unforgettable scenic view.



Borujerdi House



Borujerdi House was constructed in a very big land and includes two yards. It was planned and built based on the climate of Kashan so it is cool and pleasant inside during hot summer days. The history of Borujerdi house dates back to Qajar Dynasty. The house is divided into two parts called Andaruni and Biruni. These two sections share the same entrance gate. Borujerdi House is important due to its architectural style and interior design. It is interesting to mention that about 150 architects, painters and artists were hired to build and decorate the house. The paintings used to do so are magnificent and amaze the visitors. Two symmetrical wind catchers on both sides of Borujerdi House double its beauty. All and all it really worth visiting such a masterpiece.



Soltan-Amir-Ahmad Bathhouse



Sultan Amir Ahmad Bathhouse, is a traditional Iranian public bathhouse in Kashan, Iran. It was constructed in the 16th century, during the Safavid era; however, the bathhouse was damaged in 1778 as a result of an earthquake and was renovated during the Qajar era. The bathhouse is named after Imamzadeh Sultan Amir Ahmad, whose mausoleum is nearby.

Sultan Amir Ahmad Bathhouse, with an area of around 1000 square meters, consists of two main parts: the *sarbineh* (dressing hall) and *garmkhaneh* (hot bathing hall). The *sarbineh* is a large octagonal hall and has an octagonal pool in the middle, separated by 8 pillars from the outer section. There are four pillars in the *garmkhaneh*, which make smaller bathing rooms all around as well as the entrance section to the *khazineh* (final bathing room) in the middle. The interior of the bathhouse is decorated with turquoise and gold tilework, plasterwork, brickwork, as well as artistic paintings. The roof of the bathhouse is made of multiple domes that contain convex glasses to provide sufficient lighting to the bathhouse while concealing it from the outside.



Aqa-bozorg Mosque



Geographically located in the historical city of Kashan, Aqa Bozorg Complex consists of a mosque and a madrasah. The construction is one of the masterpieces of Qajar era due to its beauty and magnificence. Friday congregational prayers were held in the mosque and Madrasah was used by Aqa Bozorg Who was a famous preacher, jurist and theologian. The complex is crowned with a two shelled dome and two tall minarets. Eye catching decorations of Aqa Bozorg Complex make it as a proper destination for the tourists who are keen on exploring history. Perfect planning and unique sketch of Aqa Bozorg Complex using authentic Persian architecture change it into an important Islamic Persian monument. The mosque consists of three Shabestans and its combination with a school is really considerable.



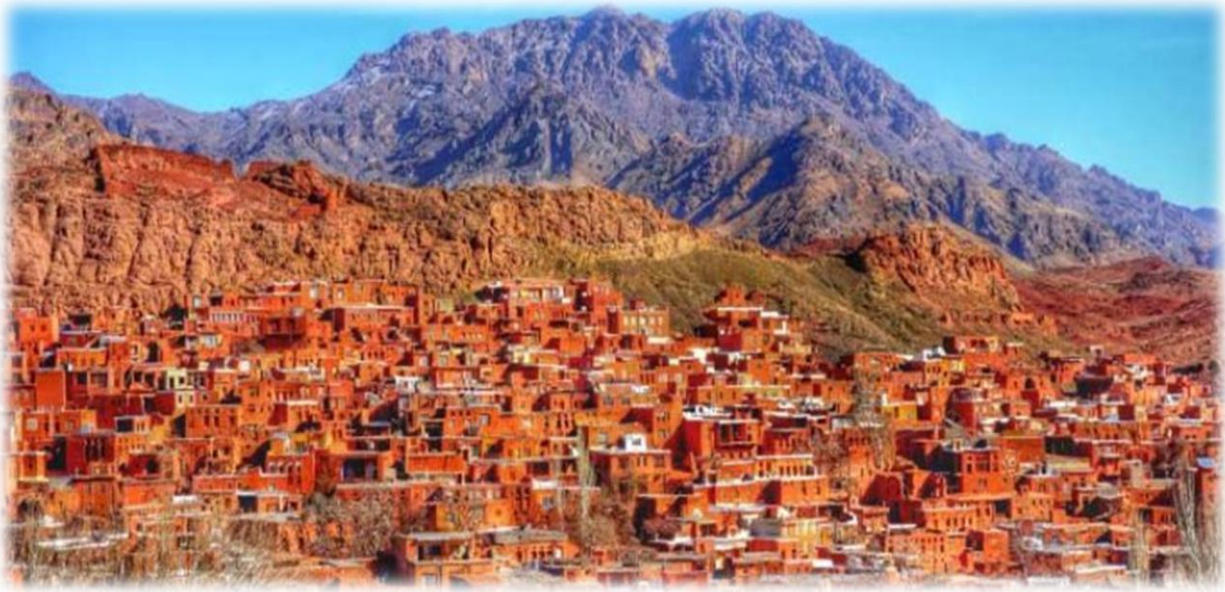
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Abyaneh Village



Close to a city called Natanz in Isfahan Province, on the foothills of Karkas Mountain, a beautiful historic village was constructed and named as Abyaneh village. According to archeologists, this village was constructed about 1500 years ago and owns many eye catching historical remnants. Nowadays, Abyaneh has about 500 historical houses which were constructed to the north of a delightful river named Borzrud. In Abyaneh, the houses are mostly built of mud and bricks and have wonderful facades designed with sash windows, balconies and wooden roofs. The facades were decorated with clay dust provided from a mine near the village. It is interesting to know that the drinking water of the residence is supplied by 7 Qanats of Abyaneh. In addition to the beautiful alleys and fantastic historical houses, many apricot, apple, pear and walnut trees would definitely lift your spirit during your visit. An ancient fire temple is another attraction that you could enjoy visiting in Abyaneh. While you are walking through the alleys, watching locals dressed in customs makes you feel awesome.



Khaju Bridge



Khaju Bridge in Isfahan is one of the architectural masterpieces of Safavid dynasty and is located over Zayanderud River. It was constructed during Shah Abbas II. The bridge, which is about 150 meters long, 14 meters wide and about 6 meters high, is made of stone and brick with 18 arcades. Khaju Bridge is decorated with tiles from Safavid dynasty, and a special building has been constructed for the royal family in the middle of it. The middle structure called 'Shahneshin', was the place for leaders and kings who watched swimming and sailing competitions on the lake. Glamorous tilework and extraordinary architecture of the bridge have made it more famous than other bridges in Isfahan. On the corners of the eastern side of Khaju Bridge, there are two stone lions, which appear to be the symbols of Bakhtiari, tribal protectors of Isfahan during Safavid era. According to historians and researchers who have studied this dynasty, the bridge was established to connect Khaju neighborhoods and Hasan Abad Gate with Takht-e Foulad and Shiraz Road. Tourists visiting Isfahan in different periods of time, praised the beauty of Khaju Bridge and considered it as one of the most important structures representing Iranian and Islamic architecture. Khaju Bridge was registered as a national heritage in 1931.



Si-o-se Pol Bridge



There are eleven bridges over Zayanderud River in half of the world, Isfahan. The longest one is named Allahverdi Khan Bridge. This bridge is popular as Si-o-Se Pol Bridge among local people. This scenic bridge was built during Shah Abbas, the ruler of Safavid dynasty, upon the order of Allahverdi Khan. He was the chancellor of the king. Si-o-Se Pol Bridge was made of thirty three spans and was used as both dam and bridge. It is believed that the wetter the bridge gets, the stronger it would be. Si-o-Se Pol Bridge is a nice example depicting the beautiful architectural style of Iran at that era. According to many travelers, this bridge is a masterpiece of architecture which worth taking a trip to Iran to visit. In addition to this bridge, Isfahan hosts many other attractions to provide avid tourists with an unforgettable trip.



Naghsh-e-Jahan Square



Jame Mosque in Isfahan is one of the oldest and most important religious structures that includes various sections representing architectural arts in different Islamic period. The present mosque is mainly related to the Seljuk period, but its renovations and extensions are related to later periods, especially in Safavid dynasty. It, just like a vast museum, currently represents the process of evolution and development of Iranian architecture in the Islamic era, and even earlier, because archaeological excavations indicate that this mosque was probably the most important religious center of the city before the Arabs invasion, and was used as a fire temple. In general, the present construction of the mosque includes the following sections. Shabestan, which is an underground space and can usually be found in traditional mosque. This Shabestan, built on circular pillars, is decorated with stunning stucco works. The northern and western domes are decorated with delicate tile works and Quranic words, Iwans are the structures built around the entrances. The Iwans of the mosque are designed with skillful arches, colorful tile works and Qur'anic inscriptions. Jame Mosque in Isfahan expresses the experiences of architecture in the last millennium. Therefore, the main value of Jame mosque in Isfahan is that it has been considered as a model of architecture in the history of the Middle East. The mosque has been registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2012.



Shah-Abbasi Mosque



Formerly known as Shah Mosque in Isfahan, Imam Mosque, located on the south side of Naghsh-e Jahan Square, is an extraordinary unique structure of the world. The construction of the mosque started during Shah Abbas I and is considered as a great example of Islamic architecture. Its reputation mainly relates to delicate tile works, stunning architecture, charming dome and unique stone carvings. The main entrance which is located on the west side of the mosque addresses a big square as the central square of Isfahan, and there also is a fountain just at the beginning of the entrance. The arch of the great entrance is lined with colorful Muqarnas. There are two tall minarets on both sides of the entrance, and two-story shops around the main square. Domed side halls on the east side of the mosque are connected to the main courtyard, where there are two Madrasas (school). The double shell dome located in the north part of the mosque and the exterior part are covered with the most beautiful blue and gold tiles. There are also two more minarets on both sides of the dome as tall as 48 meters. There are some entrances which are connected to other parts of the city. Imam Mosque was registered as one of the national heritages in 1931.



Ali-Qapu Palace



Located on the west side of Naqshe-e Jahan Square, Ali Qapu Palace in Isfahan that was famous as the tallest building in the capital of Safavid dynasty for centuries, attracts the attention of every visitor to its eye-catching designs and miniature art. The palace has five entrances and the most important one is called Ali Qapu. Other doors are Chahar Howz in the north, Shahi Entrance overlooking the city gate in the west, Harem (the entrance for the women), and finally the so called Matbakh (the Kitchen) entrance. The construction of this mansion has been completed in 5 architectural stages during the successors of Shah Abbas I, especially Shah Abbas II and Shah Suleiman and it lasted for 70 to 100 years. Even the existed inscriptions with nasta'liq script remained from Shah Sultan Hussein period indicate that the decoration of the third floor was added or restored during the time of this last Safavid king. Ali Qapu Palace is a three-story building and each floor is divided into two other ones, so there are actually six floors. Due to the fact that the roof overlooks the whole city, it is considered as one floor, and that's why it is believed that Ali Qapu is a seven-story building. One interesting thing about this palace is that the number of the stories look different from exterior view, for instance, the palace seems to have two floors from the eastern side, five floors from the western side, and seven floors through the stairs. The mansion features an Iwan with beautiful column and a small pool in the middle. After passing through the entrance, you will see an elegant dome above your head. Each floor has its own unique decorations. Delicate paintings of flowers, plants, animals, geometric shapes and poultry cover all over the interior walls. In the last four years, due to the destructive danger that threatened Ali Qapu Palace, repairs were carried out by Iranian and foreign specialists.



Sheikh-Lotf-allah Mosque



On a corner of this square, an enchanting dome is depicting its beauty to everyone. This dome belongs to Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque and it is a masterpiece of architecture and tile works. This alluring mosque will catch the eyes of visitors at first sight. Some believe that this building doesn't actually have the role of a mosque and the architect of the mosque has skillfully created a space in which even the followers of other religions notice the divine and mystical atmosphere of it. Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque was registered as a national heritage in 1931. What might attract your attention at first is that there are no minarets near the dome, in spite of this fact, minarets are inseparable parts of the mosques. Another interesting thing is the absence of entrance courtyard called Sahn in Islamic architecture and it can be reached through the stairs. It is said that there is an underground path, and allowed the king to have access to Sheikh Lotfollah who was a famous scholar. The construction of the mosque began by the order of Shah Abbas I and in honor of Sheikh Lotfollah, and after 18 years of constructing and decorating, it was completed in 1618. Blue, green, beige and white are the colors that are observed in this building and will enchant you when they are combined with lights. The dome of the mosque is the world most rounded dome, made up of two shells. Magnificent Islamic lines cover the dome and show the harmony of design and colors in the most beautiful form. One of the interesting things about the dome is that, its color changes during different times of the day. Adorning with tiles, mosaics and delicate Muqarnas, the Altar of the mosque is considered as a masterpiece in the architecture of the mosques. There are other inscriptions around the Altar and inside the mosque that are covered with fascinating calligraphy.



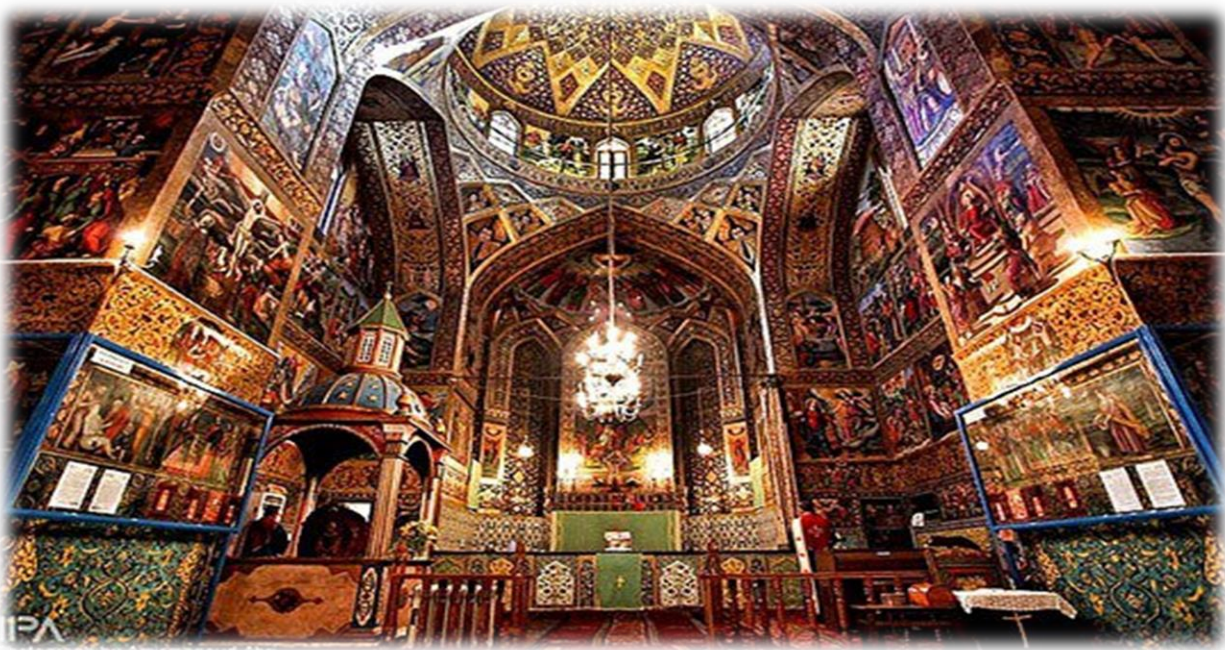
Chehel-Sotun Palace



Chehel Sotoun Palace that has been named as one of the most blessed buildings of the world left from Safavid dynasty, is located in the middle of a beautiful garden next to a pool in Isfahan. As the result of excavations, two inscriptions were found, showing that the construction of the palace started at the time of Shah Abbas I and ended during the rule of Shah Abbas II. The palace is 2120 square meters big. Chehel Sotoun Garden has three entrances that the old one opens to the east side. When entering the garden through the main entrance, after a short distance, there will be a large pool in the front and then the mansion itself. Chehel Sotoun is an example of royal garden from Safavid dynasty. The architecture of the palace is an integration of foreign and Iranian arts, and features a main porch. The porch itself includes two parts, one fixed on 18 wooden columns along with four columns in the middle that are installed on four stone lions. The other part is slightly higher and forms the entrance and is referred to as Mirror Hall. This part is situated on two columns and decorated with thousands of glittering mirrors. The ceiling is made of wooden frames in various geometric shapes. The central hall was allocated to foreign guests, and contains paintings that represent the historical events of different periods. Paintings in the central hall, some of which belong to Qajar era, depict Shah Abbas I and II hosting Shah Tahmasp I and Humayun (the second emperor of the Mughal Empire), as well as the war of Shah Ismail I against Uzbekan. Right now, Chehel Sotoun Palaces is a garden museum, and the central hall displays some artworks of different periods. It is one of the most spectacular and historic places in Isfahan, visited by many foreign tourists and guests.



Vank Cathedral



Vank Cathedral, also known as Amenaperkic, is a church located in Jolfa district of Isfahan. This church is one of the historical Armenians' churches and was constructed at the time of Shah Abbas II. Vank means Congregational cathedral in Armenian language. Armenians immigrated to Isfahan after the Great Migration, in 1605, upon the order of Shah Abbas II. As they arrived, they began to build a place to live and due to their religious beliefs, building churches was the first step. Vank Cathedral is considered as the largest and most beautiful church in Jolfa. All interior parts of the building are covered with oil paintings and golden decorations displaying images of Christ's life, influenced by Italian paintings. The belfry which is located across from the main entrance, dates back to Shah Sultan Husayn Safavi. The praying room having a parallelogram shape, consists of two parts, the first part is Shabestan, an underground space in traditional mosques, and the second part is under the dome, a place for performing religious anthem and ceremonies. The walls of praying room are covered with delicate multi-colored tiles. In the upper parts of the wall, beautiful pictures, inspired by the holy book, are painted. There are many pictures all around the dome depicting the story of creating Adam and Eve. The altar depicts many images such as an image of Christ as well. The exterior design of the dome is simple without tiled ornament, and it's just brick work. On a corner of the courtyard, there is a huge elegant bell situated on four stone columns while on another corner, and in front of the bell tower, there is a long column, made in memorial of 1.5 million Armenians who were massacred in 1915. The bell tower consists of three floors and it is located above the entrance. On the second floor of the tower, there is a massive watch weighting over 300 kg. The Vank cathedral has various sections, such as a museum and a library.



Jame Mosque of Esfahan



Jame Mosque in Isfahan is one of the oldest and most important religious structures that includes various sections representing architectural arts in different Islamic period. The present mosque is mainly related to the Seljuk period, but its renovations and extensions are related to later periods, especially in Safavid dynasty. It, just like a vast museum, currently represents the process of evolution and development of Iranian architecture in the Islamic era, and even earlier, because archaeological excavations indicate that this mosque was probably the most important religious center of the city before the Arabs invasion, and was used as a fire temple. In general, the present construction of the mosque includes the following sections. Shabestan, which is an underground space and can usually be found in traditional mosque. This Shabestan, built on circular pillars, is decorated with stunning stucco works. The northern and western domes are decorated with delicate tile works and Quranic words, Iwans are the structures built around the entrances. The Iwans of the mosque are designed with skillful arches, colorful tile works and Qur'anic inscriptions. Jame Mosque in Isfahan expresses the experiences of architecture in the last millennium. Therefore, the main value of Jame mosque in Isfahan is that it has been considered as a model of architecture in the history of the Middle East. The mosque has been registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2012.