

BISMILLAH ALRAHMAN ALRAHEEM

IRAN GUIDE-----SHAUQ-E-ZIYARAT

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PREFACE

34 year ago the world witnessed overthrow of dictatorial regime of the shah in Iran, which materialized as a result of wise leadership of Imam Khomeini and strong determination of the absolute majority of the Iranian people to get rid of the said regime. Since the revolution which is the third biggest in the history of mankind on this earth, the country had "independence, freedom and the Islamic Republic" as its main motto. So far more than 30 elections have been held in the country. Scaling up in Science, technology and economy in Iran has culminated to increase the country's co-operation capabilities in international levels specifically regional scales.

TOURISM

There are few countries in the world that all four seasons at the same time exist. Tourists who visit the southern coasts of Iran in winter, can enjoy very pleasant weather and swim, while in the distance of 45 minutes fly, at the same time cities like Tabriz and Tehran are cold enough that winter sports can be done. This climatic norm from the snowy mountains till the rainy forests and sunny deserts differs and has made an ecological beauty of Iran's diversity of nature. Iran with rich cultural heritage and valuable countless natural gifts, could turn into an important centres. Furthermore, Iran as the cradle of the civilisations has the precious treasure of cultural heritage, which has been, remained more than 10 thousand years.

The Iranian style of architecture is unique and creative. Among different Iranian monuments, religious architectures are a significant part of Iran's cultural heritage and tourism industry. UNESCO ranks Iran 7th in the world in terms of possessing historical monuments, museums and other cultural attractions.

WOMEN

Women in Iran have equality, respect and the right to participate in all social, political and economic activities. They live their lives productively and with dignity. In pre-revolution era, Iran was fully influenced by western cultures based on considering women as a trading commodity, it was decided to replace this imported culture with genuine Islamic Ideology in which women should be held in high esteem and all their rights be observed.

Women in Iran are active in social and political life of the country and have high Profiles in the official governmental positions.

Women population relative to the total population of Iran (2006): more than 52% against men's 48%. Number of female university graduates from either free or state universities in the year 2006: 198231 which has had a 208.98% and 13 times increase compared to 1996 and 1986 respectively. Number of books published by Iranian female writers in the year 2007: over 9000 which has had 80% increase compared to 1997. Number of women film makers whose works became recognised in international film festivals out of Iran in the year 2007: 502 which has had a 58% increase compared to 1997.

VISA

You must obtain your visa from the country of your residence before you proceed to Iran. If you are going to go to Iraq from Iran then please make sure you have multiple visa or double entry visa for Iran if returning back to Iran. If you are going to Iraq by road then you must have visa stamp from embassy as approval letter is not accepted on Iraqi borders. Try to go to Najaf Airport because they accept approval letters and provide visa on arrival. (correct upto date information on 25/06/2013).

PASSPORT

Should be valid 6 months from date of travel to Iran.

TRAVELLER'S CHEQUES & BANK CARDS

It is better to take only cash notes in large denomination. It is better to take G.B. Pounds. Don't depend on cards & traveller's cheques as they are not accepted.

IRAN WEATHER

www.irimo.ir / www.yr.no / www.bbc.co.uk/weather

GOOD WEBSITES

www.masoumeh.com/ www.jamkaran.info /

EXCHANGE

Amjadi Exchange opposite Ariya hotel in Qum or Karime hotel tel;
+98-0-253 7833148/49 fax; 7831579

Mashad; Hotel Bushra in sarshour bazaar opposite bab jawad of
imam reza, which has shisha café on roof top.

SHOPPING

You should include the following items in your list of souvenirs.

From Qum to buy: Sohan e qum (mithai-halwa) from Khudkar
factory near hotel Fadak.

From mashad: Saffron and stones from Shustari in bazar e reza.

From Naishapour; firoza stone.

From Tehran; Dry fruits.

MAIN ZIYARAATS IN IRAN

1. The holy Shrine of Imam Reza A.s. Mashad.
2. Syed nasir and syed yasir a.s. (Brothers of Imam Reza a.s.)
Mashad
3. The shrine of Bibi syeda Masoumeh in Qum. (sister of Imam
Reza a.s.)
4. Masjid Jamkaran of 12th Imam.
5. Shah chiragh Syed Ahmed (brother of Imam Reza A.s.) Shiraz
6. Syed Ali Ibne Hamza Ibn Imam Musa Kazim. shiraz
7. Syed Mir Mohammed (brother of Imam Reza a.s) next to Shah
Chiragh shrine. Shiraz
8. Allama Mohammed Taqi Almajlisi. Isfahan
9. Syed Haroon bin Imam Musa Kazim A.s. Isfahan

PHILOSOPHY OF ZIYARAT

Ziyarat has its own philosophy. A person going to Hajj or Umra has so many places to visit in Mecca. One of these sacred places is the place where Hazrat Ibrahim A.s. stood and made foot prints on the stone. This was his miracle. God wants to remind his worshipper's not to forget the services and sacrifices of his prophet Ibrahim A.S. whom he gives the title Khalil (the friend). That is why he ordered them to pray on this place or near the place, to put their foreheads down on the place where Ibrahim A.s. left his footprints and run between the mountains of Safa and Marwa in the remembrance of sufferings of the family of Ibrahim (a.s.) as the Holy Quran points out:

And (remember) when we made the house a resort for mankind and a sanctuary (saying): "Take as place of prayer the place where Ibrahim stood to pray." Holy Quran ch. 2 verse: 125

In the same way God likes that his worshippers and visitors of his house will pay full importance to the sacrifices and sufferings of his last Prophet

Hazrat Mohammed (SAWW) and his Progeny. It means Ziarat is a worship, which derives its authenticity from the Holy Quran and towards it, points out the following Verse:

"IN HOUSES WHICH ALLAH HAS PERMITTED TO BE EXALTED, AND HIS NAME TO BE REMEMBERED THEREIN". Holy Quran Ch. 24, Verse 36

Some scholars think that the Houses in the above verse are Mosques. But it is not true as Mosques are already built to worship God only; there is no need to give special permission. So the Houses means the Holy Shrines of the Holy Prophet (SAWW) and his progeny, the personalities who give their lives to save the true picture of Islam.

Here we raise a question, " were the sufferings of Imam Hussain(a.s.) more than that of Hazrat Ismail" (a.s.)?

In short we can say that God does not like that his House be visited and The Constructors be neglected. This is the meaning of the tradition of The Holy Prophet (SAWW) that one who performs Hajj and did not visit me, insulted me.

QUM --- HOLY CITY

Qum is about 135 kms away from Tehran on its south. The fate had willed that the city was to be one of the sacred cities after its ground had embraced the pure body of Fatima, the daughter of Imam Musa al Kadhim (a.s.) the Seventh Imam of shia sect in 201 a.h. Hence it could be said that since that date the city of Qum had begun to ascend the stairs of glory to be at the head of Islamic capitals.

The city has paid the price of it's allegiance and love to AhlulBayt (a.s.) so dearly along all the ages. The Abbasid policy has followed a degrading means by imposing very heavy taxes.

In spite of that there was a kind of political ease towards AhlulBayt during the reign of Al-Ma'moon (Abbasid caliph). History has recorded that a revolution has broken out in Qum in 201 A.H. because of the heaviness of taxes but the revolution has been suppressed severely, the walls of the city have been destroyed and the taxes have been increased three and a half times.

QUM IN RADITIONS

Imam alSadiq (a.s.) said:

"If you are afflicted with distress and suffering, you are to resort to Qum because it is the refuge of the Fatimites and the resort of the believers".

Imam Musa Al Kadhim said:

"There will be a man from Qum, who will invite people to the truth and great masses of people will join him. They will not be shaken by the most violent storms."

This tradition has become real after the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeini (May Allah be pleased with him).

HARAM

Qum is famous for the Tomb of Syeda Fatima (Masooma) daughter of Imam Musa Al Kadhim (a.s.), popularly known as Masooma Qum. The Shrine and its courts are very spacious. The dome is covered in gold while the Zareeh covering the Grave is made of silver. The pilgrims visit this Holy Shrine throughout the year. On Thursday the shrine is packed with with the devotees. Besides being the place where the Islamic revolution started, Qum is the centre of Religious teachings. It is said that about 60,000 students receive education in theology according to the Jafri school of Fiqh.

In 1969 a new Zarih which is considered as a masterpiece of Islamic art was placed on the grave and that zarih exists till now. In the year 2001, basic renovation and repairs on the present Zarih were carried out. The International affairs Tel; +98-253-7741441. Email; info@masoumeh.com

THE GOLDEN BALCONY

The golden balcony along with its two smaller balconies were constructed in the year 925 A.H./ 1519 A.D., when the dome was renovated and the Atiq courtyard and its minarets were constructed.

THE AINEH (MIRROR) BALCONY

In the east of the Holy shrine there is a big balcony and because of the mirror work carried out it has become known as the Aineh mirror balcony. This wonderful artistic complex is the distinguished work of the famous master craftsman of the Qajari period Ustad Hasan Memar Qummi. This complex was built simultaneously with the construction of the new courtyard by the orders of the Prime Minister of that period Mirza ali Asghar Khan Atabak.

ATABAKI OR NAU COURTYARD

This courtyard consists of four balconies. The northern balcony of the courtyard is the entrance into the Holy Shrine from the Astane Square, the southern balcony is the entrance into the shrine from the Qiblah side, the eastern balcony is the entrance into the Holy shrine from Iran avenue and western balcony s the mirror balcony of the Holy shrine. All these 4 balconies were decorated in

traditional Islamic architectural styles and its beauty and elegance attracts the attention of every viewer. The presence of a big pool with different angles in the middle of the courtyard and the mirror balcony in its western side has multiplied the beauty of the courtyard. This courtyard was built on the orders of the Prime minister Mirza Ali Asghar Khan Atabak between the years 1295-1303 A.H. /1878-1888 A.D.

ATIK COURTYARD

The Atik (old) courtyard is located in the north of the Holy shrine and was the first courtyard built within the precincts of the Holy shrine. It has four balconies. The grand balcony in the south of the courtyard is the golden balcony which is the place of entrance to the holy burial chamber. The balcony in the north of the courtyard is linked to the historical Madrassa Faiziyah. The western balcony is the place of entrance to Masjid-I Azam. The eastern balcony of this courtyard connects to the Atabak (Nau) courtyard. This courtyard is small but the presence of beautifully decorated balconies and chambers have made it magnificent. This courtyard and its balconies were constructed in the year 925 a.h. /1519 a.d. on the orders of Shah Begi Begum, The wife of Shah Ismail Safavi.

BALASAR MOSQUE

Balasar Mosque is considered as the most beautiful portico in the Holy shrine where religious functions and congregational prayers are performed. This portico is also considered as the largest roofed building of the Holy shrine. In the year 1338 A.H./ 1919 A.D., the land lying on the western of the mosque was included in the mosque thus increasing the area of the mosque. After the construction of the Masjid-I Azam the Balasar mosque positioned between the holy burial chamber and the Masjid-I Azam.

TABATABAI MASJID

Tabatabai Masjid has a dome placed on fifty columns. It was built in the place of the old Zennanah courtyard in the southern part of the Holy shrine. The founder of this masjid which consists of a grand dome was Hujjat-ul Islam Haj agha Hussain qummi and was constructed between the years 1360-1370 A.H./ 1941 -1950 A.D.

SHAHEED MUTAHARI MASJID

This masjid was built in the place of the former museum of the Holy shrine. The building of the mosque is beautifully decorated with intrinsic tiles and most of the religious functions are held in this mosque.

A REMINDER: These buildings which are called as mosques are mosques only in name and the laws of the mosques are not applicable to them.

The total area of the shrine is about fourteen thousand sq. meters including the Haram, the porches, the halls, the three yards, the tombs of the Kings and the two mosques. The area of the great mosque alone is about twenty five thousand sq. meters.

The visitor's feel a state of spirituality and happiness under the shadows of the Shrine. That's the miracle of this Shrine which changed Tony Blair's sister in law to convert to shia Islam.

The museum, which consists of two floors, contains a good group of gifts and valuable things that have been gifted to the Holy shrine throughout its long history.

Surely whoever visits the museum feels eager to see the Faidhiya school beside it, which is one of the most famous religious schools and Hawzas. This school according to certified facts, has replaced Al Astana school.

Qum's population is not more than three hundred thousand according to census of 1979. The water of the city was and is somehow salty but it is said that it is useful.

IMAM KHOMAINI (R.A.) GRAND PRAYER HALL

This occupies an area of 800 sq. meters with four gateways linked to Eram street east ward, the newly paved street westward, al Imam al Mahdi (a.s.) courtyard westward and the holy shrine northward. Around the prayer hall, short pillars can be found over which a floor is located on a low square. On the internal walls of dome there is an epigraph ornamented with a mixed golden and silver colour and in this epigraph, the verses of the Quranic chapter of Nas are inscribed in Thulth script.

HAZRAT SAHIB AL ZAMAN (A.S.) COURTYARD

This courtyard along with the buildings situated in its surroundings occupy an area of 800 square meters and has four gateways from four corners, eastward is Imam Khomani (r.a.) prayer hall, westward rests Ahanchi bridge, northward sets behind Azam mosque and in the south it oversees the newly built street.

HAZRAT NAJMEH KHATUN PRAYER HALL

This is exactly located under the Imam Khomeini (r.a.) prayer hall, occupies an area of 8000 sq. meters and has been built with special patterns of Islamic architecture.

In this place religious ceremonies and the Qum's Islamic seminary classes are regularly held.

MASJID -E-AZAM IN QUM

One of the great religious monuments built by the Great Marjah Ayatullah Al Uzma Burujerdi (r.a.) is the Masjid-e-Azam which was built adjoined to the Holy shrine of hazrat Masooma (a.s.). the foundation stone of this great mosque was laid on the 11th zul Qadah, the auspicious birthday anniversary of Hazrat Imam Ali Bin Musa al Ridha (a.s.) corresponding with 22nd june, 1954 in a special ceremony.

Masjid-e-Azam has now become central place for the students of the Islamic seminaries and most of the grand Marja'a deliver their lectures in this great mosque which are attended by a large number of tullab-students.

LUMINARIES BURRIED IN THE HOLY SHRINE

MASJID BALASAR

Ayatullah al uzma Burujerdi, Shaikh Abdul Karim Haeri Yazdi, sheikh Murtaza Ha'eri, syed mohammed taqi khansari, syed sadr al din sadr, syed Mohamed raza gulpaygani, sheikh mohammed ali Araki, Syed reza BahaAldini, Sheikh Jawad Tabrizi, Shaikh ali Feyz Meskini, sheikh mohammed fazil Lankarani, Syed Mustafa Khansari, syed ahmed Khansari, Allama syed Mohamed Hussain Tabatabai, sheikh Abul Qasim Qummi, Mohammed taqi Bafqi, Ruhullah kamalwand, Mirza Hashim Amuli, Abdul Nabi Iraqi, Mohamed Taqi Bahjat, Shahabuddin Ishraqi, Syed mohammed Angaji, syed Murtaza Pasandideh, Syed Mehdi Hakeem, Mohammed Jawad safi Gulpaygani.

MASJID –E-MUTAHARRI

Martyr murtaza mutahhari, syed Hussain Bodala, Mohsin Haram Panahi, Abol Fazl Khansari, syed Mehdi Roohani, Syed Mohamed sadegh Tabatabaee, syed abdul karim Kashmiri, Ahmedi Miyanaji, Allama syed murtaza askari, Abbas khatam yazdi, Hassan Tehrani, Sheikh ali sadaat parvar, sheikh ali panah Estehardi, Mohamed hadi Marefat.

THE SCHOOL OF QUM

Sheikh Abdul Karim had established the religious school of Qum. It was said to us that the school had nine hundred students. Sheikh Abdul Karim paid expenses of most of the students. He had appointed to them a special doctor. A delegate from the government attended this test to exempt the students from joining the military service. Sheikh Abdul Karim often complained and said: " We educate a student until he ripens and then he puts off the turban and the dress of the Ulama to put on the dress of the people of rule to work in of the offices."

Al Hawza Al Ilmiyya is not one scientific institute as many people think, but it refers to the whole city of qum as a place of learning through many religious schools with different ranks. The government has nothing to do with spending on Al Hawza al Ilmiyya, which is run by the heads of the Sect (the shia), who are called Maraj-e Taqleed.

Two signs were visible in Qum:

"Until the appearance of Al-Mehdi our revolution will still be continuous."

"Take your ease if you are at your home or try here the life of the weak."

Qum is the smallest governorate in Iran. It is the twenty eight one.

INSIDE ZIYARAAT OF QUM HOLY CITY

1. BAIT AL NOOR: In the maidan-e meer locality situated in the Ammar-e-yassir avenue there is an Islamic seminary famous as Madrassa Mubarak Sittiyah, which was the place of residence of Hazrat Fatima Masooma (a.s.) in Qum. Her

Holiness (a.s.) after her arrival in Qum was ill and stayed alive for only seventeen days. She stayed in this place which was during that time the residence of Musa bin Khazraj. There was a mihrab (prayer niche) in that place where her holiness (a.s.) performed her prayers and worship.

2. MASJID JAME:

3. IMAM HASSAN ASKARI MOSQUE: In this mosque the great jurisprudent Ayatullah Mohammed Taqi Khansari delivered his lessons and great personalities like Imam Khomeini (r.a.) and ayatollah Araki attended these classes.

4. THE MUSEUM OF THE HOLY SHRINE: It is one of the unique treasures in Iran.

5. IMAM KHOMEINI HOME: the house consists of two parts includes two floors, basement and ground floor. The house was bought by the Imam in the year 1335 A.H. It was his residence until 1342 A.H.

6. THE HOLY MOSQUE OF JAMKARAN: The Holy Masjid of Jamkaran was constructed as per the orders of Hazrat Hujjat Ibn Al Hassan Imam Mehdi (a.t.f.s.) in the year 393 A.H. / 1002 A.D. It is related that in the midnight of Tuesday night dated 17th Ramadhan 393 A.H. Hassan bin Muslah Jamkarani in a dream met Hazrat Hujjat Imam Mehdi (a.s.) and His Holiness issued certain orders that Hassan bin Muslah Jamkarani should meet Hasan Muslim and deliver him his Holiness message that from now onwards Hasan Muslim should not cultivate his land (the location of the Holy Masjid) because Allah SWT has selected this land over the lands. Imam Zamana said: Tell the people that this is a very sacred place of they should recite four rakaats salaah. Two rakaats of "Tahiyat-e-Masjid" and the other two rakaats are for "Imam Zamana (a.s.)". The Imam further said that each person that recite these 4 rakaats will get the thawab of reciting inside the Khan-e-Ka'bah.

Namaz e tahiyat e Masjid: (Respect of Masjid): do niyyat praying 2 rakaat tahiyat e masjid and in the first Rakaat after sura Hamd recite 7 times sura qul howal allah ahad (tauheed). In ruku recite 7 times "subhana rabiyal Azeem wa be Hamdehi." In sujood say 7 times "subhana Rabiyaal A'ala wa be Hamdehi. Repeat the same in second Rakaat and finish salaah.

Namaz-e- Imam Zamana: 2 rakaat-niyyat is praying 2 rakaat namaz imam Zamana (a.s.) qurbatan Illal Allah. In first Rakaat in sura Hamd when you reach to "Iyyaka Nabudo wa Iyyaka Nastaeen" say this 100 times this zikr. You should hold tasbeeh in ur hand before you start namaz/salaat. After you finish reciting "Iyaka Nabodo wa Iyaka Nastaeen" finish the sura till the end and then sura tawheed-Qul howal Allah once. In ruku 7 times "subhana Rabiyyal azeem wa be Hamdehi". In sujood 7 times "subhana Rabiyyal Ala wa behamdehi". Repeat the same in second Rakaat and finish your salaat.

After Tashahud and salam say:

1 time "La Ilaha Illa Allah"

34 times "Allaho akbar"

33 times "alhamdu Lillah"

33 times "Subhanallah"

100 times Salawat on Holy prophet. Allahuma Salle ala Mohammed wa ale Muhammed wa ajal Farajahum.

Ask for Hajjat and don't forget me: Bro. Mohamed Raza Jaffer and my Mum Zubida Jaffer in whose thawab I have dedicated this guide. Pl recite sur-e-fateha for my marhooma Mother and brother Asif Jaffer.

Every Tuesday night there is large crowd in this Masjid and it is Makhsoos to come here and do the above A'amaal and recitation of Dua-e-tawassul is prayed with congregation at 2140 (9.40pm). It is recommended to pray Maghrib salat and then go to eat dinner, then join for Dua at 9.40 pm. It is at the distance of 3 kms from Qum Holy city.

www.jamkaran.info/ tel; +982537225050/7253702/7253419

7. KOHE NABI KHIZR: Footprint of Nabi Khizr on top of the mountain. The path to climb is safe but dangerous on the side there is no fence. There is a small masjid on top of the mountain. Near Masjid -e-Jamkaran.
8. IMAM ZADEH NASIR: From the progeny of Imam Hassan (a.s.), 4 cross roads Bazaar.
9. IMAM ZADEH SULTAN MOHAMMED SHARIF. Generation of Imam Sajjad (a.s.), inqilab st. kocha 17.

10. IMAM ZADEH SHAH AHMED QASSIM: Generation of Imam Sadiq (a.s.), Muallin st.
11. IMAM ZADEH ZAID- GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD A.S.-AZAR ST.
12. IMAM ZADEH HAMZA – GENERATION OF IMAM MUSA KAZIM A.S. –AZAR ST.
13. IMAM ZADEH ZAID: GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD-A.S.
14. IMAM ZADEH CHEHEL AKHTARAN- GENERATION OF IMAM JAWAD A.S.
15. IMAM ZADEH MUSA MUBARQA – GENERATION OF IMAM JAWAD A.S. BROTHER OF 10TH IMAM.
16. IMAM ZADEH SYED SIR BAKHSH- GENERATION OF IMAM SADIQ A.S.
17. IMAM ZADEH IBRAHIM AND AHMED: GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD A.S.
18. IMAM ZADEH ALI BIN JAFFER-GENERATION OF IMAM SADIQ A.S.
19. IMAM ZADEH AHMED MIYANI- GENERATION OF IMAM ALI.A.S.
20. FAR IMAM ZADEH –GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD A.S.
21. IMAM ZADEH SYED ALI – GENERATION OF HAZRAT ABUL FAZL ALABBAS A.S.
22. IMAM ZADEH SAFOORA KHATOON- GENERATION OF IMAM ALI A.S.
23. IMAM ZADEH AHMED & ALI ALHARITH-GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD A.S.
24. IMAM ZADEH EBRAHIM –GENERATION OF IMAM KAZIM A.S.
25. IMAM ZADEH JAFFER –GENERATION OF IMAM KAZIM A.S.
26. IMAM ZADEH SYED MASOOM-GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD- BEHIND MASJID JAMKARAN.
27. IMAM ZADEH ABDULLA- GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD A.S.
28. IMAM ZADEH PIR HASSAN-GENERATION OF IMAM SADIQ A.S.
29. IMAM ZADEH SHAH JAMAL-GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD A.S.
30. 5 IMAM ZADEH –GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD A.S.
31. IMAM ZADEH JAMAL GHAREEB-GENERATION OF IMAM KAZIM A.S.

32. IMAM ZADEH ALI REZA-GENERATION OF IMAM SAJJAD A.S.
33. SHAIKHAN GRAVE YARD- 4 TOP AYATULLAH'S ARE BURIED.

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF IMAM ALI IBN JAFFER

He is the son of Imam Sadiq a.s. and the brother of Imam Musa Kazim (a.s.). He was the youngest son of Imam Jaffer sadiq a.s., the uncle of Imam Reza a.s., may peace and blessings be upon them. He was born in 129 or 130 A.H.

Ali bin Jaffer was a man of great knowledge. He was a transmitter of Hadith and was quoted in a large number of books written by famous ulama (scholars) of his and subsequent ages. More than 40 students benefitted from his knowledge.

THERE ARE 404 IMAM ZADEH IN QUM HOLY CITY AND 1000 IN TOTAL IN IRAN.

BIOGRAPHY OF HAZRAT SYEDA FATIMA MASOOMA (S.A.)

The name of this divine Lady was Fatima and her nick name Masooma. Her father was Imam Musa Kazim (a.s.), the seventh Imam of the shi'ites and her mother was named Najma Khatoon who was also the mother of Imam Reza (a.s.), the eight Imam.

She was born on first day of the month of zul Qa'adah in the year 173 A.H./ 789 A.D., in the Holy city of Madina Al Munawarra. Her Holy father was martyred in Baghdad prison at the hands of the abbasid caliph Harun al Rashid after undergoing long term of imprisonment and tortures. After the martyrdom of her father she came under the care of Imam Reza (a.s.), her elder brother.

In the year 200 A.H./ 815 A.D., Imam Reza (a.s.), was forced to leave Madina Munawara by the orders of Ma'mun, the abbasid caliph. Imam Reza (a.s.) came alone to Marv (khurasan) and did not accompany any of his family members.

During that time Imam Reza (a.s.) wrote a letter to his sister Fatima Masooma and sent it to Madina with one of his slave. What were the contents of the letter nobody knew, but the Imam's family became more grieved and yearned more for the Imam.

They started preparations for the journey. In the year 201A.H./816 A.D., Hazrat Fatima Masooma left Madina Munawarra with her five brothers. They were Fadhil, Jaffer, Hadi, Qasim and Zayd, their brother's children, servants and slave girls, were all part of this journey. Among all the members, Fatima Masooma was most excited. They left for Marv to meet Imam Reza (a.s.). On their way they were welcomed and greeted by the people of the different cities and villages. Hazrat Masooma like her noble aunt Hazrat Zainab (s.a.) delivered the message of innocence of her brother Imam Reza a.s. and revealed the evil intentions of the abbasid caliph to the public. When the caravan reached Saveh a group of armed men who were deputed by Ma'mun, savagely attacked them and all the brothers of Hazrat Masooma were martyred and according to some historical reports she was poisoned and became severely ill. Due to her ill health she could not continue her journey towards Khurasan and decided to go towards Qum, that her father Imam Musa Kadhim (a.s.) said that city of Qum is the centre of the shi'ites. The inhabitants of Qum who were shi'ites became very happy that Hazrat Masooma is visiting their city and they gave warm welcome to her. Musa bin Khazraj, the doyen of Ashari family in Qum took the rein of the she camel litter in his hand in which Hazrat Masooma (a.s.) was travelling and large number of people gathered around the she camel litter.

Hazrat Masooma (a.s.) entered the city of Qum on 23rd Rabi ul awal in the year 201A.H. /816 A.D. she then resided in the house of Musa bin Khazraj in the locality which is now called "Maidan Mir". She remained alive only for 17 days because she became ill in Saveh. But even in this condition she spent most of her time in praying and supplicating to Allah SWT. The place of her stay and worship in Qum is now situated in the madrasa Sittiyah and is known as Bait al Nur and is a place of ziyarah for the shi'ites.

She passed away on 10th Rabi ul Awal in the year 210 A.H./816 A.D. and she could not meet her elder brother before death. The shi'ites in qum greatly mourned her death and she was buried in a place called Bagh-i-Babelan, which at that time was located outside the city. When the grave was ready there arose a difference that who should keep the body of Hazrat Masooma (a.s.) in the grave. It is reported that suddenly two men whose faces were covered and riding the horses came to that place and performed the Salaat-e-mayyit (the prayer for dead person) and then one of them went in

the grave and the other person gave the body of Hazrat Masooma to that standing person, who laid her to rest in the grave.

After the burial ceremony was over both those persons without talking to anybody sat on their horses and went away. It is said that those two Holy personalities who performed the burial ceremony were Imam Reza (a.s.) and Imam Mohammed Taqi Al Jawad (a.s.).

OFFICES OF MARAJ'A IN QUM:

1. The great Leader: shohada st. tel; 7742232
2. Ayatullah Waheed Khurasani: shohada st. tel: 7740611
3. Ayatullah Makarem shirazi: shohada st. k-22 tel; 7743120
4. Aytullah Syed Sistani: Moallem st. tel: 7741417
5. Ayatullah Safi: Enghelab st. k-6 Tel; 7724030
6. Ayatullah Zanjani: Bahar st; k-6, tel: 7740321
7. Ayatollah Noori: Shohada st. k bigdali tel; 7741850
8. Ayatullah sobhani: beg. Of shohada st. tel; 7743151
9. Ayatullah jawadi: Eram st.-k8 Tel; 7751199

PARKS

NAJMEH PARK, NARJES PARK, FADAK PARK, RAYHANEH PARK, BANAFSHEH PARK, WALIE ASR PARK, GHADIR PARK.

HOSPITALS

Shahid Beheshti; Shahid beheshti st. tel; 6122000

Hazrat Masoumeh; Imam Khomaini st; tel; 6651801

Also next to the museum next to Haram.

Ayatullah Golpayegani: Molavi street Tel; 6661111

Kamkar: Nuzdah Dey st. tel; 7713511

Nukuee: Hedayati: Taleghani st. tel: 7714001

Izadi: Taleghani st.: Tel; 7711301

Hazrat Zahra: Imam zadeh Ibrahim st.; tel; 8844214

Vali Asr; Jamhuri Islami st. tel; 2884310

EMERGENCY NUMBERS;

INFORMATION 113/ CIVIL EMERGENCY CENTRE; 137

FIRE STATION; 125 CONTROL & INSPECTION: 124

MEDICAL EMERGENCY; 115 EMERGENCY POLICE; 110

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Jamial Al Zahra (main) Tel; 2112555

Jamiat al Zahra (Dormitory) tel; 2112169

Madrasa Al Mehdi: tel; 2932975

Madrasa Imam Khomani: Tel: 77209018

Madrasa Hujjatiyya: Tel; 7742086

BEST FAST FOOD IN QUM

Al Bayk (outskirts of Qum) Tel; 0253-2859001-6 (fun rides for Kids as well)

BAMAFast FOOD BRANCH: FAR OF CITY; TEL; 7832223

BAMA NORTH OF QUM; MAIDAN SHAHEED DASTAGHAIB , ZAMBILABAD, Tel; 2901220. Also Ice cream is available in many shops around this shop. Nice area for fast food and desserts. FALAK E FURUSHI BASTANI.

PIZZA PIZZA: TEL; 2916448

LIBRARY

Ayatullah Marashi Najafi Library; world's largest library in Qum.

DUA'S

DUA'S ARE ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY IN HARAM & JAMKARAN.

BOOKS

Ansarian Book shop : Tel; 7741744

BASTANI—ICE CREAM

CHILLU--- RICE

AAB--- WATER

GARM--- WARM

SARD--- COLD

MAHI--- FISH

MURGH--- CHICKEN

KABAB--- KABAB

CHULU KOBIDAH--- RICE WITH MEAT

SOHAN--- MITHAI OF QUM- SWEAT SOUVENIR OF QUM(MADE WITH GHEE AND WHEAT.

PHOOL----- MONEY

GUZAR NAMA MAKTAB-- PASSPORT AND VISA OFFICE

AGHA--- MR.

BUZURG-- BIG

KOCHAK-- SMALL

KUCHA--- STREET

KHIYABAN--- ROAD

FALAK--- ROUNDABOUT

MEWA--- FRUIT

NAAN--- NAAN

MAST--- YOUGHURT

KHUSH MEWA--- DRY FRUIT

PISTA--- PISTACHIO

MAUSAM--- SEASON

KHANUM--- LADY

KHAWAR--- SISTER

PESAR--- SON

DUKHTAR--- DAUGHTER

BRADAR--- BROTHER

BAZAAR--- SHOPPING CENTRE

GOOSHT—LAMB

TAKHFEEF--- DISCOUNT

WARAQ-- PAPER

SUFAID--- WHITE

SIYAH--- BLACK

ZARD—YELLOW

ZAFARAN--- SAFFRON

NOOR--- LIGHT

IMROUZ—TODAY

FARDA--- TOMORROW

SABZI QORMA DISH--- IS SPINNACH WITH LAMB

QEEMA----- IS MEAT WITH LENTILS DISH

PANEER--- CHEESE

ANWAA CHILLU KHORSHT DISH—EGG PLANT STEW & RICE

CHILLU KEBAB KOBIDA BA GUJA--- Roast pounded meat/ rice

Zurushk pillu Ba Murgh--- Chicken sauce & rice

Chillu kebab Barg Ba Guja--- Roast meat & rice

Chillu Kebab sultani Ba Guja--- Roast meat/ext. pounded with rice.

Chullu juja kabab--- roast chicken and rice

Chullu mahi (qazal ala) roast fish & rice

Chullu mahicha----- Meat with bone and rice

Chullu kebab bakhtiari-- Roast meat/ chicken rice

Chullu sada--- Plain rice

Khaurak kabab kobida--- Roast pounded meat with naan/ bread

Khorak murgh—chicken sauce with naan

Khorak is bread and no rice then use the name of dish.

Salad fasl—Lettuce salad

Mast mosir--- Garlick yoghurt

Mast sada—plain yoghurt

Zaiytoon parwarda- olives with pickle—olive sourness

Noshaba--- fizzy drink

Doogh--- yoghurt drink

Aab mewa-- pure fruit juice

Saib—apple, angoor--- grape,

Aab me'adani--- mineral water

Chai—tea/ nescafe--- nescafe coffee

ZIYARAT OF SYEDA MASOOMA QUM

Peace be upon Adam, the choice of Allah= Assalamo ala adam safwatillah

Peace be upon Nooh, the prophet of Allah= Assalamo ala noohen Nabiyallah

Peace be upon Ibrahim, the friend of Allah=Assalamo ala Ibrahim khalilallah

Peace be upon Musa(moses), the speaker to Allah=assalamo ala Musa Kalim allah

Peace be upon Issa(Jesus), the spirit of Allah= Assalamo ala Issa Ruhallah

Peace be upon you O messenger of Allah=Assalamo Alayka Ya Rasool Allah

Peace be upon you O the best of Creatures of Allah= Assalmo alayka yak hair a khalqillah

Peace be upon you O the choice of Allah= assalamo alayka Ya safiyallah

Peace be upon you O Mohammed the son of Abdullah the last of the Prophets= Assalmo alayka ya Mohammed bin Abdullah khattam al nabiyyeen

Peace be upon you O Ameer al Mo'meneen Ali Ibn abu Talib, the Guardian of the messenger of Allah= assalamo alayka ya Ameer al mo'meneen ali ibn abi talib wassiya rasoolallah

Peace be upon you O Fatima, the head of the ladies of the worlds= Assalamo alayki ya Fatima alzahra sayyidat nisa al alameen

Peace be upon you O the two grandson of the prophet of mercy, O you the two masters of the youth of paradise= Assalamo alayka ya sibtai Nabi Al rahma wa sayyida Shabab ahliil jannat

Peace be upon you O Ali ibn Hussain, the master of worshipers and the delight of the eyes= assalamo alayka ya ali ibn AlHussain sayyidal abedeen wa quraatal nazereen

Peace be upon you O Mohammed bin Ali albaqer, who have cut open knowledge after the prophet= Assalamo alayka ya Mohammed bin ali Al baqir, Alim baad Al Nabi

Peace be upon you O Jaffer bin Mohammed al Sadiq the truthful, the pious, the faithful= assalamo alayka Ya Jaffer bin Mohammed alsadiq Albar al Ameen

Peace be upon you O Musa bin Jaffer, the pure in utmost purity= assalamo alayka Ya Musa bin Jaffer Al Tahir al Tuhur

Peace be upon you O Ali bin Musa al Ridha, the contented= Assalamo alayka Ya ali bin Musa al ridha Al murtadha

Peace be upon you O Mohammed bin Ali, the pious= Assalamo Alayka ya Mohammed bin ali al Taqqi

Peace be upon you O Ali bin Mohammed , the pure= Assalamo alayka ya ali bin Mohammed al Naqi, Al naseh al Ameen

Peace be upon you O Hassan bin Ali, peace be upon you the guardian after you= Assalamo alayka ya Hassan binAli , Assalamo alal wasi min Badehi

O Allah, bless your light, the guardian of your guardian and your authority upon your people= Allah Humma sale ala nooreka ea sirajeka, wa walliyye walliyyeka wa wasiyye wasiyyeka wa Hujjateka Ala Khalqeq

Peace be upon you O the daughter of the messenger of Allah= Assalamo alayki ya binta Rasool Allah

The daughter of Khadeeja and Fatima= assalamo alayki ya binta Fatima wa Khadija

Peace be upon you O the daughter of Amir Al Mo'mineen= Assalamo alayki ya binta Ameer al mo'mineen

Peace be upon you O the daughter of Al Hassan and Al Hussain=Assalmo alayki ya binta Hasan wal Hussain

Peace be upon you the guardian of Allah= assalamo alayki ya binta Waliyillah

Peace be upon you the sister of the guardian of Allah= Assalmo alayki ya Ukhta waliyillah

Peace be upon you the Aunt of the guardian of Allah= Assalamo alayki ya Ammata waliyillah

Peace, mercy and blessing be upon you O the daughter of Musa bin Jaffer= Assalamo alayki ya binta Musa bin Jaffer wa rahmatullah wa barakatohoo

We pray Allah to make us close to you in Paradise, to insert us in your group= Araf allaho bayna wa baynakum fil Jannah wa hasharana fi zumratekum

To bring us to the Pond of your Prophet=Wa awradana Hawdha Nabbiyyekum

To water us with the cup of your Grandfather by the Hands of Ali Bin Abi Taleb= Wa saqqanna bi kasse Jaddekum min yadde Ali Ibn Abi talib a.s.

The blessing of ALLAH be upon you all= Salawatullah alaykum Asal Allah An yuriyana Fikum Al Saroor.

TEHRAN

Tehran has been the capital of Iran since 1794 A.D. The city may date back as far as the 9th century A.D. but in the first centuries it was overshadowed by its next door neighbour, the Great city of Ray (now called city of Shah Abdul Azim). Tehran remained a provincial city until it was made capital of Iran by the Qajar dynasty. The pilgrims stay at Tehran to perform ziarat of the Holy shrines of Shah Abdul Azim and Imam Khomeini (r.a.).

One can reach Tehran by air, road or train. Imam Khomeini International Airport is the main International airport in Tehran. It is 90 mins drive from this airport to Qum holy city. Mehrabad airport is for domestic flights. It is at a distance of 12 kms from the city centre.

TEHRAN ZIYARAAT

1. RAUZA OF SHAH ABDUL AZIM: He was the great grandson of Imam Hassan A.s.
2. RAUZA OF IMAM ZADEH SALEH BIN IMAM MUSA AL KADHIM: He was the brother of Imam Reza a.s.
3. RAUZA OF JANAB HAMZA BIN ABUL QASIM IBNE IMAM MUSA AL KADHIM A.S.: He was the grandson of Imam Musa al Kadhim a.s.
4. SHRINE OF SYED TAHIR: It is said that he was one of the sons of Imam Zainul Abedeen A.s.
5. SHRINE OF SHEIKH SADOOQ: he was a great Alim and was born by the dua of our 12th Imam (a.s.).
6. KOHE BIBI SHEHR BANU: she was the wife of Imam Hussain (a.s.) and the mother of Hazrat Ali Asghar (a.s.). It is narrated that Imam Hussain instructed Bibi that after he is martyred in Karbala she should mount the white horse "zuljinnah" who will take her back to Iran. Her brother did not accept her since she married an Arab so she was very sad. She went to live on the mountains of Shimran and it is believed that she entered one of the caves and never returned. People come here with their Hajjaat.
7. TOMB OF IMAM ZADEH SALEH S/O OF IMAM MUSA AL KADHIM(A.S.)
8. TOMB OF IMAM ZADEH DAWOOD (A.S.)
9. BAHESHTE ZAHRA-GRAVE YARD FOR MARTYRS OF IRAN-IRAQ WAR

10. SHRINE OF AYATULLAH SYED RUHULLAH AL KHOMEINI
(R.A.)

MUSEUM OF TEHRAN

Formerly this was the palace of shah Reza Pahlavi. Now it is a museum. If you get a chance do visit this palace. Make sure you go mornings as they close early and need 3 hour to visit this.

TEHRAN TO MASHAD

You must make sure that you have a confirmed ticket Tehran-Mashad or Tehran-Mashad-Tehran otherwise it will be difficult to get a seat on the flight specially on peak periods like Naurouz or wiladat of Imam Reza, Imam Khomeini death anniversary, June, july and august-school holidays.

IMAM KHOMEINI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

Location: Fashafouyeh, 19 miles (30 kms) south of Tehran city centre.

Website: www.ikia.ir

Time: +3.5 summer

Contact: +982151006015

Airport Facilities:

Sim shop pay as you go mobile sim-must have photocopy of passport, florist, 4 banks to change money but rates are not good, Prayer room, toilets, Transport-Taxi office, Fast food upstairs and downstairs, gift shop.

CHECK-IN INFORMATION

Opens 3 hours prior to departure, closes 45 mins prior to departure.

Local Money to change:

When you are inbound (back to your destination) next to duty free and food court, there is a desk to change your money from local to usd or gbp

By Train to Mashad; Tehran to Mashad there are good trains but there is no English toilet facilities. It stops for Namaz at station to perform awal e waqt salaah. There are 4 births or 6 births in one

cabin. You can have your own cabin with t.v., mobile charging socket. Some takes 13 hours to reach and fast one takes 9 hours fast train which does not have sleeping births. You can order Persian good food and it will be dropped in your cabin.

Those which convert into births, can be used as seats in day time. It is half price for one way comparing air ticket.

MASHAD E MUQADDAS

No doubt, this city owes its prosperity to the Holy shrine of Imam Reza (pbuh.). Another reason for its prosperity is its immunity from raids throughout the course of its history. This strategic location has ensured Mashad's continuous advancement in various religious, cultural, artistic and social fields. Mashad has a population of 2.5 million and it is the largest tourist and pilgrimage attraction in eastern Iran. In fact Mashad attracts about 20 million pilgrims annually.

ZIYARAT OF IMAM REZA (A.S.)

The Ziyarat of Imam Reza (a.s.) earns a great reward among our Imams. There are so many traditions on the reward of visiting him:

1. Imam Jawad (a.s.) told the narrator through confirmed sources that Paradise is for one who visited my father.
2. Imam Reza (a.s.) said: If someone visited me although my house and shrine is far away from him, I will come to visit him on the day of Justice three times: When the diaries (of all the doings of man) are given right or left, on the thin bridge of Sirat and when the good and bad deeds are weighed.
3. Again Imam Reza (a.s.) said: I will be given poison by a tyrant, if someone will visit me and he has the knowledge of my rights then God will forgive his previous and coming sins. Having the knowledge of Imam's right is the basic condition for the acceptance of ZIYARAT. A visitor or Zaer shall be aware of the purpose for which Imam was wanted by the

Abbasi caliph, Ma'moon and how he murdered the Imam while in exile.

4. Abu Jaffer Mohammed bin Ali Reza(a.s.) said: There is a piece of land taken from Heaven in between two mountains at toos. Whoever enters it will be secure from the fire on the Resurrection Day.

The common ziyaraats with which a Zaer may address any Imam he wants are:

1. Ziyarat aminullah
2. Ziyarat e Jameia Kabira
3. Ziyarat e Rajabia (Recited in the month of Rajab and has it's special importance).

TOMB'S OF ULAMAA ISIDE:

1. TOMB OF IBNE BABWAI QUMMI. The father of sheikh Sadooq.
2. TOMB OF MUHAQIQ QUMMI & ZAKARIA IBNE ADAM in the grave yard of shaikhan in Qum.
3. Tomb of fazl ibn shazan in naishapour.

ADABE ZIYARAAT OF ANY PERSONALITY

1. You may enter the shrine after Ghusl and performing ablutions (wudhoo).
2. Enter with a heart full true humility.
3. Spend your leisure time in reading and reciting the Holy Quran and the invocation books and utter divine blessings (salawat) upon the Holy Prophet.
4. Before entering the shrine of Imam Reza or any shrine you must request permission from the personality who you are visiting.
5. After the ziyarat of Imam Reza (a.s.) recite two ziyarat nameh (traditional prayers) including : Aminullah and Jamiah kabira.
6. Read ziyarat slowly in the presence of the Holy Zarih (burial chamber).
7. In case coinciding with the congregational prayer, it is incumbent upon the pilgrims to join that prayer, preferably.

8. After ziyarat pl perform 2 rakaats namaz e tahiyyat and 2 rakats of Hadiyya e ziyarat which is a gift to that personality who you have recited ziyarah.
 9. Before you leave any Holy city and you are last time in shrine for bidding farewell, pl recite ziyarat e wida. Please pray that this is not the last ziyarat of your life and that allah may call you again here inshallah.
 10. Please have your hotel adressand phone number with you.
 11. Having Islamic Hijab (modest dress) is an obligation on women who enter the Holy shrine. Pay attention to this dressing order.
 12. Since the pilgrimage place of men and women has been separated from each other please, determine your meeting place with your family before entering the Holy Shrine.
- ASTAN –E-QUDS RAZAVI ORGANISATION

Astan-e-quds Razavi Organisation is a trust of Haram and after the victory of Islamic Revolution, has taken important steps to develop its economic and financial sources, so that this upward movement and improvement is never comparable with what has been done before the Islamic Revolution in this Holy Organisation.

All of these improvements have been accomplished under the auspices of Allah, the Exalted, and the protection of Imam Reza (a.s.). Following the valuable recommendations of late Imam Khomeini, Ayatollah Khamenei and the wise policies of Ayatullah Waiz Tabasi, the respected representative of Wali-e-Faqih (paramount Leader) in the Khorasan province and the Grand Reverend Custodian of the Astan quds razavi Organisation and also by the sincere efforts of Imam Reza’s devotees, this holy organisation has developed in all fields after the Islamic Revolution.

This org. has invested from a needle to autobus. The Astan Quds razavi Organisation during these three decades after the Islamic Revolution has allotted hundreds of billions of Rials to reconstruct the Porticos, Courtyards and the new sacred premises situated around the Holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.).

During these years, many skilful architects have endeavoured indefatigably to show the importance of the Islamic architecture to

the public, and also manifest the matchless crafts of tile-work and mirror work, along with building and reconstructing magnificent premises. All of these sincere efforts have been accomplished under the powerful management, so that statistically what has been performed during these three decades, it reflects to the world.

RAZAVI UNIVERSITY OF ISLAMIC SCIENCES

With the intention of training competent thinkers, researchers, scholars and writers in different fields of Islamic sciences, the Astan quds razavi established this university, on the basis of educational system of the seminary as well as that of university near the Holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.).

IMAM REZA A.S. HOSPITAL (DAR USH SHIFA)

This was established in 1979 adjacent to Haram, started rendering its medical services under astan quds Razavi Organisation.

THE LIBRARY OF THE GREAT MOSQUE OF GOWHARSHAD

This library located on the west side of Shaikh Bahai sanctuary has more than 4000 precious manuscripts and 37,000 printed books in different fields of the Islamic studies, as well as other modern sciences, history, medicine & astronomy.

HEAD OFFICE OF ASTAN QUDS ORGANISATION

Shohada cross road, Holy city of Mashad, Iran

Tel; +98 511 2225790/ 2225811/ 2224821-26 fax; 2213548

P.O.BOX 91735/517

GENERAL OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS OF THE ASTAN QUDS RAZAVI.

MUSEUM AT A GLANCE

Sincere devotees of Holy Prophet of Islam's House Hold, have donated their most valuable possessions to the Holy shrine of Imam Reza a.s. throughout history and some of these objects are preserved and displayed in different museums affiliated to AQR organisation. It is hoped that these exquisite objects will be used to enlighten visitor's religious, scientific, artistic and historical awareness. These museums have purchased many valuable objects from all around the country for preservation and public display.

1. THE CENTRAL MUSEUM

It was inaugurated in Nov. 1937 and was transformed to the present location in 1977. It contains the history of Mashad, medal and coins section, the oldest tomb stone of the sacred grave of imam Reza (a.s.), the coins of Alexander the great & Safavid period as well.

2. Quran Museum
3. The Astronomical Instruments and watches section.
4. The stamp and Bank Note Museum.
5. The Carpet Museum.
6. The Sea Shell collection.
7. The Painting section

LUNCH AS A GUEST OF IMAM REZA (A.S.)

You should take your passport to the office of Pilgrim's near Baste sheikh Bahai courtyard which is off Sehn -e- Razavi. Go to the end of sheikh Bahai turn left and first door on your right. It is called Rawabet bain ul millali " International Relation's office" @ 0700 and get a token. If you are in a group then your group leader will arrange this for you. You are allowed to take this token once by showing your passport, per trip to Iran.

Once you get this token then proceed the same day when they indicate on your token after zuhur salaah to the Mehmaan sara, which is situated near Rawaq -e-kawsar. Go towards Mooza (Museum) central. Go straight after passing towards Hurre Aameli and it is corner building. They give you a good portion of saffron rice with chicken or Lamb. We suggest you take a take away box from the staff if food is left over and distribute it to the needy people when you come out, as they are waiting and

begging you to give them who are locals and don't get this privilege. Pl give them your left over food, as they will appreciate it a lot.

THE HISTORY OF THE SACRED PREMISES OF THE HOLY SHRINE

Haroon Rasheed (Abbasid Caliph) tomb was built by order of Ma'moon abbasi for his father. Haroon's tomb was in the house and garden of Humaid bin Qahataba, The Toos ruler. It was at Sanabad village, 24 kilometres from Taberan Toos. Imam Reza (a.s.) is buried next to him. After it became His Holiness Imam Reza's burial place, it was known as Mashad (meaning the burial place of a martyr).

The Ghaznavids attack caused a lot of damage and destruction to the Holy Threshold construction in 548/1153.

In 1316 Astan quds razavi premises included the Holy Shrine and Bala Sar Mosque attached to the west side. But during 1342-1344, 1963-1965, the north side changed into two attached porticos called Dar al Fayd and Dar ul Shukr with a different shape.

THE GOWHARSHAD MOSQUE

The Gowharshad mosque which is in fact in the south courtyard of The Holy shrine was built and completed in 821/1418 by Gowharshad Agha, Shahrukh Taymuri's spouse, 18 meters from The Holy Shrine facing the south (Qiblah).

The Razavi Dome was erected with gold bricks in 1526, but before long in the Uzbek invasion, gold bricks of the dome and minarets were fallen to pieces by Abd al Mu'min Khan while plundering precious things of the Holy shrine and using the gold elsewhere until 1601 when Shah Abbas 1, the Safavi monarch travelled on foot from Isfahan to Mashad, he rebuilt gilding of the dome.

The present complex of the sacred premises of the Holy shrine is composed of the Holy Zarih (burial chamber), Porticos, Courtyards, Sanctuaries and the other buildings related to the

Astan
Quds Razavi.

THE HOLY ZARIH (BURIAL CHAMBER) NEW ERECTED ZARIH

The oldest grave stone observed on the Holy tomb of Imam Reza (a.s.) has a history of about nine centuries and experts maintain that this stone is included among the most precious archaeological and art works of ancient times. Some inscriptions in kufic script, have been engraved on this marmoreal grave stone representing its date of constructing.

This sacred and precious stone dug out of the crypt some years ago and at present, the Astan Quds Razavi has put this stone on display in the first floor of the museum of A.Q.R. for the respected pilgrims and devotees of His Holiness (a.s.). This stone is 40 cm in length, 30 cm wide, 6 cm diameter.

The shrines of the Holy Prophet (saw) and those of the Immaculate Imams (a.s.) are evidences of divine houses, having high position among Muslims according to the Allah's permission.

Remembering and worshipping Allah in these sacred places are spiritually of so ecstasy that make spirited up worshippers. Venerating and reconstructing the Holy Shrines of the Immaculate Imams (a.s.) is the main duty of devotees and worshippers that must be accomplished and fulfilled by them.

During these years after the Islamic Revolution, A.Q.R. has taken important steps to revive the endowments and make the best use of them in order to expand cultural activities, and propagate Islamic principles and the 14 "Immaculate Ones" teachings in the society. An area of 110 acres on the name of Imam Ali (a.s.) has been allocated to insure the welfare of the respected pilgrims.

The first Zarih (burial chamber) was of wood. This was erected in the period of Saffavid dynasty by Shah Tahmasb in 957 A.H. and installed on the sacred wooden box placed over the Holy Tomb of Imam Reza (a.s.) as an endowment. This zarih was not roofed.

Excavating process under the Dar-al-wilaya portico, was started about 2 years ago. An area of about 2 meters in radius from each sides and 2.90 meters deep around the Holy Tomb was excavated during this process. The walls of the four sides were decorated with stone and the abovementioned burial chamber (Zarih) was transferred to downstairs.

Transferring the burial chamber (old one) to downstairs, the surface of the Holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.) was covered and decorated with precious stone.

THE THIRD ZARIH

The third burial chamber was made in the period of Fateh Ali shah (monarch of qajarid dynasty). This burial chamber was made of steel. This was transferred to the central museum of A.Q.R. in 1380 A.H.

THE FOURTH BURIAL CHAMBER

Applied gold and silver in its construction, was installed on the second burial chamber.

THE FIFTH BURIAL CHAMBER (ZARIH)

This weighs 12 tons. Thickness of gold and silver covers applied over the Holy zarih and also the connection between the covers which has been stabilized without applying screws, are the main properties of the new burial chamber. It is 4.78 meters in length, 3.73 meters in width and 3.96 meters high. It has totally 14 orifices.

Hal Ata and ?Sura Yasin- two of the Holy chapters of the glorious Quran-have been inscribed on every side of the Holy zarih. The inscription of Hal Ata is 16.76 cm in length and 18 cm in width.

Both of these inscriptions and calligraphies including some of the Holy sentences of quran and the Holy names of Allah (the Exalted) have been inscribed by mr Mawahhed- the most distinguished calligrapher in the country.

The pertamerous and octanerous flowers designed on the Holy Zarih (burial chamber) are in fact a symbol inferred the Khamseh-e-Tayyebah and the eight Immaculate Imam a.s. Imam

Reza (a.s.) respectively. These designs are in outlook of shams ush shumooos title.

The project of installing the burial chamber (zarih) was commenced on the 15th -10-1421 A.H. this was inaugurated on the 10th-12-1421A.H.

THE SACRED DOME OF THE HOLY SHRINE

The most distinguished sign of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza a.s. is the golden dome, that is visible from far distances. Without exaggeration the first image, which comes into the minds of everybody while hearing the Holy name of Mashad, is the golden colour of this glorious dome which incites people to come to visitation of Imam Reza (a.s.).

The first dome was erected on the Holy Mausoleum of Imam Reza in the year 515 A.H. (1117A.D.) by order of sultan Sanjar-e-Saljuqi. At present, the Holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.) has two glorious domes. The first one having a history of several centuries in in fact the old dome, whose concave and arched surface is visible from far distance. The second dome is the present one that was erected and gilded on the old dome, the first one by order of shah Abbas 2. The sun like dome of Razavi A.S. is about 31 meters high.

THE MINARETS

In the complex of Holy Shrine, there are two minarets. The first one has been located near to the sacred dome and the second one is located on the opposite side of the sacred dome, over Abbasi Porch (in Inqilab Courtyard). These two minarets with golden cover, has given magnificent manifestation to the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza A.s.

In addition to these two minarets, there exist six other ones in the Holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.), of which two minarets have been erected on the north and south portals of Jamhuri courtyard. After the Islamic Revolution this has been decorated with the precious tile and gold. Two other ones are small minarets constructed in the south side of Imam Khomeini (r.a.) courtyard similar with first two ones.

Therefore, considering the two high minarets of Gowharshad Masjid, there exist eight minarets in the area of the Holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.).

THE BALA SAR (ABOVE HOLY HEAD) MOSQUE OF THE HOLY SHRINE

The oldest and nearest sacred place to the Holy Zarih (burial chamber) of Imam Reza (a.s.) is a rectangular small mosque known as Bala Sar Mosque by the pilgrims of the Holy shrine.

This Sacred place, located on the west side of the holy shrine, has a history of over 10 centuries. This mosque has three terraces in the east, west and north. Its eastern terrace is adjacent to the Holy shrine and is the place of pilgrims traffic in the Holy shrine. Its western terrace is attached to the Dar-us-siyadah Portico through one entrance.

Among the countless old exquisite inscriptions of the mosque, we quote only two couplets of a poem composed by Debel-e-Khozai (r.a.) a Muslim poet, who composed poems in praise of Holy Household (a.s.). Over the arch attached to the Holy Shrine, there is a poem as follows:

“There are two tombs in Toos. One of them is of the Mausoleum of the man, and the next one belongs to the worst. This is one of the examples of the world. Neither being neighbour with the best help you, nor to be, neighbour with the worst degrade you”. It is clear that the intention of the reverend poet in mentioning the word-the-best is Imam Reza (a.s.) and the worst means Haroon Rasheed.

PORTICOS OF THE HOLY SHRINE

The Porticos are roofed buildings with different heights which have been constructed around the Holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.) and look like pearls, come out of shells from the ancient times. They are shining in the architectural structure of the Holy Shrine.

1. DAR-UL-HUFFAZ (THE PLACE OF THE RECITERS): This portico has been located on the south side of the Holy shrine, between the Holy Shrine and Gowharshad mosque. The west of this portico is attached to Dar-us-siyadah portico, and its east side is also

attached by the side of Dar-us-salam portico. From the south side, this portico is attached to gowharshad mosque. The pilgrims can make pilgrimage to Imam Reza through an entrance in the north side of the portico. At present it is a place of holding special religious ceremonies of reciting the glorious Quran and special oration of the A.Q.R. reciters.

2. DAR-AL-SIYADAH PORTICO: This portico is the oldest portico after Dar-ul-Huffaz and the largest portico. This portico has been constructed by Gowharshad Agha in the century of Hijrah. On the west of Dar-al-siyadah, Dar-ul-ikhlas portico has been placed and there is a silver window between this portico and Dar-ul-wilayah portico through which the Holy Zarih is visible. Beside the very window there are always many needy pilgrims and patients who supplicate before Allah, the Exalted. Dar-ul-siyadah is allocated to men for performing pilgrimage and practicing other religious services.
3. THE PORTICO OF HATAM KHANI DOME: This is located on the east side of the Holy shrine. It has been constructed by Hatam Baig Ordubadi (one of the Ministers of shah Abbas the monarch of the safavid dynasty) in the eleventh century of Hijrah. The golden entrance of Payeen-e-Pa opens inside from the west side of this portico. The entrance is allocated way for women to enter for performing the pilgrimage of the Holy Zarih.
4. DAR-AL-SAADAH PORTICO: This portico has been constructed on the east side of the Holy shrines' porticos, between the golden porch of azadi courtyard and Hatam Khani portico. This sacred portico has been allocated to women for performing the pilgrimage of Imam Reza (a.s.) and practicing other religious services.
5. DAR AL FAYD PORTICO: This magnificent and glorious portico was constructed on the north side of the Holy Zarih in 1968, after repairing and expanding some parts of the Holy shrine built in the reign of the safavid dynasty and being destroyed in the course of the time. The south side of this portico looks over the Holy Zarih and it is also the entrance allocated to women for reaching the back side of the holy Zarih. This portico has been allocated to women for performing the pilgrimage of Imam Reza (a.s.).
6. TAWHEED KHANAH PORTICO: This portico has been located on the north side of the Holy shrine, between Dar-al-Fayd portico and Atiq (inqilab) courtyard. There is a delicate metal window located on the north side of the portico, through which this portico is attached to the space of Inqilab courtyard. Many pilgrims of the

Holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.) standing before the window known as Foolad window pray to Allah, the Exalted, for their needs. The Holy zarih of Imam Reza is visible through Inqilab courtyard and also through the Foolad window. Mulla Mohsin-e-faidh Kashani (one of the famous scholars of the safavid period) and some other historians maintain that the late Faidh has been a teacher in this sacred building. This portico has been allocated to women for Ibadat.

7. DAR-US-SULTAN PORTICO: Dar-us-sultan is one of the first porticos constructed by order of Gowharshad Agha, in the complex of holy shrine. The tomb of Martyr Hashemi Nejad, a distinguished religious scholar who fought for Islam and liberty, during shah's regime and finally was martyred by anti-revolutionary terrorists in 1981 is buried here. This portico situated on the south eastern side of the Holy Shrine has been allocated to men as the place of performing collective prayers or invoking services.
8. DAR-UL-IZZAH PORTICO: This portico is one of the south eastern porticos of the Holy Zarih located between Dar-as-salam and dar-ud-Dhikr porticos. This portico is attached to Dar-us-suroor through its northern door way. In the south side of this sacred building, there is a door which opens on to the Shabestan's (a night room in a mosque used to be a place of performing night prayers and sleeping) of the Gowharshad mosque. These entrances are the place of pilgrims traffic. Dar ul Izzah portico is attached to Dar us salam from the west side and also it has been erected on as the other porticos, is architectural unique. It has been decorated with paintings and some of the other arts as follows: Carpentry and stone knots, mirror work and china layer including Faresk chalk, Perel and Acrolic colours.
9. DAR-US-SUROOR PORTICO: This is also another portico, located on the south eastern side of the Holy shrine. This was the office of International affairs of A.Q.R. till 1955-1959. This portico is located on the west side of azadi courtyard between Dar-us-Saadah and dar-udh-dhikr porticos. The shoe keeping room no. 8 has been located in the entrance of Dar us suroor portico. This portico is considered as the most important entrance to the Holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.), consequently this place is always crowded with many pilgrims who come to the Holy Zarih through Azadi courtyard. This is allocated for men. There are two rooms allocated for gathering endowments and also depository for keeping the belonging of the pilgrims.

10. DAR-UDH-DHIKR PORTICO: This is allocated for men for Ibadat.
11. DAR-UR-ZUHD PORTICO: This portico is among the farthest portico to the Holy shrine being located on the south eastern side of the Holy shrine and on the north side of Imam Khomeini (r.a.) courtyard (museum courtyard). This glorious and magnificent portico is attached to the mausoleum of Sheikh Bahai through three doorways on east side and also it is also attached to Imam Khomeini courtyard through far doorways on southside. This is allocated for men.
12. SHAIKH BAHAI PORTICO: Shaikh Bahaoddin-e-Ameli (r.a.), one of the most famous religious scholar of the 10th and 11th centuries of Hijrah, has been located in the centre of this portico, it is known as Shaikh Bahai portico. He was born in Ba'albek (a village in Lebanon) in 953 A.H./ 1544 A.D. coincided with Shah abbas rule (one of the monarchs of the safavid dynasty). After 77 years devoting to learning, teaching and compiling a large number of books, he passed away in 1031 A.H. in Isfahan. There are wash rooms in this courtyard and a disabled toilet is also available in both, ladies and gents side.
13. DAR-UL-EBADAH PORTICO: This portico was constructed in 1974. This place is attached to Imam khomeini (r.a.) courtyard through five doorways. This is for women for Ibadaat.
14. THE PORTICO OF ALLAH VERDI KHAN DOME: This portico and it's dome are considered as two architectural and tile work master pieces of safavid period. It's magnificent delicacy and preciousness, has made it to look as a matchless sample of the architectural style of the safavid period. It is octagonal building with eight terraces constructed on every side and over these terraces, there exist smaller ones. This portico is located on the north eastern side of the Holy shrine for ladies.
15. DAR-UL-DIYAFAH PORTICO: This portico has been located in a corner between Atiq (Inqilab) and Azadi courtyard. This has been used as the reception auditorium for the ceremonies held by the A.Q.R. during Islamic festivals and mourning rites. At present this portico receives many mournful pilgrims and local residents of Mashad during the Holy nights of Qadr and in Muharram and Safar.
16. DAR-UL-SHUKR PORTICO: Before 1963-1965, this portico had been allocated to the Quran House (quran Khanah) and before this time, it had been the library of the Astan Quds Razavi. Dar-us-shukr portico has been located on the north-western side of the

Holy Zarih of Imam Reza (a.s.) and is allocated to women for praying.

17. DAR-UL-SHARAF PORTICO: It has been classified into two sections, one section allocated to women, and the other to men for praying and performing religious services.
18. DAR-UL-IKHLAS PORTICO
19. DAR-UL-WILAYA PORTICO: It is most glorious portico among all.
20. DAR-UL-HIDAYA PORTICO: It is located on the south western side of the Holy Shrine.
21. DAR-UL-RAHMA PORTICO: This portico has been located on the south western side of the Holy shrine, alongside Dar al hidaya portico, and between sheikh Bahai sanctuary and jamhuri-e-Islami courtyard. Among the most beautiful and eye catching interior artworks and architecture of Dar al Rahma, there exists beautiful plaster works and paintings related to the Ashura's battlefield (imam Hussaina.s.). At present this portico is used as the place of teaching. It is worth mentioning that the two above mentioned newly built porticos have been inaugurated in 1992.
22. DAR AL IJABAH PORTICO: This portico is about 2815 sq. meters and has a capacity of more than 2800 zawar. It is located on the west side of the Holy Zarih. Just under the sacred portico of Dar al wilayah.

SHOE KEEPING ROOMS OF THE HOLY SHRINE

Shoe keepers were employed formally as well as voluntarily in order to grant services to the respected pilgrims of the Holy Shrine. These shoe keepers perform their duties free of charge and with perfect honesty during their sixteen or twelve hour shifts.

COURTYARDS OF THE HOLY SHRINE

These are magnificent buildings known as courtyards-the place where pious and faithful pilgrims gather together for performing religious services in the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.).

In addition to these purposes establishing collective prayers and holding religious rites and rituals including the anniversary ceremonies of the martyrdoms and birthdays of the Immaculate Imams, and other religious holiday's festivals, are among those affairs which take place in the sacred courtyards.

The first courtyard of the Holy shrine was constructed by Amir Ali Shir Navai in the reign of Sultan Hussaine-Bayqara(875-912 A.H./ 1470-

1506 A.D. This courtyard is known as Atiq (old) courtyard or Inqilab-e-Islami courtyard. During the reigns of the monarchs of the safavid, the Afsharid and the Qajar dynasties, this magnificent courtyard was magnificently expanded and decorated, so that it was changed into one of the most glorious buildings of the Islamic Iranian civilization.

1. INQILAB-E-ISLAMI (ATIQ) COURTYARD: There exists a large brassy lattice window, known as Fawlad window, in the south side of the mentioned courtyard. This window has been erected on the opposite side of the Holy Zarih. It is a quarter for many pilgrims who pray to Allah, the Exalted, and their Imam A.S. for their needs.
 - a. The southern porch or Tala (golden) Porch: This porch is counted among the most beautiful manifestations of the A.Q.R. The surface of the walls and ceilings of this porch, have been decorated with gold brick. This porch is 21 meters high. It is also known as Naderi Porch.
 - b. The northern porch or Tala (golden Porch): This porch is one of the glorious buildings constructed by order of Shah Abbas (the monarch of the Safavid dynasty), so it is known as Abbasi Porch.
 - c. The western Porch: In the past when Mashad was a small and limited city, people used to hear and recognise the right times of the day and night. Furthermore, owing to the fact that watches and clocks were not used by all and a few people possessed wrist watches, the clock of Holy shrine were known as the public clocks in Mashad.
 - d. The eastern porch (Naqqarah Khana Porch): Naqqara Khana is a place where the drums are beaten to say the ending time of prayers. There are often seven people present in the Naqqar Khana of whom these beat drums and the other blow trumpets. It is said that they utter Reza-The holy name of His Holiness (a.s.)- or the phrase-Maula reza(a.s.) while blowing trumpets. During performing this magnificent ceremony, pilgrim's children in particular gather in the sacred courtyard of Inqilab and watch this beautiful site.
 - e. Saqqa Khana-e-Tala (Esmail-e-Talai): In the centre of Inqilab courtyard, there exist a saqa khanah(drinking water repository) a public drinking place of water known as Saqqakhanah-e-Esmail-e-Talai on which a golden dome has been erected. This drinking water repository is an octagonal building where many

pilgrims drink water as a sacred liquid. Historian's mention that this building has been constructed by Esmail-e-Tal'ai and by the order of Nader Shah (monarch of the Afsharid dynasty). It is said that the marble stone applied in this building has been brought by Nader Shah from Herat.

2. AZADI (NEW) COURTYARD: It is located on the east side of the Holy Shrine. It is attached to Sheikh Hurre Ameli courtyard from the north side and Imam Khomeini (r.a.) courtyard from the south side. There is a large pool in the centre of the mentioned courtyard. There exists a large clock on the Summit of this portal.
3. IMAM KHOMEINI COURTYARD: This beautiful and vast courtyard entitled Imam Khomeini (r.a.) the late Paramount Leader of the glorious Islamic Revolution, has been located between the museum building of Astan Quds Razavi and Gowharshad Masjid. This courtyard (rawaq) leads to Gowharshad Grand Mosque from the west side, the museum building from the east side, Razavi Grand courtyard (sehen Razavi) Quds courtyard from the south side from the two entrances. There are two beautiful minarets erected in the south side of the courtyard and also a pool with an area of about 400 sq. meters has been built in the centre of this courtyard. The pool is in the form of octagon and three storey structure and has 48 facets and foot bathes to be used for performing ablutions. Preaching, worshipping, celebrating the anniversary of birthdays of the Immaculate Imams (a.s.) and mourning rites and rituals and also practicing congregational prayers are held in this courtyard. For ex. On the evening of every Thursday, the glorious invocation prayer of (DUA-E-KUMAIL) is held in this courtyard at around 2100 (9 pm).
4. QUDS COURTYARD: Quds courtyard has been located on the south side of Gowharshad mosque between Sheikh Bahai sanctuary and a part of the south side of Imam Khomeini (r.a.) courtyard. This courtyard leads to Imam Khomeini courtyard from the last side. Sheikh Bahai sanctuary from the west side and also from the north side it leads to the back side of Maqsureh porch of the Gowharshad mosque. In the centre of above mentioned courtyard, there exist a drinking water repository resembling the Al-Aqsa mosque in Bayt ul Muqaddas (the first qibla of Muslims) whose size is exactly one eighth of the original building of present under the illegal occupation of the Zionist regime. It stores 60,000 litres of water. This courtyard is the smallest courtyard of the Holy shrine.

5. JAMHURI-E-ISLAMI COURTYARD: This is one of the largest. In addition take rectangular pool located in the centre of the above mentioned courtyard and it is the place of gathering large crowds of mourning people in religious morning days.
6. RAZAVI GRAND COURTYARD: It covers an area of 57,000 sq. meters. This is the largest courtyard. It has eight entrances, portals and glorious minarets which are in the process of repairs.
7. GHADIR COURTYARD: In Mahe Ramadhan for whole month, this courtyard is occupied by Arabs only and there are duas, lectures, manqibat and nauhas in Arabic language after Maghrib prayers. There is room off this courtyard which is called rawaq e ghadir, at 0700 they distribute flowers which are taken from the Zarih of Imam Reza daily and this is good for shafe mareedh (sick) and specially for those mothers who are not blessed with children. Inshallah, Allah will grant a child if consumed this flower from Zarih of Imam Reza (a.s.). It was kept for 24 hours before they distribute on top of zarih.
8. KAUTHER COURTYARD: Before this courtyard on the corner of south east side, there is a room where Urdu majalis are held in Mahe Ramadhan. You can pass through this courtyard to go towards wash rooms.

THE SANCTUARIES

Sanctuaries connect the streets leading to the Holy shrine from the courtyards. These sanctuaries are used as entrances and exits of the Holy Shrine. It is named after 4 distinguished Ulama's/ scholars of the shia.

1. SHAIKH-E-TUSI SANCTUARY:
It is on a north western side of haram. Between the building of the central library and Jamhuri Islami courtyard.
2. SHAIKH HURRE AMELI (SOFLA) SANCTUARY:
This sanctuary has been located on the south eastern side and Razavi university of Islamic sciences.
3. SHAIKH TEBRASI SANCTUARY:
It is located on the north eastern side Holy Shrine and between the central library and Razavi university of Islamic sciences.
4. SHAIKH BAHAI SANCTUARY:
This is located on the south western side of the Holy Shrine and the south side of Dar al wilayah.

THE GRAND MOSQUE OF GOWHARSHAD

This mosque is located next to the Haram of Imam Reza (a.s.). It enjoys a particular spiritual reputation among the Islamic mosques of the world, and there cannot be found any other similar mosque. In addition to receiving many pilgrims of Imam Reza (a.s.) during the year, this mosque has been a centre of learning and teaching the Islamic studies for a long time.

Gowharshad mosque is also considered as one of the southern courtyards of the Holy Shrine, located between Shaikh Bahai sanctuary and Imam Khomeini (r.a.) courtyards. ITS NORTH SIDE IS ATTACHED TO Dar-al-Huffaz and dar us siyadah, two buildings that have simultaneously been constructed through two shoe keeping rooms no. 11 and 12 and finally it leads to the Holy Zarih (burial chamber) of Imam Reza (a.s.). this mosque is bounded by Imam Khomeini (r.a.) courtyard from the east side, Quds courtyard from the south side and finally, sheikh Bahai sanctuary from the west side.

The high building of Gowharshad Mosque, has a vast courtyard, four historical large porches in its four sides, seven oratories (shabestan), six entrances and exits, a large turquoise-coloured dome and also two minarets at the two sides of the qibla porch.

There exists an ancient and large pulpit (minbar) in this porch that arouses everybody's admiration. This pulpit has been made of walnut and pear woods without applying nails in it. This minbar known as sahib az zaman (a.s.), 12th Imam of shia among public, has fourteen steps. It dates back to 300 years ago. In the centre of Gowharshad Grand courtyard, there is an octagonal pool, and around this pool, there are four drinking fountains (saqqah khana).

The Grand mosque of Gowharshad has been constructed by Gowharshad Agha, Shahrukh Taimurid spouse, (son of amir timure Gourkani) in 821 A.H. The matchless and unique inscriptions of the mosque, has been done by Bay sunqur Mirza, son of Gowharshad Agha.

In addition to this magnificent building, some other porticos including, Dar-ul-Haffaz, Dar-us-siyadah and dar-us-salam have been constructed by order of this righteous and respected women, in the intention of paying homage to imam Reza (a.s.). It is said that Gowharshad

khatoon, wife of an Indian King whose name was Shahrukh mirza, built this Masjid.

This ancient and historical mosque has a library which has been constructed in an area of about 1200 sq. meters. This library enjoy two book treasuries (printed books), are manuscript treasury, and two book reading rooms.

ROOM NO. 40 (URDU LANGUAGE SECTION)

Direction to room 40; From Bab Raza;

Enter through Bab Reza gate of Razavi courtyard (sehn Jamea Razavi)

Turn right under the big blue colour arch door, turn 2nd left and go straight, on your left is room no. 40.

Daily @ 0900 there is Haram awareness lecture, adabe ziyarat, slide show on Haram Imam Reza (a.s.), prize draw and visit to Central museum free of charge- except on Fridays. Daily there is urdu majlis @ 1100 in Hurre Ameli. This section can also help you to get meal token as a guest of Imam Reza (a.s.). Daily @ 1500 except Fridays you will be able to ask questions in this room no. 40 and then Maulana will distribute gifts, visit of Quran museum free of charge. After maghribain salat there is urdu majlis. Pl ask this section for the venue for night majlis.

In Mahe Ramadhan this section provides a larger room and provides top speakers from India and Qum for majalis, Ibadat and aamaal. It is spiritually uplifting if you visit in Mahe Ramadhan but hotel prices are high and are in short supply.

OUTSIDE ZIYARAAT OF MASHAD

1. KHAWAJA MURAD:

Harseh Ibne Amin well known by Khawaja Murad has been including special assistants of Imam Reza (a.s.) whose burial tomb is located on top of a high hill at 14 km away from south east of Mashad, on the outskirts of Binalood mountains (opposite beheshte Reza cemetery). He was a disciple of Imam Reza (a.s.) and he died in 210 H.

2. KHAWAJA ABA SALT HARVI (R.A.):

His name was Abdul Salam Bin Saleh Bin Suleman known as Khawaja Aba salt Harvi in the year 160 in Madina Munawarrah. He is from the narrators of of Hadis and was a learned person. His interest was to learn and teach Ilm-e-Deen. He travelled to Baghdad , Basra, Kufa, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Iran. He was a good friend of Imam Reza (a.s.) and shared his secrets. Also travelled with Imam from Madina to Merv. He was alive till Imam's death. He disclosed to the people of Mashad about the poisoning of Imam By Ma'moon (L.a.). He was imprisoned for 1 year. He passed away in 236 Hijrah. He narrated many incidences on the life of Imam and has also written many books. He was buried beside the road to Fariman 10 km from Mashad.

3. SYED NASIR (A.S.) & SYED YASIR (A.S.):

Their shrine is located in turqaba 1 hour drive from Mashad. They were brothers of Imam Reza (a.s.).

Sons of Imam Musa Kazim (a.s.): HUSSAIN, ABDULLAH, AQEEL, TAYYEB, MAJID, NASIR, YASIR, HAMZA, MAHMOOD, AHMED, REZA, IBRAHIM, ABUL JAWAD, YUSUF. From kanz al ansab, bahr alansab.

Daughters of Imam Musa Kazim: FATIMA (MASOOMA), UMAIMA KHATOON.

4. SHEIKH TABARASI:

His tomb is in the northern square next to Bagh-e-rizvan and the avenue next to it has been named after him. Fazl Ibn Hasan Tabarasi died 548 H. He was the writer of the commentary Majma Al Bayan.

5. MIAMI;

Imam Zadeh Yahya was Zaid's son and grandson of fourth Imam Sajjad (a.s.). His mother Raiteh was the daughter of Abi Hashem Abdullah Ibne Mohammed Hanifah. He was born in 107 H. And his life was threatened by Umayyad's so, he migrated from from Karbala to Madaen and from there to Khorasan. He was martyred at the age of 18 in Jowzjan in 125 H. His tomb is on the Sarekhs road 55 kms away from Mashad and 1 km from Miami village. The construction of this shrine dates back to the to the 10th

Century. Mothers who are not blessed with children are advised to do Nazr in this shrine for a child, inshallah will be fulfilled.

6. NAISHAPOUR:

A. QADAMGAH;

It is believed that Imam Reza (a.s.) while on his way to Toos in the 9th century made a stop here and delivered his speech to the audience of 20,000 reporters, who had gathered to welcome him to Naishapour. It is narrated that he said his salaah on a slab of stone and left his foot prints on the slab, which is now mounted on the wall.

B. SPRING WATER;

There is also a spring water coming out from the rocks and is said to be a miracle of our Imam where people drink the water in a special bowl for shafa.

C. RAUZA OF SYED IBRAHIM AND MAHROOQ (A.S.);

He was the brother of Imam Reza (a.s.) and was also executed by the Bani abbasi representative and syed Mahrooq was burnt alive.

D. FAZL IBN SHAZAN;

E. BIBI SHATITA;

She was Khums payer on time and that is why Imam Musa Kazim came to her funeral prayers and it is mentioned in her ziyarat in her shrine. Imam reza (a.s.) accepted her 1 bent coin as khums and rejected a lot of khums of others, and sent her a kafan(body shroud) as a gift.

F. BEST SHOPPING ITEMS HERE; Firoza stone as it is sourced here, but you have to use your bargaining skills here.

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF IMAM REZA A.S.

1. Imam Reza (a.s.) was born in the Holy city of Madina on the 11th of zul qadah, 148 A.H.
2. He was the son of Imam Musa Ibn Jaffer (pbuh) and his blessed name was Ali. His mother, Najma Khatoon (also named Taktom, Khiyzeran and Taherah) was a prominent, religious and wise lady of that age. After Imam Reza (a.s.) was born, his mother handed him to his father. Imam Musa al Kadhim (a.s.), who whispered

the azan statements in the right ear of the new born and Iqama statements in the left. Then Imam Kadhim (a.s.) said: "this son will be Allah's Argument-person on the earth and the Imam (i.e. leader) after me.

3. After Imam Reza's birth, his noble mother was named Tahira-meaning the pure Lady. She was a chaste and wise Lady from non-Arab aristocrats. She asked for a wet nurse to help her breast feeding her son. She was asked whether her milk was little, she answered: "No, but after giving birth to my son, I do not manage my routines of worship and prayers.
4. Imam Reza (a.s.) had other epithets such as Sabir (the tolerant), Zaki (the pure), wali (the guardian), Fazil (the virtuous), Sideeq (the veracious), Razi (the well pleased), Sirajullah (the Lantern of God), Nur al Huda (the brilliance of true guidance). His nick name is Abul Hassan.
5. He was 35 years old when he resumed the office of the Imamate. After Harun, his brother amin became the caliph. He ruled for only 4 years, as there was bitter fighting between amin and his brother for the caliphate. This led to bloodshed and amin was subsequently killed in the year 198 (A.H.), after which Mamun became the ruler. It was during this time when the two brothers were fighting that Imam Reza (a.s.) made the most use of this opportunity to spread the word of god and guide the Muslim ummah.
6. His Imamate lasted for 20 years.
7. This inscription that was carved on the stone of Imam Reza (a.s.) ring is this: "MASHALLAH O WA LA HAWLA WA LA QUWATA ILLA BILLAH": "Only what Allah wills (shall come to pass) and there is no power but with Allah".
8. Imam Reza (a.s.) married Sabikah, his wife and the mother of his only son Imam Jawad (a.s.), related to the same family of Lady Mariyah the Coptic, The Holy Prophet's wife.
9. Ma'mun visited scholars, learned men, organised meetings and seminars. So on one side he supported the scholars, and on the other side, to attract the many Muslims, he openly showed the love he had for Ahlulbayt, started praising Imam Ali (a.s.) and cursing Mu'awiyah. This was a concerted effort to trick the shias that he was interested in the spread of Islam through the region. His supporters were not happy with his strategy but ma'mun knew that if his enemies and the shias would get together then he would be over thrown so he had to take first the shias into his

confidence and to do this he devised a plan to offer Imam Ridha (a.s.) to be the successor after him. This was to win confidence from both the enemies and shias.

So Ma'mun started writing letters upon letters to Imam Reza (a.s.) to become his successor. But despite all the forces of Ma'mun it did not bear fruit as Imam refused to take their responsibility, which would be harmful for Muslims, so he bluntly refused.

10. Imam Reza (a.s.) was enforced to leave for Khorasan (Northern Iran) by Ma'mun, the abbasid tyrannical ruler. Tragically, he bid farewell to his hometown, Madina Munawarra, which contained the Holy Shrine of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.), the graves of his Holy forefathers in Baqi cemetery and the secret grave of his mother Fatima al Batul (s.a), so he made his journey to Khorasan. His family members and he wept so much upon leaving their hometown that some people saw ill omen in this. Answering them he said: "A journey that has a return can be joyful, but mine has no return". This way Imam Reza A.s. had already predicted Ma'mun wrong doing.
11. Imam Reza a.s. was martyred on the last day of safar by the plot of Ma'mun-May Allah curse him, in Khorasan. He was 55 year old.
12. His Holy shrine in Mashad is sanctuary for people from all over the world, especially Muslims and Shia Muslims. Imam used to eat with his servants in the same place and used to treat them kindly. He spent all days and nights of his life time doing acts of worship and giving alms secretly and openly. He rejected no one's request and interrupted no one's speech.
13. In his arguments with Ma'mun on governmental issues, the Imam stated: "I do not agree with you because Allah-glory and praise be to Him-has ordered me not to object your government, as Prophet Musa did not object Pharaoh's wrong doing in government, otherwise I have the power to do so".
14. It is narrated when Imam reza (a.s.) when was in Khorasan, he granted his entire property to the poor on the day of Arafah (a feast day). In madina too one day, a man from khorasan came to him and said: "I am loyal to you, your father and your family. I've returned from the (ritual) pilgrimage and run out of money. Please help me return to my country. And I would on your behalf whatever you grant me now to the poor when I return to Khorasan, because I am rich". Imam reza (a.s.) asked him to sit

down. He then spoke with him a little more and went to other room. Later Imam Reza (a.s.) stretched his hand from above the door and called at the man: "Take this 200 dinars (gold coin) and spend it on your family so that it brings good luck to you. Now you may leave".

15. A narrator says: I went to Imam reza (a.s.) after I had decided to go to Iraq, asking for a cloth for my shroud and some money to buy rings for my daughters. I was so sad of leaving the Imam (a.s.) and saying goodbye to him that I completely forgot about my request. When leaving the house, Imam reza (a.s.) called me and gave me cloth and some money. I told him that I had forgotten my need because of the departure sadness".

16. The "Golden Series" is a most famous tradition that is reported from Imam Reza (a.s.) as follows:
When Imam Reza(a.s.) entered the city of Naishapour and then intended to leave it, the Scholars of Hadith of that city gathered around him and asked, "will you leave us before you deliver to us a tradition (Hadith) from which we may benefit"? Hence the Imam, who was in a howdah, took his head out and said:

" I heard from my father Musa Ibn Jaffer saying: I heard my father Jaffer Ibn Mohammed saying: I heard my father Mohammed Ibn Ali saying: I heard my father Ali Ibn Al Hassan saying: I heard my father Al Hussain saying: I heard my father The commander of the faithful, Ali Ibn Abu Talib saying: I heard the messenger of Allah saying: I heard the (Arch Angel) Gabriel saying: I heard Allah, The Almighty and Majestic saying: "There is no God except Allah, this is my fortress. Hence, whoever enters my fortress will be saved from my chastisement".

When the caravan moved for a few steps, the Imam (a.s.) shouted at us:"This is contingent upon it's conditions and I am one of It's conditions".

17. Imam Reza (a.s.) lived in the reign of Ma'mun, the clever Abbasid ruler whose aim was to eradicate the Alawites and especially their most prominent person, Imam Reza (a.s.). The Umayyad dynasty, who ruled before the Abbasid's, were not wise and insightful enough. They committed horrible massacres against the descendants of Imam Ali (a.s.), such as the Karbala event, which resulted in increasing hatred, the end which was the collapse of the Umayyad dynasty.

The Abbasids on the other hand, had the same aim but different tactic. To decrease Imam's knowledge, he managed scientific magnificence, Ma'mun managed various discussions between Imam Reza and scholars of other religions.

Imam was always victorious, especially when he debated the Christians and Jews, using proof from their Holy Books.

18. Ma'mun offered Imam Reza (a.s.) regency which he accepted reluctantly after Ma'mun's pressure and said: Provided that the Imam would not interfere in political and governmental issues as well as appointments and dismissals. Imam Reza (a.s.) accepted to hold the position of crown prince but he refused to interfere in the political management of the governments, combining the necessity and expediency in the best possible way. Hence he manifested the Islamic glory and Shi'ite value.

19. When Ma'mun realised that he would never achieve any success against Imam Reza (a.s.) he designed the last ominous plot to poison and martyr Imam Reza (a.s.).

20. He carried out his plan on the last night of Safar of the year 203 A.H. by forcefully giving Imam Reza poisonous grapes thus martyring him, away from homeland and oppressed.

As is historically proved, Imam Reza's son, Imam Jawad (a.s.) entered the city of Toos (Khorasan) and reached the residential place of his father, while the doors were closed. He embraced his poisoned father. After depositing the secrets of Imamate to his son Imam Reza (a.s.) passed away. His son the ninth Infallible Imam, prayed on his body. After praying the ritual then he ordered to open the door.

Ma'mun came in along with his companions, shed crocodile tears and went out. Then the Holy body was buried.

SOME APHORISMS OF IMAM ALI REZA A.S.

1. Faith stands on four supports: dependence upon God, entrustment with God, submission to the decision of God, satisfaction with the acts of God.
2. Belief is to do the obligatory deeds and avoid the prohibitions. Belief in inner recognition, verbal confession and doing by the body organs.

3. Imam was asked: "what do you say about the quran"? He answered: "It is Allah's speech. Don't transgress its laws. Do not seek true guidance from elsewhere, otherwise you will go astray".
4. Imamate is the head of the religious affairs, the system of Muslims, the goodness of the world and the stronghold of the believers. Imamate is the rising principal and the noble branch of Islam. The accomplishment of the Prayers, Zakat, Fasting, Hajj, Jihad, the availability of spoils and alms, the execution of the doctrinal provisions and the rules and the protections of the fronts and the borders—all these are achieved through the Imam.
5. May Allah have mercy on the servant who revitalizes our Affair. Imam Reza (a.s.) was asked "How should your affair be revitalized? He answered: By learning our knowledge and teaching it to others".
6. The best wealth is the one that saves the face of people.
7. "Adhere to the Prophet's weapon! Imam was asked what is the Prophet's weapon? He replied: "It is supplication".
8. The best wisdom is self recognition.

IMAM ZAMIN:

Our Imam is also well known as Imam-e-Dhamin and this is due to a famous story narrated by historians that one day he was travelling and witnessed that a hunter has captured a deer but she was crying. Imam spoke to the deer animal and enquired as why she was crying?

The reply was that I need to feed my baby deer and I promise to come back after I will feed straightaway. Imam became her guarantor.

We also use some coins during our journey and ask Imam Reza a.s. to be our guarantor that we should also return safely to our home after our journey. If you believe this, then this is like our Insurance, and it is sufficient for us that Imam is our guarantor and not any company.

CULTURAL CRADLE----- MASHAD

What is it?

Located between the two mountain ranges of Binalood and Hezar Masjed, 900 kms north east of Tehran and about 100 kms from the Afghanistan border, It is 970 meters above sea level and about a one hour flight from the capital-Tehran. The city has long been an important trade centre on caravan routes from Tehran to India and given it's geographical position near several borders, a logistically important location for the country.

History:

In the year AD 823, after the martyrdom of Imam Reza (a.s.) the Muslim shia and eight Imam in a place around Toos named Sanaabad, the foundations of the city sprung up. Sultan Mahmood Ghaznavi built a mausoleum opposite the shrine in the thirteenth century due to the destruction of Toos city by the Mongols. At first, the area was a place for non-Aryan tribes, but through time some areas were conquered by the Arabs in the period of caliph Osman and it was annexed to Islam territory in the time of caliph Omar. During the unstable periods of Teymoorian and Ilhanan it passed from hand-to-hand between different governors before finally in AD 1438, Shahrukh, the son of amir Taymoor, took the throne as monarch and developed a new city calling it Mashad. Some of the old ruins of toos were preserved and to this day remain important sites of pilgrimage for thousands of visitors each year. Iranian tribes like Fars, Kurds, Turks and Turkman live there.

Climate:

Very cold winters, pleasant springs, mild summers, and beautiful autumns.

Sister City:

Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Population:

2,100,000

Mashad Leisure:

There is plenty to see in Mashad and its surroundings. Melat park, koohsangi entertainment park and Melli Garden are the most popular parks in Mashad. A large number of natural resorts to the west of the city with local foods and handicrafts provide Mashad with a variety of natural attractions. The kooh sangi pool in the heart of the city is surrounded by numerous parks, while outside the city the summer resorts of Torqabeh, torogh, Akhlamond, Zoshk and shandeez are all easily accessible.

1. Shadi amusement park:

This amusement park is located on the northern & western hills of Vakil Abad boulevard and is about 18 hectare.

2. Kardeh Dam:

Kardeh Dam is including water resorts in Mashad at 20 km away from Mashad towards Kalet road located on a river called Kardeh. It is among the most beautiful resorts and is a tourist attraction.

3. Vakilabad Zoo:

Vakilabad Zoo is only zoo in Mashad and khorasan Razavi province that is located next to vakilabad Natural Park. This zoo includes different kinds of animals and birds. This site includes rests shops, benches, shops and other convenient facilities for pilgrims, travellers and weekenders.

4. Torqabeh Recreation Place & Baba Mountains (Baba Kohi):

This vicinity boasts of a pleasant climate, in the outskirts of Mashad, to the west of which stand the Binalood mountains and to the north, the Takhte rostam mountains. Torqabeh has alternative attractions such as springs enveloped in greenery.

5. Kang village:

Kang village is a mountainous village that is located 5 km from torqabeh to Noghondar village. The structure of this village is similar to Masooleh and Abyaneh.

6. Malek House:

This construction is located on Imam Khomeini street in Mashad which is including beautiful houses remained from late of Qajer age. The mentioned structure has been very large in old time. Today it is used as tourist chamber and traditional arts production centre.

7. Gulistan Dam:

This is from Taimoori time.

8. Shandeez:

These resorts with beautiful natural scenery are located 29 km southwest of Mashad.

9. Irshad sports complex:

Opened in 1983. Tennis, horse riding school, Ski (ice ring) are some of the activities you can enjoy. It is situated on right side, last street on Vakil Abad before diversion of shandeez and Turqaba.

10. CHALIDAREH DAM:

With a height of 34.5 m and a length of 150m and a water capacity of 4.1 million m³, was completed in 2002. Built on Jaghargh river, the huge lake behind it was resulted in a desirable climate and beautiful natural scenery. Convenient restaurants and tea houses for tourists and nature lovers along with boating and water skiing facilities, make the area as very good choice for a sunny day out.

11. TOROUGH CARVANSARY:

This natural park, with an area of 186 hectares, is located near Ghader sq. on Shaheed Kalan Tari Hwy, and holds a favourable appeal for tourists because of it's variety of plant species and trees. There is a section in the park, that is allocated for camping, which has been equipped by the municipality for camping such as camp grounds, public toilets, tents, grocery stores and play grounds.

MARKETS:

The city features numerous shopping options with everything from modern malls to traditional bazaars featuring fine handicrafts and traditional souvenirs such as fur cloaks, crotchet-worksand stoneturquoise.

The largest and the most prosperous bazaars of Mashad are Bazaar Reza, central Bazaar no. 1 &2, business complex of Poroma, Business complex of Almas-e-shargh (diamond of east), Jannat Bazaar, Sajjad market, Alghadeer and Amin markets, Russian's bazaar, Gowharshad market, International Bazaar and some other small and large market. Also parts of roofed bazaar of Mashad called Sarshoor bazaar have remained around Holy shrine of imam Reza a.s.

The famous souvenir of this province is 'Saffron' in addition to handicrafts.

MASHAD RUGS:

The city is an important centre of the Carpet weaving industry. Mashad carpets are usually brightly coloured with tones of red or blue. The carpets are well made and will last a very long time. Mashad rugs are typically larger and less expensive than many of the other types of Persian Rugs.

FAREWELL

Then when you decide to depart recite:

O Members of the Prophet's Household! Peace be upon you!

Peace be upon one who says farewell but is neither tired of you nor is he discontented with you-as he is indeed Praise worthy and glorious. Peace be upon you from a friend who is neither willing to depart from you, nor to choose anyone else and substitute him for you, one who does not abstain from being near you. May god not let this be the last time I make the pilgrimage to your tomb and visit your shrine. And peace be upon you. May God resurrect me among you, establish me as one who enters your pool, let me join your party and please you with me.

And empower me from your govt; and revive me during your return and give me a position during your rule. And may God grant me gratitude for my efforts for you and forgive me my sins due to your intercession, overlook my faults due to your love, increase my eminence due to my adherence to you, revere me due to obedience to you and honour me due to your guidance. And when I return home please make me successful with a happy ending, a winner, in good shape, healthy, wealthy and having attained the satisfaction of God and His Grace and with better things than what God would normally return your visitors, friends, lovers and followers with. And may god grant me another chance to return on pilgrimage after I go back home as long as my Lord keeps me alive with a sincere intention, faith, piety, humbleness and legitimate, prolonged and pure sustenance.

O my god! Please do not let this be the last time I visit them, remember them and supplicate to them. And please make forgiveness, good, blessings, light, faith and fair acceptance of my prayers a certainty for me as thee has done so far thy friends who have recognised the truth about them –(the prophet’s Household), consider it incumbent upon themselves to obey them and are inclined to visit them: Those who are close to thee and them.

May my father, mother, family, property and possessions be your ransom! Please pay attention to me, and let me join your party. Include me among those whose behalf you intercede and mention me near your Lord. O my God! Please send blessings upon Mohammed and the Household of Mohammed. And express my greetings to their souls and their bodies. And peace be upon you; and the grace of god and His Blessings be upon you. And may God’s Blessings and salutations with much respect be upon our Master Mohammed and his Household. And for is God sufficed, and He is the best disposer of affairs.

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF SHEIKH HURRE AMILI

Sheikh ul Mohaddessin (the master of traditionists) Mohammed Ibn Hasan known as Sheikh Hurre amili was a renowned shia scholar and author of the authentic book of Wasa’il ul shia.

He was born into an intellectual shia family in Mashqara village in Jabal’amil region, on the 7th of Rajab, 1033 A.H. (1623 A.D.). Mohaddes qummi has mentioned in Fawaid ul-Razaviyya that his ancestry traces back to Hurre Ibn Yazid riyahi, one of Imam Hussain’s famous companions.

Sheikh Ameli lived in Mashqara for 20 years during which he functioned as Sheikh ul Islam (a high religious dignitary) and qadhi al Qudhat (chief justice).

The authentic book of wasa’il ul shia was compiled in 20 volumes and includes shia juristic traditions. By devoting 20 years to compiling such a valuable book, sheikh amili left one of the most important Hadith books behind as a reminder.

Sheikh was an expert in jurisprudence, biography of the transmitters of Hadith and mathematics in addition to the science of traditions, and wrote various books in those fields. He also had a gift for poetry and wrote more than 20,000 couplets.

He passed away at the age of 71, on the 20th of Ramadhan, 1104 A.H. /1692 A.D. and was buried in the northern portico of Inqilab Islami courtyard of Imam Reza (a.s.).

His mausoleum is now regarded as one of the important places of pilgrimage in the complex of the Holy Shrine.

RAY AREA IN TEHRAN

Ray is a land which in old times was considered among renowned towns. In the inscription of Bistoon belonging to Darius this town was called Ray and in Avesta also it was called Ragma. It has a history of at least 1500 years before Islam. This land was attacked by Tataris, Mongols, Turks etc. the town Ray during the Abbasids, was considered the most important and biggest town after Baghdad in the Islamic world.

Following the victory of Islamic Revolution in 1990 by an order of ayatollah Khamenei, ayatollah Mohammed Reyshahri was appointed as trustee of this Holy shrine and thanks to God, in the past 19 years basic developments and effective measures have been taken in the whole complex of the shrine. During the past 18 years of which the execution of project of development of the Holy shrine in an area measuring over 35,000 sq. meters with an infrastructure amounting to 100,000 sq. meters including 34 great projects and basic plans along with some subsidiary and side projects are among their endeavours in cultural and pilgrimage perspectives.

AN ACQUAINTANCE WITH HAZRAT ABDOLAZIM (AT RAY):

The highly esteemed Imamzadeh, Hazrat Abdol Azim, is an educated scholar and theologian and trusted narrator whose geneology with four generations comes down to Imam Hassan Mojtaba (a.s.).

His Kunniyat was Abol qassim was born in the year 173H.L. At the time imamate of Imam Musa Kazim in Madina and has the honour of sitting

in the teaching classes of Hazrat Imam Reza, Imam Jawad, Imam Hadi and enjoyed such a place to Imam Hadi that the said Imam, addressing him: Bravo to you Abol qassim, you are verily a friend of ours.

He came under attack from Abbasids and then upon guidance of Imam left Madina and travelled to Ray in Iran as attorney and representative of Imam Hadi and dealt with guiding and removing the problems of people in that area. He died in Ray in 252 H.L. , when Imam Askari was 20 years old.

There is a narration by Imam Hadi saying that:

A person from Shi'ites of Ray was received in audience by Imam Hadi. Then Imam asked him: where were you? He answered: I had gone to visit Imam Hussain (a.s.). Imam replied: "If you visited the tomb of Abdul Azim which is with you, was like a person who visited Hussain".

IMAM ZADEH HAMZAH AT RAY:

He was one of the children of Imam Musa Kazim and his shrine is located on the southern side of Hazrat Abdolazim `s shrine. He also accompanied his brother Imam Reza (a.s.) on his travel to Toos. That great syed, was finally martyred by abbasid agents in Rey and was buried in the same place and his tomb is that of Hazrat abdolazim turned into a shrine and visiting place of intimates and favourites of the household of the prophet.

IMAM ZADEH TAHER (A.S.)

He was one of the descendants of Hazrat Zainul Abedeen whose dynasty and descendants came down with eight generations to that Hazrat and all have been among scholars and instructors. The sacred tomb of this great imamzadeh was unknown for many centuries and at the time of repairing the tomb, his pristine body was inspected and discovered and his identity was discerned from the stone of the tomb. Zollostan ghajar who had gone blind, sought sanctuary to that Hazrat and his eyes were healed. Thus he repaired the Imamzadeh's shrine and tomb.

MAY ALLAH AND IMAM ACCEPT YOUR ZIYARAAT AND EFFORTS

THIS GUIDE IS PREPARED BY MOHD. RAZA JAFFER FOR THE THAWAB

OF MY MOTHER: ZUBIDA JAFFER DAUGHTER OF ABDULLAH RASHID.

PLEASE RECITE SURAH-FATIHA FOR HER SOUL.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MAILING LIST.

ALLAH S.W.T. WILL REWARD YOU, AMEEN.

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07713622402/ 02084322830.

For any queries please call or email brother Mohamed Raza Jaffer

Of Alavi Travel who has collected and compiled this guide throughout many years and now it is available for Zawar to benefit from this information. If there are any mistakes please forgive me.

Address: 118 heather road, Leicester, Le2 6de, U.K./ unit 32, 464 Edgware road, London, w2 1ah, U.K.

PREPARED FOR THE PLEASURE OF ALLAH AND MASUMEEN.

ISFAHAN----- (NISF JAHAN)

The town of Isfahan , formerly the capital of Persia, now the capital of the province, is situated on the Ziyandeh river. This town has 210 mosques and colleges, 150 public baths and 68 flour mills. One of the many fine public buildings constructed by Safavid dynasty, few building remains. There are still standing in fairly good repair the two palaces named respectively Chihil Sutoon (the forty pillars) and Hasht Behesht the eight paradises, the former constructed by Shah abbas 1 (1587 - 1629), the latter by Shah Suleiman in 1670 and restored and renovated by Fath Ali Shah (1797-1834). They are ornamented with gilding and mirrors in every possible variety of Arabesque decoration and large, brilliant pictures, representing scenes of Persian history. The walls of their principal apartments have been ascribed in many instances to Italian and dutch artists who are known to have been in the service of the Safavids.

The city, which had now resumed its old name of Isfahan, continued to flourish till the time of Timur (A.D. 1387), when in common with so

many other cities of the empire it suffered generously at the hands of Tatar invaders. Timur indeed is said to have erected a skull tower of 70,000 heads at the gate of the city, as a warning to deter other communities from resisting his arms. When the Safavid dynasty, who succeeded to power in the 16th century, transferred their place of residence to it from Qazwin, it rose rapidly in popularity and wealth.

It was under Shah Abbas I that Isfahan attained its greatest prosperity. This monarch adopted every possible expedient, by stimulating commerce, encouraging arts and manufacturers and introducing luxurious habits to attract visitors to his favourite capital. He built several magnificent palaces, planted gardens and avenues, distributed amongst them the waters of Zand-rud in an endless series of reservoirs, fountains and cascades. The baths, the mosques, the colleges, the bazaars, the Caravan serais of the city received an equal share of his attention and the European artificers and merchants were largely encouraged to settle in his capital.

The first blow to the prosperity of modern Isfahan was given by the Afghan invasion at the beginning of the 18th century, since which date, although continuing for some time to be the nominal head of the empire, the city has gradually dwindled in importance and now only ranks as a second or third rate provincial capital. When the Qajar dynasty indeed mounted the throne of Persia at the end of the 18th century the seat of government was at once transferred to Tehran, with a view to the support of the royal tribe, whose chief seat was in the neighbouring province of Mazandaran and although it has often been proposed, from considerations of state policy in reference to Russia to re-establish the court at Isfahan, which is the true centre of Persia, the scheme has never commanded much attention.

VANK CHURCH:

The All-Saviours Cathedral, locally known as the Vank Cathedral or the Church of the Saintly Sisters, was one of the first churches to be established in the city's Julfa quarter by Armenian immigrants settled by Shah Abbas I after the Ottoman war of 1603-1605.

Originally a modest centre of Gregorian Christianity in Persia, the church was rebuilt as a magnificent cathedral over the relics of St.

Joseph of Arimathea. Construction is believed to have begun in 1606 and completed with major alterations to design between 1655 and 1664 under the supervision of Archbishop David. The cathedral consists of domed Sanctuary much like a Persian mosque and eastern churches but with the significant addition of a semi-octagonal apse and raised chancel usually seen in western churches. The courtyard contains a large freestanding belfry towering over the graves of both orthodox Armenians and protestant Christians. The cathedral's exteriors are in relatively modern brick work and are exceptionally plain compared to its ornately decorated interior with wall paintings and gilded carvings beyond a wainscot of rich tile work, reaching up to its high ceiling and dome. The delicately blue and gold painted central dome depicts the Biblical story of creation of the world and man's expulsion from Eden.

FRIDAY MOSQUE OF ISFAHAN

Constructed late in the 11th and 12th century. The Friday mosque is the most ancient building in Isfahan. It was partially destroyed in Iraqi air raids and repaired in immediately thereafter.

This Friday mosque as it stands now is the result of continual construction reconstruction, additions and renovations on the site from around 771 to the end of twentieth Century.

THE ABBASI FRIDAY MOSQUE

This mosque also known as Shah Mosque was built as the space for public worship in Shah Abbas' new urban plan for Isfahan, but was not completed until the reign of his successor, Safi I.

MINAR JUNBAN (THE SHAKING MINARET),

BETHLEHAM CHURCH,

SAINT MARY CHURCH,

MINARET OF IMAM ALI MOSQUE (40 METERS HIGH),

HAKIM MOSQUE,

CHAHAR BAGH SCHOOL,

ULJAITO ALTAR,

ISFAHAN BAZAAR:

The 2 kilometre bazaar is a vaulted street that links the old city, the Friday mosque and old square with Shah Abbas 1 new square.

PIGEON TOWER

Each tower could accommodate thousands of the wild pigeons that could be harvested annually for dung to manure fields and soften leather in Isfahan's famed tanneries'.

These structures have been deteriorating with modern use of chemical fertilizers and tanning chemicals. There has been a significant drop in pigeon tower numbers from the thousands reported in seventeenth century accounts of Safavid Isfahan by French traveller Chardin, to the present day count of approximately a remaining hundred in the entire province.

ATASHGAH: A FIRE TEMPLE FROM SASSANID ERA

CHAHAR BAGH AVENUE:

Built in 1657 AD during the reign of Shah Abbas 1 and lined on both sides with the Safavid royal palaces, it was once one of the most splendid streets in the world. It is 5 km long and 47 meter wide and divided into 3 sections. Chahar Bagh means 4 gardens.

SHAIKH UL ISLAM HOUSE

BAJOGHLI'S HOUSE

VATIQ ANSARI'S HOUSE

ASHRAF HALL

AMINHOUSE

DAR ALAM'S HOUSE

KOOHRANGI'S HOUSE

OLD HOUSES/ ABBASI HOTEL

HASHT EHESHT PALACE:

Located in the centre of the Garden of Nightingales (the bagh-e-bulbul), the Hasht Behesht, literally meaning "Eight Paradise" refers to a

Timurid Palace which consists of 2 stories of 4 corner rooms around a central domed space. One of Isfahan's two surviving safavid pavilions it was built under Shah Suleiman some twenty years after the chihil Sutoon.

ALI QAPU:

The Ali Qapu is located on the west façade of Shah Square (now Imam Square) facing the mosque of Sheikh Lutfullah. Originally much smaller in scale, designed as a portal between the Palace gardens and the square, the Ali Qapu grew with a series of additions over a sixty year period to accommodate court functions.

SHEIKH LUTFULLAH MOSQUE-IMAM SQUARE= PAY AT ENTRANCE

NAQSH-E-JAHAN SQUARE- IMAM SQUARE

The square is an eight hectare space constructed under Shah Abbas 1 between 1590 and 1595 for official ceremonies and sport. A two storied arcaded perimeter of stores was added by 1602 in an effort to introduce commerce to the area, luring merchants from the old city.

Festivals and Parades continued in this multifunctional space, alternating use of the large Central area with commercial stalls. The arcaded facades were originally decorated with polychrome glazed tiles, the rhythm of the arcades broken once in each façade by entrance to a building. On the south, the Shah Mosque, east the mosque of Sheikh Lotfullah, the Ali Qapu on the west façade, on the north the monumental entrance portal to a two kilometre bazaar which links the square to the old city.

The iwan of this grand portal, known as the Naqqar Khana, crowned with representation of Sagutarrarius in mosaic tile, leads to the royal Bazaar, the royal mint and the royal caravanserai. This was the strong room for the most valuable trade in the city.

RELIGIOUS PERSONALITIES BURIED IN ISFAHAN:

1. IMAM ZADEH AHMED BIN ALI BIN MOHAMMED BAQIR (A.S.)
2. ASTAN MUQADDAS SYEDNA HAROON BIN IMAM MUSA BIN JAFFER
3. AYATULLAH MOHAMMED TAQI ALMAJLISI-NEXT TO JAMME MOSQUE
4. BABA RUKN UDDIN

PLEASE RECITE SURA FATEHA FOR THOSE MARHUMEEN WHO DON'T HAVE ANY ONE TO RECITE FOR THEM, FATEHA. JAZAKUM ALLAH.

"TRAVEL BY AIR HAS REACHED THE POINT WHERE IT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED IN MOST CORNERS OF THE WORLD".

SHIRAZ GUIDE

There are 13 rivers in Fars province. Shiraz city is about 1520 meters above the sea level. Shiraz is lush green city and is 6 hour's drive from Isfahan by bus.

IMPORTANT DAYS OF SHIRAZ CALENDER:

21 APRIL; SA'DI DAY (POET)

05 MAY; DAY OF SHIRAZ

27 SEPT; INTERNATIONAL TOURISM DAY

04 OCT; DAY OF SHAH CHIRAGH

12 OCT; DAY OF HAFEZ (POET)

1. SHAH CHIRAGH: AHMED BIN MUSA ALKADHIM-IMAM REZA'S BROTHER.
2. SYED MIR MOHAMMED: It is 200 meter from Shah Chiragh towards east in same building.
3. Syed Alaeddin Hussain bin Musa Kadhim (brother of shah chiragh).
4. JAMEE ATIQ MOSQUE= ALL IN SAME VICINITY
5. ALI IBN HAMZA (BROTHER OF IMAM REZA A.S.)
6. MAHARLO LAKE: 15 km east of shiraz. Almond garden is around it. Feb. and March are nice months to be there.
7. MARGUN WATERFALL NEAR SEPIDAN.
8. SKI PISTE: ski piste lies 20 km to sepidan and about 100 kms to the east of Shiraz in winter.

9. DR KHODADOOST (EYE HOSPITAL): WORLD'S NO. 2 EYE SURGEON IS IN SHIRAZ.
10. LOST PARADISE: BEHESHTE GUMSHUDA: Beautiful natural attraction of Fars province, 120 km to the north west of Shiraz. It is on 20,000 hectares area.
11. QURAN ARCH- QURAN DARWAZA
12. KARIM KHAN FORTRESS
13. ERUM GARDEN
14. AFIFABAD GARDEN-MILITARY MUSEUM: There is tea house.
15. JAHAN NUMA GARDEN: 40,000 sq. meters near Quran gate.
16. VAKIL BATH/ VAKIL BAZAR/ VAKIL MOSQUE
17. JANNAT GARDEN: One of the biggest gardens in Shiraz.
18. CHAMRAN MARGINAL PARK: This is the largest park in Iran.
There are several restaurants, 5 star hotel and can do hiking.
19. TOMB OF HAFEZ: Khawaja Shamsuddin Mohammed Hafiz Shirazi, can visit in day or night time.
20. TOMB OF SA'DI
21. GHAVAM ORANGERY: NARENKISTAN GHAVAM
22. ZINATUL MULK HOUSE-BOTH ARE CONNECTED.
23. SARAAYE-MUSHIR BAZAAR-Eastern corner of Vakil Bazar.
24. DELGOSHA GARDEN: Near Sa'di Tomb
25. Khawaja Kirmani: Near Quran gate.
26. PERSEPOLIS: (WORLD HERITAGE SITE)
27. NECROPOLIS: NAQSHE ROSTAM- PARSII KABA'A.

FEW WEBSITES FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. www.farschto.ir
2. www.fstp.ir (Fars science and technology park)
3. www.farsfair.ir (Fars international exhibitions)
4. www.chamaranhotel.com (Grand hotel)
5. www.hafizonlove.com (Hafiz life and poetry in English)
6. www.seez.ir (Shiraz special economic & electronic zone)

