

Traveling-it leaves you speechless,
then turns you into a storyteller...

*Shivar
Travel
Agency*

TOP 10 MUST-VISIT
ATTRACTIONS IN
SHIRAZ

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Photo by: Mihaela Noroc



1

Bagh-e Eram

Visiting the historic Eram Garden is one of the top things to do in Shiraz. In the center of the garden, there is an old pavilion, and it is one of the best examples of Persian Gardens. Eram garden was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011 -the symbol of Persian gardens- and found worldwide fame. Fortunately, at present, it attracts visitors from all walks of life, not only for its historical identity but also for its beauty and as a botanical research center.



Aramgah-e Hafez

There is no better place to understand Hafez's place in the nation's psyche than at his tomb and the memorial garden within which it is set. This 14th-century Iranian folk hero is loved and revered and almost every Iranian can quote his work, bending it to whichever social or political persuasion they subscribe.



Aramgah-e Sa'di

One of Shiraz's several shrines, housed in an open-sided colonnade built during the Pahlavi era, is dedicated to Sheikh Mohammed Shams-ed-Din, simply known as Sa'di – a poet who lived and died between 1207 and 1291. Set amid generous gardens of evergreens, bitter orange and roses, appropriate to a man who wrote so extensively of flowers, it is a tranquil place that makes a pleasant respite from the noise of the surrounding city.





4

Hamam-e Vakil

The vaulted central chamber of this Zand-era bathhouse features some fine plasterwork and candy-twist columns. A series of costumed mannequins illustrate how Shirazis would have relaxed by the fountain after taking a bath in the handsome heat room, which has a vaulted ceiling, pillars and a small pool.

5

Bazar-e Vakil

The finest and most famous of bazaars is the Bazar-e Vakil, a cruciform structure commissioned by Karim Khan as part of his plan to make Shiraz into a great trading centre. The wide vaulted brick avenues are masterpieces of Zand architecture, with the design ensuring the interior remains cool in summer and warm in winter. Today the bazaar is home to almost 200 stores selling carpets, handicrafts, spices and clothes.





6

Masjed-e Nasir Al Molk

One of the most elegant and most photographed pieces of architecture in southern Iran, the Pink Mosque was built at the end of the 19th century and its coloured tiling is exquisite. There are some particularly fine muqarnas in the small outer portal and in the northern iwan, but it is the stained glass, carved pillars and polychrome faience of the winter prayer hall that dazzle the eye when the sun streams in.

7

Darvazeh-ye Quran

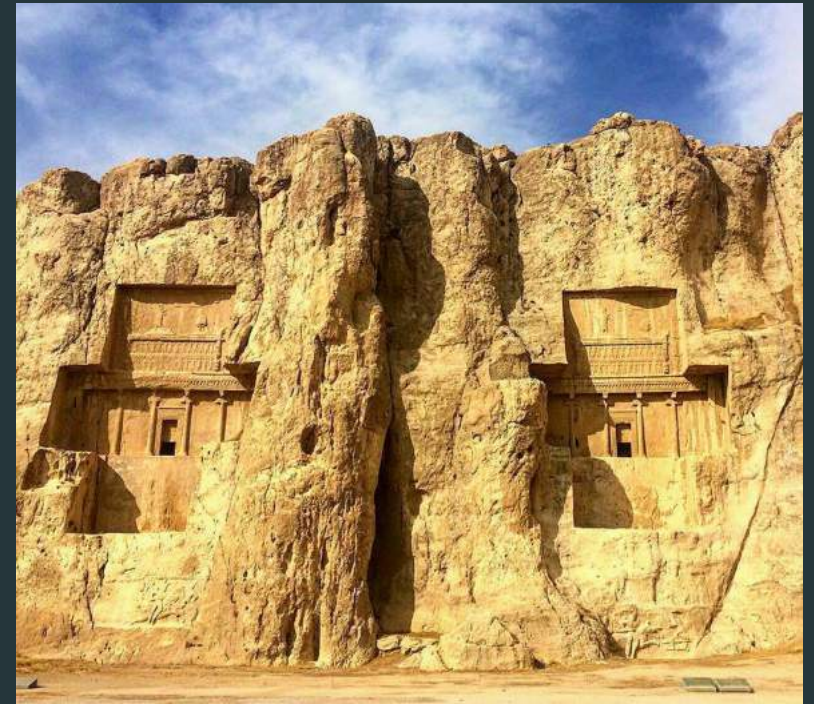
The modern assembly of arches that form Shiraz's ceremonial gateway until recently housed a revered antique Quran (since moved to the Pars Museum opposite the fort in the centre of town) that travellers traditionally passed beneath before undertaking a journey. Now the main reason for visiting the gateway is to enjoy Khaju Garden and its teahouse, or to climb up to the city viewpoints on either side of the road.



8

Naqsh-e Rostam

The spectacular rock tombs at Naqsh-e Rostam are a must-see. Hewn out of a cliff high above the ground, the four tombs are believed to be those of Darius II, Artaxerxes I, Darius I and Xerxes I (from left to right facing the cliff), although historians are still debating this. The seven Sassanian stone reliefs cut into the cliff depict vivid scenes of imperial conquests and royal ceremonies; signboards below each relief give a detailed description in English.



9

Naranjestan-e Ghavam

Set within an exquisite garden, Bagh-e Naranjestan, this pavilion was built for the wealthy and powerful Mohammad Ali Khan Qavam al-Molk between 1879 and 1886 as the buruni (public reception area) of his family home. The pavilion is connected to the Khan-e Zinat ol-Molk, which housed the family's andaruni (private quarters), by an underground passage (not open to the public).

10 Persepolis

In its heyday Persepolis was one of four key cities at the heart of an empire that spread from the Indus River to Ethiopia. Its original name was Parsa and it only acquired its Greek name of Persepolis – meaning both City of Parsa (City of Persia) and Destroyer of Cities – after Alexander the Great's army sacked the city in 330 BC.



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