

Shivar  
Travel  
Agency

*Better to see something once than hear about it  
a thousand times!!*

**TOP 10 MUST-VISIT  
ATTRACTIONS IN  
ISFAHAN**

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*Located on Enghelab Sq Chahar Bagh e Abbasi St*

## 01 Allahverdi Khan Bridge

Siosepol or the Allahverdi Khan Bridge with 33 spans, 295 meters in length and 14 meters in width, which was built by Allahverdi Khan on Zayandehrud in Isfahan city, at the same time as Shah Abbas I Safavi.



*located on the western side of the Naqsh e Jahan Square, opposite to Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque*

## 02 Ali Qapu Palace

The royal palace of Ali Qapu dominates the western side of Naqsh-e Jahan Square. The palace was founded in 1597, during the 11th year of Shah Abbas's reign, to serve as his place of residence. The palace was eventually created on the site of a garden pavilion that most historians attribute to the Timurid period.



03

### Jameh Mosque

This elegant mosque, with its iconic blue-tiled mosaics and its perfect proportions, forms a visually stunning monument at the head of Esfahan's main square. Unblemished since its construction 400 years ago, it stands as a monument to the vision of Shah Abbas I and the accomplishments of the Safavid dynasty. The mosque's crowning dome was completed in 1629, the last year of the reign of Shah Abbas.



located on Isfahan, Majlesi St

04

### Naqsh-e Jahan (Imam) Square

Hemmed on four sides by architectural gems and embracing the formal fountains and gardens at its centre, this wondrous space is a spectacle in its own right. It was laid out in 1602 under the reign of the Safavid ruler, Shah Abbas the Great, to signal the importance of Esfahan as a capital of a powerful empire.



05

## Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque

Punctuating the middle of the arcades that hem Esfahan's largest square, this study in harmonious understatement complements the overwhelming richness of the larger mosque, Masjed-e Shah, at the head of the square. Built between 1602 and 1619 during the reign of Shah Abbas I, it was dedicated to the ruler's father-in-law, Sheikh Lotfollah, a revered Lebanese scholar of Islam who was invited to Esfahan to oversee the king's mosque (now the Masjed-e Shah) and theological school.



The dome makes extensive use of delicate cream-coloured tiles that change colour throughout the day from cream to pink (sunset is usually the best time to witness this). The signature blue-and-turquoise tiles of Esfahan are evident only around the dome's summit.



## 06 Kakh-e Chehel Sotun

Built as a pleasure pavilion and reception hall, using the Achaemenid-inspired talar (columnar porch) style, this beautifully proportioned palace is entered via an elegant terrace that perfectly bridges the transition between the Persian love of gardens and interior splendour. The 20 slender, ribbed wooden pillars of the palace rise to a superb wooden ceiling with crossbeams and exquisite inlay work. Chehel Sotun means '40 pillars' – the number reflected in the long pool in front of the palace.

located on Imam Hossein Square, Sepah st

## 07 Vank Cathedral

Built between 1648 and 1655 with the encouragement of the Safavid rulers, Kelisa-ye Vank in the Armenian neighbourhood of Jolfa is the historic focal point of the Armenian Church in Iran. The sumptuous interior is richly decorated with restored wall paintings full of life and colour, including gruesome martyrdoms and pantomime demons. The highlight of the museum is a fabulous collection of illustrated gospels and Bibles, some dating back as far as the 10th century.

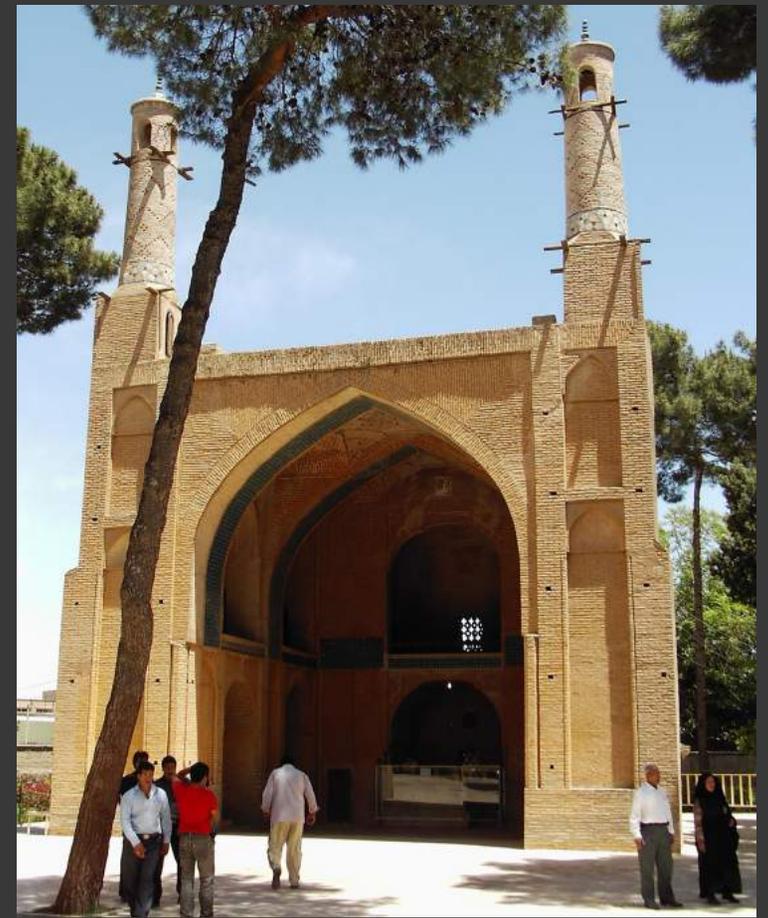


located on Vank Church Alley

# 08

## Manar Jomban

Visitors flock five times a day to this tiny mosque in a courtyard of pines for the sole purpose of watching as the caretaker ascends the minaret and gives it a good shake. For some reason, the movement resonates through the whole building causing the other minaret to tremble at the same time, to the surprising delight of the crowds who gather to watch.



located on Atashgah Blvd

# 09

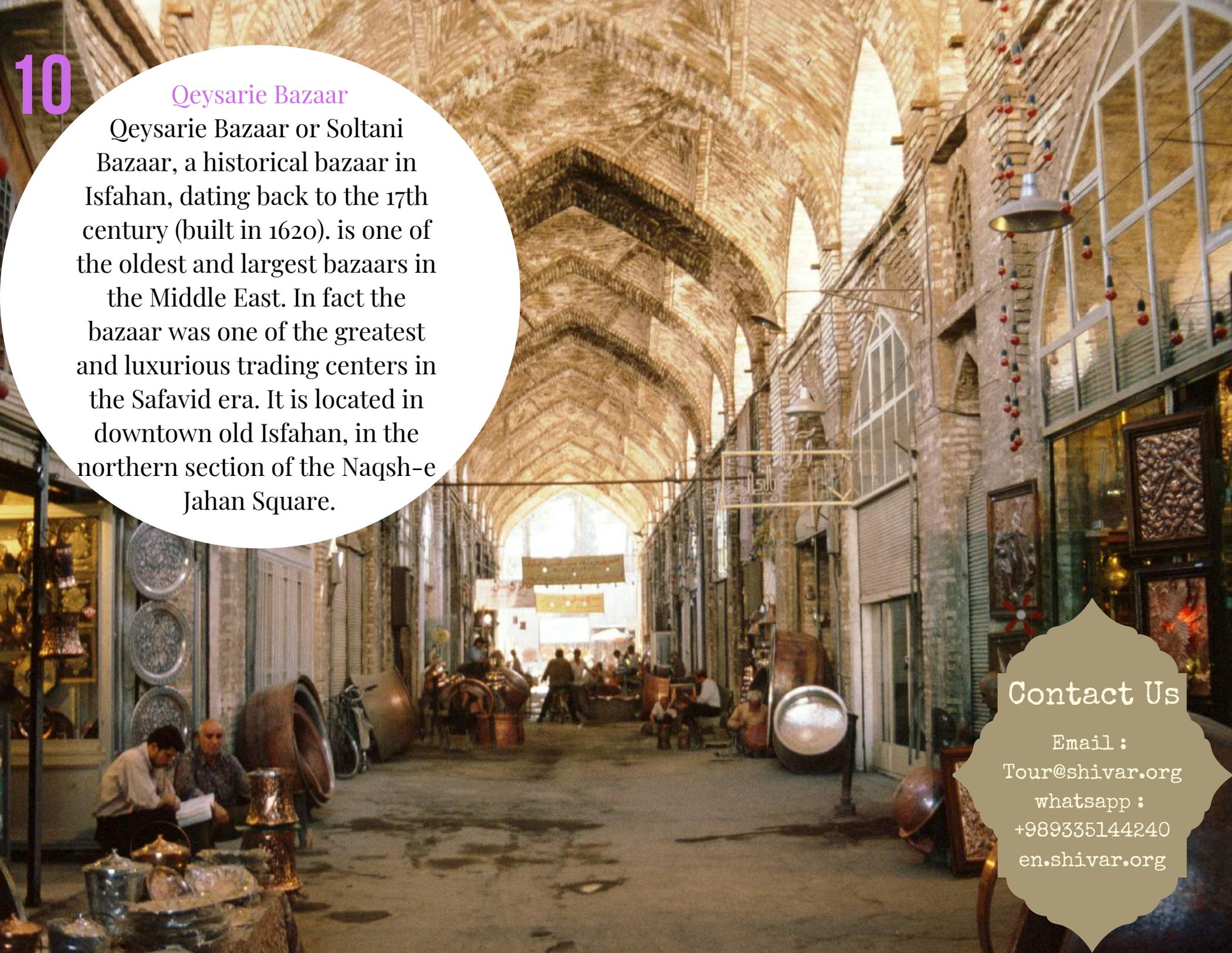
## Pol-e Khaju

Arguably the finest of Esfahan's bridges, with traces of the original paintings and tiles that decorated its double arcade still visible, Pol-e Khaju was built by Shah Abbas II in about 1650, but a bridge is believed to have crossed the waters here since the time of Tamerlane.



Qeysarie Bazaar

Qeysarie Bazaar or Soltani Bazaar, a historical bazaar in Isfahan, dating back to the 17th century (built in 1620). is one of the oldest and largest bazaars in the Middle East. In fact the bazaar was one of the greatest and luxurious trading centers in the Safavid era. It is located in downtown old Isfahan, in the northern section of the Naqsh-e Jahan Square.



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