

# Iran Travel Journal



# CONTENTS

<b>PERSONAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PRE-ZIYARA PREPARATION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>LIST OF THINGS TO TAKE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS BY AIMMA</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ITINERARY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>DAY TO GO</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>DAY OF DEPARTURE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ZIYARA (VISITATION)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TEHRAN</b>	<b>10</b>
SHAH ABDUL AZEEM	10
ZIYARA OF SHAH ABDUL AZEEM	11
HAMZA BIN MUSA AL KADHIM	12
SHAYKH SADUQ (IBN BABAWAYAH)	13
SAYYIDA SHEHRBANU (MOTHER OF IMAM ALI ZAYNUL ABIDEEN)	14
IMAM KHOMEINI'S MOSQUE	15
<b>QUM</b>	<b>16</b>
FATIMA MASUMA QUM	17
ENTERING THE MASJID	19
<b>ZIYARA OF SAYYIDA FATIMA MA'SUMA (PBUH)</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>MASJID E JAMKARAN</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>MASH HAD</b>	<b>26</b>
THE HISTORY OF MASH HAD	26
ENTERING THE MASJID	27
IMAM AR-RIDHA'S (PBUH) TOMB	30

<b>ZIYARA OF IMAM AR-RIDHA (PBUH)</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>IMAM AR-RIDHA (PBUH)</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>IMAM ALI AR-RIDHA (PBUH) - TIMELINE</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>PLACES AROUND THE HARAM</b>	<b>48</b>
BASTS (PLACES OF REFUGE)	48
SAHAN INQILAB	48
MINARETS	49
NAQQAREH KHANEH (PLACE OF KETTLE DRUMS)	50
SAQQA KHANEH (PUBLIC DRINKING PLACE)	50
SA'AT (THE CLOCK)	51
SAHNE JAMHURI ISLAMI (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC COURT)	51
SAHN QODS	52
SAHNE IMAM KHOMEINI	52
SAHNE AZADI	53
TOWHID KHANEH (PLACE OF DIVINE UNITY)	53
DAR-AL-SIYADAH	53
BALA-SAR MOSQUE	54
DAR-AL HOFFAZ (THE PLACE OF THE RECITERS)	54
ALLAHVERDIKHAN DOME	55
HATAM KHANI DOME	55
LUNCH AT IMAM RIDHA'S HARAM	56
FOREIGN PILGRIM'S OFFICE	56

<b>ZIYARA WIDAA OF IMAM AR-RIDHA (PBUH)</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>HISTORICAL SITES AROUND MASH HAD</b>	<b>58</b>
GOWHARSHAD MOSQUE	58
DAR-AL RAHMAH PORCH	59
MUSEUM OF ASTAANE QUDS	60
MUSEUM OF THE QURAN	61
MUSEUM OF STAMPS	61
ASTAANE QUDS LIBRARY	62
ASTANE QUDS MEHMANSARA	62
SHEIKH BAHAIIE	63
SHEIKH MOHAMED IBN HASANI	64
ALHURI AMEL	
SHEIKH TABARASI	64
KHWAJEH MORAD	65
KHWAJEH RABIEE	66
ABASALT-E-HERAVI'S TOMB	67
GONBAD (DOME) KHESHTI	67
PEER-E PALANDOOZ (THE OLD PACK SADDLER)	68
GONBADE SABZ (GREEN DOME)	68
MOSALLA MASHHAD	69
AKHANJAN TOWER	69
MIAMI (IMAMZADEH YAHYA (PBUH)	70
NADIR'S SHRINE	71
FERDOWSI'S SHRINE	72
OTHER HISTORICAL SITES	72
<b>NISHAPUR</b>	<b>73</b>

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:  
Address:

Telephone:  
Mobile:

Email:

In case of  
emergency notify:

Blood Group:

National Health  
Number:

National Insurance  
Number:

Passport Number:

### QFATIMA'S TOP TIP

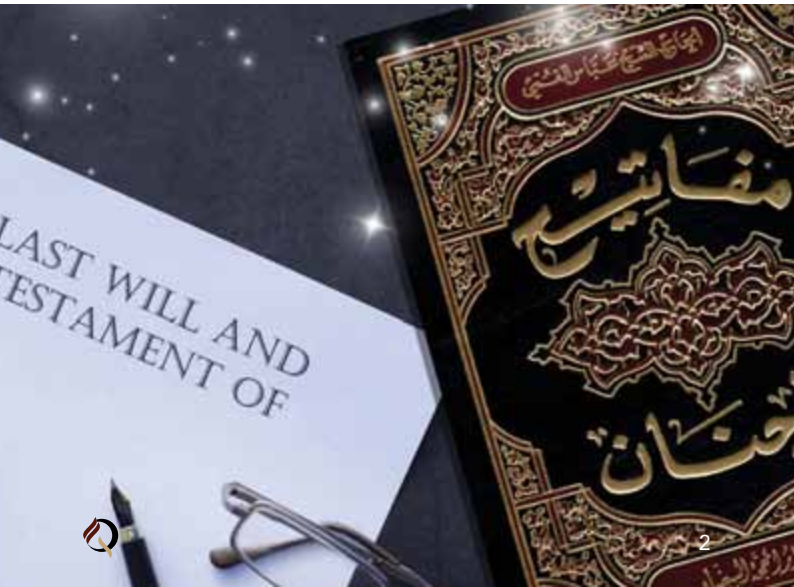
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Make sure you have copies of all your documents at hand and at home.



## PRE-ZIYARA PREPARATION

- 📍 Start learning about the personalities you are to visit.
- 📍 Make sure will is in order
- 📍 Familiarise yourself with ziyara and duas
- 📍 Get into the habit of reciting Salatul Layl
- 📍 Ensure khums is up to date
- 📍 Find out the weather and take appropriate measures.
- 📍 Call relatives and friends. Ask for forgiveness and any particular requests.



## LIST OF THINGS TO TAKE

- 📍 Prayer mat
- 📍 Travel mug, alarm clock & travel kettle
- 📍 Dua books
- 📍 A shoe bag for the Haram.
- 📍 A small bag you can wear under your jilbaab for your money/passport.
- 📍 Toiletries
- 📍 Media device for bus trip (not allowed inside the Haram)
- 📍 Some comfy shoes/trainers for when you go for Ziyara. Also some flipflops for when you go to Haram.
- 📍 Jumper or fleece like jacket (preferably in hand luggage) and abaya
- 📍 Lots of medicine: Paracetamol, Lemsip, Tunes, Rennie's, Imodium, Chapstick/Vaseline, Glucose/Dextrose tablets or Orovite, First Aid kit.
- 📍 Food: Snacks, biscuits, toast, soup packets etc. (one meal in hand luggage for consumption on arrival)

### QFATIMA'S TOP TIP

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DO NOT take a lot of clothes...  
Bring enough socks and underclothes.





## RECOMMENDATIONS BY AIMMA

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The Prophet (pbuh) has said: "A part of me will be buried in Khurasan, no distressed person will visit it without Allah removing the distress. No sinner will visit it, except Allah will forgive his sins."

His Ziyara is emphasised particularly in the month of Rajab, on the 15th & 23rd Dhulqa'da, and on the 6th Ramadhan.

Imam 'Ali al-Naqi (pbuh) has said: "Whoever needs anything from Allah, then let him visit the grave of my grandfather Ar-Ridha (pbuh) in Tus. Let him do ghusl and pray two rak'at near his head. Then he should mention his needs in the qunoot of salaa. His dua will be answered... Indeed, the place of his burial is a piece of Janna...."





# ITINERARY

DATE	ACTIVITY



## DAY TO GO

- 📍 Packing done
- 📍 Take out sadaqa
- 📍 Write instructions for those left behind.
- 📍 Phone organiser to ensure there are no last minute hitches
- 📍 Update list of Marhumeen
- 📍 Ensure all affairs are in order

### QFATIMA'S TOP TIP

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The months of December, January, February and March in Iran are very cold and you will require thermal wear and a warm coat, scarf and gloves.

It is pleasant in March, April, September and October whilst May, June, July and August are very hot.



## DAY OF DEPARTURE

- 📍 Perform ghusl
- 📍 Recite dua before leaving home

### DUA BEFORE LEAVING HOME

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتِمِ  
النَّبِيِّينَ أَبِي الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ الطَّاهِرِينَ وَ لَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ  
عَلَى أَعْدَائِهِمْ أَجْمَعِينَ إِلَى قِيَامِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

*Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Universe. May the blessings and peace be upon the seal of the Prophets, Abul Qasim Muhammad and his family, the purified ones May the curse of Allah be upon all their enemies, to the day of resurrection*



Recite a 4 rakaat salaa in units of 2 with Suratul Ikhlas after Suratul Fatiha in each rakaat. Then raise your hands in dua and say:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَتَقَرَّبُ إِلَيْكَ بِهِمْ فَاجْعَلُهُمْ خَلِيفَتِي فِي أَهْلِي وَمَالِي

*O Allah! I seek nearness to You through them (the prayers) so make them my guardian for my family and my property.*

---

Then stand at the door of the house and recite Suratul Fatiha and Ayatul Kursi three times; facing the front, the right and the left sides followed by:

اللَّهُمَّ احْفَظْنِي وَاحْفَظْ مَا مَعِيَ وَسَلِّمْ لِي وَسَلِّمْ لِمَا مَعِيَ

بَلِّغْنِي وَبَلِّغْ مَا مَعِيَ بِبِلَاغِكَ الْحَسَنِ الْجَمِيلِ

*O Allah! Protect me and protect what is with me; grant safety to me and what is with me and, with Your bounteous and great help, make me and what is with me attain (my destination)*



## ZIYARA (VISITATION)

“At three stations on the day of judgement, I will come to the one who visits me despite my remote place, and I will free him from the difficulties. When the books will be spread out to the right and the left, at the bridge and at the scales.” Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh)



# TEHRAN

## SHAH ABDUL AZEEM

The shrine is in Rey which is the oldest existing province in Tehran city.

During the Abbasids reign (750-1258AH) Rey was the second largest town after Baghdad.

Shah Abdul Azheem was a descendant of Imam Hasan (pbuh) born in 173 AH in Madina. He was murdered on 15 Shaawal 252 AH. A contemporary of Imam Musa Kadhim (pbuh), he studied under Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh) in Madina and remained in the company of Imam Jawad (pbuh) and then with Imam Hadi (pbuh) in Samarra. He emigrated to Rey under the orders of Imam Hadi (pbuh) because he was a target for the rulers who new his closeness to Imam.

Once Abu Hammad Razi asked Imam Hadi (pbuh) about a fiqh masail. Imam referred him to Shah Abdul Azheem sending his salaams. When his body was recovered 800 years later even the shroud was untouched.



الْسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَنْ بِزِيَارَتِهِ ثَوَابُ زِيَارَةِ سَيِّدِ الشُّهَدَاءِ  
يُرْتَجَى، اَلْسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ عَرَّفَ اللّٰهُ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَ  
حَشَرَنَا فِي رُمُورَتِكُمْ وَأَوْرَدَنَا حَوْضَ نَبِيِّكُمْ وَسَقَانَا  
بِكَأْسِ جَدِّكُمْ مِنْ يَدِ عَلِيِّ بْنِ أَبِي طَالِبٍ صَلَوَاتُ اللّٰهِ  
عَلَيْكُمْ

*Peace be upon you, O one whose ziyara has the same expected reward as the ziyara of the leader of the martyrs. Peace be upon you, may Allah acquaint us and you in heaven, may He gather us with your forces and may He make us drink from the pool of your Prophet and may He quench our thirst with the cup of your grandfather at the hands of Ali ibn Abu Talib (pbuh).*



## HAMZA BIN MUSA AL KADHIM (PBUH)

Close to Shah 'Abd al-Azim is the tomb of Hamza bin Imam Musa al-Kazim (pbuh). He was an eminent Sayyid.

When Abdul Azim was living in hiding in Rey, he used to go out in secrecy and visit the grave opposite to where he is now buried.

There is a road between them and it says: "This is the grave of one of the sons of Imam Musa (pbuh)."





## SHAYKH SADUQ (IBN BABAWAYAH)

This is near the mausoleum of Shah Abdul Azim (pbuh). Shaykh Saduq was one of the greatest Shi'a Alims to have ever lived. He is said to have been born with the prayers of the 12th Imam Al-Mahdi (pbuh).



## SAYYIDA SHEHRBANU (MOTHER OF IMAM ALI ZAYNUL ABIDEEN (PBUH))

Her father Yazdagar was the king.

Her shrine too is in Rey – In a mountain terrain, probably in the house they lived in.

Scholars differ in their views. She was told to return to her parents after the event of Karbala and she died here.

There is a presence here that is awesome.



## IMAM KHOMEINI'S MOSQUE

His grave is near Behishte Zahra. It is a beautiful mosque and was built around the zarih. The zarih has the grave of his son, Ahmed, too. Outside the zarih, there is the grave of Sayyid Tabatabai, the father-in-law of Ahmed Khomeini.

This is the man who changed this country, literally. He is the man who shook the world.

He is the one who wanted a simple burial with the shuhada in Behishte Zahra. He is the one who owned no house saying he would purchase one when all the Imams had one. Standing here one feels so small with the mighty presence.



# QUM

The meaning of Qum is “stand” as the ship of Prophet Nuh (pbuh) had stopped here.

Imam Khumayni (pbuh) said:

“History is full of evidence that since the death of the Prophet (pbuh) until this day the only people who have taken care of Islam and have defended the faith from attack are the Ulema ”



## SAYYIDA FATIMA MA'SUMA (PBUH)

She was the daughter of Imam Musa Kadhim (pbuh) - sister of Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh). Born in Dhulqada 173 AH.

Her mother was Ummul Banin Najma.

The Prophet (pbuh) said, almost 150 years ago, that one of his daughters will be buried in Qum.

Imam Ridha (pbuh) was summoned to Iran in 200 A.H. She decided to join him in 201 AH in Mashhad, also known as Khurasaan, not only to visit him but also to assist in the task of tableegh.

The caravan ambushed at Saweh by Mamun's soldiers. Her family members were killed and brought to Qum

She stayed at Baytun Nur for 17 days and is buried in Qum.



## FOCUS ON THE PART OF ZIYAARA

“We ask Allah not to deprive us from understanding your status. Indeed, He is the protector and has the power on everything.”

No other non-Masum has text and manner of ziyara dictated by a Masum.

One of the 3 places of ‘fadhl’ of Allah is at a shrine of a non-Masum (Hazrat Abbas in Karbala and Sayyida Zainab in Damascus).

Also buried here in the haram are Sayyida Maymuna binte Musa Mubarak bin Muhammad Taqi (pbuh) and her two slaves, Umm Ishaq and Umm Habib.

The alleyways of Qum are an experience in themselves. Each with students walking to and from the tomb of Ayatullah Burjardi (the marja before Ayatullah Mohsin Al-Hakim) and is located inside the Haram of Sayyida Fatima Ma’suma.



## ENTERING THE MASJID

**Idhn al-dukhul:** Seeking permission to enter the mosque.

Try to memorise the following extracts for idhn al-dukhul:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي وَقَفْتُ عَلَى بَابِ بَيْتِ مَنْ بُيُوتِ نَبِيِّكَ وَآلِ  
نَبِيِّكَ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ

*O Allah! I am standing at the door of one of the houses of Your Prophet and the family of Your Prophet, peace be upon him and his family.*

ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا حُجَّةَ اللَّهِ  
ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا مَلَائِكَةَ اللَّهِ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ

*May I enter, O Prophet of Allah? May I enter, O the proof of Allah? May I enter O angels of Allah?*



As you cross the threshold (with your right foot),  
enter with humility reciting:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَبِاللَّهِ وَفِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَىٰ مِلَّةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى

اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَارْحَمْنِي وَتُبْ عَلَيَّ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ

الرَّحِيمُ

*In the name of Allah and by Allah in the path  
of Allah and on the religion of the Prophet of  
Allah peace be upon him and his family. O Allah!  
Forgive me and have mercy on me and turn  
repentant towards me for You are most forgiving  
and merciful.*





السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بِنْتَ مُوسَى بْنِ جَعْفَرٍ وَرَحْمَةُ  
 اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ، السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ عَرَفَ اللَّهُ بَيْنَنَا وَ  
 بَيْنَكُمْ فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَحَشَرَنَا فِي زُمْرَتِكُمْ وَأَوْرَدَنَا  
 حَوْضَ نَبِيِّكُمْ وَسَقَانَا بِكَاسِ جَدِّكُمْ مِنْ يَدِ  
 عَلِيِّ بْنِ أَبِي طَالِبٍ صَلَوَاتُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ، أَسْأَلُ  
 اللَّهَ أَنْ يُرِيَّتَنَا فِيكُمْ السُّرُورَ وَالْفَرَحَ وَأَنْ  
 يَجْمَعَنَا وَإِيَّاكُمْ فِي زُمْرَةِ جَدِّكُمْ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ  
 عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ. اللَّهُمَّ وَرِضَاكَ وَالِدَ الدَّارِ الْآخِرَةِ  
 يَا فَاطِمَةَ اشْفَعِي فِي الْجَنَّةِ فَإِنَّ لَكَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ  
 شَأْنًا مِنَ الشَّأْنِ. اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَخْتِمَ



لِيُبَالِ السَّعَادَةَ فَلَا تَسْلُبْ مِنِّي مَا أَنَا فِيهِ وَلَا  
 حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ . اللَّهُمَّ  
 اسْتَجِبْ لَنَا وَتَقَبَّلْهُ بِكَرَمِكَ وَعِزَّتِكَ وَ  
 بِرَحْمَتِكَ وَعَافِيَتِكَ وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَ  
 آلِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا يَا أَرْحَمَ  
 الرَّاحِمِينَ .

Peace be upon you, O daughter of Musa ibn  
 Ja'fer and may the mercy and blessings of  
 Allah be on you. Peace be upon you, may Allah  
 acquaint us and you in heaven, may He gather us  
 with Your forces and may He make us drink from  
 the pool of your Prophet and may He quench  
 our thirst with the cup of your grandfather at the  
 hands of Ali ibn Abu Talib. May Allah's blessings  
 be on you. I ask Allah to show us, through  
 you, happiness and relief of your grandfather,  
 Muhammad (pbuh). O Allah, I seek Your pleasure



*and the hereafter. O Fatima, intercede for me so that I enter heaven, for you have an eminent position with Allah. O Allah, I ask You to terminate my life in happiness and not to remove me from the condition that I am in now. There is no power, no might except with Allah, the Most High, the Most Great. O Allah, answer our calls and accept our pleas by Your nobility, power, mercy and sustenance. May Allah send His blessings on Muhammad and his whole family, O the Merciful of the merciful ones.*



## MASJID E JAMKARAN

Jamkaran was a small village 3 miles outside Qum.

In Ramadhan of 373 AH Shaykh Saduq wakes up to someone calling his name and asking him to go see Imam Mahdi (pbuh) He is escorted to the place where today stands Masjid Jamkaran, then an abandoned area.

On a mat were seated some people but two stood out – a young man and an old man. Imam Mahdi (pbuh) and Prophet Khidhr (pbuh).



Imam addresses him as Hasan Jamkarani and asks him to secure the land to build a masjid. He also told him to ask all those who visit to recite the salaa of Imam Mahdi (pbuh).

2 rakats with 'Iyyaka Na'budu wa iyyaka nasta'een" repeated 100x

To complete the salaa with the tasbee of Sayyida Fatima and a tasbee of salawat.

Following the instructions given by Imam, Shaykh Saduq secures the land and a masjid is built. It is said that Imam visits every Tuesday. Today Dua Tawassul is recited at the masjid every Tuesday.



## MASH HAD

### THE HISTORY OF MASH HAD

Mash had grew from a small village called Sanabad, 24 km away from Tus. Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh) is buried there (203 AH) and it came to be known as Mash had Ar-Ridha.

Harun Rashid came to Tus at the beginning of the 4th century to suppress a rebellion and became ill, dying of his ailment in 193 AH. He was buried inside the palace.

In 203 AH, Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh) was poisoned by Harun's son Ma'mun and buried near Harun. A shrine was built and visited by many.

It was destroyed by Saboktakin, a Ghaznavid king. However, his son, Sultan Mahmud ordered it to be repaired and expanded in 428 AH. Invaded by the Mongols, it was destroyed again but rebuilt by Mohamed Khuda Banda (a king of the Moghul dynasty in 715 AH.

The safavidism Afshars and Qajars subsequently developed it further.

ASTAAN QUDS RADHAVI - name given to the shrine haram).



## ENTERING THE MASJID

**Idhn al-dukhul:** Seeking permission to enter the mosque.

Try to memorise the following extracts for idhn al-dukhul:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي وَقَفْتُ عَلَى بَابِ بَيْتِ مَنْ بُيُوتِ نَبِيِّكَ وَإِلِ  
نَبِيِّكَ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ

*O Allah! I am standing at the door of one of the houses of Your Prophet and the family of Your Prophet, peace be upon him and his family.*



ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا حُجَّةَ اللَّهِ

ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا مَلَائِكَةَ اللَّهِ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ

May I enter, O Prophet of Allah? May I enter, O the proof of Allah? May I enter O angels of Allah?

---

As you cross the threshold (with your right foot), enter with humility reciting:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَبِاللَّهِ وَفِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَى مِلَّةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى

اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَارْحَمْنِي وَتُبْ عَلَيَّ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ

الرَّحِيمُ

In the name of Allah and by Allah in the path of Allah and on the religion of the Prophet of Allah peace be upon him and his family. O Allah! Forgive me and have mercy on me and turn repentant towards me for You are most forgiving and merciful.





Greet Imam (pbuh) whilst standing as near as possible, standing in his presence as though he were still alive in the physical world. He knows you are there, and that you have come to visit him. All your salaams reach him, for Allah sends angels to greet anyone from his Umma who greets him.

Walk through the Azadi courtyard.  
As you enter you feel a drawing force and when you are at the zarih, it's as if you see the zarih of Rasulullah, the Ka'ba, Baytullah, the essence core of your being.

"O Gharibul Ghuraba – you are far from your home but you made this home for one and all and that cannot be called anything but a miracle."



## IMAM AR-RIDHA'S (PBUH) TOMB

It is located beneath the Golden Dome (The Golden Dome is the most prominent symbol of the city of Mash had with an altitude of 31.20 metres) and surrounded by different porches, each bearing a separate name.

The skilled artists have done their best in creation of this place. It is square in shape and some 135 sq. metres have been added to its area after extension works. The walls are covered by marble up to twenty centimetres and the next ninety-two centimetres are covered by expensive tiles known as Sultan Sanjari tiles.

Quranic verses and Ahadiths of the Ahlulbayt (pbuh) have been carved on these tiles. The important inscription written round the walls is eighty centimetres wide and written by Ali Ridha Abbasi, the famous calligraphist of the Safavid period and bears Sura Al Jumua'.



أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا وَلِيَّ اللَّهِ، أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا حُجَّةَ اللَّهِ،  
 أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا نُورَ اللَّهِ فِي ظُلُمَاتِ الْأَرْضِ، أَلْسَلَامُ  
 عَلَیْكَ يَا عَمُودَ الدِّينِ، أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا وَارِثَ آدَمَ  
 صَفْوَةَ اللَّهِ، أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا وَارِثَ نُوحِ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ،  
 أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا وَارِثَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ خَلِيلِ اللَّهِ، أَلْسَلَامُ  
 عَلَیْكَ يَا وَارِثَ إِسْمَاعِيلَ ذَبِيحِ اللَّهِ، أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا  
 وَارِثَ مُوسَى كَلِيمِ اللَّهِ، أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا وَارِثَ عِيسَى  
 رُوحِ اللَّهِ، أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا وَارِثَ مُحَمَّدٍ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ،  
 أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا وَارِثَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَلِيِّ وَوَلِيِّ اللَّهِ وَ  
 وَصِيِّ رَسُولِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا وَارِثَ  
 فَاطِمَةَ الزَّهْرَاءِ، أَلْسَلَامُ عَلَیْكَ يَا وَارِثَ الْحُسَيْنِ وَ



الْحُسَيْنِ سَيِّدِي شَبَابِ أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ، السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا  
 وَارِثَ عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ زَيْنِ الْعَابِدِينَ، السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا  
 وَارِثَ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَلِيٍّ بَاقِرِ عِلْمِ الْأَوَّلِينَ وَالْآخِرِينَ،  
 السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا وَارِثَ جَعْفَرِ بْنِ مُحَمَّدٍ الصَّادِقِ الْبَارِّ،  
 السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا وَارِثَ مُوسَى بْنِ جَعْفَرٍ. السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ  
 أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقُ الشَّهِيدُ، السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الْوَصِيُّ الْبَارُّ  
 التَّقِيُّ، السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ.

*Peace be upon you, O Wali of Allah, Peace be upon you, O the proof of Allah, Peace be upon you, O light of Allah in the darkness of the Earth. Peace be upon you, O the pillar of deen. Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Adam – chosen by Allah, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Nuh – the Prophet of Allah, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Ibraheem – the friend of Allah, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Ismaeel – the offering of Allah, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Musa – the one who conversed*



*with Allah, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Isa – the spirit of Allah, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Muhammad – the Prophet of Allah, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of the Commander of the faithful – Ali the wali of Allah and the successor of the messenger of the Rabb of the worlds. Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Fatima Zahra, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Al Hasan and Al Husayn – the masters of the youths of paradise, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Ali son Husayn – the adornment of the worshippers, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Muhammad son of Ali – the one who split open knowledge of the times before and the times after, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Ja'fer son of Muhammad – the truthful and virtuous one, Peace be upon you, O the inheritor of Musa son Ja'fer. Peace be upon you, O the truthful martyr, Peace be upon you, O the virtuous and pious trustee, Peace be upon you.*



## IMAM AR-RIDHA (PBUH)

It is like visiting Rasulullah (pbuh) in Madina. The same awe-inspired feeling. The same loss of words. If anyone wants to prove to their nafs that the Ahlulbayt are one noor they have to come here.

<b>Name</b>	Ali bin Musa Ar-Ridha, Zamin-e-Thamin
<b>Titles</b>	Gharibul Ghuraba, Alim e Ale Muhammad
<b>Kuniyya</b>	Abul Hasan
<b>Birth</b>	11th Dhulqa'ada 114 A.H.
<b>Mother</b>	Sayyida Suttana (or Najma or Ummulbanin)
<b>Father</b>	Imam Musa Al-Kadhim (pbuh)
<b>Death</b>	29th Safar 203 A.H. (Poisoned by Mamun Rashid)
<b>Buried</b>	Mash had, Iran



## IMAM ALI AR-RIDHA (PBUH) - TIMELINE

YEAR	AGE	EVENT
767 CE 11 Dhulqa'da 148 AH		Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) is born in Madina to Sayyida Suttana, (Najma, Tuktam, Khayzarun) from North Africa. One of 37 children. (Most of the Saadat are Musawi) The 6th Imam used to tell his companions to await the birth of his grandson who he addressed as Alim e Ale Muhammad.
768CE – 774CE 151 – 157 AH	3-9	Muhammad ibn Mansur al-Mahdi becomes Khalifa and assures Imam Kadhim (pbuh) safety. Imam builds a suburb of Madina called Surba, which becomes a learning institute. Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) is under the tutorage of his father.



YEAR	AGE	EVENT
781CE 164 AH	16	The khalifa Al-Mahdi exiles Imam Kadhim (pbuh) to Baghdad where he is imprisoned for a year. Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) holds the fort at the Learning Institute.
785 CE 168 AH	20	The Khalifa Musa Al-Hadi increases tyranny on the Shia at one time killing countless children from the lineage of the Prophet (pbuh). Imam Ar-Ridha (Pbuh) refers to this as a tragedy comparable to the day of 'Ashura.
786 CE 169 AH	21	Harun al-Rashid becomes Khalifa. His reign is at the height of Abbasid rule. Despite being intellectually and politically resourceful he has a hatred for the Ahlulbayt just like his forefathers and systematically exiles the descendants of Imam Ali (pbuh). Shias were terrorised. It was one of the worst periods of oppression for the Shias.





YEAR	AGE	EVENT
793 CE 173AH	25	Birth of Imam's sister Fatima Al-Ma'suma Qum.
793 CE – 803 CE 174AH – 183 AH	25 - 35	Harun Al-Rashid exiles and imprisons Imam Kadhim (pbuh) first to Basra and then to Baghdad. Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) sits in Masjidun Nabi and gives discourses on the building of a Muslim Umma (community). The Umma had fragmented and needed cohesion.
803CE 25 Rajab 183 AH	35	Imam Musa Al-Kadhim (pbuh) is poisoned by Harun Rashid through Sind ibn Shahik on the 25 Rajab 183AH. He is buried in Kadhmayn. Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) assumes Imama.



YEAR	AGE	EVENT
803 – 809 CE 183 – 190 AH	35-42	<p>Imam's teaching activities are now monitored and restricted. The Abbasid Empire under Harun Rashid was known as the Golden Age. Oppression and injustice was masked by the promotion of knowledge through Baytul Hikma (the house of wisdom). Anyone who opposed the regime was brutally murdered. The followers of the Ahlulbayt a prime target.</p>
809 CE 190 AH	42	<p>Harun Rashid dies leaving a decree that the Islamic Empire be divided between his sons Amin (from his wife Zubaida) and Ma'mun (from a Persian slave Marajil) with Amin being his successor. They were born 6 months apart.</p>



YEAR	AGE	EVENT
819 – 822 CE 200 – 203 AH	42- 52	Ma'mun (based in Khurasan, Iran) rejects the contract his father has made and embarks upon a civil war with his brother Amin (based in Baghdad). Baghdad suffers heavy losses and Amin is defeated and decapitated. Marv in Iran becomes the new capital of the Islamic Empire. Imam uses the time to teach. Scholars from all fields flock to Madina to learn from Imam.
814 CE 195 AH	47	Birth of Imam Muhammad Al-Taqi (pbuh) to Sayyida Sabika (Khaizarun) in Madina.
819 CE 200 AH	52	Mamun requests Imam to present himself in Marv (Iran) to negotiate the future of the Khilafa.



YEAR	AGE	EVENT
819 CE 200 AH	52	<p>On his way to Marv in Nishapur he makes a declaration known as the hadith of the Golden chain – Divinity has declared:          “The declaration ‘There is no god but Allah’, is My stronghold; whoever enters My stronghold is secure from My punishment.” Then Imam said: “It (The Kalima) has conditions, and I am one of its conditions.”</p>
819 CE 200 AH	52	<p>To give legitimacy to his leadership, Mamun offers heir apparenacy to Imam. (Imam was 22 years older than Mamun). Imam’s first stand towards the offer was to reject it and he continued to do so until he faced veiled and open threats of death, whence he accepted the heir apparenacy, “tearfully and sorrowfully”. A coin is minted to mark the occasion.</p>



YEAR	AGE	EVENT
809 CE – 813 CE 190 – 194 AH	52-55	<p>Ma'mun's court was visited by thousands and Imam made an impact on their minds. His ahadith were widely recorded. Ma'mun who was fond of scholarly discussions would arrange for intellectuals from Greece, Italy, India, etc. to come to his court and hold discussions with the Imam. Imam encouraged the remembrance of Imam Husayn (pbuh).</p>
822 CE 203 AH	55	<p>Seeing the Imam's popularity increase disturbed Ma'mun immensely especially after an occasion when he requested Imam to lead Eid prayers as he was not well. He saw that even before Imam had reached the mosque the people had lined the streets and and it seemed that even the walls of Marv were reciting takbeer with Imam. He had to ask Imam to go back that day. He arranged for Imam to be poisoned with grapes.</p>



YEAR	AGE	EVENT
822 CE 29 Safar 203 AH	55	Imam (pbuh) died in Toos in a village called Sanabad. Ma'mun ordered Imam's grave to be dug near his father Harun's and when it was being dug, he said that Imam had told him that when his grave would be dug water and fish would appear underneath. Just as Imam had said when they finished digging a spring of water appeared with fish in it and then disappeared. Imam is buried there at what is today called Mash had in Iran.

Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) was born one month after the martyrdom of his grandfather Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (pbuh). He was born during the reign of Harun Al-Rashid who poisoned his father.

Imam played a significant role in the education of Muslims, setting examples of education through his conduct.



He saw a short period of the rule of Harun Rashid who had murdered his father. Harun Rashid also attempted to kill Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) but was unsuccessful. After Harun's death, his sons, Amin and Ma'mun fought for power. Ma'mun won with Amin being killed.

Immediately after becoming the Khalifa Ma'mun, according to the tradition started by Muawiya, had to name a successor (heir apparent). He summoned Imam to come to his capital Marw, sending a messenger to Madina to bring the Imam to him and specifying a certain route and sending a security force. The route he chose was not the normal route where a lot of Shia lived. On the way they entered a town called Nishapur. There the scholars and people requested Imam to tell them a hadith. Imam (pbuh) related the following hadith which is known as the hadith of the golden chain.

"My father Musa Al-Kadhim (pbuh) narrated to me from his father Ja'fer As-Sadiq from his father Mohammed Al-Baqir from his father Ali Zayn Abideen (pbuh) from his father, the martyr of Kerbala from his father Ali ibn Abu Talib saying : "My loved one, and the pleasure of my eyes, the Messenger of God (pbuh) told me once, that



Jibrail told him from the Lord "The kalima of La ilaha illallah is my fort; whoever said it would enter my fort; and whoever entered my fort was safe from my punishment".



Those who wrote down the hadith numbered twenty thousand. People started reciting the Kalima when Imam put his hand up and continued:

"Yes, the kalima is Allah's fort. It will provide you with excellent safety but on one condition only and that is that you obey and follow us - the holy Imams in the progeny of the holy Prophet (pbuh)".

On reaching Marw Mamun forced Imam to accept the heir apparency (to be the leader after him). Imam accepted unwillingly.





Why did Ma'mun want Imam to be the heir apparent?

To please the Shia public opinion in Khurasan and the surrounding areas which would make it easier for Ma'mun to be accepted by the people there. To avoid clashes with those like the Alawids who had always threatened the Abbasids with various uprisings.

Ma'mun celebrated the occasion of Imam's acceptance of heir apparenacy. Imam gave a short sermon saying after he had praised Allah; "We have over you a right appointed by the Prophet, and you have a right over us as well; so, if you fulfil your duty towards us, we will be bound to perform our duty towards you".

Ma'mun ordered a new coin to be minted with Imam Ar-Ridha's (pbuh) name on it. Imam however knew that this would not last long.



Soon Ma'mun put Imam under constant watch. Imam used the position to spread the true word of Islam. Ma'mun's court was visited by thousands and Imam made an impact on their minds. His ahadith were widely recorded. Ma'mun who was fond of scholarly discussions would arrange for intellectuals from Greece, Italy, India etc. to come to his court and hold discussions with the Imam.

One day a Jewish scholar was brought by Ma'mun to debate with Imam. The scholar asked: "How can you accept Muhammad to be the Prophet of God when he showed no miracles?"

Imam (pbuh) replied: "The greatest of miracles of Allah is the human mind. It allows ideas to be thought through and reasoned out. Islam appeals to human reason. Man must accept God through reason and not through miracles".

The scholar did not have much to say after that answer.

Imam (pbuh) also encouraged greatly the remembrance of Imam Husayn (pbuh).

Ma'mun was never sincere in his behaviour towards Imam. Seeing the Imam's popularity increase disturbed him immensely especially after



the occasion when he requested Imam to lead Eid prayers as he was not well. He saw that even before Imam had reached the mosque the people had lined the streets and were reciting takbir and it seemed that even the walls of Marw were doing the same. He had to ask Imam to go back that day.

There are various accounts of how Imam Ali Ar-Ridha (pbuh) was killed by Ma'mun. One of them is that Imam used to like grapes and Ma'mun offered Imam poisoned grapes. Imam was ill and died after two days on the 29th Safar 203 A.H.

He died in Toos in a village called Sanabad. Ma'mun ordered Imam's grave to be dug near his father Harun's. Imam had told Ma'mun that when his grave would be dug water and fish would appear underneath. Just as Imam had said, when they finished digging, a spring of water appeared with fish in it and then disappeared. Imam is buried there at what is today called Mash had in Iran.



## PLACES AROUND THE HARAM

### BASTS (Places of Refuge)

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Basts were places of refuge from persecution. These are two large courtyards on each side of the SAHAN INQILAB (today used as entrances to the shrine)

### SAHAN INQILAB

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This is the most beautiful building in the shrine with 4 balconies almost 3 centuries old.

- Abbasi (North)
- Tala (South),
- Naqqareh Khaneh (East) upon which lies
- Naqqareh Khaneh, Sa'at (West) upon which is a big clock.



## MINARETS

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The two golden minarets of Imam Ar-Ridha's (pbuh) shrine have been especially built. The minarets are usually made on the two sides of the dome and near the dome. But these two minarets have been built far from each other. One, close to the Dome, upon Naderi balcony in the southern section of Sahne Enqelab and the other far in the northern section of Sahne Enqelab on Abbasi balcony.

Although lack of symmetry can be clearly felt, it has been done on purpose so that when pilgrims enter the Haram from Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh) Avenue, they can see the minarets and the Dome in the middle.

The minaret which is close to the Dome was built by Shah Tahmasb Safavi and has a height of 40.5 metres and a circumference of 13 metres. The other minaret on Abbasi balcony was built at the time of Nader Shah.



## NAQQAREH KHANEH (PLACE OF KETTLE DRUMS)

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In 860 AH, when Baisongor Shahrokh's son came to Mashhad from Herat to seek remedy from Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh), kettledrums were beaten to announce his presence. Since then, this practice has been performed every day before sunrise and sunset except during the mourning period. The place where kettledrums are performed is on the eastern balcony of Sahne Enqelab.



## SAQQA KHANEH (PUBLIC DRINKING PLACE)

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There is a public drinking place called hawze Ismail Talai in the middle of Sahne Enqelab with a gilded inscription belonging to the time of Nader Shah Afshar's reign. That is why it is called Naderi drinking place.

The marble pool was brought from Herat on Nader Shah's orders. The golden bricks with which the inscription has been written was made by Ismail, an artist whose name the drinking place bears. It was rebuilt in 1347 AH.



## SA'AT (THE CLOCK)

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There is a big clock on the western balcony of Sahne Enqelab. It dates back to the period of Mozaffar-al-Din Shah's period.

## SAHNE JAMHURI ISLAMI (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC COURT)

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This Sahn which is 10,000 square metres in size was built in recent years. It has two minarets at the back of the northern and Southern gates. Each minaret is 30 meters high. This Sahn provides one approach from Ravaq of Dar-al-Valayeh to the holy Shrine of Imam (pbuh). The building situated on the eastern part of this Sahn is called Dar-al-Rahmeh.



## SAHN QODS

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This Sahn is recently built and 2500 sq metres in size is situated between Sahne Imam Khomeini and Baste Shaykh Bahai. On the ground floor there are 28 chambers each six meters high and one veranda called Qebleh which is 50 Sq metres in size. At the centre of this Sahn is a newly built public drinking place.



## SAHNE IMAM KHOMEINI

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This Sahn is located at the left side of the Holy Shrine of Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh) and faces Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh) Avenue. Its area is more than 8300 sq metres. Shaykh Bahai's tomb is located between this Sahn and Sahne Azadi.





## SAHNE AZADI

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This Sahn is located east of the Holy Shrine and dates back to the time of Fath-Ali Shah Qajar. It is about 85 metres long and 54 metres wide. It has four verandas, the most famous of which is called Eivan Tala (golden Veranda) that is adjacent to the Haram. This veranda was gilded at the time of Nasir-al-Din Shah Qajar.



## TOWHID KHANEH (PLACE OF DIVINE UNITY)

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It is located north of the Holy Shrine and south of Sahne Enqelab. This porch is used for ladies' prayers.

## DAR-AL-SIYADAH

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Located in the western part of the Haram, this porch was built under the orders of Gowharshad Khatoon.

There is a silver window in its northeastern part from where Imam Ar-Ridha's (pbuh) tomb can be seen.



## **BALA-SAR MOSQUE**

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There is a small mosque attached to the west part of the Haram. It is called Bala Sar (above the head) because pilgrims enter this mosque from the west side of Imam Ar-Ridha's (pbuh) burial chamber which is Bala-Sar of Imam.

It is one of the oldest mosques in Mash had and dates back to the time of Sultan Mahmood Ghaznavi.

## **DAR-AL HOFFAZ (THE PLACE OF THE RECITERS)**

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This porch is located south of the Holy Shrine and northeast of the Gowharshad mosque.

It was built under the orders of Gowharshad Khatoon. The pilgrims pray here seeking permission to enter the Holy Shrine.

Dar-al-Hoffaz is connected to Haram through a doorway. It has been built for the Quran reciters.

Abbas Mirza, Fath-Ali Shah's vicegerent is buried in this porch.



## ALLAHVERDIKHAN DOME

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It is an octagonal dome built on Allahverdikhan's tomb. He was one of Shah Abbas's generals. It is located in northeast of Haram and decorated with colored tiles and beautiful drawings. It is one of the most valuable artistic works inside Haram.



## HATAM KHANI DOME

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This dome is located east of Haram. One of Shah Abbas's ministers called Hatam Beik Ordoobadi built it in 1010 AH.



## LUNCH AT IMAM AR-RIDHA'S (PBUH) HARAM

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Visa numbers are taken and passports were stamped before the vouchers were given. The lunch is an amazing experience. The restaurant is laid out with tables and waiters in white who served rice, meat curry and bread. The food is something else.

All the time people would come to ask for rice, bread or meat... heart rendering. Ask for the leftovers to be packed and take them out to distribute them amongst the queues of people waiting outside who literally jump for it.



## FOREIGN PILGRIM'S OFFICE

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At the foreign pilgrim's office, talks are arranged for pilgrims and books gifted in the relevant languages.



السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مَوْلَايَ وَابْنَ مَوْلَايَ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ  
وَبَرَكَاتُهُ، أَنْتَ لَنَا جُنَّةٌ مِنَ الْعَذَابِ، وَهَذَا أَوْانُ  
انصِرَافِي عَنْكَ إِنْ كُنْتَ أَذِنْتَ لِي غَيْرَ رَاغِبٍ عَنْكَ  
وَلَا مُسْتَبَدِّلٍ بِكَ وَلَا مُؤَثِّرٍ عَلَيْكَ وَلَا زَاهِدٍ فِي  
قُرْبِكَ.

*Peace be upon you, O master, the son of my master, May the mercy and blessing of Allah be upon you. You are the armour against punishment for us. And now it is time for me to leave you if you permit me. I am neither willing to depart from you, nor to choose anyone else and substitute him for you. And I do not abstain from being near you.*



## GOWHARSHAD MOSQUE

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This mosque is one of the most reputed in Iran and is situated adjacent to the Holy Shrine of Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh). It was built in 821 AH under the orders of Gowharshad Khatoon, Shahrokh Mirza's wife. Its area is 9410 sq metres and includes a courtyard, four porches and seven large prayer halls. Two beautiful minarets, each 40 metres high, are located on both sides of Maqsureh Porch.

There is an inscription on the left on the margin of the porch written by Baisonqor, one of the best calligraphists of the time.

The Sahib-al Zaman Pulpit is in Maqsureh porch. It was built in 1243 AH with walnut wood and without using any iron or nail.

This mosque has a public library with 34,650 volumes. Dua Kumayl is recited here and adjoining courtyards. The recitation of the dua in itself is an experience.

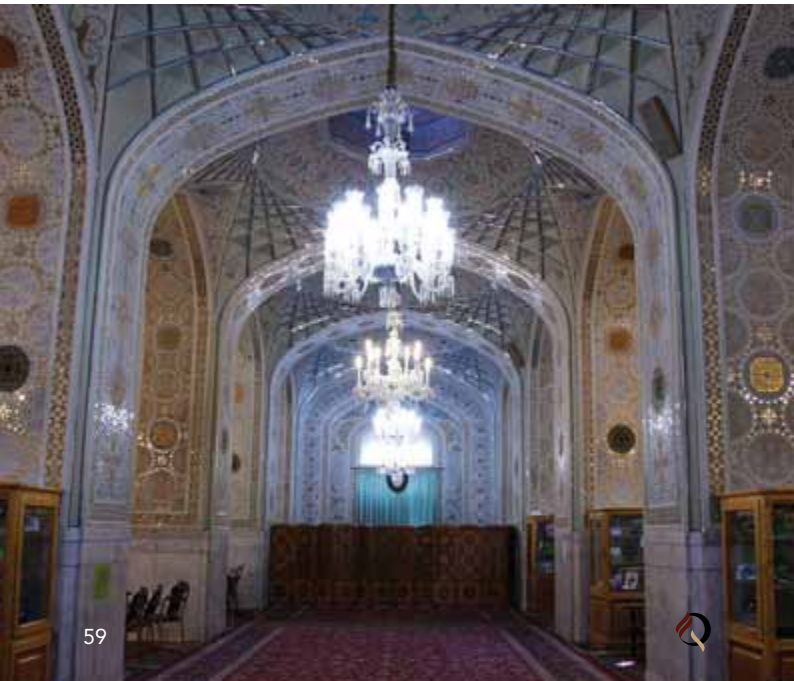


## DAR-AL RAHMAH PORCH

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This porch has an area of 365 sq. metres and is situated in the eastern part of Sahne Jamhuri e Islami. It has been decorated with gilding, plaster works, mirrors and fret work and was inaugurated in 1371 AH.

The other porches are Dar-al-Ekhlās, Dar-al-Shukr, Dar-al-Salaam and Dar-al-Zekr.



## MUSEUM OF ASTAANE QUDS

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The Astaane Quds museum is one of the richest and most exquisite museums of Iran. The building is located in the eastern quarter of Sahne Imam Khomeini and close to Haram square.

Some of its objects date back to the 6th century AH. The collection of carpets, rugs and golden covers for the tomb are all unique and date back to the 11th and 13th centuries. Some inscriptions written by Ali Ridha Abbasi are among the valuable objects. Among the unique works of art in the museum is Imam's first tombstone, the inscription of which was carved in Kufi relief script belonging to 516 AH.

There are also samples of relief tilework known as Sanjari glazed tile belonging to the 6th century and a big stone water pool made of a piece of blackstone decorated with the most beautiful arabesques.





## MUSEUM OF THE QURAN

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This museum is located in the vicinity of the Astaane Quds museum. It contains precious manuscripts of the Glorious Quran attributed to the Holy Imams and some gilded manuscripts.

It was opened in 1364 AH. The oldest manuscript attributed to the Holy Imams is in Kufi script on deer skin belonging to the 1st century AH.



## MUSEUM OF STAMPS

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The biggest stamp museum in Iran and it was opened by Astaane Quds in 1368 AH. Some 50000 stamps from Iran and 18 foreign countries from Qajar period to the present time are on display in this museum.



## ASTAANE QUDS LIBRARY

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This library is located in the eastern part of Sahne Imam Khomeini and was established in 681 AH.

It has a unique treasure of manuscripts. It contains, according to last count done in 1368 AH, 257078 volumes of which 28218 are manuscripts and 724 photographic copies and the materials are in 36 different languages.

The archives of this library are considered a treasure of documents.



## ASTANE QUDS MEHMANSARA

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This inn is located in Baste-e Sofla and every zair of Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh) has a right to one free meal as guest of Imam. Meals are served everyday.



## SHEIKH BAHAIIEE

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The tomb of Bahauddin Mohamed Ameli, known as Sheikh Bahaiee, is located between Sahn-e-Imam and Sahn-e-Azadi in the Haram Astane Quds.

Sheikh Bahaiee was born in Baalbak in 953 AH. and came to Iran with his father when he was 7 years old. His genealogy dates back to Hareth Hamadani, the famous disciple of Imam Ali (pbuh). He had a great influence on Shah Abbas King of Iran and Iranian politics and culture and has left behind many scientific works.



## SHEIKH MOHAMED IBN HASANI ALHURI AMELI

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His tomb is in Sahn-e-Enqelab in the Haram -Astaane Quds. He is one of the famous Shiite theologians and author of Wasa'el-ol-Shia.



## SHEIKH TABARASI

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His tomb is in northern square next to Bagh-e-Rezvan and the avenue next to it has been named after him. Fazl-ibne-Hasan Tabarasi, died 548 AH, is the writer of the commentary Majma'-al-Bayan.



## KHWAJEH MORAD

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His tomb is 14 kilometres away in south east Mash had on the outskirts of Binalood mountains (opposite Bahesht-e-Ridha cemetery).

Herthameh bin Ayn, known as Khwajeh Morad was a disciple of Imam Ar-Ridha (pbuh) and he died in 210 AH.



## KHWAJEH RABIEE

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Rabiee ben Haytham known as Khwajeh Rabiee was famous for his piety.

His tomb is in the middle of a garden bearing a high dome. Its construction dates back to 11th century AH and is considered as a Safavid monument. It is one of the important buildings of Shah Abbas period in Khorasan.

There are two inscriptions written by Ali Ridha Abbasi inside the shrine. The shrine is located at the end of Khwajeh Rabiee avenue and one of the great public cemeteries of Mash had lies next to Khwajeh Rabiee tomb. His death is recorded as in 63 AH.



## ABASALT-E-HERAVI'S TOMB

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Abasalt, Imam Ar-Ridh'a (pbuh) servant died in 236 AH and was buried beside the road to Fariman 10 kilometres from Mashhad.



## GONBAD (DOME) KHESHTI

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This dome, located in Tabarasi avenue, houses the grave of Imamzadeh Mohamed whose genealogy can be traced to Imam Sajjad (pbuh).

The monument belongs to the Safavid period in architectural style.



## PEER-E PALANDOOZ (THE OLD PACK SADDLER)

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Sheikh Mohammad Aref (died 985 AH.) known as Peer-e-Palandooz was one of the most pious of his time. He was called so since he made pack saddles to earn his living. His tomb is in front of Baste-Payeen which was originally built by Sultan Mohammad Khoda Bandeh and has recently been reconstructed by Astan-e-Qods.



## GONBADE SABZ (GREEN DOME)

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This shrine is located in Khaki Avenue and its dome has a colour close to turquoise. Sheikh Mohammed Mo'men Aref Astrabadi, died 90 AH, is buried here. The dome was built by Shah Abbas in 1011 AH. He wrote the medical work Tohfeh Hakim Mo'men.





## MOSALLA MASH HAD

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This monument is located in Payeen Khiaban and has a high porch and two porticos on both sides. According to extant inscription it was built in 1087 AH. during Shah Sulayman period. Its facade is made of bricks and was previously used for prayers of the two Eids. The date of construction 1086 AH has been carved inside the Mehrab. The building is decorated with inscription and glazed tiles.



## AKHANJAN TOWER

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This tower is located 22 kilometres away from Mash had and it is believed that the tomb of Gowhartaj, the sister of Gowharshad Agha Taimuri is here. The façade of the tower is covered with octagon bricks and it has a conic dome.



## MIAMI (IMAMZADEH YAHYA (PBUH))

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Imamzadeh Yahya (pbuh) was Zaid's son and grandson of our fourth Imam Sajjad (pbuh). His mother Raiteh was the daughter of Abi Hashem Abdullah ibne Mohamed Hanifah.

He was born in 107 AH and as his life was threatened by Umayyads, he migrated from Karbala to Madaen and from there to Khorasan. He was martyred at the age of 18 in Jowzjan in 125 AH.

His tomb is on the Sarakhs road 50 kilometres from Mash had and one kilometre from Miami village. The construction of the shrine dates back to the 10th century AH.



## NADIR'S SHRINE

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It is located in a beautiful garden and built by National Monuments Association in 1958 AD. Nadir's statute riding horse holding an axe is on the top of the monument. The height is 5 metres weighing 14000 kilograms. There is a museum of weapons, helmets and armours inside the monument which was inaugurated in 1342 AH.

Nadir Shah ruled from 1148 to 1160 AH.

The Allama Tabatabaie public library is in this monument run by Islamic Guidance Organisation.



## FERDOWSI'S SHRINE

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Abul Quasem Ferdowsi (died 411 AH) is the greatest epic poet who composed Shahnameh in 30 years. His shrine is located 22 kilometres northwest of Mash had alongside Quchan road.

The monument is surrounded by a beautiful garden and was completed in 1968 AD. There are still some old walls in the end side of the garden and there is a museum in the west part of the monument. Among the items in the museum is a manuscript of Shahnameh weighing 73 kg.

### OTHER HISTORICAL SITES

1. Tomb of Khwaja Aba Salat Harvi
2. Tomb of Imamzada Sultan Ahmed (pbuh)
3. Tome of Sayyid Ahmed Kabir
4. Semnan Jameh Mosque



## NISHAPUR

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Visit the famous footprints of Imam and a spring well. It's a serene atmosphere. We were waiting outside masjid where son of Imam Sajjad (pbuh) Muhammad Mahruz was buried. (He was caught by Umayyads after his father's wafat and his body was put on fire – (hence his title).

The other one is of Ibrahim son of Imam Musa Al-Kadhim (pbuh) who was also martyred.

Across the road was a garden where Attar (Shia poet killed by Mongols) and Omar Khayyam are buried.



Nishapur is near the border of Russia. It was invaded and destroyed many times. Ziyarat of Sayyida Shatitah, a needy lady who sent khums to Imam Al-Kadhim (pbuh) through his agent.

Imam reprimanded him for taking it from someone who was in need herself and sent her money from khums for herself and the rest of the poor people in the vicinity. He told her she would die in 90 days.

On her death Imam came to lead her funeral prayers.



## QFATIMA'S TOP TIP

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At all these places recite Ziyara and 2 rakaat salaa. Think of the events that happened at each place and take yourself back through time. Ponder over the lessons learnt and the way it changed the course of history.



