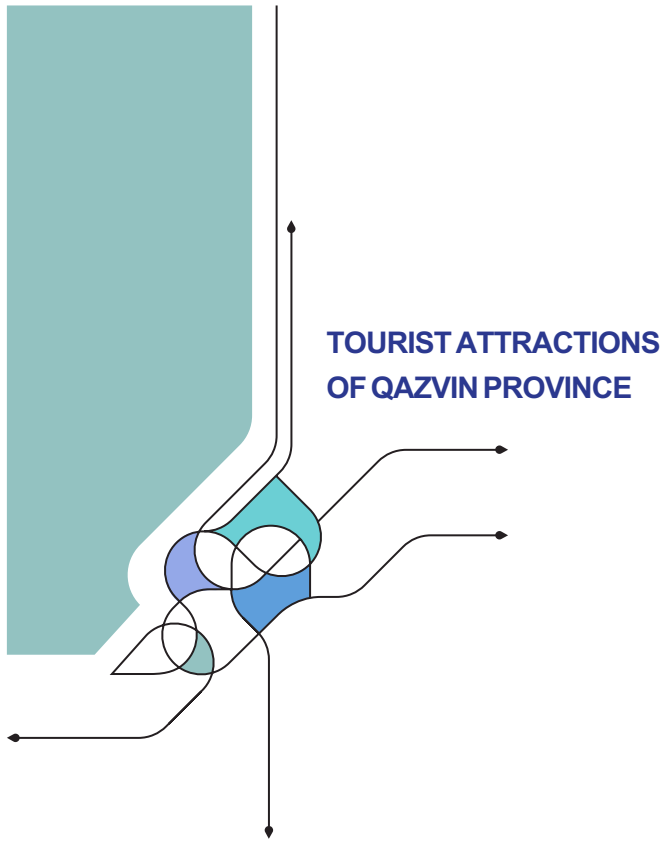
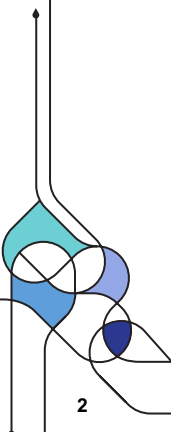


# The most prominent tourist attractions of Qazvin province







Qazvin Province is one of the oldest civilization areas of the Iranian Plateau, where the history of settlement reaches nine thousand years ago. Residential houses, temples, small industrial workshops, grain warehouses, social system, etc. are some of the characteristics of prehistoric sites in the Qazvin plain and its foothills. The Caspian region, which was a rich and populated land since ancient times, received attention during the Sassanid period and became a military center with the construction of Shapuri city. This city has been a significant center in different historical periods and finally the selection of Qazvin as the Safavid capital in the 10th century, in addition to showing the importance of the city, marks a brilliant period of construction and urban development, which is reflected in the works of ambassadors and merchants who have come to Iran. The design and construction of the first Iranian street, squares, palaces, schools, mosques, urban gardens, etc., which became a model for urban planning throughout Iran, starts from this city. Some of the most important historical and natural monuments of Qazvin province are introduced in this brochure.



Qazvin Museum – Objects from Segzabad historical site – Bouin Zahra  
From the sixth millennium BC to the Achaemenid period



Qazvin Museum – Neanderthal human  
tooth discovered from Qala kurd cave, Avaj



Qazvin Museum – The grave of a 3,000-year-old woman  
discovered in the historic site of Segzabad–BouinZahra

Photo/Morteza Behtooei

4



## Imamzadeh Hossein

The blessed tomb of Imamzadeh Hossein, the son of Imam Reza – From the third century onwards has always been a place of pilgrimage for people, and from that time until now, it is the tomb of many scientists, orators and famous people of Qazvin. It is based on the works of Safavid (Shah Tahmasb and Shah Safi) and Qajar (Naser al-Din Shah).

The threshold of the northern gate was rebuilt by Sa'd-o-Saltaneh the governor of Qazvin during the time of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar – and the geometric motifs, beautiful tile decorations of the entrance vestibule, high doors and six small minarets above it, have given the building a special character. The large courtyard of Imamzadeh, which surrounds the shrine with 52 porches, is the best example of tile work and architecture of the Qajar period.



Photo: Azam Dadashi



5



## Chahar anbia (four prophets)

On the west side of Chehelsetun Cultural Garden, there is a tomb that is located next to a school and a mosque from the Safavid period, and religious scholars and people consider it the tomb of four of the prophets of Bani Israel, named Saholi, Salum, Al-Qiya, and Salam. They sing “Four Prophets”. It is said that they are prophets who brought the good news of Christ’s birth from Jerusalem to the east. It appears from the documents of Safavid awards that this place was a respected place of pilgrimage at the end of the 11th century AH and gardens were dedicated to it. The current building of Prophethood is one of the works of Mirza Masoud Sheikhu Islam.

In front of the mausoleum, there is a placed on four pillars, and behind it is a portico that connects to the shrine. The shrine has four thrones in four directions and its design inside is twenty-sided. All around the shrine, there is a plaster inscription from Quran written in gold color on a lapis lazuli background, which is considered one of the artistic works of the shrine. In addition to the four mentioned prophets, the tomb of Imamzadeh Saleh bin Hassan Mojtaba is also known in this place.

Photo: Mohammad Rostami



6



## Old Grand Mosque

(Masjed Jame)

This mosque is considered one of the oldest and rarest mosques in Iran. The Old Chamber or Taq Haruni is the oldest part of the ancient mosque of Qazvin, which is connected to its eastern entrance hall and was built by Harun Al-Rashid in 192 AH. They say that the foundation of the mosque was built on the foundations of a fire temple. In the four directions of its courtyard, which is more than four thousand square meters, there are four high porches, which have long porches on both sides.

The two-faced brick dome and the southern nave of the mosque were built by Emir Khomartash Emadi in the years 500 to 509 AH and have five exquisite inscriptions plastered in the calligraphy of Sols, Naskh and Kufi, which are considered masterpieces of Iranian art, and despite the Mongol attack and the serious damage to the ancient mosque of Qazvin, it has remained strong and magnificent.

Photo: Roya Khalili

7



## Imamzadeh Ali Shekarnab



Next to the old cemetery of Shekar Nab village – which is considered a part of Abyek city – there is an Imamzadeh building, which is a work of the 8th and 9th centuries of Hijri.

The shrine has an octagonal plan, the length of each side of which is 2.80 meters. The exterior of the building is decorated with geometric designs. In later periods, an octagonal nave was added to the shrine building. The entrance, which has tile and brick decorations, floor tiles known as “wind and cloud” and a stone inscription dated 884, are the other features of this building.

Photo:Azam Dadashi



8



## Nabi Mosque (Shah's Mosque)

It is one of the largest and most magnificent mosques in Iran, with an area of 14,000 square meters, in terms of the size of the courtyard and the naves, the architectural style and sturdiness of the building is considered unique in Iran. Based on the inscriptions and reliable sources, the foundation of the mosque should be known by Fath Ali Shah Qajar, although some have suggested that the foundation of the mosque was Safavid. The three northern, western and eastern entrance doors with tall and magnificent portals decorated with azure tiles and distinguished calligraphy of Nastaliq and Sols open to a wide courtyard which is rectangular in shape and wide from north to south and a large stone pond. In the middle of it, it reflects the high north and south porches with the mirror sky. The four porches that connect to the eight porticos of the mosque with two earrings on each side and have tile decorations and exquisite inscriptions on their foreheads have given a special effect to the mosque. Each of the north and south porticos have four arches, and the east and west porticos have nine arches, and each nave has 28 small arches, each of which is 16 square meters in area, and is based on 18 columns at a distance of six meters from each other. Above the southern compartment, there is a large and beautiful dome with a diameter of 15 meters. The north entrance of the mosque is very luxurious and high, and it is decorated with enamel tiles and original style.

Photo: Azam Dadashi



9



## Heydariyeh Mosque

This mosque is very old and was rebuilt by Amir Khomartash. Rafei and Mostofi called it “Jamae As’ hab Abu Hanifah” and its first building dates back to the 2nd century of Hijri. It is said that it was a fire place before Islam. There is an altar on the south wall of the mosque, which is one of the best examples of the altars of the Seljuk period in terms of design and type of work. Inside the altar, verses from the Holy Quran are written with beautiful stucco on an azure background, and around the altar there are six inscriptions in Kufi and Naskh calligraphy. Inscriptions in Kufi with flowers, Kufi with flowers and leaves, and complex Kufi in these parts are a manifestation of a world of beauty.

Proportionate combination of cut brick and plaster, exquisite and magnificent altar, having eight arches and mesmerizing inscriptions and a decorative plaster cast have given a special feature to the mosque and it has always been presented as one of the masterpieces of art of the Seljuk period.

Photo: Roya Khalili

10



## Salehiyah School–Mosque

Salehiyah School–Mosque should be considered as the largest scientific center of Iran in the 13th century of Hijri, which was founded by Mullah Haj Saleh Baraqani in 1262. Salehiyah school has three floors and has a capacity of more than seven hundred students.

The mosque, which is located in the northern part of the school, has three doors, north, south, and west, and the south door opens into a large vestibule that is shared with the school. The vastness of the mosque and its thick and sturdy columns indicate the abundant prosperity in the past.



Photo: Azam Dadashi



11



## Sardar School- Mosque

The most beautiful school in Qazvin was built during the Qajar era by two brothers who held the position of commander and were famous for their bravery and merit in the Iranian and Russian wars. Hossein Khan and Hassan Khan Sardar have created a masterpiece of Qajar architecture and art in the 1231 Hijri by building this complex. The school is built on two floors with tile decorations and has 32 rooms.

The facade of the second floor consists of arches with Safavid arches and is decorated with enamel tiles. An inscription in Nastaliq script and a marble inscription on the tiled front of the school have added to its beauty. The mosque has three large brick arches with a small turquoise dome on top of it. A very large latticed wooden window covers the southern part of the school and the entrance to the mosque from the school is embedded in its heart.

Photo: Azam Dadashi



12



## Sardar Bozorg Water Reservoir

Sardar Bozorg Reservoir is the largest single-domed water reservoir in Iran and is located on Rah ahan (railway) Street. The founders of this building were Mohammad Hassan Khan and Mohammad Hossein Khan Sardar during the Qajar era. The cistern has a tall door with a trestle arch.

The road to the water reservoir has fifty stone steps and you have to go down twelve and a half meters to reach the water. Its water tank is square and approximately seventeen meters long.

The materials used in that lime are covered with Saroj and the diameter is about three meters.

Photo: Roya Khalili



13



This reservoir is located in front of the Sardar mosque and school, and it is one of the buildings built by the Sardar brothers of Qajar in 1229 AH.

## Sardar Kuchak Water Reservoir

The head of the cistern is decorated with tiles and its entrance has decorations and an inscription made of marble in Nastaliq script. There are thirty-six steps to the water reservoir.

Photo: Roya Khalili



14



The reservoir of the Jame Mosque is located in front of the Jame Mosque.

## Jame mosque Water Reservoir

As evidenced by the entrance inscription, it was built during the reign of Shah Suleiman Safavi (1077–1104 AH). The head of the reservoir has a simple design and lacks any decoration.

The reservoir tap has thirty–seven stone steps and its tank has a capacity of 1800 cubic meters of water. Its walls are made of limestone with a diameter of 2.40 meters

Photo: Mahdi hosseini



15



## Hejib Caravanserai

Hejib caravanserai is located in the west of Hejib village, Buin Zahra city, and its entrance is on the south side. The overall design of the caravanserai is square and at the intersection of the four external sides of it, round towers can be seen in the form of semi-columns.

The interior of the entrance arches has formalization with colored brickwork. Among the features of this caravanserai, we can mention the water fountain, bathroom, water storage, laundry room and its gardens, which are dedicated to cover the maintenance cost of the caravanserai.

Hejib Caravanserai is one of Shah Abbasi's Caravanserai in Iran.

Photo: Shahbanoo Soleymani



16



The construction of this caravanserai was ordered by Shah Abbas and its completion date was in 1040 AH, during the reign of Shah Safi.

## Avaj Caravanserai

The construction of this caravanserai was for military and commercial purposes.



Photo: Azam Dadashi



17



## Chehelsotun Palace Museum

One of the most important buildings of the Safavid period in Qazvin is the Chehelsotun mansion or Kolah Farangi, which is located in the middle of a large garden and is the only remaining pavilion from the royal palaces of the time of Shah Tahmasb.

The octagonal building has an area of approximately 500 square meters and has halls and small rooms on each floor. The wall paintings on the first floor are an example of Qazvin method of painting and have a world reputation. The large hall on the second floor has five sections in the four main directions. This building is now used as a museum of Qazvin.

Photo: Azam Dadashi



18



## Hosseinieh Aminiha

It is a part of a large and nested building that was built in 1275 Hijri by the late Mohammad Reza Amini in two floors. Hosseinieh has two north and south courtyards and three east-west halls that are parallel to each other and are separated by five movable mesh doors.

The middle hall is bigger than the other two halls and is 18 meters long and 5 meters wide, and the length and width of the other two halls are 5 x 10 meters each. Plaster decorations, painting on wood and mirror work on the ceiling, walls, niches, shelves and wooden walls are very eye-catching and on the level of a masterpiece. There are two north-south rooms in the east and west of the halls, which have less decoration. The cellar, kitchen, warehouses and sherbet house are located on the lower floor of Hosseinieh.

Photo: Roya Khalili

19



## Aali Qapu mansion



Among the seven entrance doors to the Safavid royal citadel, only the southern main door, which opens to Shah Street and Square, and is named “Aali Qapu” has been preserved. This building was first built during the period of Shah Tahmasb and changed to its current form during the time of Shah Abbas I. In front of this lofty 17-meter-high gate, there is an inscription with mosaic tiles in the shape of a triangle, above which a large grid window of tiles is placed. The porch has mosaic tiling with wooden design.

The large vestibule, which is located after the front of mansion, is decorated with an inscription of excellent Nastaliq and fascinating wall motifs. The ceiling of the vestibule is high and has tiling. This magnificent building is located at the beginning of Sepeh Street – the first designed street in Iran.

Photo: Roya Khalili



20



## Kantor Church

It is a small church with an irregular polygonal plan, a red brick facade covering the gables of the domes along with glazed bricks and innovation in geometric decorative forms. Interesting stucco decorations are also used inside and part of the western facade.

Above the windows, there is a row of prominent brickwork in the shape of  $\wedge$ , and in front of the windows on the north and south sides of the tower, two semi-columns connected to the wall and two protruding cylindrical columns have contributed to its decorative aspect. The cover of this tower is a turquoise dome and the tomb of a Russian pilot is also located in the south area of the church.

Photo: Azam Dadashi

21



This gate is a work of the Qajar period. The building of the gate is brick and has a main entrance and two communication ways on the sides.

## Gate of Tehran Qadim

The middle head has more width and height and a pointed arch. This gate has eight garlands. Their main entrance has decorations.

Photo: Azam Dadashi



22



## Gate of Darb kushk

It is one of the oldest gates of the city, which opened towards Alamut and hunting grounds in the north of Qazvin, and had an entrance with an arch and a semicircle.

This gate has only one facade towards the outside of the city, which is made from the existing tile decorations of the building during the reign of Azod al-Mulk Qajar.

Photo: Mohamma Rostami



23



## Ghajar bath (Museum of Anthropology)

This hot tub, which has separate male and female sections, is located on Obeid Zakani Street – next to Bazarcheh and Agha Kabir Mosque – and is considered the oldest existing bath in Qazvin. It was built in 1057 AD by the order of Shah Abbas II Safavid.

The men's and women's hothouse is in the form of a chalipas, and there are rooms for washing in the east and west of it. The cover of the building is a dome and the roof of the hothouse has decorations. The large and one-piece stones that carpet the platforms are considered to be the characteristics of this building. This historical work is used as an anthropological museum after restoration.

Photo: Azam Dadashi



24



## Sa'd-o-Saltaneh Caravanserai

It is the largest indoor caravanserai and an inner-city commercial center in Iran, with an area of more than 2.6 hectares, built by Baqer Khan Sa'd-o-Saltaneh, the governor of Qazvin, at the end of the reign of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar, and it consists of nested and continuous palaces. The cells that are located in the courtyards with the used porches show the beauty and seriousness of the design through which the east-west and north-south axes of the market pass. The perpendicular axes join each other in the Chahar Sough (center of bazar) of the caravanserai and show the architecture of the Qazvin method in commercial spaces in a very beautiful and lasting way. Numerous and long entrances, wide courtyards, large docks with more than a hundred brick columns, hot tubs, magnificent vestibules and cells that are surrounded by open spaces and in long and wide corridors with carved brick decorations with tiles, have made this collection beautiful. This building is one of the 54 caravanserais that were registered as the historical and natural work of Iran in the UNESCO world list.

Photo: Roya Khaliil

25



## Kharaghan double towers



Kharaghan is a mountainous region and is located in the southwest of Qazvin. In this area, there are two tombs from the Seljuk period.

The first tower is octagonal and various brick designs are carved on each side. This tower has a double dome, which is led to by two spiral staircases. The second tower is about thirty meters away from the first tower, in terms of shape and dimensions, it is almost the same size as the first tower. This building also has a double-covered dome and a staircase leading to the space between these two covers. The tomb towers of Kharaghan, with more than fifty brick designs, are among the architectural trends of Iran.



## Alamut Castle

In the northeast of Gazor Khan village and on a mountain of solid stone with a height of 2,100 meters above sea level, which leads to dangerous cliffs, there is a magnificent castle, which, according to Hamdollah Mustofi, was first built in the year 226 AH by Daie Ali Haq Hassan Bin Zayd al-Baqeri, it was captured by Hasan Sabah in 483 Hijri and now it is called Qala Alamut (alamut castle) or Qala Hasan (Hasan castle). The only way to enter the castle is located at the end of the north-east side, which is overlooked by Hodkan Mountain at a relatively long distance. On the southern slope of the castle mountain, a ditch with a length of approximately 50 meters and a width of 2 meters has been dug and filled with the water that enters the castle so that there is no way of penetration from that. At every point where there is a groove, they have blocked the entrance by building stone or brick walls. By crossing the eastern wall of the fortress, which is about 10 meters and 5 meters high, we reach the main part of the fortress, where Hassan Sabah's residence was during his thirty-five-year stay in Alamut, and above that, the remains of several rooms whose roofs is collapsed. After the surrender of Rokn al-Din Khor Shah in 654 Hijri, this castle was set on fire and destroyed by the order of Holaku Khan, and since then it was used as an exile and prison.

Photo: Morteza sadegh beghl



27



## Semiran Castle

Semiran Castle is located on the top of a high and rocky hill next to the Sepid Rood lake, where the Qezel Ozan River flows in the south. The history of its construction is attributed to the pre-Islam era and during the years of the 4th century of Hijri, it was the throne of Kangarians – Al-Mosafir. The residence of distinguished artisans and artists in it, three high walls and nested around the castle, water supply channels, strong towers, great expansion and its privileged defensive position are impressive. Semiran fortress was one of the Ismailian fortresses for almost two centuries and after the attack of Holaku until the end of the Safavid era, it was very important in political conflicts. The general design of the castle building is rectangular and the height of the towers and the wall is close to fifteen meters, all of which were built with the help of rubble stones and plaster mortar with a thickness of eight feet, and at intervals of one meter, wooden coils in the heart of the wall. They have used that in addition to being strong, it has given a logical order to the building.

There are two magnificent towers on the northern wall of the castle, which have long rectangular windows with pointed arches in the upper part, which are mostly used for guarding the lower part of the castle. The southern part of the fort also has a smooth wall, which has been more secure due to the Qezel Ozan river.

Photo: Roya Khalili

28



A brick tower from the Seljuk period remains on the southeast side of Takestan city, which is known as the Pir (old) tomb.

## Pir's tomb

This mausoleum is a four vault, each side of which is 6.5 meters outside and 4.40 meters inside. Unfortunately, out of the many and ancient decorations of this building, only two small decorative arches are left, which were created with brickwork. The dome of the building is double-clad and conical and has changed its shape due to repairs, and inside them, they have created geometric designs – including a broken cross – with bricks.

Photo: Roya Khaliil

29



## Tomb of Hamdullah Mostofi



Hamdullah Mostofi is a famous writer and historian of the 8th century and the author of *Tarikh Gozideh*, *Nozhat al-Qulub* and *Zafarnameh*, among the works of the Ilkhani period. The mausoleum is located in the Malekabad neighborhood of Qazvin, in a cellar on which they built a square-shaped building, which turned into an octagon before the dome, and all around it there is a work of decoration.

Its conical turquoise dome and the inscription that mentions the ancestors and the works of Mostafi in the third script distinguish this monument from other historical monuments of the city.

Photo:Archive

30



## Bashgol protected area

Bashgol region, which is in the west of Takestan city and is spread over an area of approximately 27 thousand hectares, is under the management of environmental protection and many animal species live and breed in it.

This area, with the appearance of hills, is a safe haven for native and migrant rams, ewe and deer.



Photo: Roya Khalili



31



## Ovan Lake

The beautiful lake of Ovan, which is located between the villages of Ovan, Varbon, Zavardasht and Zarabad and is 1800 meters above sea level, attracts many domestic and foreign tourists in the four seasons of the year. This lake, which has an area of more than 70,000 square meters, does not directly receive water from the outside environment, and is fed only by the water of the springs on the bottom of the lake, and it is in the form of a hole whose deepest part is 7.5 meters and it is located in the southeast.

Other than tree species such as willow, plantain, apple, cherry, elder, hazelnut and walnut; Herbaceous plants such as fennel, artichoke and various other species are also present in the Ovan watershed. The wildlife of this watershed includes goats, leopards, brown bears, foxes, jackals, wolves, boars, wild cats, eagles, falcons, owls, partridges, cuckoos, woodpeckers and magpies. There are many kinds of sparrows, frogs, turtles, crabs, etc., to which it should be also added various types of fish, including colored trout, carp, and duck fish.

Photo: Roya Khalili



32



This cave is located 20 kilometers from Kharaghan Twin Towers in Hesar District, Abgarm City, and its height is about 2064 meters above sea level.

## Qala Kord Cave

After passing through the cave entrance and going down a 15-meter-long well, a hall with an area of more than a thousand square meters appears which has extremely beautiful and enchanting stalagmite and stalactite. High humidity, wall paintings - which show that the cave was man-made in ancient years - and water pools are some of the features of Qala Kord Cave. The age of this cave goes back to the third geological period, which is estimated to be 40 million years ago.

Qala Kord Cave is one of the oldest inhabited areas in Iran, which is a unique area in terms of the richness of archaeological findings and human remains found.

Photo:Shokufa Aghasian



33



## Tarom oak forests

The oak forest of Hossein Abad Tarom is one of the most beautiful and pristine parts of Tarom sofla. The path to access is difficult and the dirt road after the village of Qolalo towards the village of Hossein Abad after passing through several mountain turns enters the forest area, so that the difference in climate and vegetation is quite evident after passing through several passes.

This area is considered a safe place for two large animal species (brown bear and Iranian leopard) in this province and the largest part of the forest. This area is protected and hunting is prohibited.



There were many gardens without walls and thorns and there was no obstacle to enter the gardens and I saw Qazvin as a good city and it has good markets...

Nasser Khosro Qobadiani  
5th century Hijri



Ministry of Cultural Heritage,  
Tourism and Handicrafts  
Qazvin Province