



Timeless beauty of Qasr-e Dasht in heart of Shiraz

In the heart of the ancient and majestic city of Shiraz, the capital of Fars Province, lies a pleasant and charming neighborhood that captivates visitors: Qasr-e Dasht. It's a place where anyone can spend a moment or two wandering through its beautiful alleyways, experiencing the timeless charm that has persisted for generations. Perhaps fewer travelers and tourists are aware of or recognize this beautiful area; however, local residents frequently visit it for leisurely walks and memorable moments. The neighborhood boasts notable attractions including Qasr-e Dasht Street, Afifabad Street, Valiasr Street, Roya Park, and the Shajarian Pedestrian Path, among others. These sites collectively contribute to the neighborhood's allure, blending historical charm with modern-day conveniences. Qasr-e Dasht is renowned for its unique gardens. Situated in the northwest of Shiraz, approximately four kilometers from Ma'aliabad neighborhood, it is considered one of the oldest and most famous neighborhoods of the city. The exquisite gardens of Qasr-e Dasht flourished during the reign of Karim Khan Zand and subsequent rulers, forming a lush landscape that once symbolized the prosperity of Shiraz. Yet today, the neighborhood faces threats from illegal constructions and urban encroachments, which risk damaging its historic and natural beauty, IRNA wrote. Green spaces and the historic, old fabric of any city are its heart and soul. Their preservation is vital for maintaining the city's cultural and environmental heritage, and their loss would lead to irreplaceable damage to the city's identity. In earlier times, due to Shiraz's smaller geographical size, the Qasr-e Dasht neighborhood was considered a summer resort area for the surrounding countryside. Its lush gardens and cool breezes made it an idyllic escape from the heat. However, with the city's expansion over the years, it has become fully integrated into the urban fabric. Today, it is conveniently accessible and remains one of the most cherished parts of Shiraz. Visiting its alleyways offers a nostalgic journey back in time — walking beneath the shade of towering trees that peek over mudbrick walls, into alleyways lined with history — scenes that are increasingly rare in today's bustling cities. The beautiful gardens and narrow alleys of this neighborhood have remarkably preserved their authenticity over the years, making it an attractive destination for both tourists seeking a

historical experience and locals longing for serene hideaways. Many houses within Qasr-e Dasht are nestled amid these gardens, some of which are centuries old, adding to the neighborhood's timeless appeal. The gardens of Qasr-e Dasht feature various fruit trees, including grapevines, persimmons, and pomegranates. Today, the neighborhood attracts many visitors, and young couples come here frequently to take memorable photographs during their celebrations. One of the most enchanting parts of this neighborhood is Shah Parian Alley, which, with its lush and verdant trees, creates an inviting and peaceful atmosphere — an ideal setting for reflection and relaxation. The most famous street in this neighborhood also bears the name Qasr-e Dasht. It extends from the southeast to the northwest of the city and includes numerous smaller side streets. Much of this main street, particularly toward its northern end, is lined with tall, majestic trees on both sides, providing shade and aesthetic beauty. The western section of Qasr-e Dasht Street is also surrounded by many beautiful gardens that are worth exploring, offering glimpses of Shiraz's verdant scenery. Another significant street in the area is Afifabad Street, named after the historic Afifabad Garden of Shiraz, known for its lush environment and historical significance. Valiasr Street in Shiraz is highly popular and well-known, much like its counterpart in Tehran. It is lined with a variety of cafes, shops, and stores, and its parks and green spaces make it a favorite spot for relaxation and social activities for people from all walks of life. Zargari Street, situated within the Qasr-e Dasht neighborhood, is considered a luxurious and upscale street. If you are seeking quality dining experiences, this is an excellent area to explore. Similarly, Rahmatabad Street is one of the neighborhood's old and nostalgic areas, boasting more mature, vibrant trees and alleyways that surpass others in beauty. This street offers a perfect opportunity to indulge in the refreshing ambiance and experience the vitality of the towering trees in the lush gardens — an experience that can rejuvenate the senses. Barq Street is recognized as one of the city's more economical streets, hosting numerous shopping centers and markets. Visitors can find a wide variety of high-quality products at reasonable prices, making it a practical shopping destination. Meanwhile, Mala Sadra Street is filled with bazaars and shopping centers—an ideal place

for buying souvenirs and local handicrafts to take home.

Roya Park Shiraz

Roya Park is one of the oldest parks in the Qasr-e Dasht neighborhood. Its very beautiful and charming environment makes it an ideal place for residents and visitors to spend a few hours relaxing and enjoying recreational activities. Whether for a peaceful walk, family outings, or outdoor gatherings, the park provides a tranquil escape. Facilities here include a children's playground, various sports equipment, benches, and clean restrooms, making it a comfortable spot for all visitors.

Imamzadeh Shahzadeh Mohammad

Located in the center of Qasr-e Dasht, Imamzadeh Shahzadeh Mohammad is a revered shrine. According to tradition, its lineage traces back to Imam Musa al-Kadhim (PBUH), the seventh Imam of Shia Muslims, making it a significant spiritual site. The shrine has undergone renovations several times over the years, preserving its religious and historical importance. It continues to attract pilgrims and visitors who come to pay their respects and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of this sacred location.

Navabi Garden

Among the many gardens in Qasr-e Dasht, Navabi Garden stands out as a popular destination. Situated close to Qasr-e Dasht Square, this lush garden dates back to the Qajar era, making it a historical gem. Within the garden, there is a house or mansion that once served as a residence for notable figures; unfortunately, this building is now in a very dilapidated state. Despite this, the garden's natural beauty remains appealing, drawing visitors seeking calm amid its greenery.

Shajarian Pedestrian Path

The Shajarian Pedestrian Path, also called the Salamat Road of Qasr-e Dasht, extends over 3.5 kilometers, featuring a dedicated three-kilometer bicycle route. The cycling and walking paths are completely separated, ensuring safety for all users. The walkway includes multiple sports fields, a reading area, an ice skating rink, a fountain, shaded sitting areas, and numerous spaces for groups and individuals—catering to both children and adults. It is well-lit, allowing for safe use during early mornings and evenings, making it a popular spot for exercise and leisure.

Naseri Garden

Covering around 11,000 square meters, Naseri Garden is situated in alley 59 of Qasr-e Dasht. Once known for its lush greenery and vibrant trees, it was a favorite retreat for residents and visitors alike. However, in recent years, many of its trees have been destroyed for reasons that remain unclear. Despite this loss, the garden still holds significance as a peaceful green space that reflects the neighborhood's rich natural heritage.

Golestan Cinema Complex

For a modern entertainment option, the Golestan Cinema Complex in the northern part of Qasr-e Dasht offers a comfortable environment for movie lovers. Opened in 2016, it features three halls equipped with the latest audio-visual technology, providing high-quality screenings. Its close proximity to the metro makes it easily accessible for tourists and locals. After exploring Shiraz's scenic summer gardens and historical sites, this cinema complex provides a pleasant and convenient way to relax and enjoy contemporary entertainment.

Historical overview

The expansive 1,300-hectare area of Qasr-e Dasht in northwestern Shiraz has a rich historical background. It is considered one of the city's most prosperous and storied regions, alongside other notable sites such as bazaars, mosques, the Vakil Bathhouse, Naser Garden, and Takieh Haft Tanan. During the Zand dynasty, this neighborhood was famously called Hezar Bagh, meaning "Thousand Gardens," reflecting its countless lush gardens and grand mansions, many of which resembled castles overlooking the plains of Shiraz. The neighborhood's name and identity are deeply rooted in its extensive gardens along the outskirts of ancient Shiraz. Its picturesque beauty, the attention of Shiraz's wealthy classes, and the presence of magnificent, palace-like homes all contributed to its fame. Although much of its former splendor has faded, the wide, tree-lined streets, remnants of old estates, and historic gardens still evoke its glorious past. Today, the best time to appreciate Qasr-e Dasht's beauty is during spring, when the area bursts into color with blooming flowers and lush greenery. The visual splendors, combined with the fragrant scent of blossoms, create a uniquely enchanting atmosphere — a scene that leaves a lasting impression and invites visitors to experience the timeless charm of Shiraz.



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