

Teen Magazine
Isfahan Half the World

ZAMZAM

ISSN 1024-9856

149

June and July 2025

www.alhodapub.com





In the name of God

ZAMZAM 149

Managing Director: Mahdi Fayyazi

Editor-in-Chief: Seyed Mohammad Zolfaghari

Editorial Board: Seyed Mohammad Zolfaghari
Ali Zarif

Internal and Executive Manager:

Maryam Hamzehloo

Designer and Art Director: Effat Bahar

In collaboration with: Bayenat Institute

Address: Iran, Tehran, Valiasr Street, Fatemi Inter-
section, No. 1938

Postal Code: 1415894857

Phone: 00982188934302- 00982188934303

In collaboration with: the Bayenat institute

Table of Contents:

- 3** Editor's Note
- 4** Master Farshchian, the painter known by the world.
- 6** An enduring work
- 8** Isfahan; the city of art and architecture
- 10** Characteristics of Isfahan
- 12** Famous attractions of Isfahan
- 14** Handicrafts and souvenirs of Isfahan
- 16** Delicious local dishes of Isfahan
- 20** Unique culture and customs of Isfahan
- 21** Persian fallow deer
- 22** Donkey-cop game; a funny and dynamic game!



Editor's Note:

Zamzam: A Bridge to Friendship and Unity

Hello to all energetic and curious teenagers!

In today's world, where borders are becoming increasingly blurred and people from all corners of the globe can connect more easily and quickly, understanding different cultures and traditions has gained special significance. Understanding and respecting cultural differences and beauties not only help us find new friends, but also serve as a bridge for creating and maintaining peace and friendship among people.

The culture of each country is a treasure of art, language, and traditions shaped by its people over centuries. When we become acquainted with other cultures, we step into a world of new experiences and perspectives that can deepen our view of life and humanity.

In Zamzam magazine, we strive to introduce you the culture and beauties of Iran. With its ancient history and rich culture, Iran is a land where every corner has a story to tell. From traditional celebrations and ceremonies to exquisite handicrafts and remarkable architecture, all are part of our identity that can be both inspiring and educational.

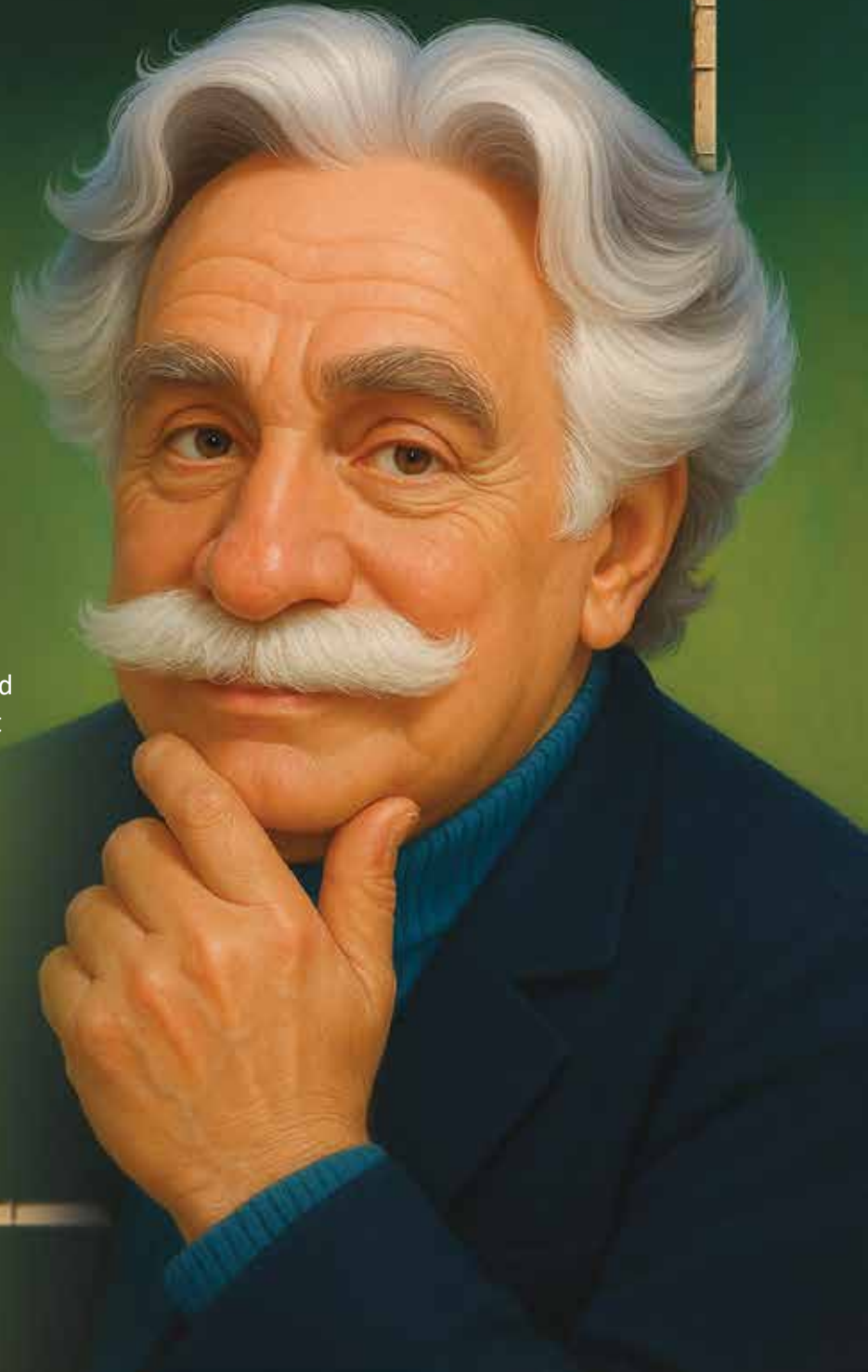
Let's take a journey into the heart of this beautiful culture together and learn how we can create a better and kinder world by respecting differences and appreciating the beauties of others. We hope this magazine can open a new window to the world of culture and friendship for you.

Wishing you days full of learning and friendship

Master Mahmoud Farshchian

The Artist the World Knows

Master Mahmoud Farshchian is one of the most famous Iranian painters — not just in Iran, but around the world. He was born in the beautiful city of Isfahan, known as the capital of art in Iran. From a young age, he grew up in a family that valued art, so he quickly became interested in painting. Besides his natural talent, Master Farshchian worked super hard. He studied art seriously and scientifically at well-known universities in Iran and other countries. His artworks are deeply inspired by Islamic teachings and Persian literature. The paintings he creates are truly one of a kind. Master Farshchian has developed his own unique style by blending traditional Iranian art with modern painting techniques. He uses bright and vibrant colors that make his paintings feel alive — like they transport you to a whole new world. His art has gained worldwide fame. In fact, in 1995, UNESCO recognized him as one of the world's greatest artists! His paintings have been displayed in major museums and galleries across the globe. But Master Farshchian isn't just a top-level artist — he's also a symbol of Iranian art and culture. Through his paintings, he has added beauty to the world and shown people everywhere how amazing Iranian art can be.



One of his most famous works is called “The Evening of Ashura.” This painting was inspired by the tragic day of Ashura, when Imam Hussein (peace be upon him) and his loyal companions were martyred in Karbala. Using his special techniques and unique style, Master Farshchian has beautifully captured the deep and lasting emotions of that historic day. “The Evening of Ashura” isn’t just a stunning artwork — it’s also a powerful cultural and religious piece that shares a message about standing up against injustice. Today, this unforgettable masterpiece is kept in the museum of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him) in the city of Mashhad, and it’s considered one of the greatest treasures of Iranian art.



5

Zamzam Magazine



6

Isfahan

The City of Art and Architecture

Isfahan is one of the most historic and beautiful cities in Iran, with its amazing architecture, rich culture, and peaceful nature. Walking through the streets of Isfahan is like stepping into a world full of history and art. That's why it's one of the most popular tourist destinations in Iran.

Where is Isfahan?

Isfahan is located in central Iran, near the eastern foothills of the Zagros Mountains. It's surrounded by several provinces: to the north, it borders Markazi, Qom, and Semnan; to the east, Yazd and Khorasan; to the west, Lorestan and Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari; and to the south, Fars and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad. The city of Isfahan covers 220 square kilometers and sits at 1,570 meters above sea level. It's also the 14th most populated metropolitan area in the Middle East.

Why Is Isfahan Called “Half the World”?

Isfahan is full of Islamic-style architecture, rich culture and history, beautiful handicrafts, covered bridges, traditional streets, and stunning nature. All of these make the city so unique that it's often called “Half the World.”

If you study Isfahan, you'll find many historical attractions like Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Si-o-se-pol Bridge, Khaju Bridge, Chehel Sotoun Palace, and the Jameh Mosque. Six of these historical sites are even registered by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites.

In 2006, Isfahan was chosen as the Cultural Capital of the Islamic World. Then in 2009, it was named both the Industrial Capital of Iran (after Tehran) and the Capital of Islamic Culture and Civilization.

7

Zamzam Magazine



Special Features of Isfahan

Here are some of its amazing features:

A Treasure of Cultural and Historical Sites

Isfahan is home to many historical buildings like the Sheikh Baha'i Bathhouse, Chehel Sotoun Palace, Vanak Cathedral, and Naqsh-e Jahan Square. This square is one of the largest in the world and shines like a jewel in the center of the city. The turquoise tile-work and unique design of its mosques and palaces leave every visitor in awe.

Magnificent Bridges

Famous bridges like Si-o-se-pol (the Bridge of 33 Arches) and Khaju Bridge were built during the Safavid era. With their elegant arches and stonework, they're not just pathways—they're full masterpieces of architecture.

8

Handicrafts and Artworks

Isfahan is known for its traditional crafts like enameling, inlay work, and metal engraving, which you can find in its beautiful bazaars.

Natural Beauty

The Zayandeh River and the city's gardens add to its charm. Walking along the river or sitting under the shade beside one of the historic bridges is truly relaxing. The river and its surroundings are a perfect place for enjoying fresh air and a peaceful view.

A Center of Art and Culture

The city is full of museums, galleries, and traditional music. Isfahan has played an important role in Persian art, especially in miniature painting and music. Artists here keep many traditional forms of art alive.

Traditional Markets

The old bazaars of Isfahan are full of life, with the smell of spices, the sound of hammers on metal, and the colorful handmade items. It's a magical experience!





9

Zamzam Magazine

Isfahan is one of the most important tourist cities in Iran. Its beauty and rich history make it truly unforgettable.



Famous Places to Visit in Isfahan



Ali Qapu Palace

This beautiful palace, built during the Safavid era, stands on the western side of Naqsh-e Jahan Square, opposite Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque. Only the king and high-ranking people were allowed in. Inside, there's a music hall where the walls are decorated with shapes of musical instruments. Its design helps spread sound perfectly across the room. One amazing feature is the copper pool on the palace's terrace. It used air pressure to bring water to the upper floors—a smart use of scientific knowledge at the time! Sadly, the pool is no longer functional today.

10

Zamzam Magazine



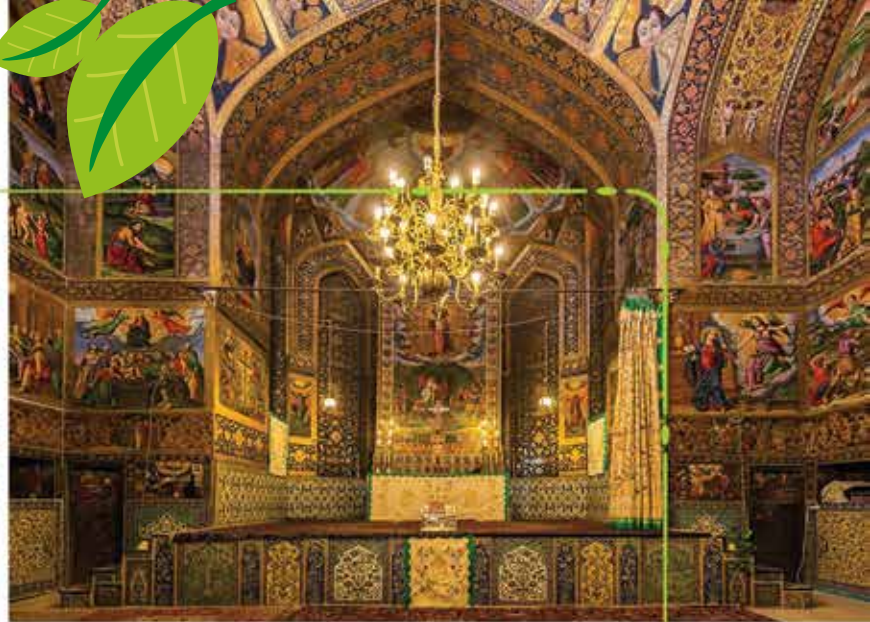
Naqsh-e Jahan Square (Imam Square)

People have traveled for years just to see this grand square or enjoy a ride in a horse-drawn carriage around it. The square is surrounded by historical buildings and shops selling traditional crafts. It's a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Around the square you'll find the Imam Mosque, Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, Ali Qapu Palace, and the Qeysarieh Gate.



Imam Mosque (Also Known as Jameh Abbasi Mosque)

This mosque is a shining example of Islamic architecture and is listed as both a national heritage site and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's also known by other names like Shah Mosque or Soltani Mosque. Located on the southern side of Naqsh-e Jahan Square, it has huge turquoise domes that have become symbols of Isfahan. It's built to perfectly face Mecca, and its massive central dome is designed to reflect sound clearly in all directions.



Chehel Sotoun

This palace dates back to the time of Shah Abbas I and Shah II. It stands in the middle of a large garden (67, square meters) and has three gates. Its main entrance faces an amazing pool that reflects the 20 columns of the palace's porch—making it look like there are forty (that's what "Chehel Sotoun" means in Persian).

Inside, you can see the Mirror Hall, the central throne room, side halls, beautiful wall paintings, and intricate tilework. The whole place is a masterpiece!

11

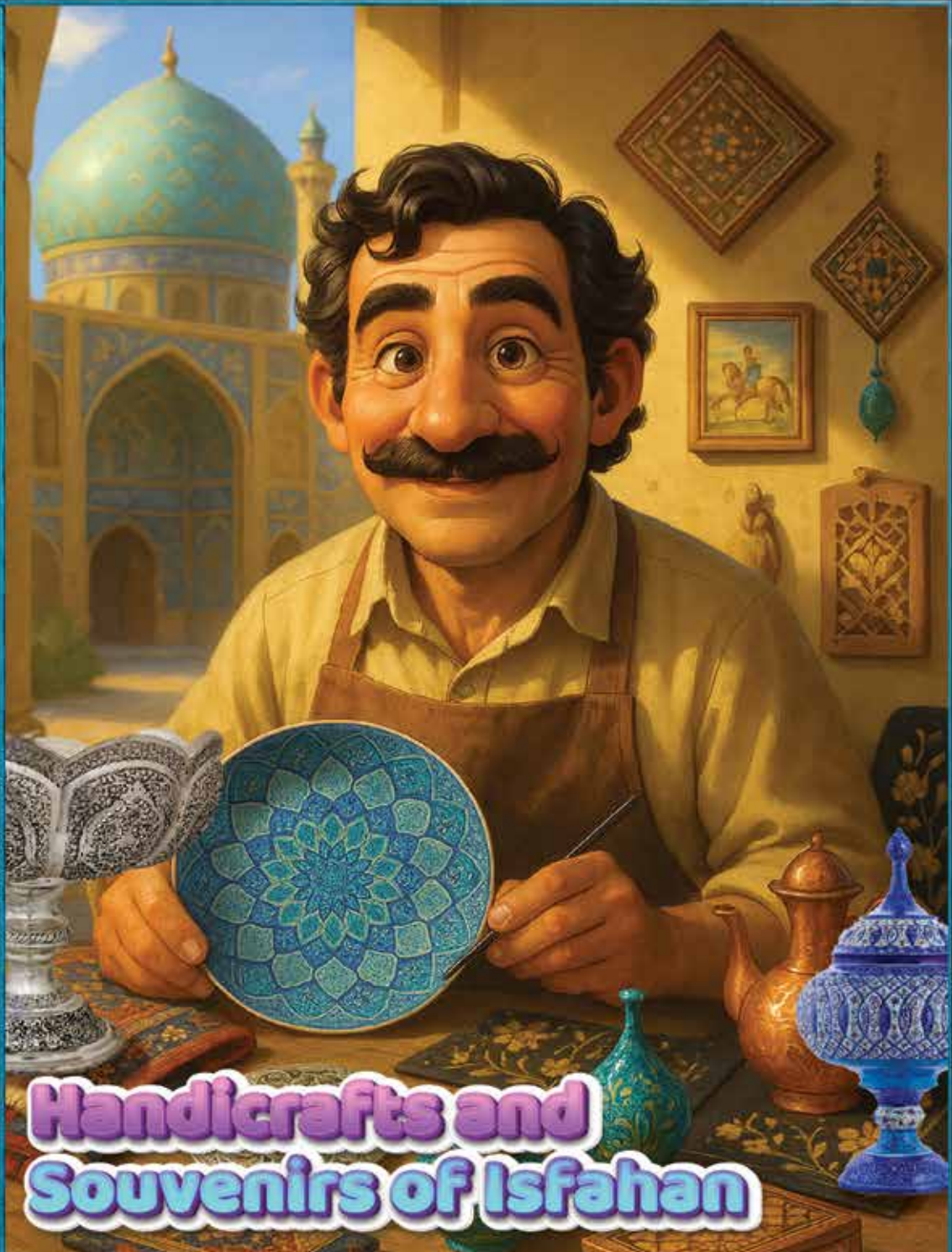
Historic Bridges of Isfahan

Many beautiful old bridges cross the Zayandeh River. Some were built centuries ago and are still standing strong. These include Khaju Bridge, Si-o-se-pol, Joui Bridge, Shahrestan Bridge, and Marnan Bridge. In the past, people crossed them on foot or horseback, and today they are favorite spots for walks and photos.

Historic Churches in Isfahan

A long time ago, during the Safavid era, Armenian people were allowed to live in the area of Jolfa in Isfahan. They built beautiful churches there, which today are both religious sites and tourist attractions. The most famous one is Vank Cathedral, which is located in the Jolfa neighborhood.





Handicrafts and Souvenirs of Isfahan

The historic city of Isfahan is one of the most artistic places in Iran. It's famous for its beautiful and unique traditional crafts, all made by local artisans with incredible care and creativity. Some of the most well-known crafts include carpet weaving (which can take months to complete!), metal engraving (Ghalamzani), marquetry (Khatamkari), miniature painting, copper work, enamel work (Minakari), turquoise inlay (Firoozeh Koobi), hand-printed fabrics (Ghalamkari), embroidery, leather bookbinding, calligraphy, wooden lattices, and silver filigree art. Artists in Isfahan have also mastered the art of tilework, plaster carving, wood inlay (Moarrag), and delicate miniature paintings that are often inspired by Persian poetry and nature scenes.

Visiting Isfahan isn't complete without exploring its colorful bazaars, filled with these amazing handmade pieces. Tourists from around the world love buying them as souvenirs because they're not only beautiful keepsakes, but also pieces of Iranian culture and history. Even a simple item like a hand-painted box or a detailed copper plate can be a wonderful gift for friends and family.

But that's not all—Isfahan also offers delicious edible souvenirs! Local sweets like Gaz (traditional Persian nougat), Polaki (thin sugar candies), Sohan (Persian brittle), honey Sohan, Jowz Ghandi (a sweet made from walnuts), delicate Kuraki cookies, Bereshtook (chickpea treats), Esfahan rock candy, and special fried dough sweets called Goush-e Fil are very popular. Many of them come in decorative packages that are beautiful enough to be souvenirs themselves! Among all, Jowz Ghandi stands out as the most unique and expensive sweet from Isfahan.

Whether you're into art, culture, or tasty treats, Isfahan's souvenirs offer a little bit of magic for everyone.



Delicious Local Foods of Isfahan



If you ever happen to visit Isfahan, you've got to try the local foods! No doubt, tasting the city's traditional dishes will be one of the yummiest and most memorable parts of your trip.



Let's start with Isfahan's most famous dish: "Beryouni" (or Beryani). It's made with flavorful lamb meat, onions, saffron, and a mix of amazing spices. It's usually served with a special kind of flatbread called Taftoon. And seriously, one bite and boom — that rich taste will blow you away!

But Beryouni isn't the only star of the show. Isfahan has lots of other mouthwatering traditional foods, like:

- **Haleem Bademjan:** a tasty mix of meat, eggplant, lentils, and spices.
- **Kabab Zardak (aka Mashtee Kebab):** a sweet home-made kebab made with meat and carrots.
- **Isfahan Yogurt Stew:** yup, a creamy and slightly sweet stew made with yogurt and meat — usually served at special events.
- **Eshkeneh:** a light soup with onions, eggs, and spices.
- **Sholeh Beryan with Cumin:** a thick stew spiced with cumin and meat.
- **Yakhmeh-Torsh:** a tangy and sour dish made with verjuice and meat.
- **And Sholeh Ghalamkar:** a thick, hearty soup full of beans and herbs!

In other words, when you're in Isfahan, be sure to go on a tasty food adventure!



Unique Culture and Traditions of Isfahan

Isfahan isn't just famous for its food — it's also known for breathtaking architecture, beautiful traditional arts, and unique customs that bring history to life.



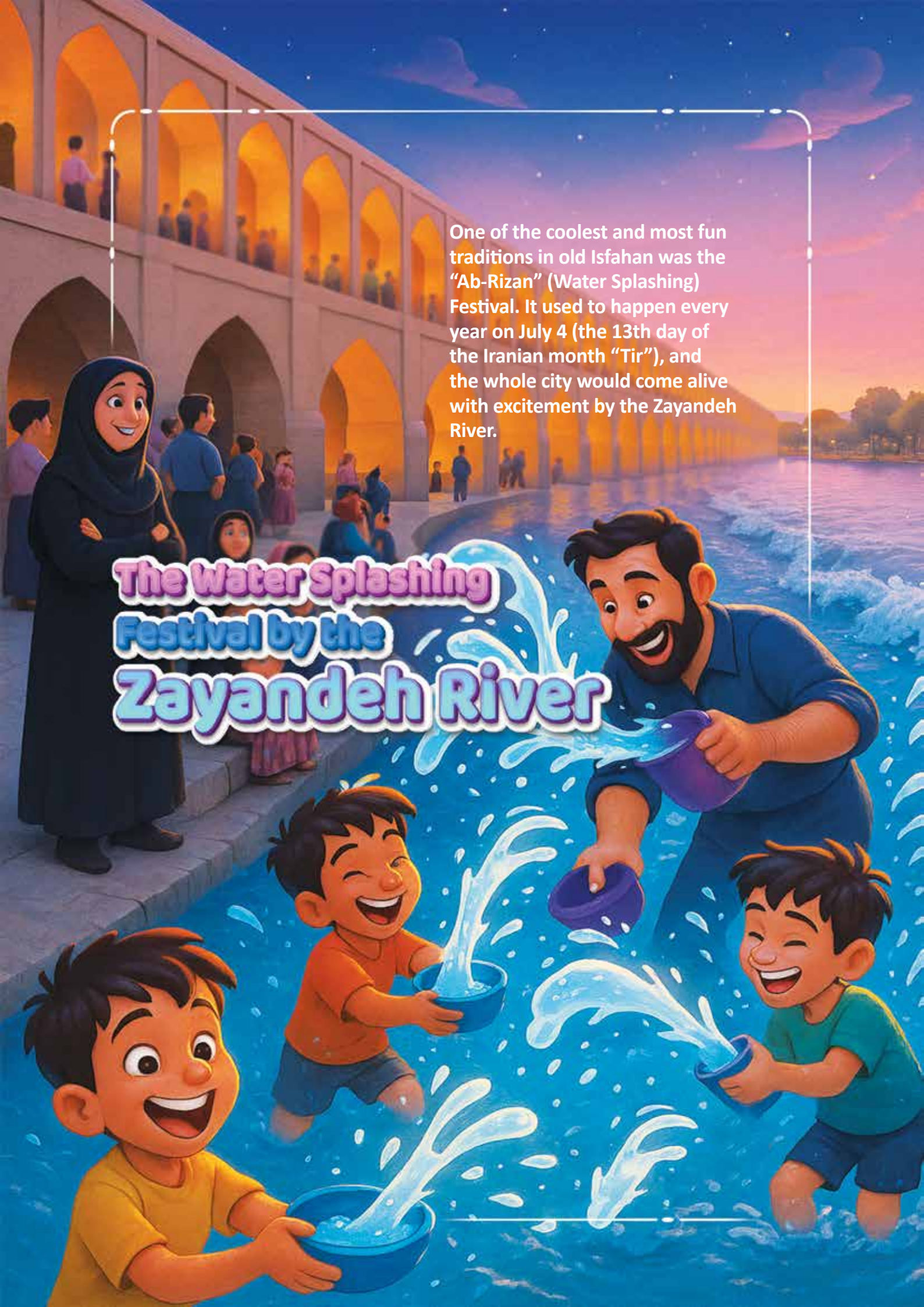
Traditional clothing in Isfahan is very colorful and full of character.

Women used to wear short velvet skirts with pretty embroidery, colorful blouses, and dark pants.

Men wore wide, roomy black pants, crisp white shirts, black vests, and soft woolen hats known as felt caps.

Super stylish — old-school style!



An illustration of the Ab-Rizan festival. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a blue shirt is splashing water from a purple pot. Three young boys are also splashing water with blue bowls. They are all smiling and having fun. In the background, a woman in a black hijab and a man in a blue shirt are watching. A large, multi-arched bridge is visible in the background, with people walking on it. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The water is a vibrant blue with white splashes.

One of the coolest and most fun traditions in old Isfahan was the “Ab-Rizan” (Water Splashing) Festival. It used to happen every year on July 4 (the 13th day of the Iranian month “Tir”), and the whole city would come alive with excitement by the Zayandeh River.

The Water Splashing Festival by the Zayandeh River

In this festival, women would stand on top of the bridges, watching the fun while men — wearing old clothes — would jump into the river and playfully splash water on each other with bowls. Imagine a giant water fight mixed with ancient tradition!

Even the king, Shah Abbas of the Safavid era, loved this celebration and used to attend the event with a royal parade! Just imagine — even the king joining the fun by the river!



Persian Gazelle

A Graceful Beauty in Danger!

20

Zamzam Magazine



The Persian gazelle, also known as the “goitered gazelle,” is a special kind of antelope that can only be found in certain parts of Central and Southwest Asia. Its coat is a light brown color that gets darker near the belly, while the lower part of its body is white and its tail is black.

This gazelle lives in places like the Gobi Desert, Pakistan’s Balochistan region, southeastern Turkey, northern Azerbaijan, and parts of Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Two of its most important homes in Iran are the Mooteh Wildlife Refuge in Isfahan and Bamu National Park near Shiraz.

One cool thing about the male Persian gazelle is that during mating season, the area under its throat swells and becomes puffed up—kind of like a balloon! That’s where the name “goitered gazelle” comes from.

Like other gazelles, the Persian gazelle can run really fast. But what sets it apart is that it doesn’t need to leap while running—it can just keep up a smooth, steady sprint!

In the past, the Persian cheetah was its biggest natural enemy. But unfortunately, cheetahs have become very rare and can now only be found in a few parts of Iran. Sadly, this beautiful runner is now in danger. Hunting, loss of habitat, and lack of food have all put the Persian gazelle at risk of extinction.



Donkey Cop

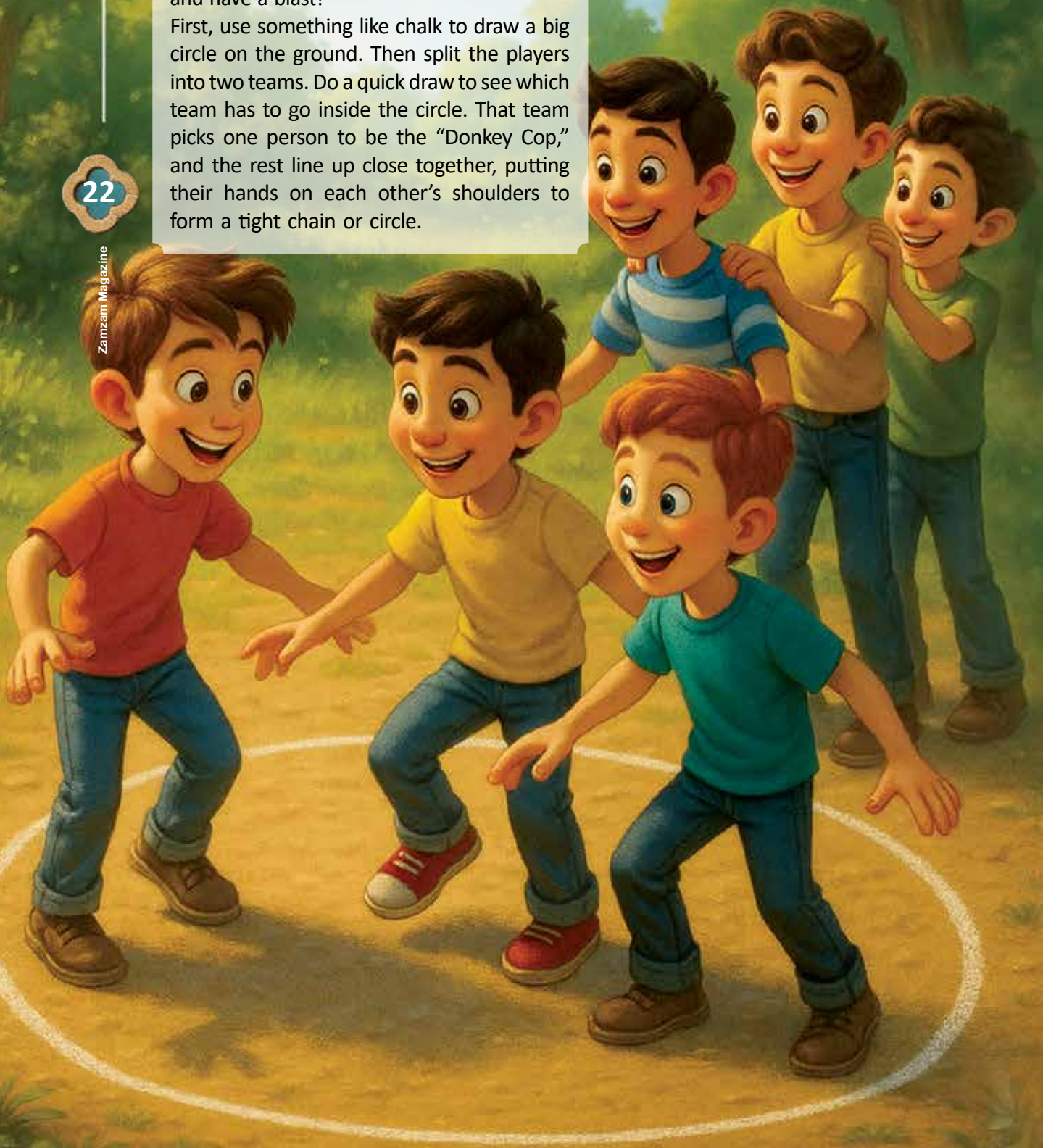
A Super Fun and Energetic Game!

Donkey Cop is a group game that needs at least 6 players. Get ready to laugh, run around, and have a blast!

First, use something like chalk to draw a big circle on the ground. Then split the players into two teams. Do a quick draw to see which team has to go inside the circle. That team picks one person to be the "Donkey Cop," and the rest line up close together, putting their hands on each other's shoulders to form a tight chain or circle.

22

Zamzam Magazine





Now it's the outside team's turn! They walk around the circle, looking for the perfect moment to jump and hop onto one of the "donkeys" (players from the inside team). But watch out! The Donkey Cop's job is to stop them by tagging their leg before they hop on. If the cop tags them, that rider is out, and it's the other team's turn. But if the rider makes it onto the donkey without getting tagged, then they're safe — for now! The cop can only tag them after they hop off again. Some sneaky riders might hop on and off really fast or suddenly jump off and run away like a ninja.

If any donkey gets too tired or falls down (that's called "the donkey falling asleep"), the game restarts from the beginning.

It's a hilarious and wild game that'll get your heart pumping and have everyone cracking up! If you're looking for a high-energy game to play with your friends, Donkey Cop is the perfect choice!

I love beautiful Isfahan

