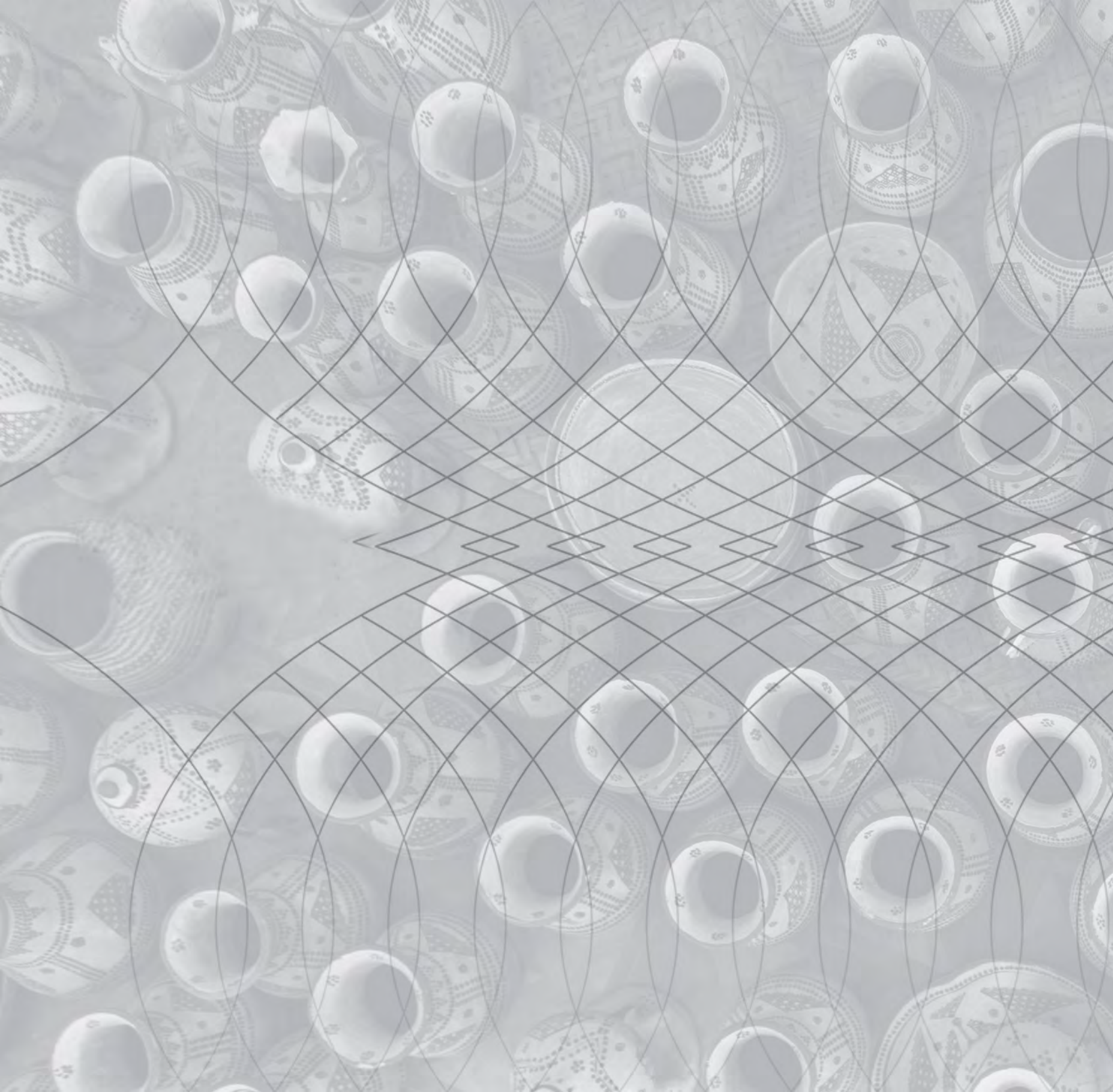





Cultural  
**Glimpses**  
of Iran *(Majestic Destinations  
from Cities to Villages)*







Traveling and exploring cities, villages, and islands with unique characteristics has always been highly appealing and exhilarating. Each of these places holds its own secrets and special stories, formed by their lush and captivating natural surroundings, as well as their rich histories and concealed cultures. From the southernmost to the northernmost and from the eastern to the western regions, Iran enjoys a complete tapestry that offers a distinctive opportunity to deeply immerse oneself in its beauty, ancient civilization, and to cherish unique features of Iranian culture and art.

Here, we introduce destinations that possess distinctive features or have earned recognition from international organizations, gaining global acclaim.



1

# Isfahan

## The World City of Handicrafts



Isfahan stands as a prominent center for tourism and handicrafts in Iran. Confidently, it is possible to claim that there's no city quite like Isfahan anywhere in the world, where all the cultural, artistic, and historical attractions get together in a single place. Isfahan serves as an artistic embodiment of the diversity and magnificence of Iran's unique handicrafts, showcasing their beauty and durability. Its distinct colors and fragrances, leaving a profound impact on its visitors, inviting all to embark on a spiritual journey transcending time and place.

While visiting Naghsh-e Jahan Square, you'll have the extraordinary opportunity to witness the artistic sensibilities of Isfahan's craftsmen in countless handicraft products featuring captivating colors and eye-catching designs, further enchanting you with its wonders.

Isfahan is also recognized as the first Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art in Iran by UNESCO. The diversity of Isfahan's art and handicrafts, with its unique array of products, presents a beautiful fusion of all that can be imagined – creations that bestow the light and vitality of life, stability, and serenity upon passersby.



Shiraz, renowned as the cradle of Persian poetry and literature, stands as a vital hub for cultural and artistic tourism in Iran, celebrated globally for its diverse array of unique handicrafts. When you purchase a piece of silverwork with an authenticity seal in Shiraz, you can be confident of its high silver content. Khatamkari in Shiraz is another art form where craftsmen form innovative patterns by creating symmetry in intricate geometric shapes and playing with triangles, resulting in exquisite masterpieces. The handwoven Qashqai rugs reflect the creativity of their weavers, as each weaver, drawing their own mind, crafts unique and abstract designs on the rugs.

## 2 Shiraz The World City of Handicrafts







3

# Tabriz

## The World City of Carpets



Few remain unfamiliar with the fame and reputation of Tabriz carpets; their beautiful designs alongside intricate weaving have garnered numerous admirers in Iran and round the world. Among the various handicrafts of Tabriz, handwoven textiles is of great reputation, leading Tabriz to be listed as a World City of Handicrafts. Tabriz carpet weavers employ a different knot type than the Persian knot. These carpets are not abandoned in warehouses or subjected to neglect.





# 4 Zanjan The World City of Filigree



Among the incredible diversity of Zanjan's handicrafts, filigree work has gained international acclaim due to its uniqueness. Witnessing the art of filigree in Zanjan, you can't help but admire the patience and artistic dedication required to spend hours shaping delicate threads and bands of gold, silver, and copper, employing skilled craftsmanship to create various Islamic patterns and traditional designs in various forms, resulting in masterpieces like candlesticks, vases, tea sets, chocolate dishes, picture frames, and various jewelry.



5

# Sirjan

## The World City of Kilim



In your journey through Iran, Sirjan serves as a destination for those keen on the ancient history and culture of this land. The village of Daristan in Sirjan is where most women weave a type of kilim known as “Shirki Pich,” which has gathered global recognition due to its unique features. The flow of unconscious thoughts in the weavers’ minds prompts patterns, compositions, and unique colors in each product to be non-repetitive, reflecting the artist’s thoughts and feelings about their surrounding environment.

These are just a few of the magnificent cities and regions in Iran, rich in culture and art, each boasting its unique handicrafts that have left an enduring mark on the world.





6

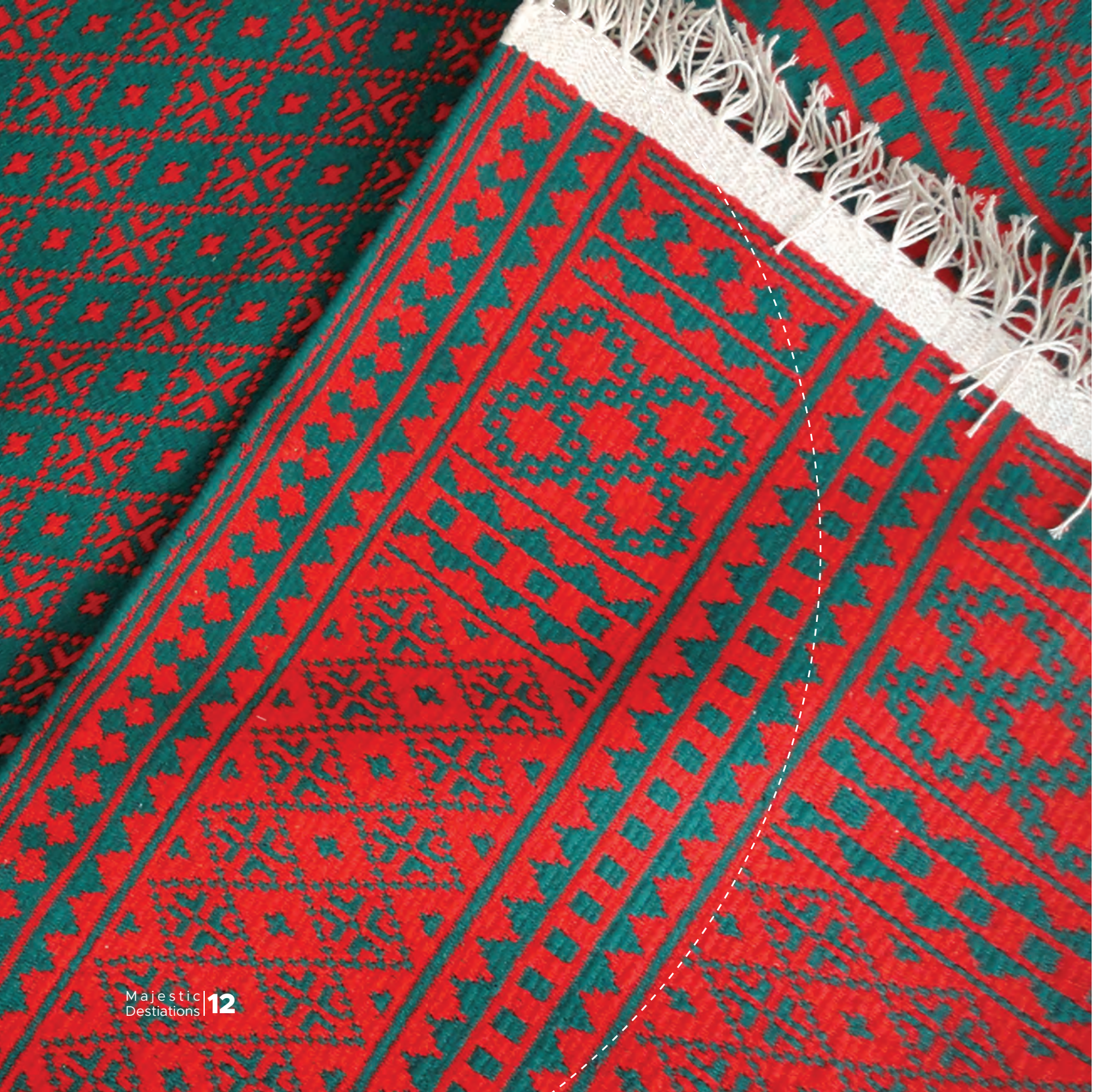
# Mashhad

## The World City of Gemstones



If you're searching for precious stones and exquisite jewelry, look no further than the city of Mashhad, renowned as the World City of Gemstones. It stands as the primary hub for discovering many of Iran's valuable gemstones. Most jewelry shops in Mashhad will leave you impressed with their diverse and vibrant selection of gemstones. Within the bustling markets of Mashhad, you'll encounter an abundance of agate stones adorned with religious inscriptions saying, on their spiritual power for those wearing them. Mashhad is a significant pilgrimage destination, and it's customary for travelers to carry gemstones like agate and turquoise, along with religious ornaments such as prayer beads and rings, as meaningful souvenirs.





7

# Meybod

The World

City of Zilou



Zilou, crafted by the skilled artisans of Meybod, typically takes the form of a round, exceptionally durable rug made from cotton fibers. Due to its, Zilou is often favored for cooling purposes during hot summers.

A remarkable feature of Zilou is the ability to weave entirely unique designs on both sides of the rug. Meybod proudly holds the title of the World City of Zilou, and a visit to the historic Zilou Museum in Meybod offers a delightful opportunity to witness some of the oldest and most exquisite Zilou rugs.





8

# Abadeh

## The World City of Woodcarving



In the city of Abadeh, master craftsmen skillfully carve intricate designs into hard woods using basic tools, following a deeply traditional and expert approach. This unique artistry has led to the city's registration as the World City of Woodcarving by the World Crafts Council. Abadeh offers the opportunity to witness the finest examples of woodcarving adorning jewelry boxes, sculptures, canes, and furniture. Carved wooden spoons from Abadeh are also popular with travelers seeking souvenirs.







9

# Marivan

## The World City of Klash Shoes



To truly appreciate the distinctiveness of Klash shoes, a visit to Marivan is a must, where you can try on these exceptional footwear creations. Klash shoes, crafted in the highlands of mountainous regions, have endured alongside hardworking people. What sets Klash apart from other shoes is the identical design of both the left and right sides, combined with their use of natural fibers, ensuring longevity and antibacterial properties. Marivan's recognition as a World City of Handicrafts is attributed to its Klash shoe production and the abundance of skilled craftsmen, earning international acclaim.



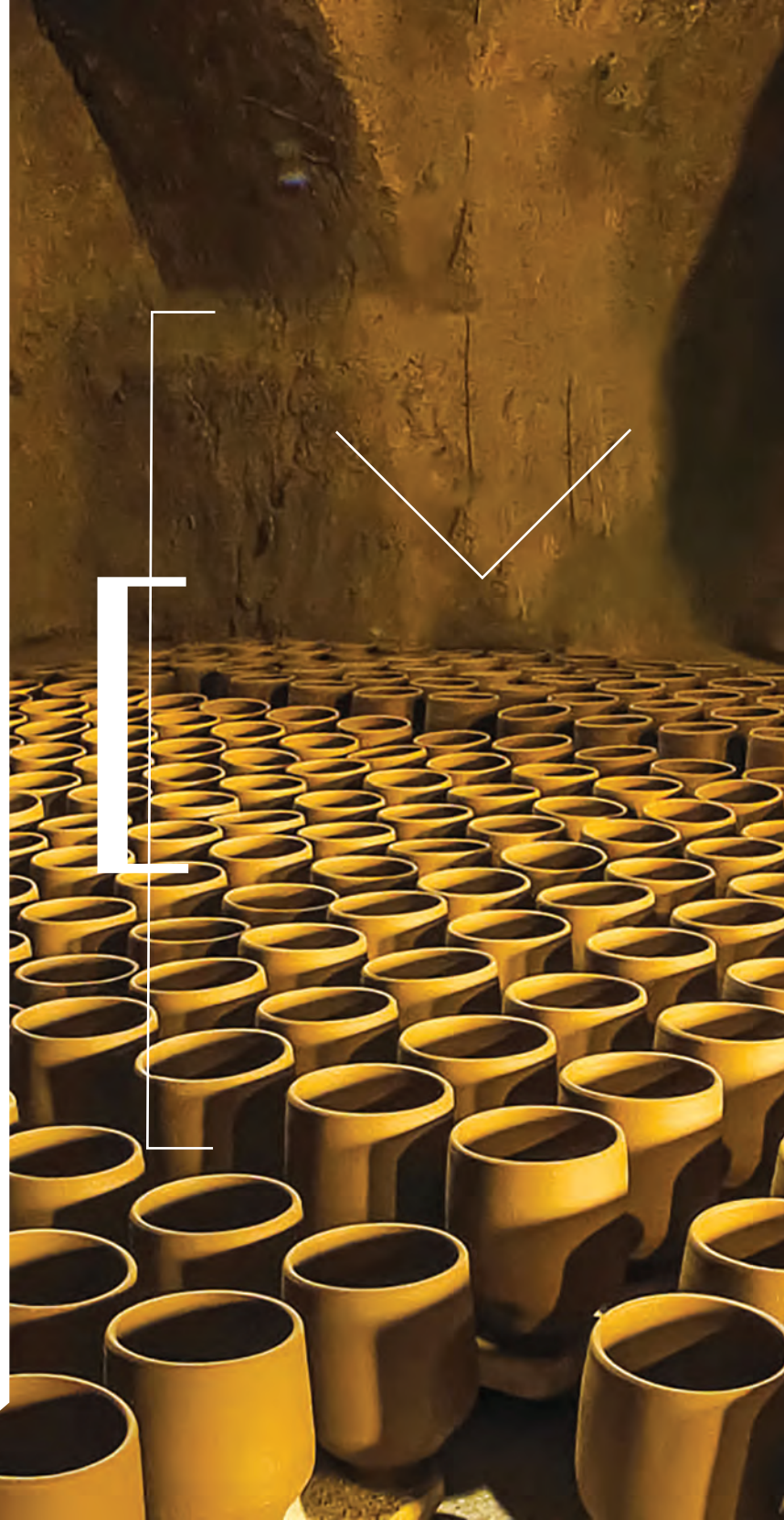
10

# Laljin

The World City of  
Pottery



Laljin though small in size, astounds tourists with its wealth of pottery and exceptional artisans. In this city, the art of pottery not only persists in the age of technology but grows beyond expectation. The streets and alleys of Laljin are filled with pottery workshops displaying marvelous artistic creations. Even a brief glimpse of the work produced here is sufficient to convey your admiration and respect for the artisans and their craft.



11

# Malayer

## The World City of Woodcarving



In this historic city, skilled artists craft exceptional and high-quality furniture with their ingenious techniques and creative ideas, earning global renown.

The precise strokes of master craftsmen give birth to pieces of wood, imparting diverse narratives and distinctive essence to each, adorned with historical tales and traditional patterns. The carved furniture of Malayer becomes a cultural and artistic heritage, showcasing the city's rich history and craftsmanship.

Anyone visiting this city needs only a brief glance at the produced works to declare their love and respect for the artists and their work of art.



12

# Dezful

## World Crafts City for Basket (Kapu) Weaving



In Dezful, skilled Khuzestani weavers create intricately woven straw baskets known as “Kapo” by deftly interlacing the young palm tree stems with reeds called “Kertak.” These Kapo baskets are not only sturdy but also boast beautiful colors, making them versatile for various purposes in daily life. Because Kertak plants are not appealing to animals or insects and are resistant to pests, the resulting woven products are highly durable and in great demand.

The patterns on Kapu are usually almond-shaped or triangular, inspired by the historical texture of the city of Dezful and its architecture. Depending on their size and shape, Kapus have various uses, such as jewelry boxes, fruit bowls, serving trays, bread baskets, and more. As a result, Kapo is entirely crafted from natural materials, and Dezful stands as the primary center for Kapo weaving.







13

# Kashan

## World Crafts City for Traditional Textile Weaving



If you have an interest in traditional textiles, it is highly recommended to visit Kashan to become acquainted with traditional weaving products from textile workshops closely. These fabric workshops still offer unique and unparalleled products. In fact, Kashan's handwoven textiles and its traditional dyeing techniques, evident in brocades, exquisite velvet, and the art of SherBafi, have their origins in the ancient and historic culture of this region.

One of the main reasons for inscribing Kashan as a national and subsequently a world city of traditional textile weaving is the exploration of the Silk Hills, where the discovered artifacts indicate the existence of early weaving in this region. According to inbound tourists and credible documents, textile weaving in Kashan reached its peak during the Seljuk period. The city fame in silk and gold in the 6th century even attracted Marco Polo, the Venetian traveler, to Kashan.







14

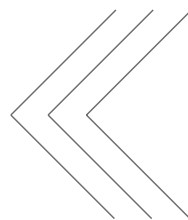
# Kharashad

## The World Village of Traditional Textiles



The village of Kharashad in South Khorasan refreshes the ancient art of traditional textile production. Observing the fascinating process is captivating, as they transform cotton, silk, or wool into threads, then boil and starch them for added thickness. Utilizing weaving looms, they craft towels and various delicate products. These appealing and lightweight items are considered excellent souvenirs to carry from your journey.





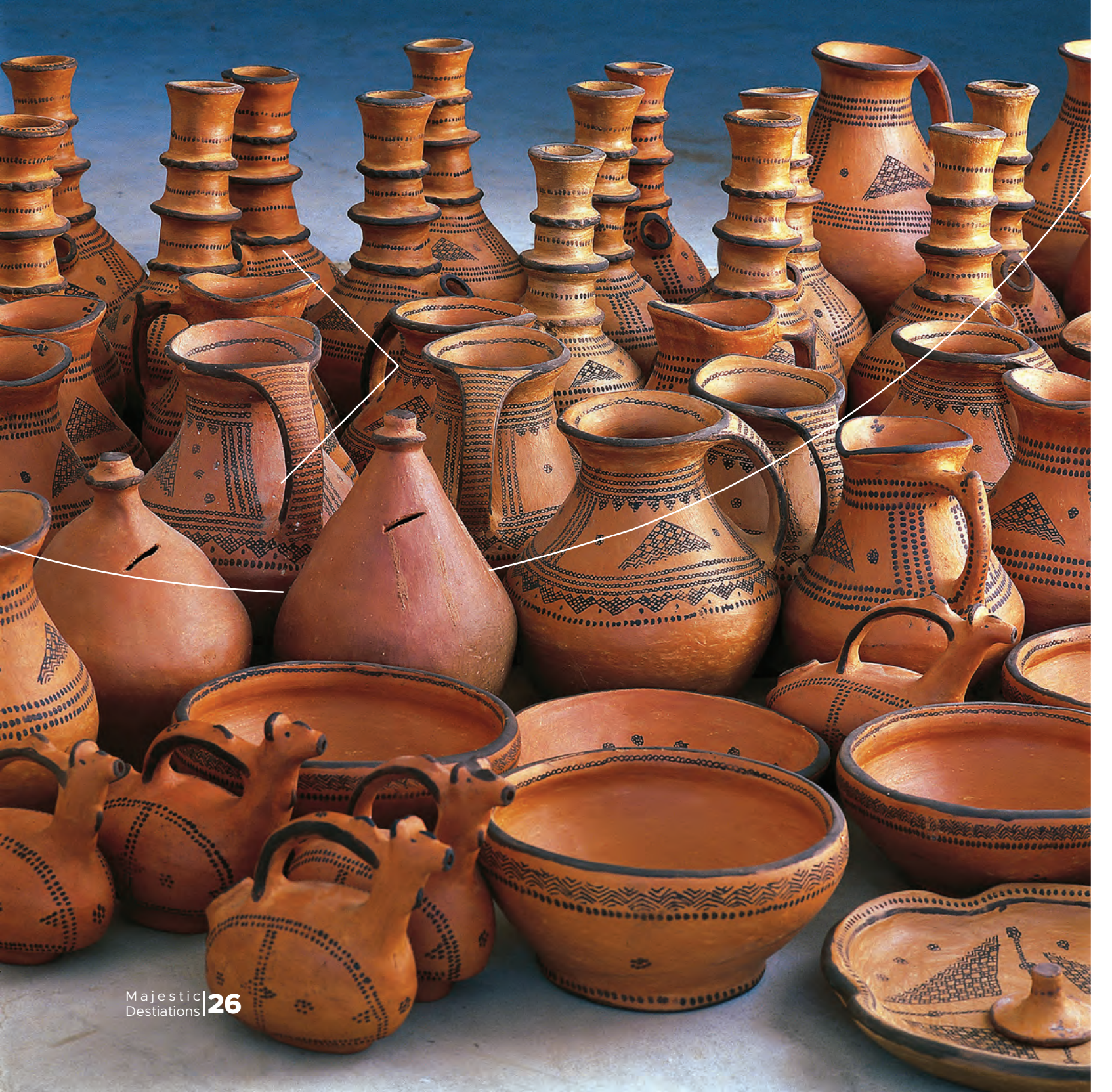
15

## Qasemabad The World Village of Chador-Shab Weaving



Talking to women of Qasemabad village in Gilan, often adorned in colorful clothing with pleated skirts, you'll be captivated by their vivid imagination in designing and weaving a fabric known as "Chador-Shab." These women create Chador-Shab without predefined patterns, drawing inspiration from nature. This handy fabric can be used in curtains, bedcovers, tablecloths, waistbands, and more.





16

## Kalpourgán The World Village of Pottery



The women of the Baloch village of Kalpourgán in Sistan and Baluchestan province seize your attention with their unique pottery-making style, employing entirely traditional and basic techniques. A visit to this village is similar to make a visit to a living pottery museum. Unlike common pottery-making methods, Kalpourgán pottery is embellished with patterns achieved by rubbing “Titoak” stone onto it, resulting in red pottery with distinct black designs, setting it apart from pottery in other Iranian regions.





17

## Bandar Abbas

The Creative Hub of Handicrafts  
and Indigenous Arts



Bandar Abbas has become a reserve for valuable handicrafts and indigenous arts. This city is not just an industrial port but a vibrant center for showcasing art and beauty in its finest forms. The lively presence of men wearing traditional attire, women strolling through alleys and bazaars adorned with leather accessories and vibrant clothing, doing traditional rituals in the city create an fascinating ambiance. Mourning ceremonies, prayer rituals, blacksmithing, storytelling, and henna applications to decorations, all these made the way to Bandar Abbas's cultural identity, making it a must-visit destination for travelers.









18

# Sanandaj

## The Creative Capital of Music



The Kurdish people represent one of Iran's ancient ethnic groups. Spending time with them will provide you with a chance to familiarize with their culture. You may even be invited to join in the “Hal-parke” dance while they sing delightful tunes. Sanandaj's recognition as a UNESCO Creative City of Music is attributed to the diverse array of traditional, sufi, epic, and warrior music. Renowned musicians have emerged from this region, nurtured in these musical gatherings.





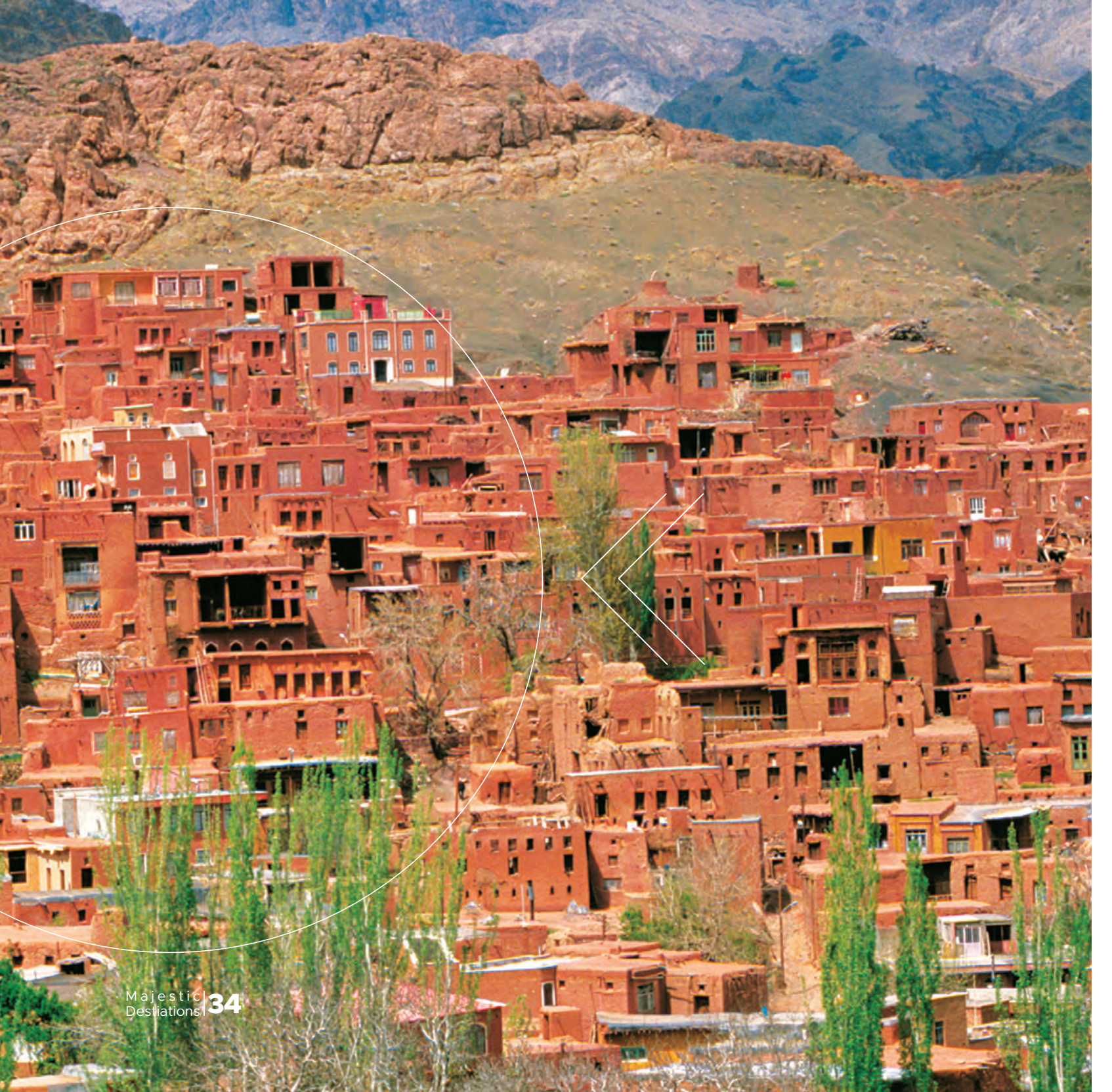
19

# Masouleh



As you cross the winding roads amidst the lush forest, you'll encounter rural houses perched upon one another. These are terraced houses that seem to have seamlessly melded into the mountains and forests, bathed in soft light and mist. The fragrant aromas from bakeries and pastry shops waft through the vibrant village, and ivans adorned with wooden railings and candle holders can be found throughout, providing visual delight. Masouleh also boasts a bustling market, making a visit well worth your while.





20

# Abiyane



A visit to Abiyaneh, also known as Viyuna, immediately reveals its unique character through the vibrant red color of its houses. The beautiful attire worn by the almost by all villagers, along with the distinct local dialect, preserved due to the village's remoteness from major roads and cities, .They are some of reasons that make Abiyaneh an enchanting destination for travelers.



21

# Kharanaq



Interested in locating the oldest and largest residential castles in Yazd province, Kharanaq in Ardakan county is an excellent choice. This village is divided into two parts, with only a few residents in the newer section, while the old historical part of the village lies uninhabited. Adjacent to the village's mosque, there's a breathtaking minaret. If luck is on your side, you may even spot wildlife such as foxes, goats, sheep, and deer in the protected area of Darre Injir, close to the village.



22

# Sar Agha Seyyed Village



Sar Agha Seyyed Village is an ideal destination to witness the nomadic Bakhtiari tribe's lifestyle, especially during the first six months of the year. Upon entering the picturesque hillside houses of this mountainous village, you'll be greeted by one of Iran's most beautiful landscapes, set amidst the lush Zagros Mountains. The authentic and traditional attire of the people, their unique customs, and the pristine, captivating nature all contribute to the village's distinctive charm. Climatic conditions, including mineral springs and the unique local climate, combined with the village's far-reaching location surrounded by the mountains, have enabled its inhabitants to grow various types of herbs and medicinal plants, each with its own therapeutic properties.









23

# Palangan



The stair-like architecture of Palangan, a mountain village in Kurdistan province, creates an exciting landscape where houses are built closely together, appearing as if they have climbed up the mountainside. In this style of architecture, one house's flat roof serves as the courtyard for the house above it.

This architectural design is common in regions of Iran where there is no flat land for house construction.



24

# Kang



If your travels take you to northeastern Iran, don't miss the opportunity to visit the highland village and mountainous area known as "Tariqeh" in Kang. The village's geographic features reflect the influence of various natural factors, including sloping terrain and the use of local materials such as stone and wood, promoting a sustainable rural lifestyle.

25

# Makhunik



A visit to the village of Makhunik will undoubtedly leave you in wonder of its unique architecture. The older residents of this village, were of short stature. Consequently, the roofs of houses in this village are very low, requiring visitors to bend entering the house. The petroglyphs near the Makhunik channel further confirm the ancient history of settlement in this region and bear witness to the enduring history of habitation in this area.







26

# Hormuz Island



Hormuz is one of Iran's southern islands situated in the Persian Gulf, renowned for its red soil and vibrant sediments, making it a top tourist destination in Iran. Tourists often refer to this rainbow-hued island as the "Paradise for Geologists."



27

# Lavan Island



Explore the remote and untouched Lavan Island to witness the pristine beauty of the open sea. Here, you can observe the nesting of hawksbill and green sea turtles from mid-February to early April. The best time to visit Lavan is during the second half of the Iranian year (October to March), particularly in the winter when the island enjoys mild and pleasant weather. If you have a fondness for seafood, you'll discover a variety of marine delicacies available on Lavan Island.



28

# Kish Island



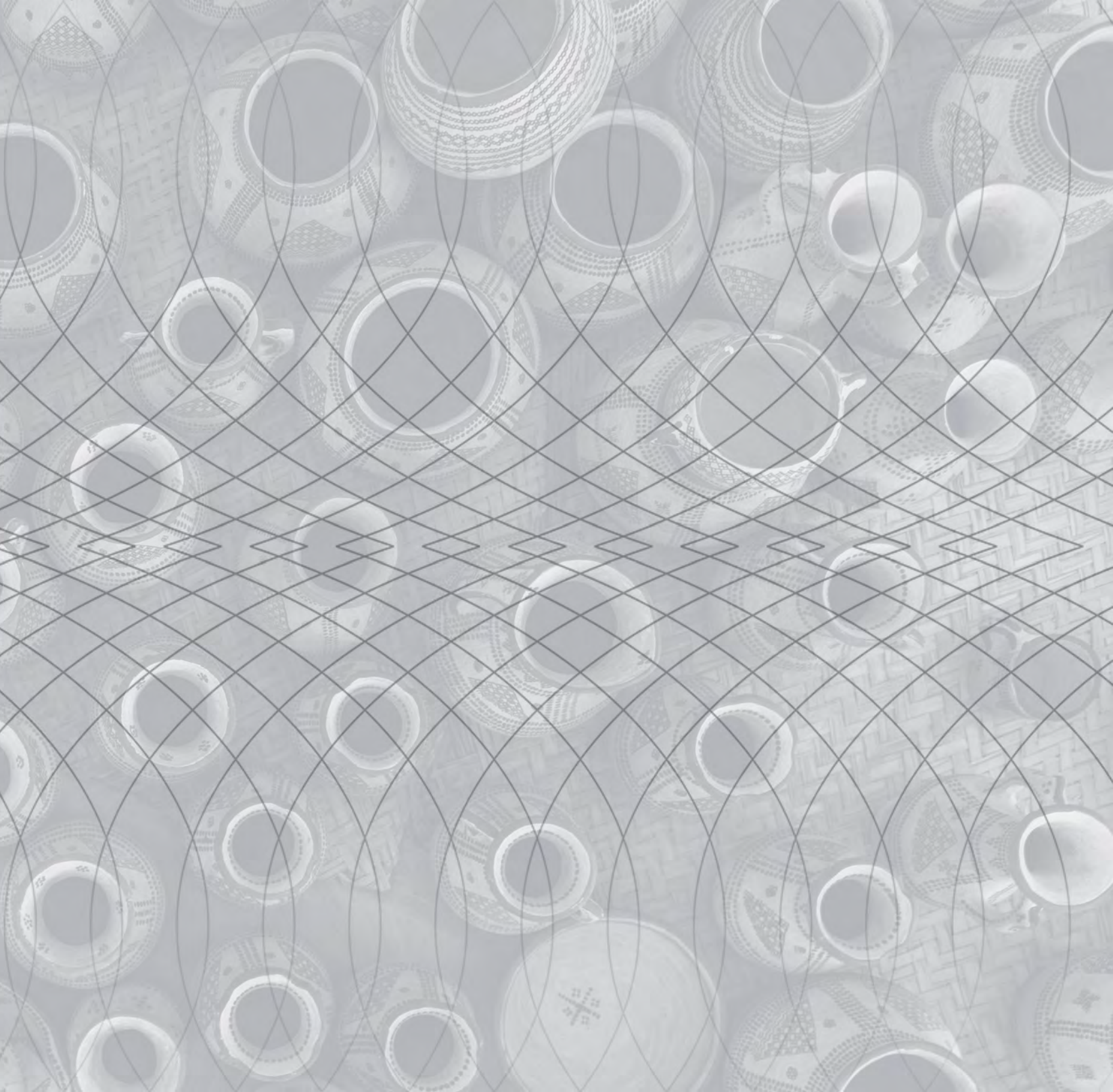
Kish Island offers serenity with its exceptional infrastructure and luxurious five-star hotels. You can partake in water sports, swimming, and diving along its coral beaches, or simply relax on its silver-sand shores. Kish Island boasts a distinctive feature—a network of underground aqueducts flowing beneath the salty waters of the Persian Gulf, providing freshwater. The remnants of an ancient water export platform from the north of the Persian Gulf to the south stand as a testament to the ingenuity and global significance of this Iranian island-city.











# IRAN

A Different Experience

