

VANK CHURCH

VANK CHURCH IS THE FIRST ARMENIAN RELIGIOUS SITE IN JOLFA DISTRICT

Isfahan Vank Church is an ancient Armenian Cathedral in Jolfa region. The Armenians built this church during the reign of Shah Abbas II. Jolfa is an old and vast region in Isfahan whose inhabitants are Armenians. Today, this Church, alongside Sheikh Lotfolah Mosque, Jame Mosque, and Imam Mosque, is one of the most famous religious tourist attractions .

At the time of Shah Abbas I, the lands of Tabriz to the Caucasus were colonies of the Ottoman Empire. Shah Abbas moved his army from Isfahan to Yerevan to reclaim these lands in 1603. In Yerevan, he conquered his enemies and occupied that area for seven months. Afterwards, Shah Abbas, not interested in any more clashes with the enemy's army, did not keep pace and chose the withdrawal to Iran.

On the way back, he decided to bring with him the Armenians who lived in the cities and villages that were on their way. Then, he destroyed all their homes, farms, and other belongings, and burned them to slow the Ottoman troops following them. Then, Shah Abbas accompanied the Armenians with his army to the Jolfa district.

After the Armenians settled in the Jolfa, they carried out cultural, social, economic, and religious activities to create their community. Building religious sites was one of their primary measures. They founded 13 churches, and one of them was Vank Church .

Today, Isfahan Vank Church has various sections including a museum, a library, administrative buildings etc. The material used in the building is raw clay while most Armenian churches were made of stones. This historic monument has an area of 4,000 square meters, which is located in an area of nearly 9,000 square meters of the Vank Gardens.

There is also a small dome as well as a big one on this church. It is interesting to know that the domes of this church are similar to the domes of Iranian mosques, while most Armenian churches have conical domes.

There are paintings of the Bible stories on the walls of the church .

You can see very beautiful paintings of the Armenian artists on the walls of this holy place. The paintings of the birth of Christ, the Day of Judgment and Resurrection, Heaven and Hell are among the most important ones.





