WHV – We Stand for Heritage

Meidan Emam, Esfahan, Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List since 1979

Built by Shah Abbas I the Great at the beginning of the 17th century, and bordered on all sides by monumental buildings linked by a series of two-storeyed arcades, the site is known for the Royal Mosque, the Mosque of Sheykh Lotfollah, the magnificent Portico of Qaysariyyeh and the 15th-century Timurid palace. They are an impressive testimony to the level of social and cultural life in Persia during the Safavid era.

**Project objectives:**

Being implemented for the first time, the project is a part of the organizations’ efforts to run WHV actions at different properties since 2016 to raise awareness about the heritage and cultural assets of Iran and to promote participatory conservation efforts at the local level. It aims at increasing the sense of belonging among local volunteers and stakeholders, and promoting the tangible and intangible heritage of Isfahan.

**Project activities:**

The volunteers will learn about the unique cultural heritage and diversity of Meidan Emam through visits, presentations and workshops with the local community and experts, while at the same time raising awareness about importance of voluntary service for heritage preservation. They will also participate in the cleaning of the Safavid wall tiles at designated areas of the square, learning specific techniques under the supervision of the site authorities.

**Partners:**

Iran World Heritage Committee, Cultural Heritage Ministry, Naqsh e Jahan Square WHS office, Isfahan Municipality.

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