

# ABOUT ISLAMIC GARDENS

A REFLECTION AND FORETASTE OF THE GARDENS OF PARADISE

**THE HISTORY OF THE ISLAMIC GARDEN REFLECTS THE COMPLEX AND SOPHISTICATED HISTORY OF ISLAM. THE NEED FOR WATER AND SHADE 'OASIS' IN A DESERT LANDSCAPE COMBINES WITH THE PERSIAN HERITAGE OF FORMAL IRRIGATION FOR AGRICULTURE, ENCLOSED HUNTING PARKS AND PLEASURE GARDENS 'PAIRIDEZA'.**

Islamic gardens come in every size, from the smallest internal courtyard of private houses to great marvels of garden architecture. Some gardens are attached to palaces, for example the Shalimar Gardens in Pakistan or the Generalife in Spain. Others are tomb gardens large or small such as the Taj Mahal or the tomb garden of the poet Hafez in Shiraz, Iran. Gardens are often made in the central courtyards of traditional buildings such as caravanserais, mosques and madrasas.

Whatever their shape or location, Islamic gardens are famous for their order and geometry, their close relationship with architecture, their abundance of blossoming and shade giving trees and a profusion of shrubs.

Green is the colour of Islam. With water at their heart, the gardens can be green even in the harshest climate.

Taj Mahal, India



Hafez Tomb Garden, Shiraz



Shalimar, Pakistan



**'...the God-fearing shall be amongst gardens and fountains'**

**Qur'an, Ch 15:45**

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