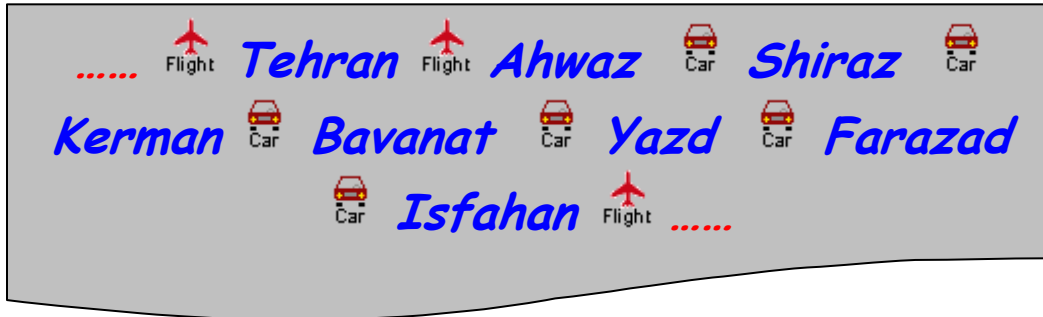




ZIGURAT OF SUSA + DESERT

(17Days/16Nts)



Day 1: ... - Tehran

To visit Iran is a unique experience, the experience of being in the cradle of a civilization and culture that has had and continues to have its impact on the world for more than 2500 years of written history.

The next night arrive in Tehran, meeting the Tour leader of *Iran Sebt tour* at the **IKA Int. Airport** and transfer to the Hotel/ overnight in **Hotel**.

Day 2: Tehran-Ahvaz

Archaeological Museum: the tourist catches a glimpse of Iranian art and culture through the ages. Prehistory and history merge in Iran: the dazzling sense of scale at Persepolis anticipated in these very early works of decorated pottery.

Glassware & Ceramic Museum: the articles on display are divided into five categories, each in one gallery:

Enamel Gallery II - I millennia BC Museum

Crystal Gallery

Nacre Gallery (IX - XIII cent. AD)

Gold Gallery (IX - XIII cent. AD)

Lapis-lazuli Gallery (XII - XIX cent.)

Break for Lunch (Naahaar): traditional Persian cooking done in stages, at time needing hours of preparation and attention.

Major staples of Iranian food that are usually eaten with every meal include rice, various herbs, cheese, a variety of flat breads and some type of meat. Tea (chai) is a drinking of choice on nearly every occasion.

After lunch visit the:

Carpet Museum: the art of carpet weaving is probably as old as the Iranian history itself. Here you can see carpets from as far back as 15th century to the present time.

In the afternoon, we will transfer to Mehr-Abad Airport for flight to **Ahwaz**. Overnight in Hotel.

Day 3: Ahwaz - Susa - Chogha-zanbil - Ahwaz

After breakfast drive to **Susa** (116km north of Ahwaz); pay a visit to the Ancient City of Susa and **the Ziggurat of Chogha-Zanbil**, the best surviving example of **Elamite** architecture anywhere and one of the most memorable sites in Iran (**UNESCO World Heritage Site**). Drive back to **Ahwaz**. O/N in Hotel.

Day 4: Ahwaz - Shiraz

Drive to **Shiraz**, en route lies the remains of "**Bishapur**" constructed by the second Sassanian Emperor, Shapur, following his victories over three Roman emperors. Visit **Bishapur** and **Tange Chogan**. Drive on to Shiraz. O/N in Hotel.

Day 5: Shiraz

Have breakfast. F/D excursion to **Persepolis**, the Ceremonial Capital of Achaemenian Empire, which was constructed by Darius I (512 BC) (**UNESCO World Heritage site**), followed by a visit to the nearby **Naqsh-e-Rostam** with its tombs of four Achaemenian Kings and Bas-reliefs of Sassanian Kings. Drive 70 k/m north to **Pasargadae**, the first capital of the Persian Empire. Visit the tomb and Palaces of **Cyrus the Great**, the founder of the Persian Empire. (**UNESCO World Heritage Site**). Return to Shiraz. O/N in Hotel.

Day 6: Shiraz

CSS of **Shiraz** including, The **Karimkhani citadel**, tomb of **Hafez** (the famous Persian Poet - 12 cent. AD), **Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque** and the **Old Town Bazaar**. O/N in Hotel.

Day 7: Shiraz -Kerman

Drive to Kerman en route visiting **Sarvestan Palace** and the "**Jame" Mosque of Neyriz**" (Friday Mosque). Arrive to **Kerman** and overnight in **Hotel**.

Day 8: Kerman

Full-day excursion to Rayen **Citadel and Mahan**. In Mahan visit the mausoleum of **Shah-Nematollah-Vali** and the **Bagh-e-Shazdeh** (The Prince's Garden). In the afternoon, return to Kerman. O/N in Hotel.

Day 9: Kerman - Bavanat

Drive to Bavanat, a magnificent town with beautiful farms and nature. Such suitable area for trekking and visiting some nomad tribes. Everything here is traditional and typical, such as traditional houses, costumes and typical cuisine. O/N in Traditional house.

Day 10: Bavanat - Yazd

Drive to Yazd. **Yazd** is a microcosm of dilemmas and arts, the social and religious harmonies that invigorate Iran. Zoroastrians have always been populous in Yazd. The architecture of Yazd is unique, combining a proliferation of graceful wind-catchers (baad-gins) and adobe-type architecture of central and southern Iran. In the afternoon visit **the Tower of Silence**. O/N in Hotel.

Day 11: Yazd

F/D sightseeing of **Yazd**, visiting the **Friday Mosque**, sightseeing tour of **an old district** of Yazd, **Zoroastrian Fire Temple**, **Dowlat-Abad Gardens**, **Mir-chakhmaq Square** and the old town **Bazaar**. O/N in Hotel.

Day 12: Yazd - Farazad (Dashte - Kavir)

Departure to the village of **Farah-Zad**, the last green rural settlement in **Dasht-e Kavir**. Delicious dinner, typical -locale. Overnight in a pleasant " traditional house ".

Day 13: Farazad (Dashte - Kavir)

Breakfast and excursion in the desert with the off-road. You visit the village of **Mesr** (meaning Egypt). This name comes from its founder, a shepherd named Yusef or Joseph that is compared to the history of the prophet Yusuf and the Pharaoh, episode of the Bible and from this the name of the Village: **Mesr**.

Here are the channels of water underground (the **Qanat**) on two floors with a depth of 50 meters for several kilometers in length. The hills are picturesque and made of sand dunes; you can wander in the desert. You eat the delicious dishes. Continue visiting small villages ` But interesting as **Arusan**, **Kure-gaz**, and **Amir-Abad**. Dinner, and overnight in local house.

Day 14: Farahzad (Dasht-e Kavir) - Isfahan

Breakfast and departure for Isfahan, cross the desert again, spectacular and virgin, to get to another guild gem of the **Dasht-e Kavir**, **Anarak** you visit the fort. The rural settlement, is done with particular architecture, bio-climatic. It was built with materials of earth, straw and wood, using solar energy to bake bricks. Like that of **Ciupanan**, on the way Continuing the journey, You visit **Naein**, the city and the historical center of art, carpets, ceramics. You visit the old town, **the mosque Jame` the X sec.**, **The Old Bazaar**, **the Ethnology Museum**, which is located in a characteristic Renaissance house. Lunch Naein, Arrival to Isfahan overnight at Hotel.

Day 15: Isfahan

Isfahan or Nesf-e-Jahan (Isfahan is half the world), which the Isfahanis coined in the 16th century to express the city's grandeur. Full day CSS of **Isfahan**, visiting **Chehel-Sotun Palace** and **Hasht-Behesht palace** the **Ancient Friday Mosque**(indeed an encyclopedia of Iranian mosque architecture from 9th century up to the present). Lunch at Shahrzad restaurant. In the afternoon, will have the opportunity to explore the Main Square and the Great Bazaar of Esfahan. Overnight in Hotel.

Day 16: Isfahan

F/D CSS of Esfahan. Visit the famous **Historical Bridges** of Isfahan followed by a visit to the **Armenian Quarter** and **Vank Cathedral** with lunch at a local restaurant. After Lunch visit **Naqsh-e-Jahan Square(UNESCO World Heritage Site)**. This huge open square measures 500 m. by 165 m. Many of the most interesting sights in Isfahan are clustered around the square: **Imam Mosque** is one of the finest and the most stunning buildings in the world with a majesty and splendor that places it among the world's greatest buildings adorns the southern part of the square; **Sheikh-Lotfollah** is the most beautiful religious

building wherein the elaborate design serves to heighten the visitor's spirituality rather than to distract him for it. **Ali-Qapu Palace** sits opposite **Sheikh-Lotfollah Mosque** from whose balcony the Safavid Monarch would watch polo games or state processions. Overnight in Hotel.

Day 17: Isfahan - ...

Drive to Isfahan Int. Airport and departure for Paris.

HAVE A NICE TRIP!

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