

8 Days

Day 1: Shiraz, the city of "Roses and Nightingales". Meet and greet at 12:00. Our tour starts at 12:30, we'll spend the afternoon visiting one of the main highlights of the city; the Vakil Complex, including the bustling Bazaar, where we'll explore the wonderful displays of exotic spices, nuts, fruits, and carpets. In the evening we'll visit the glittering Shah Cheragh Shrine before heading off to a traditional dinner to savour some delectable Sirazi delights.

Overnight: Shiraz

Accommodation: Homa Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Day 2: We have an early start to visit the Nasir Al-Mulk Mosque during the morning hours to catch the glorious reflection of light through the coloured glass windows. Then we'll visit Narenjestan Palace and the Karim Khan Citadel before heading off to the beautiful Eram gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to stroll through its water gardens, orange blossoms and pomegranate trees. In the evening we'll visit the tomb of the Persian mystical poet Hafez and have a special home cooked dinner with a local family.

Overnight: Shiraz

Accommodation: Homa Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Day 3: Today we take an early morning drive to Isfahan. En route, we'll visit magnificent Persepolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire before moving on to Naqsh-e Rostam, a spectacular complex of artworks and rock tombs of 4 Achaemenid kings, dating back to the first millennium BC. Then we'll make our way to Pasargadae, to visit the tomb of Cyrus the Great, the founder of the Achaemenid Empire and one of the most important figures in ancient Persian history. We'll have lunch at a very rustic, traditional cottage, where we'll be treated to delicious organic food, and have the chance to experience a traditional way of life, watch performances of local music and even join in the ancient art of carpet weaving. Continue driving to Isfahan.

Overnight: Isfahan

Accommodation: Kowsar Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Travel Times:

Shiraz – Persepolis/Naqsh-e Rostam: 1 hour

Naqsh-e Rostam – Pasargadae: 57 minutes

Pasargadae – Isfahan: 4 hours 11 minutes

Day 4: Enjoy a full day in the fascinating city of Isfahan. Highlights include Naqsh-e Jahan Square, once used for royal gatherings and polo

playing, today it's a UNESCO World Heritage Site, then we're off to Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque and Shah Mosque, as well as the beautiful palaces of Ali Qapu and Chehel Sotoun. You'll also have time to browse the bazaars to pick up souvenirs and try the delicious local delights on offer from its many food stalls.

Overnight: Isfahan

Accommodation: Kowsar Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Day 5: Today we head off to the Armenian Quarter, where we'll visit the 12th century Jam'e Mosque and Armenian Vank Cathedral with its stunning frescos and gilded carvings, before stopping at one of the areas famous cafes. In the evening we'll take a walk along the historical bridges Kajou and Sio-Se Pol where locals gather to drink tea, sing folk songs and watch the world go by.

Overnight: Isfahan

Accommodation: Kowsar Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Day 6: Heading to Tehran via the city of Kashan. Stopping in Kashan, we'll see the beauty of Persian architecture at Boroujerdi House and Tabatabaie House. Later we'll visit the ancient Sialk Ziggurt, before heading off to another UNESCO World Heritage Site, Fin Garden, where we'll walk among trickling fountains and 500 year old cedar trees. Continuing on to Tehran.

Overnight: Tehran

Accommodation: Azadi Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Travel Times:

Isfahan – Kashan: 2 hours 30 minutes

Kashan – Tehran: 2 hours 50 minutes

Day 7: Enjoy a full day in Tehran, we visit Golestan Palace – a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Grand Bazaar, and the Crown Jewels Museum, home to a dazzling collection of jewels amassed throughout history by the kings of Persia. Then we'll head over to the National Museum or the Carpet Museum, where you can see first-hand the exquisite beauty of Persian carpets. On our last evening in Iran we'll visit Tabiat Bridge, the perfect place to enjoy the stunning lights and views over the city and mountains.

Overnight: Tehran

Accommodation: Azadi Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Day 8: Transfer to IKA Tehran Airport.

Note: Itinerary is subject to change slightly depending on seasons, schedule and opening times.