

10 Days

Day 1: Tehran. Meet and greet at 17:00 in the hotel. Then we're off to explore the cool and green Darband Mountain area, dotted with traditional restaurants, where we'll have dinner amidst an incredibly scenic, outdoor setting of fresh mountains and waterfalls.

Overnight: Tehran

Accommodation: Azadi Hotel – or similar

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: On the second day in Tehran we'll visit the magnificent Golestan Palace – a UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 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 Grand Bazaar to see the wonderful displays of exotic spices, nuts, and fruits. Before our evening flight to Shiraz.

Overnight: Shiraz

Accommodation: Homa Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Travel Times:

Flight Tehran – Shiraz: 1 hour 20 minutes

Day 3: We start the day by visiting the highlights of Shiraz, the colourful Nasir Al-Mulk Mosque, Naranjestan Palace and the bustling Vakil Bazaar, where you can sample famous Shirazi delicacies. Then we'll off to see the tomb of Hafez, the Persian mystical poet, before visiting the beautiful Eram Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to take a stroll through its heady orange blossoms and pomegranate trees. This evening, we'll visit the glittering Shah Cheragh Shrine before being treated to a special home cooked dinner with a local family.

Overnight: Shiraz

Accommodation: Homa Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Day 4: The fourth day is spent travelling to the desert town of Yazd, stopping off along the way at Persepolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire before moving on to Naqsh-e Rostom, a spectacular complex of artworks and rock tombs of 4 Achaemenid kings, dating back to the first millennium BC. Then we'll move on to Pasargadae, where we'll 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 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 Yazd.

Overnight: Yazd

Accommodation: Moshir al Mamalak hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Travel Times:

Shiraz – Pasargadae: 1 hour 45 minutes

Pasargadae – Yazd: 3 hours 56 minutes

Day 5: Yazd is home to the Zoroastrian religion, so we'll see The Towers of Silence, the atmospheric burial ground, and a Zoroastrian Fire Temple with a sacred flame which has been burning for thousands of years. We'll also explore Amir Chakhmaq Square, the Yazd Jam'e Mosque and the winding streets of the old neighbourhood before taking an afternoon break in the UNESCO protected Dowlat Abad gardens. In the evening we'll visit a 'Zurkhaneh' – or House of Strength, to watch an ancient sporting ritual which fuses spiritual elements of Zoroastrianism, Shia Islam and Sufism.

Overnight: Yazd

Accommodation: Moshir al Mamalak hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Day 6: The following day we move on again, with an early morning drive to the glorious city of Isfahan via Meybod to see the mud-brick Narein Castle, Pigeon Tower and the Caravanserai, a 16th century roadside inn that once provided respite for weary travellers and camels along the Silk Road. Here, we'll have lunch within the old niches of the Caravanserai. Then we'll continue on to Nain, famed for high-quality carpets and textiles, here we'll visit the Jam'e Mosque, and the beautiful Pirnia House and Ethnography Museum.

Overnight: Isfahan

Accommodation: Kowsar Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Travel Times:

Yazd – Meybod: 54 minutes

Meybod – Nain: 1 hour 27 minutes

Nain – Isfahan: 1 hour 53 minutes

Day 7: After a comfortable sleep in the Kowsar Hotel, it's time to explore Isfahan, known as 'nisf jahan' or half the world, due to its illustrious history and beauty. We'll start in the majestic 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 the trio of beautiful palaces Ali Qapu, Chehel Sotoun and Hasht Behesht.

Overnight: Isfahan

Accommodation: Kowsar Hotel – or similar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Day 8: In the morning we'll head off to take in the heady sights and smells of the Bazaar. Then we'll make our way to the Armenian Quarter and stop at one of its famous cafes before continue on to see the Jam'e Mosque and the 15th century Vank Cathedral with its stunning frescos and gilded carvings. 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 9: Heading to Tehran via the city of Kashan. Stopping in Kashan, we'll see the beauty of Iranian architecture at the impressive Boroujerdi House and Tabatabaie House. Later we'll visit the another UNESCO World Heritage Site, Fin Garden, where we'll walk among trickling fountains and 500 year old cedar trees. Continue driving to Tehran to enjoy a delightful, Persian farewell dinner on our last night in Iran.

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 10: Transfer to IKA Tehran Airport

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