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## **IRAN**

### **Iran West Tour**

**Anzali, Masouleh, Ardabil, Sarein, Tabriz, Kandovan, Sanandaj,  
Kermanshah, Hamedan, Tehran**  
**14-Day Itinerary**



**Gateway into Iran**  
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### **Day 1 – Arrive in Tehran**

Welcome to Persia, a piece of paradise in the Middle East. Welcome to Iran.

### **Day 2 – Anzali**

Our first destination will be the north of Iran to see Anzali, a city in a region which consists of rice fields, farms, fruit gardens, and forests on one side, with the Caspian Sea on the other side. This city is known worldwide for producing sturgeon caviar. We will visit a famous lagoon, then take a boat to explore and see the beauty of the area including wild horses, buffalo and different kinds of birds. If you come to Iran during the summer you can enjoy beautiful lotus flowers. There are great photographic opportunities as well, so that all of the beauties can be captured in pictures forever. Anzali also has many places to offer us as well.

### **Day 3 – Masouleh**

In the morning, we will start our trip toward a historical and touristic village known as Masouleh which is frequently foggy. We will tour its bazaars and see its products for sale. The local food should never be missed. You will touch and feel the glory of mud-brick houses from the other side of the village in the middle heart of the jungle.

### **Day 4 – Ardebil**

Today in Ardebil, we have a city tour to visit Sheikh Safi-al din Tomb. The interior part of the tomb is full of glorious painted patterns and masterpieces. Also, there used to be the oldest and biggest carpet in the world dating back to the Safavid Period, now kept in the British Museum. Then, we will go to the bazaar to find different kinds of dry fruit such as apricot, plum, peach, sour cherry, and saffron rock sugar and as we are close to the Caspian sea, you can try smoked dry fish.

### **Day 5 – Sarein**

Our next day in Ardebil, we will go to Sarein, a city with a charming climate, it's near the inactive volcano in the Sabalan Mountain Range. The place is well-known for its natural thermal spring. We have therapeutic swimming and the opportunity to relax after crossing oceans to reach Iran.

### **Day 6 – Tabriz**

We will go to the city of Tabriz with its Azeri style, once was the capital of Iran during the Safavid Dynasty. We will go to see the Blue Mosque (Kabood). Its structure was damaged due to an earthquake. We will visit the largest covered bazaar divided into different parts with a variety of wares such as pure silk and wooden silk which are masterpieces of art.

Also, we will see El-golu, the palace in the middle of a lake surrounded by a beautiful garden. Enjoy lunch here.

#### **Day 7 – Kandovan**

Today, it's time to explore a sugar loaf village called Kandovan which is shaped in this way due to an eruption. We will go through this small village to become familiar with local people. Don't forget here you can find lots of herbs, just ask the local people to give you the recipe how to make them and how to use them.

#### **Day 8 – Sanandaj**

In the morning, we will leave Tabriz to get to Sanandaj. On our way close to Takab, we will visit the Solomon Throne. There we can enjoy the great and ancient Royal Palace with lots of halls and corridors and columns that connect the dining room, fire room and gathering palaces to each other. The most magnificent Fire Temple of this complex is located next to a volcanic lake with thousands stories hidden in the middle of dark blue water. Don't miss Solomon prison next to it. Later, we will arrive in Sanandaj.

#### **Day 9 – Sanandaj**

Today, we want to enjoy the Kurdish part of Iran with the very kind Sonnies' people, just look around and enjoy their traditional clothes with their special 'Kamarband' (Belt) and 'Giveh' (Shoe). Visit the bazaar to see colorful shiny fabrics for women's clothes. Then, we will head to Kords Museum and finally have lamb barbeque in a traditional restaurant. In the afternoon, we may go to Abidar park, well-known as the Roof of Sanandaj. Don't forget to take your camera.

#### **Day 10 – Kermanshah**

Due to our departure to the south part of Sanadaj, we will arrive in Kermanshah. On the way, we will visit Bisotun which shows Darius the Great's inscription and lies some 1300 meters high in the mountains. We will visit Taq-E Bostan, and Moaven al-Molk Tekiyeh, which dates back to the Qajar Dynasty. There, you can see many patterns and images on the wall explaining the history of Karbala. Also, there is a mixture of some images of Achamanied kings.

#### **Day 11 – Hamedan**

In Hamedan, we will see the Ali-Sadr Cave, the largest water cave in the world, a great day for pedal boat experience.

### **Day 12 – Hamedan**

In Hamedan we will see Hegmataneh and the establishment of the Elamite Dynasty. It is the first capital of Persia. In ancient times, it consisted of seven walls which had different colors and each of them was named as one planet. This city was Achaemenid's capital as well. The Tomb of Esther (Xerxes' wife who was Jewish), Mordechai (her cousin), Avicenna's tomb (a nobleman in medical sciences, astrology, mathematics) will be our destinations for us to visit.

### **Day 13 – Tehran**

On our last day tour in Iran, we will travel back to Tehran and we will see the Golestan Palace. In Tehran, we will visit the National Museum. Then, we will go to the roof of Tehran and Milad Tower, where there is the sixth tallest tower in the world. People watching in the most populated city in the world can't be missed.

### **Day 14 – Goodbye IRAN**

Our departure day and time to say goodbye to the land of Persia.