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## **IRAN**

### **Feel Iran Tour**

**Qazvin, Qom, Kashan, Isfahan, Yazd, Kerman, Shiraz, Tehran  
14-Day Itinerary**



**Gateway into Iran**

**Azadi Tower**

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### **Day 1 – Tehran / Qazvin**

Our 14 day journey in Iran will start from Tehran, our departure point to Qazvin for a one night stay.

### **Day 2 – Qazvin**

This morning, we explore the city. The Atiq mosque in Qazvin is one of the oldest mosques in Iran. The foundation of this mosque was in a Zoroastrian fire temple like many other mosques in Iran. Here you will visit the oldest street that used to be a marching place during military occasions dating back to the Safavid Dynasty. Chehel Sotoun palace (Kolah Farangi Mansion) was built in order to transfer capital from Tabriz to Qazvin in the Safavid Dynasty. It is a beautiful garden with a building inside located in the old square. We will also visit the Traditional Handicrafts Bazaar.

### **Day 3 – Qom / Kashan**

Qom is a religious city. Shiite people from all around the world who want to be clergy come to this city, the center of Islamic schools in Iran. Here, we may become familiar with Shias beliefs; also there will be time to see Masoumeh Shrine of Imam Reza's sister (the 8th Imam of Shias section). In the evening, we will head to Kashan.

### **Day 4 – Kashan**

Although there are many sites in Kashan that may be interesting for the visitor, the city remains largely undeveloped, with fewer than a thousand foreign visitors per year. Kashan is the city of the merchant houses and great bazaar with many caravanserai. Visits include Tabatabaei House, Abbasi House, Fin Garden, and the Bazaar.

### **Day 5 – Kashan / Isfahan**

Famous for its Persian-Islamic architecture, with many beautiful boulevards, covered bridges, palaces, mosques, and minarets. This is associated with the proverb "Isfahan is half of the world". We will visit Naqshe Jahan Square, a complex of the Imam Mosque (the public mosque), Sheikh Lot-Allah Mosque (a private mosque) and Ali Qapu Palace which were connected by a tunnel to Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque. Ali Qapu Palace is built on six floors which includes a music room where you can experience how sound echoes. Then, we will visit Chehel Sotoun consisting of 20 columns and by reflection of these 20 into the pool in front of the building it is well-known as Chehel Sotoun (meaning 40 columns).

### **Day 6 – Isfahan**

The new Jolfa District of Isfahan remains heavily Armenian-populated with Armenian Churches and shops, the Vank Cathedral being especially notable for its combination of Armenian Christian and Iranian Islamic elements. It is still one of the oldest and largest Armenian quarters in the world. We will visit Bethlehem church and Vank Cathedral which are important places of worship for Armenians; we will also visit the museum with its collection of artefacts. We will visit two architecturally impressive bridges - the Khaju Bridge and the S-io-Se Pol Bridge, the oldest bridge in this town.

### **Day 7 – Isfahan / Yazd**

We will visit people who engineered the passage of water through tunnels known as Qanat; they are well known as hardworking people who live in the middle of barren wastelands. Here, we will see Jameh Mosque dating back over 700 years. It has the tallest minarets of Iran. We will walk through the old city to explore. We will also see the Amir Chaqmaq complex and enjoy traditional sports.

### **Day 8 – Yazd**

Today, we travel out of the city to visit Maybod, a 7000 year-old town. Explore one of the Shah Abbas caravanserais and also Chaparkhaneh (the Post Office), stable for horses. We will see the Ice Pit across from these two places and learn how it worked. Continue to Chack Chack, the great holy site for Zoroastrians, where every year, they gather here for the annual festival.

### **Day 9 – Yazd / Kerman**

On our first day in this city, we visit the bazaar where we can find dishes made from copper and also smell spices across the bazaar. Then we will see Ganja Ali Khan Mosque and Hamam (bath) and the Jame Mosque and Moshtagh Tomb.

### **Day 10 – Kerman**

On the second day in Kerman, we will go out of the city to see Mahan and show our respect to a nobleman there known as Shah Nemat-Allah. He lived in a “mystery room” where anyone can easily discover his or her own mysterious characteristics. Continue to see the Bagh Shazdeh Garden with an impressive variety of trees, flowers and birds. Then, we will head to Shahdad, a different kind of desert which is similar to compact sands that have different shapes each day, a result of the desert winds creating an ever changing natural canvas.

### **Day 11 – Kerman / Shiraz**

Shiraz is a center for Iranian culture and many famous poets were born here. After the Iranian Revolution, Shiraz was re-established as the capital of Iranian Art and Culture. You will have free time to explore once in Shiraz.

### **Day 12 – Shiraz**

Shiraz is a city of literature. Hafez and Saadi were born and lived here. We will see the Karim Khan Palace. He was a king in the Zandieh period who called himself VakiloRoaya, lawyer of people. The old Bazaar and Jameh Mosque will be other sites to visit on our itinerary, along with the Pink Mosque, and enjoy the beautiful garden in Hafez's tomb.

### **Day 13 – Shiraz**

Leave the city to visit Persepolis and Necropolis to become more familiar with Persian architecture and the purpose of building different palaces.

### **Day 14 – Shiraz / Tehran**

Today is departure day. We return to the capital and then head to the airport. Time to leave all the beautiful and impressive sites that we have experienced as we bid farewell to the masterpiece known as Persia.