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IRAN

Persian Odyssey Tour

**Tehran, Kashan, Isfahan, Yazd, Zein-o Din, Kerman, Shiraz, Ahvaz,
Khorram Abad, Hamedan, Zanzan
21-Day Itinerary**



Gateway into Iran

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Day 1 – Tehran

Welcome to Iran, a dream land in the Middle East.

Day 2 – Tehran

Tehran will be our starting point and we are going to see the old part of the city with the combination of modernity. First, we are going to visit the National Museum to familiarize ourselves with Iranian cultures. Afterwards, we will visit a jewelry museum and find some great treasures which can't be found in any other place in the world. In the afternoon, we will visit Milad Tower to have a better view of Tehran from its highest point.

Day 3 – Tehran / Kashan

After spending our first day in Tehran, the second city to be visited will be the historical city of Kashan, famous for its traditional houses. In Tabatabaie House with four courtyards, once belonged to a rich merchant, you will experience how well the wind towers work. Also, in the Broujerdi House, dating back about 2 hundred years ago, you will see the combination work of architects and master painters. Then, we are going to see the bazaar. We would never miss our chance to taste Iranian local food during our journey.

Day 4 – Kashan / Isfahan

After Kashan, we travel to Isfahan to visit the great Naqshe Jahan Square, two mosques of Imam and Sheikh Lotf Allah. The former is considered as a public mosque and later is considered as a private one once used by the Royal Family. Sheikh Lotf Allah Mosque and Ali Qapu Palace are connected by a tunnel. Furthermore, we are going to visit the Ali Qapu Palace which is on seven floors and is a real masterpiece. There is a pool with fountains filled with the water from Zayanderood. Bazaars are our next option.

Day 5 – Isfahan

On our second day in Isfahan, we will visit the Armenian neighborhood. There, we can rent bikes and enjoy riding in the city and pass through Khaju or Si-O-Se Pol bridges (33 Bridges). After a while, we will get to the Armenians neighborhood called Jolfa. Once there, we will visit one of the oldest churches dating back to the Safavid Dynasty called Vank Cathedral. There is also a museum in this church. Observe Armenian culture in this region.

Day 6 – Isfahan / Yazd

Travel to Yazd, a city located in the heart of Iran, where its people are famous as the most hardworking. Yazd is unique with its wind catchers, Qanats and also its confectionery. On our first day, we have a city tour to see Jameh Mosque that is so great and known as a unique masterpiece including the highest minarets of Iran. Then, visiting Amir Chakhmaq complex and the water museum will be our next important steps. Also, we are going to get familiar with local people by walking through Yazd streets. Next, we are going to visit the Fire Temple, where Zoroastrians keep fire as the symbol of their religion. In the afternoon, we will visit the Tower of Silence which was once used as their cemetery. This is our daily tour in Yazd.

Day 7 – Yazd

On our 7th day in Iran, we remain in Yazd as we are going to see some architectural and historical sites which would not easily be found in any other places in Iran. The water reservoir, the 7000 year-old Narin Castle, the Ice Pits, Pigeon House. Pigeon House was a building where people kept the birds for different reasons such as sending letters and providing needed fertilizer. Chaparkhaneh (or Pony Express) was a kind of post office to deliver the letters in past times. We will visit all the mentioned sites in our second day tour in Yazd.

Day 8 – Zeino Din

We leave Yazd to get to the caravanserai located in the middle of the desert. We will spend one night at Zeino Din- unique rooms in the desert and enjoy sky watching with millions of stars.

Day 9 – Kerman

We travel around the old city and see the bazaar. Also, we will visit a Hamam known as Ganj-ali-khan. We can find different products which are used in baths in a typical Persian Hamam. Enjoy your lunch in a caravanserai in the bazaar.

Day 10 – Kerman

On our second day tour in Kerman, we are going to see the beautiful Shazdeh Garden located in Mahan where the birds are plentiful and their chirping sound echoes the exoticism of the garden. Then, we will visit the tomb of a nobleman known as Shah Nemat Allah. In his tomb, you will be amazed to see how he lived in a small room and wrote all of his poems on the walls which are related to his relationship to God, such a mysterious atmosphere can be felt there. Next, we visit one of the hottest regions of the world called Shahdad.

Day 11 – Kerman / Shiraz

Today, we head to Shiraz by bus. There will be time to take a rest and remember all the unbelievable sites you have visited.

Day 12 – Shiraz

The beauty of Iran will be completed in Shiraz, famous for its beautiful gardens and well-known poets. So, today we have an 'ancient day' tour. We visit Pasargad and Persepolis and see all the Achaemenid symbols, which are the signs of the glorious Persian Empire. Apadana Palace is another place where Achamanied kings used to stay during the summer. We will also visit the great Cyrus Tomb and Darius. Later, we return to Shiraz.

Day 13 – Shiraz

On our second day here in Shiraz, enjoy sightseeing around the city. First, we are going to walk around Vakil Bazaar and see a variety of products. We continue and visit Shahcheragh, the Brother of the 8th Imam of Shias to become familiar with Iranian cultures and see the architectural style of holy shrines in Iran. Visit the Nasir-Ol-Molk Mosque or Pink Mosque decorated by beautiful lattice tiles. Karim Khan Zand Castle will be our next stop where it used to be the governmental center.

Day 14 – Shiraz

On our last day in Shiraz, we are going to see Eram and also the Afif Abad Garden where you may take some photos to remind you of the beauty of Shiraz. We will also visit tombs of two great poets of Iran (Hafez and Saadi) and complete our memory of the land of Persia with Persian literature.

Day 15 – Shiraz / Ahvaz

Ahvaz is our next destination. We pass by beautiful landscapes during this journey. On the way, you can see the Zagros Mountain chain covered with trees and herbs. Also the pink salty lake will be another memorable view. We will walk along the banks of the biggest river of Iran and see the nightlife of the people in this area.

Day 16 – Ahvaz

Today, we will go to the ancient capital of Great Persia dating from 2500 years ago. Susa and Zigorat from the Elamite Dynasty, the oldest praying temple of the world. The last UNESCO site we want to visit today will be the Shushtar hydraulic water system.

Day 17 – Ahvaz / Khorram Abad

A city in the west part of Iran located in the middle of the Zagros Mountain chain. This was a well-Protected city for a long time in our history and the proof is the Falak Aflak Castle in the middle of the city.

Day 18 – Khorram Abad / Hamedan

A city with lots of historical sites. Avicenna Tomb, Ester Tomb (one of the most important sites for Jewish community) and Hegmataneh, the first civilized city in this region, take us back thousands of years ago.

Day 19 – Hamedan / Zanjan

Zanjan is a city that is famous for metal working. They make very good hunting and kitchen knives. There are beautiful copper pots as well as many other utilitarian items. We visit the workshop to see how they make such metal objects. A walk in the bazaar will be the next stop, an opportunity for great photography. Enjoy lunch in a caravanserai.

Day 20 – Zanjan / Tehran

On our way back to the capital, we will visit another UNESCO site, Soltaniyeh Dome. It is one of the tallest domes of the world and inside is full of carved tiles which remain from Mongol time.

Day 21 – Goodbye Iran

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