

IRAN TOUR

Character: Cultural touring

Start: Tehran

Finish: Tehran

Duration: 4 days / 4 nights

Accommodation: Superior local hotels

Meals: 4 breakfasts

Mode of travel: Comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles/on foot

Tour support: Local guide fluent in English, driver

Included:

Accommodation for 4 nights

Meals as per itinerary

Services of local guide

All activities & sightseeing with entrance fees

Airport-hotel-airport transfers

All transfers in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles

Visa processing

Day 1**Tehran and Shiraz**

Arrive Tehran, half day city tour of Tehran including: Golestan Palace, where the coronations of the former Shah and his father took place, particularly notable are the hall of mirrors and the garden hall, archaeological museums featuring 7000 years of Persian history, from the 5th millennium BC to the 19th century AD. PM flight to Shiraz, arrive to Shiraz, transfer to hotel, rest.

Overnight: Hotel in Shiraz

Meal plan: Breakfast

Day 2**Shiraz and Isfahan**

Excursion to magnificent Achaemenian city of Perspolis (57 km northeast of Shiraz). Beyond the gate lies the hall of 100 columns (Xerxes' throne room), the Apadana Palace (the Great Hall of Audience of Darius the Great) with its spellbinding display of bas-reliefs, the Tachara (Winter Palace) of Darius, the unfinished palace of Artaxerxes III, the Palace of Xerxes and the Tripylon Palace. Banked against the mountainside are the royal stables, guardrooms, residential quarters. Rock tombs cut into the mountain are those of Artaxerxes II and Artaxerxes III. A few kilometers from Perspolis is Nash-e Rostam where four cliff tombs are located, those of Darius I, Darius II, Artaxerxes and Xerxes I. Back to Shiraz visit: Bagh-e-Eram or Garden of Paradise, home to a pretty 19th century Qajar palace which looks enchanting in its flower setting beside a pool. The famous cypress tree of Shiraz may also be seen here. Narenjistan-e-qavam or qavam Orangery, is an elegant 19th century house with orange trees in its garden. The house offers some fascinating tile work in the shape of a crescent depicting a lion and the sun in the centre with leopards devouring deer on either side. Transfer to airport for domestic flight to Isfahan. Arrive to Isfahan transfer to hotel, rest.

Overnight: Hotel in Isfahan

Meal plan: Breakfast

Day 3**Isfahan**

Full day city tour including: Chehel Sutun inside a garden with an area of 67,000 square meters that was built as an official court and a reception hall by Shah Abbas II (1647 AD), Imam Square, this huge open square measures 500 m long and 165 m wide, with an area of more than eighty thousand square meters, twice as large as Moscow's Red Square. Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, a masterpiece of architecture and tile work, a beautiful religious building built by SHAH ABBAS in honor of the great Lebanese Sheikh Lotfollah, who was a sort of Islamic Billy Graham of his time. Visiting the Friday mosque (of the time of Seljuks) as well as the mausoleum of Velayat Haroun with its exceptional portal and the minaret of Ali-Qapou (highest of Isfahan). Back to hotel.

Overnight: Hotel in Isfahan

Meal plan: Breakfast

Day 4**Tehran**

Continue your tour of Isfahan, Armenian Cathedral of Vank (Saint Savior), begun in 1606, at the time of arrival of Armenian immigrants to Isfahan, it was completed between 1655 and 1664 under the supervision of Archbishop David, with the encouragement of the Safavid rulers, Imam Mosque (Masjid-e Jam'e Abbasi) is one of the finest and the most stunning building in the world, Visit Bazaar, night flight to Tehran.

Overnight: Hotel in Tehran

Meal plan: Breakfast

Morning transfer to airport for departure flight from Tehran.

Please note: this tour is offered as a pre-tour extension to your Armenia trip. It can also be operated in the opposite direction – as a post-tour extension.