

FROM SHIRAZ TO TABRIZ VIA CASPIAN COAST

16 Day – 15 Night

Shiraz 2N/Isfahan 3N/Tehran 2N/Babolsar 1N/CHALUS
2N/Masouleh 2N/Sarein 1N/Tabriz 2N



HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover an Iran beyond the media portrayals of a repressive and dour regime – this is a country full of warm, lively and friendly people
- Explore Shiraz, the city of poets, roses and nightingales
- Experience the wondrous remains of the ancient capital of Persepolis – the scale and grandeur will leave you in no doubt that this was once the center of the known world
- Visit Pasargadae, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the tomb of Cyrus the Great
- Discover Isfahan, the old capital and the 'Jewel of Islamic Iran'
- Visit Kashan, including Fin Garden and the historical houses of Brojerdi's and Tabatabai's
- See the cities of the Caspian Sea coast, the Caspian Hyrcanian forests and the wonderful Masoulets
- Discover Iranian cuisine. Do not forget to eat Chelo kebab, Abgusht, Gormesabzi and..., you will never forget the taste of Iranian foods
- Sightseeing in to the biggest traditional indoor bazaar in Tabriz

ITINERARY

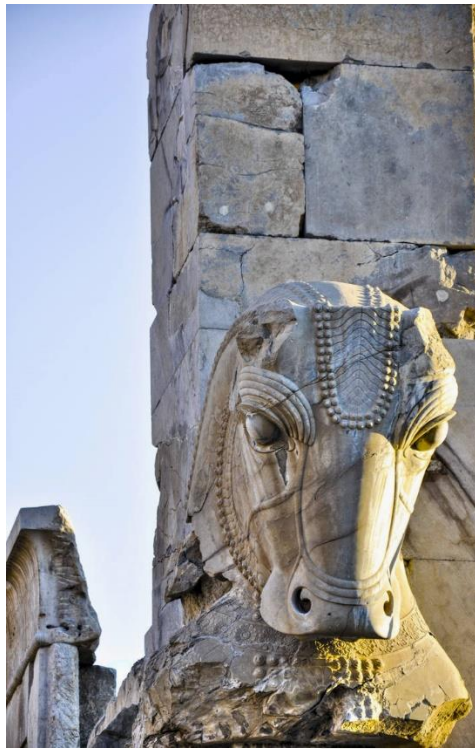
Day 1: Welcome to Iran-Shiraz

You will fly to Shiraz with via Istanbul. Transferred to hotel and after a short rest and breakfast go to the visit Shiraz city. Visit the Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque (Pink Mosque). This mosque was built as per the order of one of the lords during the reign of the Qajar Dynasty, Mirza Hasan 'Ali Nasir-ol-Molk, and it took 12 years to complete. Its interiors are a magnificent masterpiece of design with stunning colors. This is a space where light and worship intertwine. The mosque comes to life with sunrise and colors dance on its floor throughout the day like whirling dervishes. Then visit the orange-scented Eram Garden and Narenjestan-e Qavam, laid out in the 19th century. Accommodation in Shiraz



Day 2: Shiraz

Spend breakfast before heading for the bustling Vakil Bazaar, home to hundreds of stores, beautiful courtyards and even an ancient caravanserai. Our next destination is the Karim Khan Citadel, built during the Zand Dynasty. Then visit Afif Abad garden and Shapouri House. End your day in Shiraz on a tranquil note in the lovely garden tombs of Sa'adi and Hafez, two of the most outstanding poets of Persia. Accommodation in Shiraz



Day 3: Shiraz to Isfahan, visit Persepolis, Naghsh-e Rostam and Pasargad en ture (480 Km)

We spend today exploring the heritage of the Achaemenid dynasty in Persepolis and the royal tombs of Naghsh – e - Rostam. Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid kings with remains of the palaces of Darius the Great, Xerxes and Artaxerxes, is famous for its bas-reliefs depicting kings, courtiers and gift-bearing representatives of tributary nations of the Persian Empire ranging from India to Ethiopia. We then visit nearby Naghsh-e-Rostam to see Ka'be-Zardosht (a fire temple) and the royal tombs dug into the rock itself. This site also has seven magnificent Sassanian rock-reliefs including Shapur the First's famous victory over Roman Emperor Valerian. We will continue to visit Pasargad, the site of the simple, but impressive tomb and remains of the palaces of Cyrus the Great, the founder of the Persian Empire. After a long day, we arrived in Isfahan at night and go to the hotel. Accommodation in Isfahan

Day 4: Explore Isfahan

Start the day by exploring Imam Square, the 17th-century site which is also one of the largest public



spaces in the world. Visit the Shah Mosque, revered as a masterpiece of Islamic architecture and easily recognized due to its magnificent tile work and a soaring cupola and minarets.

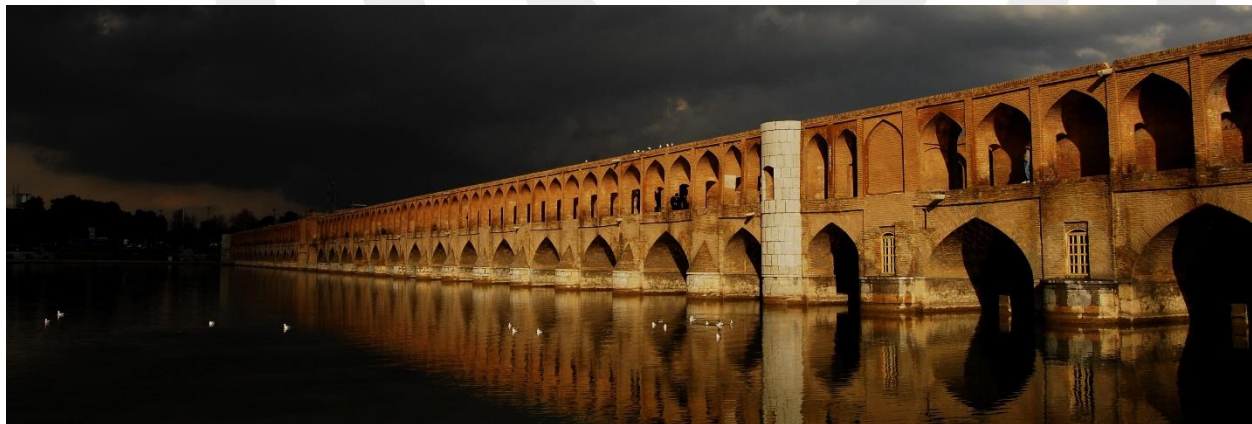
Marvel at the beautiful music rooms and balconies of Ali Qapu Palace and get the chance to explore the Qeisarieh Bazaar, which surrounds Imam Square.

Next up is Chehel Sotun. Set in a landscaped and forested park in front of a tranquil reflecting pool, this graceful pavilion was built by Shah Abbas II for entertainment and court receptions. Enter into the building through a portico supported by twenty slender wooden columns and discover soaring halls embellished with frescoes, paintings and mosaics. The Hall of Mirrors is especially breathtaking! Then we go to Armenian neighborhood and Visit the 17th-century Vank Cathedral. Accommodation in Isfahan



Day 5: Explore Esfahan

After breakfast we go to start to explore this lovely city. So take time to wander along the City's many tree-lined boulevards and spacious gardens. we go to visit the Jameh Mosque (Friday Mosque), the biggest in all Iran and full of lovely designed stuccos, then we go to discover the bizarre Manar Jomban (shaking minarets). Then we go to the Hotel Abbasi Caravanserai, the oldest hotel in the country to visit and eat the very delicious Aash-e reshteh. Well, now you know almost the city, everyone is free from here onwards. You can go to Naghsh-e Jahan square, around Zayandeh Rood and Sio-se Pol or go to one of the shopping malls. Accommodation in Isfahan



Day 6: Drive to Tehran, visit Abyaneh and Kashan en route (510 Km)

Drive to Kashan after early breakfast. Visit the Abyaneh village en route. The village is also known as the Red Village because of its red-mud houses (the area has red soil). The houses of Abyaneh bear an ancient architectural style and feature the use of clay as the main construction material along with latticed windows and wooden doors.



On reaching Kashan, head for its two famous traditional houses, Boroujerdi or Tabatabaei. Travel to the Fin Garden, a UNESCO World Heritage site, This Persian garden reflects ancient landscaping principles that trace their roots to the time of Cyrus the Great in the 6th century BCE. Leaving Kashan behind in the evening and head for Tehran. Upon arriving in Tehran, we go straight to the restaurant, once you arrive, get to know the other travellers over a juicy Iranian kebab served with a side of local

bread or rice – the kebab’s rich aroma should have you smelling it well before it reaches the table. Once you’ve filled up, wash it all down with a cup of tea. After a delicious dinner we go to the hotel and crawl into bed before tomorrow’s adventures. Accommodation in Tehran

Day 7: Tehran

In the morning we will go to see National Museum of Iran, aging more than 70 years, containing 300,000 museum objects. Then we will have the visit of Iran Glassware and ceramic Museum, in order to see objects of 4th millennium B.C. up to the present time. After that we will go to see a UNESCO World



Heritage: Golestan Palace that has many places to offer: The Marble Throne, Karim Khani Nook, Museum of Gifts, Containers Hall, Mirror Hall, Salam Hall, Edifice of the Sun (Shams ol Emareh) and many other places. After that visit the fabulous State’s Jewels Museum, housed in the vaults of the Central Bank of Iran displaying the most dazzling and priceless collection of jewels and gems in the world. In the afternoon, we visit the fabulous State’s Jewels Museum, housed in the vaults of the Central Bank of Iran displaying the most dazzling and priceless collection of jewels and gems in the world.

Day 8: Tehran to Babolsar (230 Km)

Drive to Babolsar after breakfast. Sightseeing in Babolsar and visiting places and sights around the city includ: Babol River and bridge, Galesh Kola village, Karfoon Tourist Area and beach... . Accommodation in Babolsar



Day 9: Babolsar to Chalus (120 Km)

Drive to Chalus after breakfast. Sightseeing and visiting places and sights along the way include: Noshahr cities, Namakabroud forest park and telecabin, waterfalls and... . Accommodation in Chalus



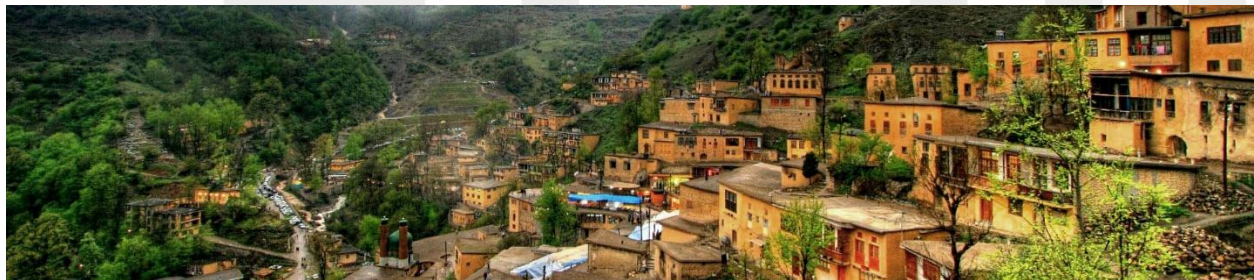
Day 10: Chalus

Drive to Tonekabon after breakfast. Sightseeing and visiting places and sights include: 2000 and 3000 forest, Khoshke daran National Park, Chal darre forest park and... . Accommodation in Chalus

Day 11: Chalus to Masouleh (285 Km)

Drive to Masouleh after breakfast and visiting Ramsar landmarks en route. Near the evening we arrive in Masouleh. The spectacular architecture of Masouleh is well-known as “The yard of the above building is the roof of the below building”.

Yellow clay coats the exterior of most buildings in Masouleh. This allows for better visibility in the fog. Buildings are mostly 2 stories (1st floor and below floor) made of adobe, rods and bole. Here is a unique place. Tonight and tomorrow night will be in Masouleh. Accommodation in Masouleh



Day 12: Masouleh

Drive to Bandar Anzali after early breakfast and visiting this small and beautiful harbor near Caspian Sea, boating on Anzali lagoon and visiting beautiful landscape, birds and flowers. Then go to Masal, sightseeing and visiting places and sights. Near the sunset we return to Masouleh. Accommodation in Masouleh

Day 13: Masouleh to Sarein via Asalem (320 Km)

After breakfast, drive to Sarein and visit Ardabil en route. Ardabil is also known as the one of a World Heritage Site: the Ardabil Shrine, tomb of Shaikh Safi ad-Din, eponymous founder of the Safavid dynasty. Visit Sheikh Safiadin Tomb and drive to Sareyn.



The Sareyn springs are near an inactive volcano in mount Sabalan and its water contains sulphur particles and it is believed that it is good for bone and joint pains. Sareyn is also famous for its 'Ashe Doogh' (Yogurt Soups), it is not uncommon for many of the local shops to be seen selling and preparing this soup. There are 9 hot springs in Sarein, with 'Gavmesh Goli' being the hottest, with water reaching 67 degrees, and turning out around 80 liters per second from the source. Other springs are A'saab, Sari Soo, General, Qahveh Sooi, Pehenli Soo... . Accommodation in Sarein

Day 14: Sarein to Tabriz (210 Km)

After eating a very Delicious and high calorie breakfast means "Bal-Geymakh" (Honey and clotted cream), we driving towards Tabriz.

Tabriz is one of the Iran's old capitals. Then arrival to Tabriz we explore the highlights of Tabriz, like Azarbaijan museum, Blue Masque, Municipality palace, and the Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex (UNESCO World Heritage Site), the largest covered bazaar in the world on Silk Road.

The most famous Iranian cuisine is Chelo Kabab, The most delicious type is served in Tabriz, so we will go to taste the most unique chelo kabab in the whole of Iran in the traditional covered bazaar of Tabriz. Depending on timing, we may spend the night walking in El-Goli Park and breathing deeply in the scents of fragrant flowers. Accommodation in Tabriz



Day 15: Tabriz

Free for sightseeing in Tabriz and around Tabriz. Accommodation in Tabriz

Day 16: Tabriz to Tehran

After early breakfast transfer to Airport and fly to Tehran. Drive to the north of Tehran after breakfast. Get the chance to learn more about the Qajar and Pahlavi history in the Sa'dabad Palace Museum and we

continue to the Niavaran Palace and the Tajrish Traditional Bazaar, the favourite shopping destination of the locals. A luxurious dinner with live music in one of the famous restaurants, transfer to the airport, say goodbye and fly back home.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- 15 nights' accommodation in standard-grade hotels and Local Houses
- Land travel in Iran by air-conditioned coach
- Services of an experienced Iranian tour guide throughout the tour
- 15 breakfasts and 15 dinner
- entrance tickets according to the travel plan

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- International air fares, taxes and surcharges
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry or phone calls
- Visa code application fees
- Tips to guides and drivers
- Visa costs

Important:

In cities where there is no 5* hotel, we will have to stay in hotels with highest stars in that city.

HOTEL CATEGORY AND ACCOMMODATION

Cat.	Hotel Name	Location	Nights
5*	GRAND	SHIRAZ	2
5*	ABBASI 5*	ISFAHAN	3
5*	ESPINAS PALACE	TEHRAN	2
4*	MIZBAN	BABOLSAR	1
5*	VENUS PLAS	CHALUS	2
-	MAS-Local House	MASOULEH	2
4*	LALEH	SAREIN	1
5*	KAYA LALEH	TABRIZ	2