

4 in 1: Iran & Caucasus Countries

Iran-Azerbaijan-Georgia-Armenia

13 Day – 12 Night

Type: Discover/Historical/Culture/Religious/Adventure



Shiraz 2N/Isfahan 2N/Tehran 2N/BAKU 1N/TBILISI 3N/YEREVAN 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 Fascinating cities of Tehran, Tbilisi & Yerevan.
- Explore the rich history told in the ancient ruins that lie across the country. Modern Iran is a great fusion of civilizations – the Archaemedians, Alexander the Great, the Parthians, Sassanians, Arabs, Seljuks, Mongols, and Safavids – who all left their mark in innumerable ways.
- 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.
- Discover Isfahan, the old capital and the 'Jewel of Islamic Iran'.
- Discover Iran, Georgia and Azerbaijan cuisine. Do not forget to eat Chelo kebab, Abgusht, Khingali, Shashlik and..., you will never forget the taste of this foods.
- Visit Lake Sevan, Geghard Cave Monastery and the holy city of Echmiadzin.
- Azerbaijan's cosmopolitan capital of Baku is often referred to as the 'new Dubai'. Enjoy a guided walking tour around the city's World Heritage-listed Old Town.
- Mud volcanoes, ancient mosques, lush forests and tall peaks – the Caucasus Mountains will take your breath away
- Visit Gobustan National Reserve and Temple of Zoroastrians Atashgah

It's time to discover amazing countries of the Silk Road! This combination gives you an opportunity to explore three different cultures with authentic traditions and ancient histories: Georgia with untouched nature, Great Caucasus Mountains, hundreds of fortresses, monasteries, watch towers; Armenia with ancient cloisters and hospitality ; Iran –exotic Persia with teahouses, bazaars, deserts, historic oases and mountain ranges; Azerbaijan with its ancient and very modern buildings, and its Mermaid Music.

During this tour, explore the majestic history of these countries via exposure to their unique cultures, art, architecture, and science. Don't miss your chance to visit the beautiful and historically rich countries of Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.



Itinerary

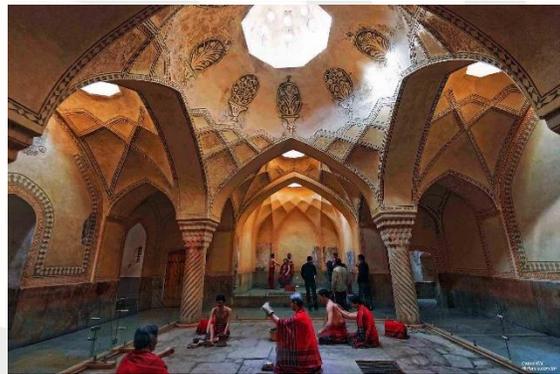
Day 1: Welcome to Iran-Shiraz

Salam! You will fly to Shiraz with flight TK884 Turkish Airlines via Istanbul. Your flight will land at 02:05 o'clock at Shiraz International Airport. After your welcome, the tour guide will transfer you to the hotel. Since you arrived in Shiraz in the morning, all your check-in have already been done. Have a good rest and collect your energy for the next morning.

Day 2: Explore Shiraz

Visit the Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque (Pink Mosque) after breakfast. 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.

Also visit the orange-scented Narenjestan Garden, laid out in the 19th century, before heading for the bustling Vakil Bazaar, home to hundreds of stores, beautiful courtyards and even an ancient caravanserai. Your next destination is the Karim Khan Citadel, built during the Zand Dynasty. 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.



Day 3: Shiraz- Isfahan

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.

Day 4: 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.

With hundreds of local vendors that specialize in traditional arts and crafts, it's a wonderful place to shop for pottery, enamel, jewelry and delicately inlaid board games.

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!

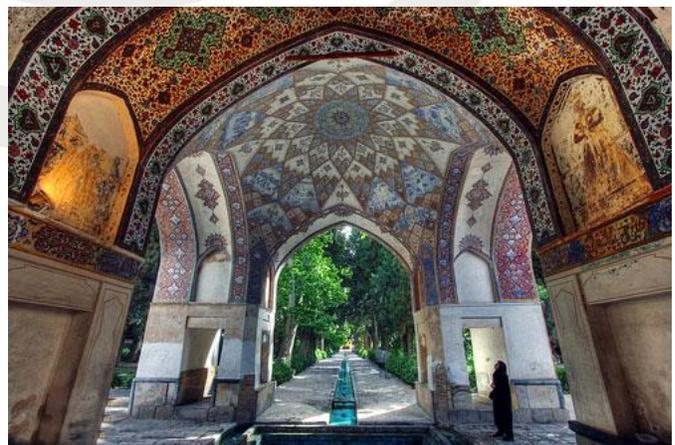


In the city's Armenian quarter, you'll get the chance to delve more deeply into the region's complex history. Visit several churches in the area, including the 17th-century Vank Cathedral with its lavishly decorated interior and a unique blend of Islamic and European architectural elements.

Day 5: Isfahan – Kashan – Tehran

Drive to Kashan after 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.



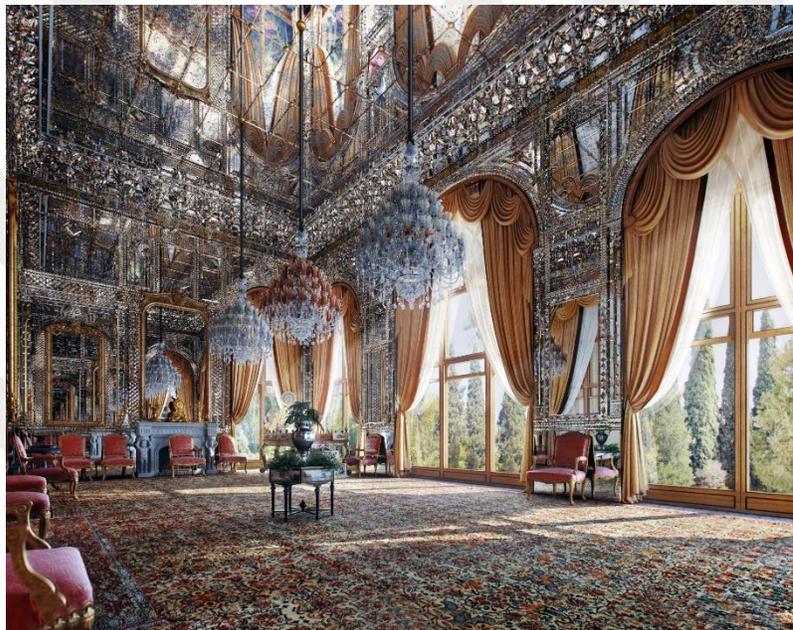
Travel to the Fin Garden, a UNESCO World Heritage site, This Persian garden reflects ancient landscaping principles that trace their roots to the time of Cyrus the Great in the 6th century BCE. Leaving Kashan behind in the evening and head for Tehran. Salam! Welcome to Tehran. This marvellous city sits at the bottom of the Alborz Mountains – their snowy peaks serving as a photogenic backdrop for the colorful buildings below. Tehran is commonly known as one of the country’s most liberal metropolitan areas and this may become obvious through an adventure into the depths of their hospitality scene. Lamb, chickpeas, tahdig (crispy rice pies) and potatoes are all big staples in Iranian cuisine – just don’t forget they’re best washed down with a cup of dugh (minty yoghurt drink).



Upon arriving in Tehran, we go straight to the restaurant, once you arrive, get to know the other travelers 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. It’d be easy to call Iran a land of kebabs, but the country’s gastronomy is a little more complicated than that.

Day 6: 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. After a full day in Tehran, we go to the restaurant for dinner and then go to the airport to fly to Baku. Transfer to hotel and rest.

Day 7: Baku

Start exploring Baku. Panorama of the city presented to the height of the mountainous part of a television tower clearly gives an idea of the contrasts and the extent of Baku, the horseshoe bay of Baku. The city is shaped like an amphitheater, descending down to the Caspian Sea. Tour covers the central part of the city showing the most interesting historical and architectural sites. Visiting of "Old Town" or "Inner City". The territory of "Inner City" - 22 hectares, which represents a small fraction of the total area of Baku (44,000 hectares). Maiden Tower, Palace of Shirvanshah, Castle Synyk Gala, Caravan Saray, Juma Mosque - this is not a complete list of attractions of the old Baku. Dinner in restaurant. Night Baku tour by bus. Overnight in Hotel



Day 8: Gobustan – Atashgah - Tbilisi

Breakfast at the hotel. Check out from the hotel. Tour to "Gobustan Excursion on historical-art reserve "Gobustan", where rock paintings have perfectly remained, barrows and housing objects dated from X-XIII millennial BC to the Middle Ages. There are certificates of inhabitants of region of an epoch of the Stone Age and the subsequent periods in "Gobustan" - Rock drawings, person parking, gravestone monuments, are concentrated there. Visiting of Temple of Zoroastrians – "Atashgah". Temple of Zoroastrians - an ancient religious structure built in place of natural gas output. Was rebuilt in the 18th century. In the former cells, where pilgrims from around the world are now museum, containing many unique original exhibits. Region of Azerbaijan, located on the Absheron peninsula called Absheron. Transfer to the airport and fly to Tbilisi. Meeting in the airport and transfer to the hotel. Dinner in the local restaurant, tasting Georgian dishes and wine. Spend the night in Tbilisi.



Day 9: Full day sightseeing tour of Tbilisi

You will go on a tour of Tbilisi, a walk through the old town, you can visit Metekhi Church (12 - 13th centuries); district sulfur baths, Sioni Cathedral (7th - 19 th centuries) Narikala Fortress (4th c); Anchishati basilica and bell tower (6th - 18th centuries); Holy Trinity Cathedral - 2004 and visit the Chateau Mukhrani salon (or Winery Khareba Salon) and taste Georgian wine. Night: at the hotel in Tbilisi.

Day 10: Tbilisi - Signaghi - Bodbe - Tbilisi

In the morning you go to the beautiful city of Signaghi - city fortress, with amazing views of the Caucasus Mountains, visit Signaghi Museum to explore permanent exhibitions-Ethnography, Medieval Archeology, Niko Pirosmiani and other. Visit the monastery complex Bodbe founded in the 4th century. Taste delicious Georgian cuisine and local wines. In the evening return to Tbilisi. Night: at the hotel in Tbilisi.



Day 11: Tbilisi - Yerevan

After a breakfast, we go to the border, where you change the transport and guide. After meeting with the Armenian guide, you move forward to Yerevan - the hospitable capital of Armenia. Check-in, rest. Dinner at a local restaurant.



Day 12: Yerevan- Echmiadzin - Zvartnots – Yerevan

Start discovering Armenia by a visit to the State History Museum where you get familiar with a complete picture of the Armenian culture and history dating back to 1 million years ago up to nowadays.



Then go sightseeing in one of the world's oldest cities – 2796-year-old Yerevan. Open-air lunch at one of restaurants located just in Hrazdan River gorge. Then you move forward to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin – the spiritual centre of the Armenian Apostolic Church. On the way back to Yerevan, you stop at the ruins of the Zvartnots Temple. You are in Yerevan again. We dine and spend the evening at one of open-air cafes.

Day 13: Yerevan - Lake Sevan

It's time to driving to one of the highest fresh-water lakes in the world – the Sevan (1 900m). From the top of Sevan Peninsula you can admire the full view of the lake of volcano-tectonic origin and the adjacent mountain chains. After visit Sevan Lake and lunch, we go back to Yerevan. This tour finish in

Yerevan. Say goodbye to Transfer to airport and fly back to home.



Important Note

- Please have in mind that in local house single rooms are not provided unless the client asks us for a single room. Also normally in local house, there are no beds.
- On sea trips in case of bad conditions of the sea the routes and timing may change
- In nature trips in case of climate changes and bad weather, changes in accommodation and programs may occur
- The booking process of the hotel starts upon receiving the flight details.
- Changes in the hotels may occur

Responsible Travel

As the executive of nature tours in Iran & Globe, we have assumed our responsibility & role so seriously, know the tourism effect on our surrounded environment & local society, and try to plan & operate our tours in accordance with this foreground thought; For, we believe that the tour executive has a great effect on the means of transferring his/her experiments, to guarantee both the passengers health & environment conservation.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- 12 nights' accommodation in standard-grade hotels
- 13 breakfasts and 12 dinner
- Land travel in Iran by air-conditioned coach
- Services of an experienced Iranian tour guide throughout the tour
- Professional licensed English speaking guide during the tours
- Drinks with meals: Only water and cola - alcoholic beverages are not included
- Domestic flight tickets as per the itinerary
- 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 & Personal Items
- 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 HOTEL 5* | SHIRAZ | 2 |
| 5* | ABBASI 5* | ISFAHAN | 2 |
| 5* | ESTEGHLAL 5* | TEHRAN | 2 |
| 5* | BOULEVARD 5* | BAKU | 1 |
| 5* | AMBASSADORI 5* | TBILISI | 3 |
| 5* | MARRIOTT 5* | YEREVAN | 2 |