

PERSIAN CLASSIC TOUR II

8 Days – 7 Nights

Shiraz 2N/Kerman 1N/Yazd 1N/Isfahan 2N/Tehran 1N

Type: Discover/Historical/Cultural/Religious

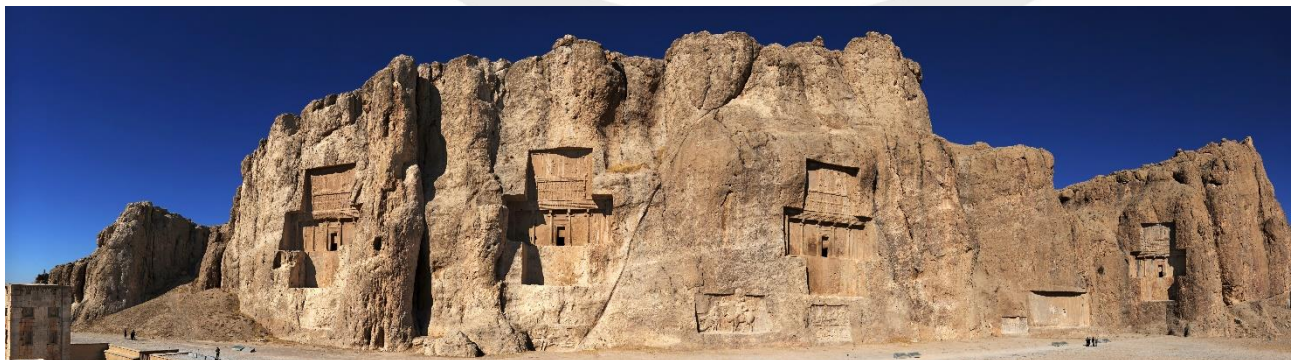


HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the rich history told in the ancient ruins that lie across the country. Modern Iran is a great fusion of civilizations – the Archimedians, 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.
- Visit Pasargadae, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the tomb of Cyrus the Great.
- Walk in peaceful Persian Garden, Shazdeh Garden
- Get lost in the bazaars of Yazd, home to the Zoroastrian Towers of Silence.
- See ancient underground water channels, called Qanats, in Yazd.
- Discover Isfahan, the old capital and the 'Jewel of Islamic Iran'.
- Visit Kashan, including Fin Garden and the historical houses of Brookerdi's and Tabatabai's.

Welcome to the hidden world of Iran. Travel through this fascinating country to discover refined Islamic cities, colorful bazaars, ancient Persian ruins and shimmering deserts. Whether you're relaxing in a teahouse in Tehran, enjoying guided tours of ancient cultural sites, or breaking bread with nomads on the harsh Iranian plateau, the warmth and hospitality of the Iranian people is endearing and the profound beauty of their land is mesmerizing.

Iran is home of one of the oldest civilizations in the world, dating back to the Persian Empire 2,500 years ago. The country lies at the crossroads of three continents: Asia, Africa and Europe, and many ancient civilizations. A significant section of the Silk Road runs across Iran as do other great caravan routes to the south.



On this tour, travel through Iran to explore the ancient civilizations, glorious monuments, and architecture, extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage sites, stunning desert landscapes, ethical diversity and exotic Persian cuisines. Choose a guided tour and experience the historical sites or step into an adventure and enjoy unknown destinations and places or live with nomads. Feel the hospitality of Iranians and also the beauty of the land.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Welcome to Shiraz

Salam! You will fly to Shiraz with domestic flight from Tehran. 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. After a short rest and collect your energy, we leave the hotel to visit the beautiful city of Shiraz.

Our first destination is 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. It's 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. Our next destination is the Karim Khan Citadel, built during the Zand Dynasty. End our 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 2: Visiting Persepolis, Naghsh-e-Rostam and Pasargadae.

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, Return to the hotel and rest.

Day 3: Shiraz-Mahan-Kerman

After an early breakfast, we will go to Kerman and visit Bagh-e Shazdeh (Prince Garden) and Shah Nematollah Vali Tomb en route. Bagh-e Shazdeh (Prince Garden) as a typical Iranian Garden UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its desirable water stream that flows through the garden and light breeze is a real treasure in Kerman. Shah Nematollah Vali Tomb, an influential Sufi in his age, the founder of Nematollahi Cult. Leave Mahan and drive to Kerman, after a short rest in hotel, in Kerman we visit the Friday Mosque, the Ganj-Ali Khan Complex and Hammam which has been converted into an Ethnographic Museum. We explore the Maidan (square) with its mosque, madrassa and water cistern all dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries and the Vakil Tea House (another covered bathhouse). We will walk in the traditional covered bazaar. There's still a great atmosphere.



Day 4: Drive to Yazd nad visit Mehriz en route

Our route today takes us to Mehriz, to visiting Zein-O-Din, a rare circular 17th-century caravanserai south-east of Yazd. Soon after our visit, we head to Yazd, despite being close to desert; Yazd is a green city. This ancient desert city was a major stop on the caravan routes to Central Asia and India during the Silk Road period – Marco Polo even visited the city on his way to China – and it still retains a rustic feel today. Yazd is also the heart of the Zoroastrian religion. On arrival, set out on a



walking tour visiting the Jameh Mosque, notable for its fine mosaics and beautiful exterior.

From here you are ideally placed to explore the older parts of the city, which are some of the oldest on Earth according to UNESCO. Walk the narrow kuches (lanes), past simple courtyards and the ornate doors of the mud brick buildings. One of the most distinctive features of Yazd are the wind towers ('badgirs') that capture even the softest of breezes and send them to the buildings below in a forerunner of modern air-con. The water museum shows how the quants (underground water channels) brought water to the city from the mountains for thousands of years. You will also visit the Fire Temple and Towers of Silence, both vestiges of the city's Zoroastrian heritage. In the Zoroastrian religion, fire and water are agents of ritual purity, and the fire in the Atashkadeh Fire Temple is said to have been continuously burning since 470 AD. The places we will see in Yazd include: Amir Chakhmagh Ensemble, Fahadan old neighborhood, Ziyaiyeh School (Aleksandra Prison), Congregational Mosque, old Fire Temple, and Dolat Abad Garden. Return to the hotel and rest.



Day 5: Yazd-Isfahan

Yazd wonders aren't limited to the city itself, while other towns near the city have also a notable share in its beauties, some of which are Meybod and Nain. We visit their highlights like Chaparkhaneh (old post center), Pigeon Tower, Narin Castle, Ceramic shops, Pirniya Museum, congregational (Jame) Mosque, and old Aba knitting factory (Aba is a kind of cloth of Muslim clergymen). Put all wonders aside, the famous city of Isfahan, Safavid shining capital with countless attractions is ahead of us today. Iran's richest city renowned for its exceptional architecture and arts such as Meenakari, Miniature, Silverwork and Copper. As we enter the city, taking a stroll on historical Khaju and Si-o-se-pol (33 bridges) historical bridges at night make you ready for your tomorrow visits.

Day 6: Isfahan

Start the day by exploring Naghsh-e Jahan Square, the 17th-century site which is also one of the largest public spaces in the world. Visit the Shah (Imam) 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 7: Isfahan–Tehran

Drive to Tehran after an early breakfast. After entering Tehran, we go straight to the Golestan Palace and National Museum of Iran, aging more than 70 years, containing 300,000 museum objects. Then we go to visit Golestan Palace Museum Complex, built by Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty and dating from the 18th to the early 20th century. We continue to the Shams-ol-Emareh (Sun) Palace and the Ethnographic Museum, with a walk around the garden to enjoy the beautiful tile-covered walls and buildings. 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. After a long and lively day, we go to the

hotel. Maybe after a short break and taking a shower to go to the Baam Land and Iran Mal (Iran Mal is one of the biggest shopping mall in the world) to explore and shop.

Day 8: 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. Dinner in the open buffet at one of the top restaurants in the Darband, transfer to the Imam Khomeini international airport, say goodbye and return home.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- 7 nights' accommodation in standard-grade hotels
- Land travel in Iran by air-conditioned coach
- Services of an experienced Iranian tour guide throughout the tour
- Meals: 7 breakfasts and 7 dinner
- entrance tickets according to the travel plan
- Tehran-Shiraz domestic flight ticket

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 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.

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	SHIRAZ	2
5*	PARS	KERMAN	1
5*	SAFAIYEH	YAZD	1
5*	ABBASI	ISFAHAN	2
5*	ESTEGHLAL	TEHRAN	1