




Package Code: TIT518001		
Duration: 18 days / 17 nights		
Cities to visit: Tehran, Zanjan, Takab, Hamedan, Sahneh, Kermanshah, Shushtar, Izeh, Shiraz, Pasargadae, Isfahan, Kashan, Tehran		
City	Things to do	Overnight Stay*
<b>Day 1 - Landing to Persia (Tehran)</b>		
Tehran	Welcome to Iran. You will Arrival at Tehran's IKA airport; meet your guide and transfer to the hotel for the rest. In the afternoon, after an introductory lecture, we visit the <b>Reza Abbasi Museum</b> and <b>Nature bridge</b> of Tehran.	4* hotel/traditional house
<b>Day 2 - Glory of Tehran</b>		
Tehran	After an introductory lecture in the morning, we visit the <b>National Archaeological Museum</b> , which collected many Objects from the Paleolithic, Neolithic, Copper, and Iron ages and famous sculptures of the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sasanian Empires. Then we enter the UNESCO World Heritage Site of <b>Golestan Palace*</b> , part of a complex of royal buildings that were once enclosed within the mud-thatched walls of Tehran's historic arg, or citadel. The oldest of the historical monuments in Tehran, this opulent palace dates back to the Qajar Dynasty.	4* hotel/traditional house
<b>Day 3 - Zanjan</b>		
Tehran/Zanjan/ Takab	Today we drive to Zanjan. In the archaeology museum, we visit the mummified remains of three miners that are discovered in one of the salt mines in Zanjan. These "salt men" are in fact ancient corpses who had been killed in a mining accident and mummified under extreme conditions. It is a disaster for the victims, but a sensation for modern archaeology. After that, we visit the <b>mausoleum of Uljaitu Khodabandeh</b> , known as the <b>Soltanieh Dome</b> and noted in the UNESCO list as an architectural masterpiece of its period. This brilliant turquoise-brick dome sitting on the plains of Soltaniyeh is a vivid remnant of land once ruled by the Mongols. This unique 700-year-old brick dome is the first double-shelled dome in the world sitting on an octagonal base surrounded by eight minarets and iwans. Then we will continue to Takab and check in to our hotel.	4* hotel/traditional house
<b>Day 4 - The mysterious Takht-e Soleyman</b>		
Takab	This morning we take you a World Heritage Site, <b>Takht-e Soleyman*</b> (Solomon's Throne). The holiest shrine of Zoroastrianism and the most important relic of the former Sassanid Empire. Its temple homed one of the three great fires of Zoroastrianism, which is believed to have existed since the start of time. This archaeological site dates back to the 6th century. It was partially rebuilt during the Ilkhanid period and they added new constructions to it and reused the site as a palace. Folk fiction relates that King Solomon used to imprison monsters inside the crater of the nearby <b>Zendan-e Soleyman</b> "Prison of Solomon". Another crater inside Zendan-e Soleyman is filled with spring water and Solomon is said to have created a flowing pond that still exists today. The site officially comprises one location, but there are some sub-locations such as Takht-e Soleyman with its <b>fire temple</b> and <b>Anahita temple</b> , the small hill Zendan-e Soleyman ('Solomon's prison'), and <b>Belqeis Mountain</b> with a citadel.	4* hotel/traditional house
<b>Day 5 - Old Capital</b>		
Takab/Hamedan	Today we will move toward Hamedan. This city is a strategic location and resources probably made it a popular site even before the 1st millennium B.C.E. According to Herodotus, <b>Ecbatana</b> was chosen as the Medes' capital in 678 BC by Deioces, the first ruler of the Medes. His intention was to build a palace worthy of the dignity of a king. After the Median era, this city became a summer	4* hotel/traditional house

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	<p>royal residence and treasury until 330 BC during the Achaemenid empire. Later, it became the capital of the Parthian and Sassanid kings and was used as a summer residence (whereas Ctesiphon was used as the winter residence). The wealth and importance of the city in the Persian Empire are attributed to its location on a crucial crossroads that made it a staging post on the main east-west highway called High Road. Hamedan is still an important city, having re-established itself under the planning of a German engineer in the 19th century. In classical times. We start our day by visiting the <b>Hegmataneh Archeological site</b>. Consist of Archaeological excavation and a city in a parallel and symmetrical way, a museum, and two Armenian churches. The next fascinating step will be <b>Gonbad-e Alavian</b>(orAlavian Mosque) which is a four-sided interesting 12th-century mausoleum belonging to the late Seljuk period. Alavian Mosque resembles the Gonbad-e Sorkh of Maragheh from the exterior side. Then visit one of the beautiful sightseeing is called <b>Esther and Mordecai Tomb</b>. This is the tomb of Esther, the wife of Xerxes of Iran, and Mordecai (Mord Khay) was her uncle. Its structure has been constructed of brick and stone about 11 centuries ago, in order to respect these two personalities. This vicinity is a place for pilgrimage of the Jewish sect and is also held in regard to the Moslems. Our next site to visit is the <b>Stone Lion</b>. It seems that this statue dates back to Alexander the Great's invasion of Iran in the Hellenistic period. With its Grecian style, the stone lion is believed to have been built by Alexander in honor of his close companion and one of his top generals, Hephaestion. The last place is <b>Ganjnameh</b> Inscriptions. These inscriptions are a set of trilingual rock carvings in cuneiform engraved on the mountain by Darius I and his son, Xerxes of the Achaemenian era.</p>	
<b>Day 6 - Dakhma</b>		
<p><b>Hamedan/ Sahneh</b></p>	<p>Today we will drive to <b>Tepe Nushijan</b>, an ancient Iron age settlement. This site is truly an awe-inspiring ruin and will have you all surprised. It is a mud-brick complex that has been excavated by the French on top of a huge mound in the middle of a flat plain of about 60 kilometers south of Hamedan. It is said that it belongs to the 'Medes'. We will go to an exciting site to explore it. The Anahita Temple is the name of two archaeological sites in Iran that is belonged to the ancient deity, Anahita who is associated mostly with wisdom, fertility, and healing. The one we are going to visit today is the larger one and it is located in Kangavar. Anahita was worshipped in ancient Persia alongside Ahura-Mazda, the supreme creator goddess in Zoroastrian religious practice. The temple still contains remnants of some fascinating Irano-Roman mosaics. From here we will drive a couple of miles to <b>Darband Goor Dakhma</b>. Goor Dakhmas were cemeteries that were dug into the mountains and cliffs. They had a chamber used as a burial place for one or more decedents. In front of it, there is a porch with two meters wide, which has stone columns and a winged sun image above it. There are platforms where the grave is embedded inside it and also places to put up gifts for the decedents. Depending on the shape of the rocks, this Goor Dakhma belongs to the Medes or Achaemenids era.</p>	<p><b>4* hotel/traditional house</b></p>
<b>Day 7 - Old Persian</b>		
<p><b>Sahneh/ Kermanshah</b></p>	<p>We will proceed to Kermanshah, one of the ancient cities of Iran which used to be an important station on the Silk Road. On our way, we will visit the Trilingual inscription of <b>Bisotun*</b> which is located on Mount Bisotun. It was written in three different cuneiform script languages: Old Persian, Elamite, and new Babylonian. On the Kermanshah city tour, we will go to one of the historical and impressive buildings known as <b>Tekyeh Biglarbeygi</b>. This Tekyeh was built during the Qajar era and its construction is well known for its unique mirror decoration. Nowadays it is used as a museum. A part of it is a museum of inscriptions and scripts and the other part is the Zagros Paleolithic museum</p>	<p><b>4* hotel/traditional house</b></p>

	<p>which is the Middle East's first museum showcasing antiquities belonging to the Paleolithic era. The museum contains a large collection of stone tools and animal fossil bones from various Paleolithic sites in Iran. We will end our day exploring the Sassanian Bas-relief at <b>Taq-e Bostan</b> in the heart of the Zagros mountains. The carvings mostly depict a series of royal hunting scenes and victories of Sassanian Kings. What is most interesting is that these carvings have endured hundreds of years of strong winds and rain and yet they are still firmly standing.</p>	
<b>Day 8 - Sassanid Era</b>		
<b>Kermanshah</b>	<p>We travel to the north of Kermanshah, close to Sarpol-e Zahab to visit a rock relief from the third millennium BC. The <b>Anubanini petroglyph</b> is believed to belong to the Lullubi culture. Although it was damaged during the Iran-Iraq war, it is worth visiting. On the way to Sarpol-e Zahab, we visit <b>Taq-e Gara (Taq-e Shirin)</b>, a stone structure that belongs to the Sasanian Empire. It is built in the Patagh pass at the heights where is known as the Gate of Zagros in the Kermanshah Province of Iran. Then we continue to Qasr-e Shirin to visit another historical monument of the Sassanid era called <b>Chahar Qapi</b> fire temple. It was constructed of stone and gypsum and was counted as one of the largest five temples of the Sassanid period. After that, we come back to Kermanshah.</p>	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>
<b>Day 9 - Castle &amp; Bridges</b>		
<b>Kermanshah/ Shushtar</b>	<p>Today we drive to Khoramabad, the center of Lorestan province. we visit <b>Falak-ol Aflak Castle</b> in Khorramabad was built by Shapur I in the 3rd century B.C. Originally as a fortified caravanserai, first a town, and later a city, grew up around it. There is also a large Anthropology and Archaeological museum on site. We continue our tour by visiting <b>Shush or Susa*</b>. Archaeologists have traced signs of life at Susa as far back as 7000 BC, but the first settlements were probably established around 4000 BC. Dating back to around 6000 BC, Susa was one of the great ancient cities of Iran and an important Elamite center until it was destroyed by the Assyrians in the 7th century. Susa was the Administrative capital during the Achaemenid empire and it was built by the order of Darius the Great (521-515 B.C). Across the river, visit the <b>tomb of Daniel</b>, said to hold the remains of the Jewish prophet, and is still a place of pilgrimage.</p>	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>
<b>Day 10 - Ziggurat</b>		
<b>Shushtar/Izeh</b>	<p>We start our day tour by visiting the ancient city of Shushtar which is popular for watermills. The <b>historical hydraulic system*</b> can be traced back to Darius the Great in the 5th century B.C. One of them is still functioning and was used to grind wheat and barley. They were added to UNESCO's World Heritage Sites list in 2009 and described as an 'a masterpiece of creative genius'. Our next site is <b>Haft Tepe</b>, the site of an ancient city built about 3,500 years ago and an imposing feature rising about the surrounding plain. We continue to <b>Chogha Zanbil*</b>, a UNESCO World Heritage site that is one of the few remaining ziggurats of ancient Mesopotamia. Distinctive construction techniques and elaborate glass-based materials were used for this great structure. Later, we continue our way to Izeh city.</p>	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>
<b>Day 11 - The Petroglyph City</b>		
<b>Izeh</b>	<p>Izeh county is named the "<b>Petroglyph city</b>" of Iran and today we explore this city and its surrounding. Izeh has had a major and important role in Elamite civilization. This cultural- the natural-historical city encompasses <b>Eshkaft Salman, Koul Farah, Khoung Azhdar, Stone Lion Cemetery, and relief of Shahsavar</b> and many other properties dating back to 1300 to 700 years ago. Kul-e Farah petroglyph includes 6 embosses from the Elamite era (the ancient Ilam) and according to the pictures on these petroglyphs and reliefs such as</p>	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>

	tombs, water channels, buildings, and scouting areas remaining from people of that era, it can be stated that this place has been the <b>temple of Narsina</b> (one of the Elamite gods). Eshkaft-e Salman (Tarisha Temple) has embraced the greatest cuneiform script of modern Ilam. Eshkaft-e Salman includes four embossing from the Elamite era and remains of a building of Atabakan. Apart from inscriptions, this area includes a mineral spring and cave from the heart of a mountain. Khoung Azhdar which also is known as Khong-e Nowruzi has two opposite relief faces.	
<b>Day 12 - Rosy Shiraz</b>		
<b>Izeh/Shiraz</b>	We have a full day of driving today to reach our destination of Shiraz. We cross Khuzestan province and the tribal areas of Mamasani and Boyer-Ahmadi. At Bishapur, we explore the remains of the city of King Shapur I and six important rock carvings at nearby Tang-e-Chogan. The <b>temple at Shapur's palace</b> has been identified by several archaeologists as sacred to Anahita, the Zoroastrian goddess associated with the waters. Bishapour was situated on the ancient road between Persis and Elam. The road linked the Sassanid capitals Istakhr (very close to Persepolis) and Ctesiphon. We are in Shiraz for 2 nights.	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>
<b>Day 13 - Pink Lights of Shiraz</b>		
<b>Shiraz</b>	After breakfast, we start our day tour of Shiraz. First, we begin in <b>Eram Garden*</b> , with its beautiful cypress-lined avenues leading to an elegant summer palace. After that, you will visit <b>Nasir-al-Mulk Mosque</b> (a Pink Mosque) few steps far from <b>Vakil Bazaar</b> . Then you'll have time to explore and shop in the bustling Vakil Bazaar, home to hundreds of stores, beautiful courtyards, and even an ancient caravanserai. Then we visit <b>Shahcheragh Holly Shrine</b> and feel the intimate atmosphere of this place. Look up at the Shirazi dome to see the full capacity of the artwork. At the end of the day, visit the <b>tomb of Hafez</b> , Iran's greatest lyric poet.	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>
<b>Day 14 - Who was Ardeshir?</b>		
<b>Shiraz</b>	We take a day trip from Shiraz to a part of the Sassanid archaeological landscape of the Fars Region to visit several Sassanid monuments; including <b>Qaleh Dokhtar</b> (Ardashir I Castle), on a hillside mountain slope overlooking the road, two Sasanian rock arts, including the scene of presenting the royal ring circle from by Ahura Mazda (Great God of Zoroastrian) and the victory Relief of Ardashir, the largest remained of relief in Iran. In the <b>Ardeshir Babakan Palace</b> , we can see the greatness of the Sassanid architecture that dazzles the eyes of every visitor that is also called " <b>Fire Temple</b> " due to the vicinity of this palace to a water fountain called name " <b>Ghomp fire temple</b> ". the ancient town of Firouzabad is the current name of Ardeshir Khurrah (Glory of Ardashir) city. This city was the capital of Ardashir I (A.D. 224-241), the founder of the Sasanian Empire. Goor or Ardeshir Khoreh city was built in a circular plan two kilometers in diameter and encircled by double walls and state-owned buildings and the residents of countries were located there. Then we head back to Shiraz.	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>
<b>Day 15 - The Glory of Achaemenid Empire</b>		
<b>Shiraz/ Pasargadae</b>	We visit <b>Persepolis*</b> , the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid kings that tells the story of the Achaemenid Empire's magnificence and grandeur. Here, we walk through a complex of palaces and temples that is said to be one of the most spectacular surviving archaeological sites in the world and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Nearby, we visit <b>Naqsh-e Rujab</b> , a magnificent archaeological site dating back to the early Sassanid era. This site is located near the ruins of the ancient Achaemenid city of Istakhr. It is the site of four limestone rockface inscriptions and bas-reliefs that feature the investitures of Ardeshir I and Shapur I, as well as Shapur's military victory over	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>

	the Romans. After that, we visit the ancient Achaemenid city of Istakhr. The importance of Istakhr is not only for its close association with Persepolis, but also commanded the western end of an ancient caravan-route that ran from the Indus Valley via Kandahar and Drangiana to Persia. Then visit <b>Naqsh-e Rostam</b> , where we find the carved tombs of Achaemenid rulers Darius the Great, Xerxes, Artaxerxes I, and Darius II. From here we will drive a couple of miles to another UNESCO World Heritage Site of <b>Pasargadae*</b> to see the impressive, elevated and to walk through the different sections of the ancient city: the Residential Palace, the Audience Hall, and the Gatehouse.	
<b>Day 16 - Half of The World</b>		
<b>Pasargadae/ Isfahan</b>	Drive this morning to Isfahan. Iranians say that their lovely city is “ <b>half the world</b> ”. On our way, we have one stop to visit the old <b>Izad khast castle</b> . Izad khast fortress city is built on a singular bedrock and once was a part of the Silk Road in the Sassanid era. The fire temple of Izad Khast Castle is the first fire temple in Iran which was turned into a mosque by the advent of Islam to Iran. This castle is very similar to Arg-e Bam in Kerman. It is noteworthy that this ancient castle is the first adobe castle in the world in terms of history and it is the second adobe building in the world after Arg-e Bam in terms of extent. Upon arrival in Isfahan, check in to the hotel, then we start the city tour by visiting <b>Naqsh-e Jahan Square*</b> , a UNESCO World Heritage site. This enormous open plaza is framed by a wall of arches and surrounded by four jewels of 17th-century architecture, symbolizing the political, economic, and religious spheres of Safavid Persia. Two of these monuments that we visit, is the Islamic world’s most impressive mosques, the <b>Masjid-e Sheikh Lotfollah*</b> and the <b>Masjid-e Shah*</b> . Both of them contain magnificent architecture and tile-work. Then we walk through the <b>Ali Qapu Palace*</b> with its enchanting music room and balcony overlooking the Meidan where the Safavid kings sat to watch polo matches. We finish our day in the <b>Qeisarieh Bazaar</b> , located just off the Meidan. Isfahan is said to have the most beautiful bridges. Time permitting, you can view two of them, the <b>Si-o-Se Pol</b> as well as the ornate <b>Pol-e Khaju</b> .	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>
<b>Day 17 - Elamite Civilization</b>		
<b>Isfahan/Kashan/ Tehran</b>	Before leaving Isfahan, we visit the magnificent <b>Jameh Mosque*</b> with its famous Uljaitu Mihrab of the Ilkhanid Period and with UNESCO World Heritage status. There are nine gardens in Iran designated UNESCO World Heritage, and we visit two today – <b>Chehel Sotun Palace*</b> , a pavilion constructed as a reception hall for visiting dignitaries by Shah Abbas II. Leaving lovely Isfahan behind, we travel north to Kashan to walk through the famous <b>Fin Gardens*</b> , another one of the UNESCO Persian Gardens. We end our day in Kashan by visiting a large ancient archeological site in central Iran, <b>Tepe Sialk</b> . consist of two hills and two cemeteries and a small museum. a wandering site for archeology enthusiasts to wonder at it. One of the oldest human settlements in the Iranian plateau from 8000- 2600 years ago. Late afternoon, we drive to Tehran.	<b>4* hotel/traditional house</b>
<b>Day 18 - Missing Persia</b>		
<b>Tehran</b>	At the end of the tour, the group will be transferred to the IKA airport for departure flight.	-

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**Included services:**

- 17 nights in 4\* hotel/traditional house
- All transportations in private vehicle
- All airport transfers
- Professional licensed English-speaking tour guide/driver
- Meals: half-board
- Daily refreshment (2 bottles of water/ fruits/ snacks)
- Visa authorization code fee
- Travel insurance
- SIM card


**Excluded services:**


- International Flights
- Visa Stamp Fee
- Personal Expenses
- Entrance Fees
- Tips for the tour guide/driver


**Please note:**

- ✓ Hotels are 4\* or traditional houses with the same quality
- ✓ Hotel check-in time generally is at 2:00 PM. So, according to your arrival time, if you need early check-in you must book an extra day.
- ✓ Private or single rooms are not available in some traditional local houses. No Bed, but sleeping equipment is traditional comfortable Mattresses and Blankets.
- ✓ Use Minibus / Van / Private car depending on your group size
- ✓ Vegetarian dishes are also possible upon request.
- ✓ The basic price includes double and twin rooms in Hotels. Obviously, single rooms cost an extra fee.
- ✓ The priority in sightseeing may be changed. It is due to the time of your arrival, your guide's discretion, and official and unofficial holidays of some museums. Also, some activities in the itinerary may be changed depending on the weather conditions.

**Thanks for choosing us!**

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