



# THE Nation. TRAVELS

## IRAN ITINERARY | DECEMBER 2017

*Iran: Persian Crossroads and Complexities*

CONTACT

WEBSITE

DETAILS & PRICING

### FRIDAY, DEC. 8: DEPART THE UNITED STATES

- Depart JFK via Lufthansa Flight No. 405 at 10:20 pm

### SATURDAY, DEC. 9: DEPART FRANKFURT

- Depart Frankfurt via Lufthansa Flight No. 600 at 5:20 pm to Tehran.

### SUNDAY, DEC. 10: ARRIVE IN TEHRAN

B, L, D

- After clearing passport control and retrieving your baggage, you will be met by your Iranian guide, who will accompany you to your hotel and help you check in. You will have a number of hours to sleep and then enjoy breakfast. We'll then rendezvous in the hotel's reception area at 10 am to begin today's tour of Tehran.
- We'll start with a visit to the Glass and Ceramics Museum, located in what was once a private home for a prominent Persian family during the Qajar dynasty (1795–1925). The building subsequently became the Egyptian embassy before being converted in 1976 into its current incarnation. Today it houses an extensive collection of earthenware, glassware, ceramics, china, and crystal objects.
- Later, we'll visit the Carpet Museum of Iran, which features beautiful displays that illustrate the status of carpet-weaving as an art form and a reflection of Persian history and culture. The museum's selection of carpets on display, primarily from the 19th and 20th centuries, are representative of both urban and village weaving techniques.
- Dinner at Hamdi's and overnight in Tehran.

### TRIP DATES:

DEC. 8-19, 2017

B: BREAKFAST

L: LUNCH

D: DINNER



## MONDAY, DEC. 11: **TEHRAN/SHIRAZ**

**B, L, D**

- Today we'll continue our survey of Tehran with a visit to the Niavaran Palace Museum, a regal complex surrounded by elegantly landscaped grounds where the last shah and his family spent much of their last decade in Iran.
- Afterward, we'll visit the National Jewelry Museum. Here, we'll be able to admire the Peacock Throne, among many other treasures acquired by Iran's rulers. The collection has items from the 18th through the 20th centuries, including treasures amassed under the late Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi and his wife, Empress Farah.
- We'll have a late-afternoon transfer to the airport for an evening flight to Shiraz, where upon arrival we'll have dinner with the group.
- Overnight in Shiraz.

## TUESDAY, DEC. 12: **SHIRAZ, PERSEPOLIS, NAQSH-E RUSTAM**

**B, L, D**

- After breakfast, we will set off on an approximately one-hour drive to Persepolis, a site that many feel is the greatest embodiment of Persian culture. Established by Darius the Great (522–486 bc), Persepolis was the showplace under the Achaemenid dynasty (550–330 bc).



- The sheer expanse of Persepolis was awe-inspiring to all its visitors, most of whom were subjects from the various parts of the empire who had come to the city bearing gifts to pay homage to its rulers. While much of Persepolis has been destroyed since



## TUESDAY, DEC. 12: SHIRAZ, PERSEPOLIS, NAQSH-E RUSTAM

B, L, D

its peak, renovations give modern visitors a taste of its onetime immensity and sheer beauty.

- From Persepolis, we'll continue to nearby Naqsh-e Rostam, where one can see the tombs of prior kings built into the rock walls.
- We'll then return to Shiraz and visit the tombs of Iran's two most famous poets, Hafez and Saadi. It is the rare Persian home that does not have a book of poems by Hafez or Saadi. Their tombs are pilgrimage sites, must-see destinations for any visiting Iranian, including young couples—engaged or contemplating marriage—wishing to celebrate these giants of romantic and moral poetry.
- Later, we'll take a visit to the Shiraz bazaar, which will underscore the important role that the marketplace plays in the city's commerce.
- Dinner and overnight in Shiraz.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13: PASARGADAE/ISFAHAN

B, L, D

- From Shiraz, we'll head north to Pasargadae, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where we'll visit the tomb of Cyrus the Great. We'll continue on to Isfahan, a drive of approximately five hours from our start in Shiraz. Upon arrival in Isfahan, we'll check into our hotel situated along the Zayandeh River and near a verdant park.
- Dinner and overnight in Isfahan.







## THURSDAY, DEC. 14: ISFAHAN

B, L, D

- By nearly unanimous opinion, Isfahan is held to be Iran's most beautiful city, by both foreigners and Iranians alike. Greenery abounds in its tree-lined streets, and it is dotted with beautiful architecture. Although it has nearly 2 million inhabitants, Isfahan is unpretentious for such a large city. With the Zayandeh River flowing through it (though it's frequently a dry riverbed) crossed by a series of impressive bridges, Isfahan is a visual delight. In a city like this, it's hard to say just what is the highlight—you'll have to sample it all!
- Dinner and overnight in Isfahan. (B, L, D)

## FRIDAY, DEC. 15: ISFAHAN

B, L, D

- We'll visit the Jameh Mosque, an example of sophisticated Islamic design, displaying influences from the 11th-century Seljuk dynasty. Looking up at the ceiling in the main dome, one can easily see how carpet designers in the subsequent centuries were influenced by these archetypal patterns. Other stops will include buildings surrounding the beautifully designed Naqsh-e Jahan Square (for example, the Imam Mosque, the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, and the Ali Qapu Palace). In addition, the tour will include a visit to the Chehel Sotoun Palace, which was built as an entertainment pavilion and reception hall in the 17th century.
- Following lunch, we'll head to the Armenian quarter to visit that community's church and museum.
- Dinner and overnight in Isfahan.





## SATURDAY, DEC. 16: ISFAHAN/KASHAN/QOM/TEHRAN

B, L, D

- We'll depart Isfahan and head back to Tehran with stops en route, the first of which will be at Kashan, a city famed for its carpets. Kashan rose to prominence during the Seljuk period from the 11th to 13th centuries, during which it became legendary for its ceramics and tilework, in addition to its carpets. These crafts were elevated to an even higher art form under Shah Abbas I, during the 16th and 17th centuries.
- An earthquake in 1779 destroyed much of Kashan. The subsequent Qajar dynasty spent lavishly to rebuild the city.



- Approaching Qom can be difficult at any time, as both extensive traffic and security concerns frequently limit access. Time and access permitting, we will attempt to visit the city. Known as one of the holiest cities in Iran (second only to Mashhad), Qom is the seat of the Islamic council that runs the country today. The city is filled with mullahs who come there for religious training. We hope to have the opportunity to see the Hazrat Masumeh, the burial place of Imam Reza's sister Fatemah, who died in the ninth century. Since it is forbidden for non-Muslims to enter the structure, we will admire it from the outside.
- We'll continue on to Tehran, with an early-evening arrival. There will be an evening group dinner.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 17: TEHRAN

B, L, D

- Today we'll tour the city further, and there may be an opportunity to meet members of Iran's media and/or government.
- We will make a pit stop at the Tehran bazaar, a maze of





## SUNDAY, DEC. 17: TEHRAN

B, L, D

alleyways that serves not only as the city's economic heart, but also as the site of a major political force in modern Iran. Bazaaris, as the merchants of the bazaar are called, are an important constituency for anyone who intends to govern the country.

- Dinner and overnight in Tehran.

## MONDAY, DEC. 18: TEHRAN

B, L, D

- Today will be a mix of more touring, as well as the possibility of meeting members of Iran's media and/or government. There will be an evening dinner with the group.
- Overnight in Tehran.

## TUESDAY, DEC. 19: DEPARTURE

- Early-morning departure from Tehran via Lufthansa Flight No. 603 to Munich, departing at 6:40 am, arriving in Munich at 9:15 am. Departure from Munich via Luftansa Flight No. 410 at 12:15 pm, arriving at JFK at 3:50 pm.





DETAILS

PRICING

<b>AIR AND LAND PACKAGES</b>	
DOUBLE (per person):	<b>\$7,165</b>
SINGLE:	<b>\$7,895</b>

<b>LAND ONLY PACKAGES</b>	
DOUBLE (per person):	<b>\$6,465</b>
SINGLE:	<b>\$7,195</b>

\*Rates are based on standard accommodations. Suites, superior rooms, and other upgrades carry additional fees.

INCLUDED

- Round-trip international economy-class air from New York (JFK) to Tehran (via Munich)
- Visa invitation letter
- Ten nights at four- and five-star hotels throughout Iran\*
- A one-way flight from Tehran to Shiraz
- Travel authorizations and Iranian visas
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers
- Seminars and lectures
- Guided visits to Iran’s preeminent museums and historical sites
- Most of your meals, including tips to restaurant staff
- Tips for hotel baggage handling
- All other activities and events listed on the itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

- Airline baggage fees
- Airfare to/from New York’s JFK Airport
- Hotel expenses (mini bar, room service, laundry fees, etc.)
- Meals other than those listed on itinerary
- Health and evacuation insurance
- Trip cancellation insurance
- Any deviation from the itinerary
- Gratuities to the Iranian tour guide and driver
- Any item not listed

\* Accommodations  
Tehran: Espinas Hotel  
Shiraz: Zandiyeh Hotel  
Isfahan: Kowsar Hotel