

IRAN EXPLORATION

October 31 – November 15, 2014

We meet in Tehran, visiting important museums, palaces, etc, there before touring the countryside. Our journey through Iran will take to the major cultural and historical attractions of the country. Many of the landscapes are spectacular and are the result of human activity over thousands of years.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Night</u>
<u>October</u>		
31 F	Arrive in Tehran, taxi to hotel. Meet in lobby at 6 PM for orientation, meet the guide, etc	Tehran
<u>November</u>		
1 S	City tour : Visit National Museum, Golestan Palace, Jewel Museum, residential areas.	Tehran
2 S	Drive to Hamadan, one of the greatest cities of the ancient world. Visit Ganynameh Valley rock carvings. Interesting trip.	Hamadan
3 M	In Hamadan visit Avicenna Mausoleum and the Hegmataneh area. Then drive toward Kermanshah, stopping at the Anahita Temple in Kangavar, Darius reliefs in Bisotun, and then Tag-e Bostan	Kermanshah
4 T	Visit covered bazaar near Modarres Street, Ethnographic Museum. Then to Pol-e Doktor and along the Karkhe Valley toward Ahwaz. Enroute visit Susa, Appadana Hill and museum, Chogha Zanbil Pyramid.	Ahwaz
5 W	Drive toward Shiraz, stopping to see the old Sassanid city at Bishapur and the reliefs at Tang-e Chowgan. Visit Koran Gate in the evening.	Shiraz
6 TH	In the morning to Persepolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Although sacked and burned by Alexander in 330 BC it remains one of the cultural wonders of the world. Visit Nagh-e Rostan and to Pasargadae and Cyrus' tomb. Dinner at a traditional Iranian restaurant.	Shiraz
7 F	City tour of Shiraz including Eram Garden, the Ali ebn-e Hamze Mosque, an extraordinarily beautiful building. Some time free in afternoon.	Shiraz
8 s	Along Maharlu Salt Lake. We will see how landform evolution is sometimes caused by human activity. To Sarvestan Sassanid Palace and on through Neyriz and SirJan to Kerman.	Kerman

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| 9 S | Excursion to Mahan and the sanctuary of Sufi Shah Nematollah Vali and the Shahzadeh Garden. Back in Kerman visit bazaar with a caravanserai, small mosque, and bathhouse museum Later the Zoroastrian Fire Temple. | Kerman |
| 10 M | Drive toward Yazd, visiting the Zoroastrian Towers of Silence, the water museum and the Amir Chagmag Takiyeh. Traditional martial arts show. | Yadz |
| 11 T | In the morning visit Fire Temple, Friday Mosque, and the Dowlat Abad Garden and the wind tower located there. On toward Isfahan, stopping at Nain to visit a very old mosque.

The Moharnadiyeh village for traditional weaving; here you will see how the detritus of millenia quite literally buries old buildings. In evening stroll along the river in Isfahan. | Isfahan |
| 12 W | See Imam Square (UNESCO) with the Imam and Sheikh Lotfollah Mosques, Ali Qapu Palace and bazaar. Late afternoon free | Isfahan |
| 13 Th | In Isfahan visit Chehel Sotun Palace and the (Armenian) Vank Cathedral and then the old Jame Mosque. Drive to Kashan to visit Fin Garden and an example of one old mansion. | Kashan |
| 14 F | Tour around city, visiting Khan-e Borujerdi, a example of lavish living more then a century ago. The to Tehran to see museums. Late afternoon free for shopping, etc. | |
| 15 S | Tour ends after breakfast. | |

The cost of \$2,599 is fullboard and includes all hotels, transport, guides, and admissions. Single supplement is \$425. Tips, drinks, laundry, visa, and personal items are not included. This trip is organized and escorted by Dr. Robert Phillips, a professor of geography who has led tours to this part of the world for more than 20 years. Weather should be pleasant and sunny with day temperatures of 65 – 75 degrees and nites of 55 – 65. There should be little or no rain. A deposit of \$650 will hold a place; the balance is due by August 20. To learn a little : Google wind tower, badgirs, qanat, Avicenna, Darius reliefs.

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