



**PERSIA - LAND OF MANY CIVILIZATIONS** - a tour of its history, culture, architecture, and textiles.

## ITINERARY

### February 24 - Arrival to Istanbul

You will be met at airport and transfer to your hotel in the old town. Welcome Dinner and overnight in ISTANBUL. D.

### February 25 – TEHRAN

Fly to Tehran from Istanbul TK-870, Dep: 10:25am. Arrive:14:55pm. After customs formalities, transfer to our hotel in the center of the city and relax for a while. Later meet for orientation at hotel. Dinner and overnight in TEHRAN. B. D.

### February 26 – KASHAN

Early drive to Kashan (3 hrs.). Visit couple of the most important surviving old museum houses, which are the old Persian style residences with large courtyards and gardens. Taste the Local Baglava and continue to walk in streets of Kashan to say "Hi" to locals and take some pictures of ancient architecture including the oldest Mesjid with 4 IWANS, Meydan-I FAYZ. We will see the looms of famous Kashan Bakhmal- Velvets. Dinner and overnight in a village. B.L.D.



### February 27 – YAZD

Drive to Yazd 4 hrs, visit a traditional surviving Zoroastrian village on the way. After lunch in Yazd. A visit to Dakhmeh - Tower of Silence where Zoroastrian used to leave their dead for wild animals and a visit to only surviving Zoroastrian Fire temple where the eternal fire is still going on, if time permits Char Suq bazaar and interesting alleys of this area. Dinner and Overnight in YAZD. B.L.D.



### February 28 – YAZD

Visit the Alley of Bazaars and Textile weavers of YAZD. Meeting and watching how still traditional ikats and other type of silk + cotton hand loomed textiles are still being woven. After lunch, we will visit the famous "Friday MOSQUE" from 14th century. Prison of Alexander the Great and walk in the old town. Dinner and Overnight in YAZD. B.L.D.



### March 1 – ESFAHAN

Early Morning drive to ESFAHAN. (4.5 hrs.) After lunch, Masjedeh Jomeh - Imperial Friday Mosque, from Chehel Saton gardens walk to Imam Square and its old market in north section. A possible visit to surviving Armenian quarter with its famous Church Kalisaya VANK. Overnight in ESFAHAN. B.L.D.



### March 2 – ESFAHAN

Morning visit to Shah Abbas Palace Museum, discover the newly opened 15th - 16th Century prayer rugs and objects of art along with large wall painting of SAFAVID Shahs. Later we will visit the bridges of Zayende Ruh River, Masjed-e Imam Mosque, Ali Kappu Palace and all around Naksh-i Cehan Square. Overnight in Esfahan. B.L.D.



### March 3 - ESFAHAN

Local museum, Palace of eight Paradise and later possible visit the Sultan Hossein's Madrasa (Needs a special permit because it is still active since old days.) Mid - afternoon for textile shopping, photography on the Meydan-I IMAM. Dinner and Overnight in ESFAHAN. B.L.D.



### March 4 – SHIRAZ

Day drive to SHIRAZ (7.5 hrs.). Lunch is on the way. If time permits, have a bus tour for important avenues and streets before checking into our hotel. Dinner and overnight in SHIRAZ. B.L.D.

### March 5 – PERSEPOLIS

Short drive to the center of Achaemenids (1 hr). It is located on the slop of mountains Mercy – ancient Mithra Mountain from Pre-Islamic period. The extensive site was built for to serve as a palace for Achaemenid kings, and as a center for their religious rites and ceremonies- such as still surviving NEWROZ celebrations of every March in Spring. We will discover the site in a way that should be done with timing the light of the day. We will visit Cyrus's tomb in Pasargadae, the earlier capital of Zoroastrian Iranians. Nearby rock face reliefs of Naqsh-I Rostam and Kaabe-ye Zardosht- pilgrimage center of Zoroastrians. We will tour the area full day and return to hotel by early evening. Dinner and overnight in SHIRAZ. B.L.D.





### March 6 – SHIRAZ

Start walking in old part of Safavid capital -Royal Square, we will invade the KARIM KHAN Castle and visit Vakil Market, textile museum, city museum and the most beautiful Mosque which was the center of life in Safavid period as it is today. Famous square for Shahs to watch ceremonies in old days. Many shops here to discover for some object of art and textiles. Dinner and overnight in SHIRAZ. B.L.D.



### March 7 – SHIRAZ

Drive to country side to discover how nomadic life still survives on high plains. We will discover the largest fire temple surviving from ancient Zoroastrians and Sasanian castles. Drive back to city and visit famous poets Saadi and Hafes mausoleums, important Vakil mosque. We will visit the old bazaar and around to find some of its treasures. Dinner and overnight in SHIRAZ. B.L.D.



### March 8 – TEHRAN

Fly to Tehran, Start our tour with Tehran National Archeology Museum which contains important archeological objects of art from the Achaemenid, Sassanian and Bronze Age periods, along with some very unusual many other objects. After lunch, we will walk in the famous Tehran Bazaar to see how the trade of old days still survive in many corners of this great market. We will take you and give you all the help to find some textile treasures and other objects of art. Dinner and overnight in TEHRAN. B.L.D.



### March 9 – TEHRAN

Possible short visit to small Carpet museum before going all day shopping in bazaar and old trade quarter of the town. Today is the day that you will get enough experience and be able to shop for anything that you may fall in love. We will tell you all the secrets of shopping and trading in such places. A visit to National Treasury Museum, which is open only 2 hour a day. Dinner and Overnight in TEHRAN. B.L.D.



### March 10 – Fly to Istanbul

Transfer to IKIA Airport to fly Istanbul TK - 879 Dep. Tehran 08:10am and arrive to Istanbul 10:10am. Catch your homebound flight. B.