



## Iran, the Treasure of the East -13 Days – 12 Nights

Day	Destination
2 Nights	Tehran, Iran
1 Night	Kashan, Iran
2 Nights	Isfahan, Iran
2 Nights	Shiraz, Iran
1 Nights	Rafsanjan, Iran
1 Nights	Kerman, Iran
2 Nights	Yazd, Iran
1 Nights	Tehran, Iran

### Day 1: Day 1: Tehran

Welcome to Iran! Transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon (variable schedule based on arrival flights), we will begin the visit to TEHRAN, the capital of the country, a modern city with almost ten million inhabitants. We enter the Tajrish Bazar, a small and active bazaar full of activity and life. Inside we visit the Imamzadeh Saleh Sanctuary, one of the most popular Shiite shrines in Iran, magnificent blue architecture, dedicated to a descendant of the prophet. Tehran is on the slope of the Alborz Mountain range, some peaks exceed 5000 meters, and at its foot – on the edge of Tehran – is DARBAND VILLAGE, with its mountain atmosphere, its waterfalls, its green paths, its numerous Tea houses and its restaurants. Dinner included.

Overnight Stay at Hotel.

## **Day 2: Day 2: Tehran**

Start your day with a delicious breakfast & We include a visit (with guide and tickets included) to the great metropolis. We begin by going to the 437 meters high MILAD TOWER, its views are impressive (if it's a foggy day with low visibility, instead of the Milad Tower we will go to the Azadi Tower). We visit the National Museum, the largest historical and archaeological museum in the country, where we can learn more about this land, the cradle of civilizations. Afterwards, we visit the Golestan Palace, declared a world heritage site by UNESCO, a site of palaces and gardens which construction began in the 16th century. Lunch included.

14.00 hrs.- In the afternoon, we will visit the National Jewellery Museum, property of the central bank, an amazing collection of precious stones and metals, highlighting the "peacock throne" and the "earth globe". Free time; we will drop you off in the Grand Bazaar area, with its many covered streets, alleys and hundreds of shops.

Note: Sometimes the jewellery museum is not open, in that case, we would visit the carpet museum that shows Persian carpets, some from the 16th century.

Overnight Stay at Hotel.

## **Day 3: Day 3: Tehran - Mausoleum-Shrine of Imam Khomeini - Qom – Kashan**

Breakfast, Total Distance: 269 km

Note: Today we will visit traditional and religious places. It will be important for you to be respectful and dress with an appropriate attire.

08.00 hrs- Tehran- departure.

08.45 hrs- Mausoleum-Shrine of Imam Khomeini. We will stop on the outskirts of Tehran to visit the Mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, considered the founder of the Islamic Republic and whose construction began in 1989, after his death. The immense complex of over 20 square kilometers is a cultural and tourist center that also houses a seminary and a university of Islamic studies.

10.00 hrs- Mausoleum of Imam Khomeini- departure.

11.45 a.m. – Qom, arrival and time to visit the provincial capital and one of the holiest Shiite religious centers in the Islamic world that houses the Mausoleum of Fatima Masuma, sister of the eighth Shiite Imam, Imam Reza. Tens of thousands of pilgrims visit Qom every year. Qom is known for being a major center of Shia Islamic studies and is home to numerous religious schools and seminaries, as well as Al-Mustafa Islamic University, which attracts students from all over the world. Accompanied by an Islamic scholar we will visit the sacred mausoleum (courtyards and outdoor areas) and he will introduce us to Islam in its Shiite branch, enveloping us in the atmosphere of this holy place. After that, we'll visit Imam Khomeini's house. Free time in the city's bazaar, with its many shops specializing in prayer and religious objects. Lunch included.

15.15 hrs- Qom, departure.

16.45 hrs- Fin Garden, among arid landscapes, at the gates of Kashan, we will discover the wonderful Fin gardens dating back to the sixteenth century, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, in an area of thermal springs and surrounded by a wall. We'll stroll through the gardens, the palace and the baths.

17.45 hrs- End Garden, departure.

18.00 hrs- Kashan, a pleasant city whose historic center, with numerous monuments and historic mud-brick houses, are very beautiful. Free time in the historic center, with a lively tourist life.

Overnight Stay at the Hotel.

## **Day 4: Kashan - Underground City - Caravanserai Abouzeyd - Abyaneh - Isfahan**

Total Distance: 279 km.

08.30 hrs- Kashan, after breakfast we begin the panoramic tour of Kashan, where we visit the Agha Bozorg mosque/madrassa, a beautiful and original construction whose ground floor is occupied by the madrasa while on the upper floor is the great mosque that reminds us of the constructions made by the Persians in India. The center of Kashan has several ancient houses/palaces; We will visit one of them, the Boroujerdi house-museum, from the nineteenth century, where we will be surprised by its mural paintings, in which the rich merchant who built it wanted to show the places he had visited, and the ventilation system to give freshness to the palace in the summer. We will also enter the hammam "soltan bath", with its blue tiles it is one of the most beautiful historical baths in Iran. Flower drinks are typical in Kashan, so to get to know them, we will visit one of the factories-shops of these unique flower drinks, see how they are made and have a delicious tasting. Afterwards, we head to the outskirts of the city where the great archaeological site of Tappeh Sialk is located. We are impressed to know that there existed here a civilization, the Elamite, highly developed 7,500 years ago, one of the first of humanity.

11.30 hrs- Kashan, departure,

12.00 hrs- Noush Abad, stop to visit the "underground city", a complex of tunnels and galleries built over 1500 years ago to protect against invasions.

13.30 hrs- Noush Abad, departure. Our route continues south.

14.15 hrs- Abouzeydabad, stop for a traditional lunch included in an old restored caravanserai very close to desert dunes.

15.15 hrs- Abouzeydabad, departure. We entered a mountainous area.

16.15 hrs- Abyaneh, stop to get to know one of the most charming villages in Iran, in a valley 2500 meters above sea level. Its cool climate, red clay houses, its own cultural traditions (including an ancient dialect and traditional dress) and its mausoleum will leave us with indelible memories.

18.00 hrs- Abyaneh- Departure.

20.30 hrs- Isfahan. Arrival at the end of the day. We are in a city with an impressive architectural and cultural heritage: mosques, palaces, bridges and bazaars with delicious handicrafts. This city, inhabited for over 5000 years, was the capital of the Persian Empire. Upon arrival, we'll walk across the historic Si-O-Se Pol Bridge, "the bridge of thirty-three arches" illuminated.

Overnight Stay at the Hotel.

## **Day 5: Day 5: Isfahan**

After breakfast we begin the visit of ISFAHAN, the main tourist destination of Iran, the third city of the country. We start by walking through the Armenian quarter; This community has lived here for centuries and has always been respected. We walk through its quiet streets and visit the cathedral (Kelisa-ye Vank), a small museum that allows us to learn about Armenian culture and history. We also visit the 17th century Bethlehem Church with its impressive frescoes. Afterwards we head to the historic center, making a first stop at the Jame Mosque, the largest mosque in Iran that still celebrates worship and we get emotional in its immense courtyard when we hear the call to prayer. This mosque has been declared a World Heritage Site. We continue to the main square of the city, Naghsh Jahan, one of the largest public squares in the world with more than half a kilometer in length, declared a World Heritage Site, and where the "three powers" are located: the political, with the Ali Qapu Palace that we will enter to see its view over the square; the commercial, with probably the best bazaar in Iran to buy handicrafts; and the religious one, with two mosques in the square. We visit the Imam Mosque, built 400 years ago with its various sections and blue tiles. Inside the venue, we meet with an imam who will talk to us about Islam and will be able to guide us in our doubts. Lunch included. In the afternoon, we visit the Chehel Sotun Palace, with its fountains, gardens, paintings and public bath. We also include the entrance to the Museum of Music, a small museum that shows us how Persia was the cradle of many of the instruments that are played today and we will attend a small concert of traditional Persian music to discover the great beauty of Iranian music. Free time at the bazaar.

Overnight Stay at Hotel.

## **Day 6: Day 6: Isfahan - Izadkhast – Qalat – Shiraz**

Start your day with a delicious breakfast

otal Distance: 437 km.

08.00hrs- Isfahan, departure. We continue south, crossing arid landscapes.

10.00 hrs- Izadkhast, stop to get to know this small town with adobe architecture, with its old quarter, its ruined castle and its caravanserai.

11.00 hrs- Izadkhast, departure, among mountains.

14.00hrs- Qalat, time for a walk in this charming town with a long history with stone houses, and gardens where a Christian community lives; we will visit its small church surrounded by charming gardens that has endured since the time of the Qajar. Lunch included.

16.30 hrs- Qalat, departure.

17.30 hrs- Shiraz. We are at the center of Persian culture, inhabited for more than 4000 years. A city of nightingales and poets, it was the capital of Persia for a period in the 18th century. In the afternoon we will visit 2 of the mausoleums of the great names of Persian literature born in Shiraz, the gardens and the mausoleum of Hafez of Shiraz, a Sufi poet and mystic of the 14th century and who today remains one of the most beloved figures by the Iranian people, who memorize his verses or seek advice in his texts and the gardens and mausoleum of Saadi, another great Persian poet of medieval times with a deep sensitivity. popular in this city.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

## **Day 7: Shiraz - Persepolis - Shiraz**

Start your day with a delicious breakfast and at 07.30 hrs- Shiraz, departure to visit 60 km away, the most impressive archaeological site in Iran.

08.30 hrs- Persepolis. This World Heritage Site was built 2700 years ago to be the capital of the Achaemenid empire. Its stone palaces, its carvings showing historical and ritual scenes, as well as details about the kings and the court, show us one of the first great cultures of humanity.

10.00 hrs- Persepolis, departure. Nearby we will visit Naghsh Rostam, the cemetery of the emperors with their tombs in the stone.

After the visit, we'll return to Shiraz, where we'll visit the Nasir Almolk Mosque (Pink Mosque) to admire the light filtering through the colorful stained glass windows, the Naranjestan Qavam Garden, and the Zandyeh compound, which includes the Vakil Bazaar, Saray-e Moshir, Vakil Mosque, Vakil Bath, and Karim Khan Citadel.

We will return to the hotel for a short break and before heading out for dinner with a local family in their home (Note: if there is a case this is not possible, a dinner in a restaurant with live music will be included).

Overnight Stay at Hotel.

## **Day 8: Shiraz - Pasargad - Meymand – Rafsanjan**

Breakfast

Total Distance: 547 km

07.30 hrs- Shiraz. Departure. We head towards the east of the country, mountains, agricultural areas and deserts on our route.

09.30 hrs- Pasargad. We will visit another impressive archaeological site declared a World Heritage Site, built 2600 years ago. Pasargad was the capital of the Achaemenid Empire under Cyrus the Great, and where his tomb is located.

10.30 hrs- Pasargad, departure.

14.00 hrs- Meymand, an impressive troglodyte village in the desert, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Meymand is believed to have been one of the oldest residences in Iran, dating back 12,000 years. Many of the inhabitants live in the 350 houses carved by hand among the rocks. Lunch included.

16.00hrs- Meymand, departure.

18.00 hrs- Rafsanjan, arrival in this small town in the desert where we will stay whose history dates back thousands of years and which is currently one of the largest pistachio production centers in the world. We will be able to see its beautiful “wind towers” that help keep homes cool since ancient times.

Overnight stay at the Hotel.

## **Day 9: Rafsanjan – Mahan – Kerman**

Breakfast

Total Distance: 174 km.

08.00 hrs- Rafsanjan, we continue our route through deserts.

10.00 hrs- Mahan, we will stop in this quiet town famous for the mausoleum of a well-known dervish, mystic and poet of the 15th century. Later we will visit Bagh Shazdeh, a beautiful garden with springs and green trees in the middle of the desert declared a World Heritage Site.

13.00 hrs- Kerman. Arrival in the provincial capital. We are in a religious and conservative city that also has a Zoroastrian minority. We visit the Ganjali Khan enclosure, where the magnificent bazaar, the cistern and the old baths and caravanserai are located. Lunch included. In the afternoon, we'll visit the Fathabad Garden, a historic garden in the middle of the desert on the outskirts of Kerman. Free time.

Overnight stay at the Hotel.

## **Day 10: Kerman – Caravanserai Zeinodin – Sar Yazd – Yazd**

Total Distance: 385 km

After Breakfast, 08.30 hrs- Kerman- departure. We head north, enjoying beautiful scenery on our route.

12.15 hrs- Zeinodin, we make a stop to visit this 16th century caravanserai located on the ancient Silk Road, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This is one of 999 inns built during the reign of Shah Abbas I to provide accommodation for travelers. Lunch included.

14.00 hrs- Zeinodin- Departure.

14.45 hrs- Arrival in Sar Yazd, a historic city where its great fortress built 1500 years ago stands out. Free time for a stroll.

16.15 hrs- Sar Yazd, departure.

17.00 hrs- Yazd, arrival in this emblematic beautiful desert city, with a historic center that is a World Heritage Site, winding streets, wind towers and brick and adobe houses. The city, founded 5000 years ago, is inhabited by people from different cultures, where 10% of the population follows the ancient religion of Zoroaster. Time for a stroll through its old town, which according to UNESCO is one of the oldest settlements in the world.

Overnight stay at the Hotel.

## **Day 11: Day 11: Yazd**

After breakfast we will visit the city of Yazd, we will love its traditional atmosphere and the customs of its inhabitants. On the outskirts of the city, we will visit the Towers of Silence, where, according to Zoroastrian beliefs, corpses are deposited, considered impure, so that they do not contaminate the sacred elements: earth, water or fire. Later, in the historic center, we visit the Amir Chakhmaq compound, with its impressive three-story façade, which includes a caravanserai, cistern and public toilet. We also visit the Water Museum, to introduce us to the great construction works of underground canals, used for 2000 years, to preserve water from evaporation. Lunch included. In the afternoon, we visit the Fire Temple, a sacred place for the Zoroastrian community of fire worship, a fundamental symbol of their religion. It is said that the sacred fire of the temple has not stopped burning since 470 AD. We also visit the Dolat Abad garden, a World Heritage Site. Its 33.8-meter wind tower is the tallest adobe wind tower in the world.

Overnight stay at the Hotel.

## **Day 12: Day 12: Tabriz-Tehran**

Breakfast

Today we include a flight to TEHRAN; Schedules are subject to frequent modifications and both the time of your transfer and your flight will be informed at the time of the booking (at the time of preparation of this itinerary, the flight is scheduled to depart at noon). Arrival at Tehran airport.

Overnight stay at the hotels.

## **Day 13: Day 13: Tehran**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and end of our services.

## Highlights

This 13-day Iran tour takes you through the country's rich history and culture, with highlights including Tehran's Tajrish Bazaar and Milad Tower, the sacred Mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, and the UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace. You'll explore the spiritual heart of Iran in Qom and the ancient city of Kashan, before visiting the stunning Fin Gardens and the charming village of Abyaneh. In Isfahan, you'll marvel at the Naghsh Jahan Square and the beautiful Chehel Sotun Palace. The tour also includes the awe-inspiring Persepolis, the ancient Zoroastrian site of Pasargad, and the desert village of Meymand, before ending in the historic city of Yazd. You'll experience Persian literature, stunning architecture, religious sites, and rich traditions across this captivating journey.

## Tour Includes

- Europamundo General Services: Travel by bus with English speaking guide, basic travel insurance, hotel and breakfast buffet.
- Includes arrival transfer
- City tour in: Tehran, Kashan, Isfahan, Shiraz, Yazd
- Experiences: visit with an Islamic scholar to the Fatima Mausoleum in Qom, Flower drinks factory visit and tasting in Kashan , meeting with an imam to talk about Islam and traditional Persian music concert in Isfahan , dinner with a local family at their home in Shiraz
- Ticket admission: Imamzadeh Saleh Shrine, Milad Tower, National Museum, Golestan Palace and National Jewelry Museum in Tehran, Khomeini Mausoleum , Courtyards of the Mausoleum of Fatima and house of Khomeini in Qom , Fin garden, Agha Bozorg Mosque, Boroujerdi House, Hammam Sultan in Kashan; Tappeh Sialk archaeological site in Kashan , underground city of Noush Abad , Armenian Cathedral, Bethlehem Church, Jamé Mezuita, Ali Qapu Palace, Imam Mosque, Chehel Sotun Palace and Music Museum in Isfahan , gardens and mausoleum of Hafez and Saadi, Persepolis, Naghshe Rostam, Pink Mosque and Zandyeh compound in Shiraz , Pasargad , Bagh Shazdeh in Mahan; Ganjali Kahn archaeological site and Fathabad garden in Kerman , Caravanserai Zeinodin , The Towers of Silence, the Amir, the Water Museum, the Fire Temple
- 10 Lunch included in: Tehran, Qom, Abouzeid Caravanaserai, Isfahan, Shiraz, Meymand, Kerman, Yazd, Nain
- 3 dinner included in: Tehran, Shiraz, Shiraz
- Powered by Europamundo Vacations

## Tour Excludes

- Airfare / Visa / Insurance.
- GST 5%
- TCS at 5% (Tax Collected at Source)
- Any increase in Airfare, Visa fees, Airport taxes, Govt. Taxes, Fuel Surcharges and any applicability of new taxes from Govt.
- Any up gradation in Airline class or hotel room category
- Cost of Air ticket deviation charges
- Any Increase in the rate of exchange leading to an increase in all land arrangements which may come in to effect prior to departure
- Cost of pre or post tour hotel accommodation
- Any extra expense such as route change, Airline change, Date change, Accommodation facilities, etc incurred due to the unforeseen, unavoidable forced majeure circumstances during the tour
- Cost of insurance for 61years and above
- Porterage, laundry, telephone charges, shopping, wines & alcoholic beverages, items of personal nature and food or drink which is not part of a set group menu
- Any extra cost incurred on behalf of an individual due to illness, accident, hospitalisation, or any personal emergency
- Any services or activity charges other than those included in the group tour itinerary
- To and fro Air fare, Airport transfers, insurance, visa fees to join/leave the group for joining and leaving guests
- Anything specifically not mentioned in the 'tour price includes' column
- Conversion Rate on the date of actual payment will be based on the Rate of Euro on XE.com + INR 1.50
- Airfare to be calculated at the time of booking as per actual.