



ALMA Tour & Travel

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Our Tour Packages

Tour Code: THR0722

Day 1	Tehran
Day 2	Tehran
Day 3	Shiraz
Day 4	Shiraz – Isfahan
Day 5	Isfahan
Day 6	Isfahan – Kashan
Day 7	Kashan – Tehran

Tour Code: THR09122

Day 1	Tehran
Day 2	Tehran
Day 3	Qeshm
Day 4	Qeshm – Hengam
Day 5	Larak – Qeshm
Day 6	Hormoz
Day 7	Hormoz
Day 8	Qeshm – Tehran
Day 9	Tehran

Tour Code: THR1122

Day 1	Isfahan
Day 2	Isfahan
Day 3	Desert – Naein - Anarak
Day 4	Desert – Salt Lake
Day 5	Garmeh – Yazd
Day 6	Yazd
Day 7	Maymand
Day 8	Kerman
Day 9	Desert Tour
Day 10	Kerman - Tehran
Day 11	Tehran

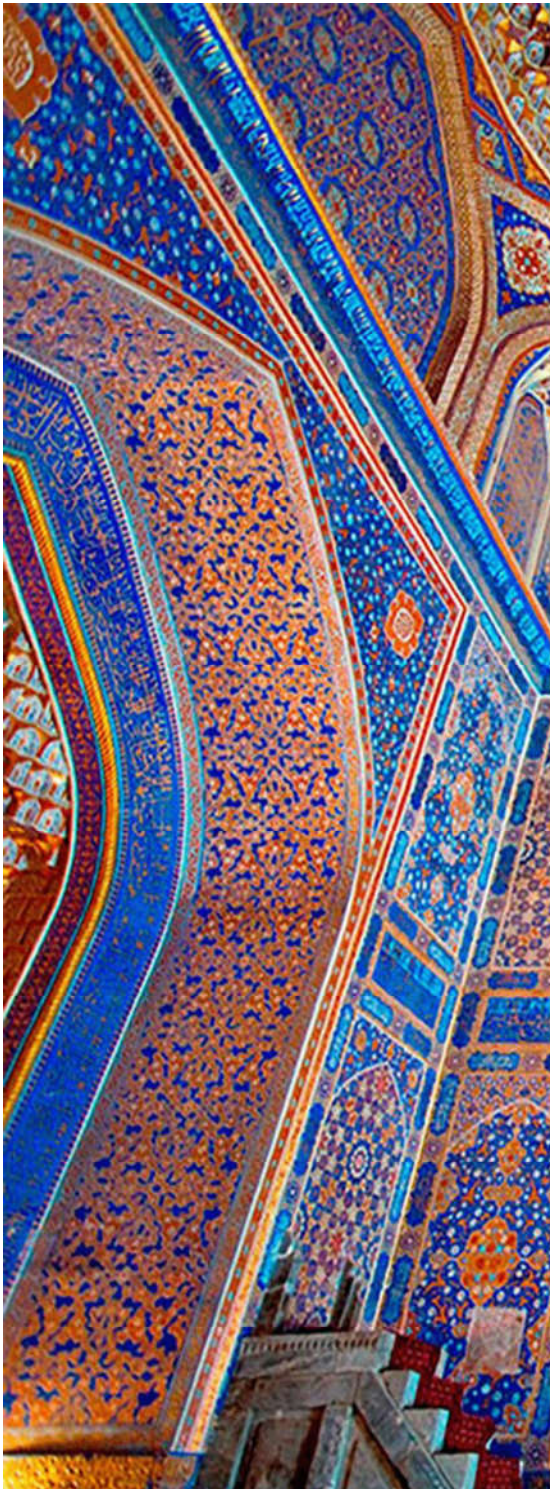
Tour Code: THR0822

Day 1	Tehran – Ardabil
Day 2	Sareyn – Sabalan
Day 3	Sabalan
Day 4	Sareyn – Ardabil
Day 5	Tehran
Day 6	Rineh – Gusfand sara
Day 7	Gusfand sara – Rineh
Day 8	Damavand – Tehran



Tour Code: THR09222

Day 1	Tehran
Day 2	Tehran
Day 3	Tehran – Shiraz
Day 4	Shiraz – Yazd
Day 5	Yazd
Day 6	Naein – Isfahan
Day 7	Isfahan
Day 8	Kashan – Tehran
Day 9	Tehran





Tehran

Tehran is the capital of Iran and Tehran Province. Tehran was first chosen as the capital of Iran by Agha Mohammad Khan of the Qajar dynasty in 1796, in order to remain within close reach of Iran's territories in the Caucasus, before being separated from Iran as a result of the Russo-Persian Wars, and to avoid the vying factions of the previously ruling Iranian dynasties. The capital has been moved several times throughout history, and Tehran is the 32nd national capital of Iran. The city was the seat of the Qajars and Pahlavis, the two last imperial dynasties of Iran. It is home to many historical collections, such as the royal complexes of Golestan, Sa'dabad, and Niavaran, as well as the country's most important governmental buildings of the modern period. Large scale demolition and rebuilding began in the 1920s, and Tehran has been a destination for the mass migrations from all over Iran since the 20th century. The most famous landmarks of the city include the Azadi Tower, a memorial built during the Pahlavi period, and the Milad Tower, the world's 17th tallest freestanding structure, which was built in 2007.

Yazd

Yazd has a history of over 5000 years, dating back to the time of the Median Empire; the present city name is derived from Yazdegerd I, a Sassanid king. The city was definitely a Zoroastrian center during Sassanid times. Yazd is an important center of Persian architecture. Because of its climate, it has one of the largest networks of Qanats in the world, and Yazdi Qanat makers are considered the most skilled in Iran.

To deal with the extremely hot summers, many old buildings in Yazd have magnificent windcatchers, and large underground areas. There is a Tower of Silence on the outskirts, and the city itself has a Fire Temple which holds a fire that has been kept alight continuously since 470 AD.

A windcatcher is an architectural device used for many centuries to create natural ventilation in buildings. The function of this tower is to catch cooler breezes that prevail at a higher level above the ground and to direct it into the interior of the buildings.

Isfahan

Isfahan, a historical city in the center of Iran, is the third largest city of the country after Tehran and Mashhad. It is located 252 miles south of Tehran, and is the capital of Isfahan Province. Isfahan is an important city as it is located at the intersection of the two principal north-south and east-west routes that traverse Iran. Isfahan flourished from 1050 to 1722, particularly in the 16th and 17th centuries under the Safavid dynasty when it became the capital of Persia for the second time in its history under Shah Abbas the Great. Even today the city retains much of its past glory. Isfahan is famous for its Perso-Islamic architecture, grand boulevards, covered bridges, palaces, tiled mosques, and minarets. Isfahan also has many historical buildings, monuments, paintings and artifacts. The fame of Isfahan led to the Persian pun and proverb "Esfahān nesf-e-jahān ast": Isfahan is half of the world. The Naghsh-e Jahan Square in Isfahan is one of the largest city squares in the world and UNESCO has designated it a World Heritage Site.

Kerman

Located in southeastern Iran with almost 800,000 inhabitants, Kerman is situated on a sandy plain 1749 meters above the sea level. Kerman city is the capital of Kerman province covering an area of 181,714 km². Kerman is one of the largest and most important producers of Persian carpets as well as pistachios and dates on the world market. The province is rich in minerals such as copper, coal, chromium, lead, zinc, uranium and aluminum; although mining has still remained on a small scale.



Qeshm

Qeshm Island, known as the largest island of Iran and the second one of the Persian Gulf after Bahrain. It is one of the islands of the Hormozgan Province and lies in the Strait of Hormuz. Qeshm Island has been considered one of the top tourist destinations in Iran in recent years. Geographic location of Qeshm Island: from north to Bandar Abbas, northeast to Hormuz, east to Lark, south to Hengam Island, and south-west to Tunb islands. Qeshm is full of natural and extraordinary attractions which can't be found anywhere in Iran. The natural and historical attractions, along with the culture of the island's indigenous people have made a great number of visitors visit Qeshm as their destination of choice every year.

Hormoz Island

We can surely say if you travel to Hormoz island once, you'll go there again, Autumn and winter are the best seasons to travel to Hormoz, because you can there experience the good weather of spring and summer, so you can enjoy the breathtaking views of the area and the weather at the same time. Hormoz island, located in the Persian Gulf and close to Qeshm Island, despite having one of the most beautiful natural collections, has been unexplored by tourists in the past few years. This is while the island is the home of some phenomenal phenomena that dazzles the eyes of every visitor and leaves them speechless. Hormoz Island is one of the small islands in the Persian Gulf. The island is a place full of different colors and with a completely different culture so that when you visit there, it will appear as if you've entered another planet! It is safe to say that the island of Hormoz is an island of colors and wonders that has come out of the heart of the sea. From the historical Portuguese castle to the Red Beach and the Rainbow Mountains, the island of Hormoz is the place where everyone, regardless of age and taste, must travel at least once in their lives.

Hengam Island

Hengam Island is a small island located 2 kilometers away from the Qeshm Island in Hormozgan Province counted as a part of the Qeshm Town. This island is only 36.6 square kilometres. This island has three small villages, including Hengam-e No Village (New Hengam), which is a suitable spot for ferries and boats to anchor, Old Hengam Village, which is 4 kilometers away from the new village and most of its houses are abandoned today. The other village is named Ghil which is home to about 200 locals and has some water wells. In recent years Hengam Island is becoming known as a perfect winter destination in Iran with wonderful natural and cultural attractions and so much undiscovered eco-tourism potentials. The Hengam Island is a small and stunning island of the Persian Gulf in the south of Iran which will amaze you with its beauties. With picturesque beaches, traditional atmosphere, vast palm tree gardens and rich wildlife, Hengam Island is one of the natural attractions of Iran with many visitors.

Shiraz

Shiraz is located in Fars province in southwest Iran. In addition to its fame for being a major hub of "Electronic Industries" as well as "Medicine" in Iran, Shiraz is known as the "Cultural Capital" of Iran, which is inhabited by different ethnic groups. Shiraz is regarded as the "Paradise of the Tourists". Its geographical features provide for a range of activities including skiing in the winter resorts just some kilometers away, mountain climbing, and hiking in the woods. There are also many places which serve as picnic sites. One can enjoy various water bodies such as a seasonal river, the Salt Lake, and some springs too. Annually, Shiraz receives a huge number of guests from all over the country and across the world. Shiraz is famous for its wonderful Gardens; however, it can be visited for a diversity of purposes. You can find history, religion, culture, and nature all in here, and you should definitely not miss May in Shiraz.

Ardabil

Ardabil is located in southwestern of Caspian Sea among a great plain on the hillside of Sabalan Mountain which is one of the most spectacular foothills in the world and also the Talesh mountain range that is the continuation of the Alborz Mountain. The sources of mineral water, hot springs and the springs used for treatment are the economic sources of this city. Also this city is well known as the first city with the potable water piping. Ardabil has a highly significant role in politic, industry, commerce, history and nature of this province. Most of the people who live in this city are occupied with agriculture and animal husbandry and the nomads in this area have a specific and important role in dairy and handicraft production. The handicrafts of this city include Gilim, Jajim, Shawl, Verny, Masnad, Pottery, Leather, rug and some kinds of local sweets.

8 nights / 9 days Itinerary

Starting in Tehran by a comfortable coach, you will journey through beautiful landscapes and some of the world's oldest archaeological sites, arid mountains, and rural villages.

You will learn about the traditions and cultures of a land whose influence has been felt for thousands of years. Welcome to the once-forbidden land of Persia.

On this trip, we will explore the beautiful cities of Tehran, Shiraz, Yazd, Meybod, Naein, Isfahan and Kashan, and will uncover Persian history at the impressive Persepolis; though, the real highlight of any trip to Iran is meeting the locals, arguably the friendliest and most hospitable people on earth who are always ready to welcome visitors with a smile.



Tour Highlights

- Journey to Tehran, the city of colorful lights, intriguing sounds, and never-ending motion
- Visit Nasir Al Molk Mosque (or the Pink Mosque) in Shiraz
- Discover Persepolis, home of Darius the Great
- Visit Yazd, the city of Zoroastrians, as well as beautiful Meybod and Naein nearby
- Spend the day in Isfahan exploring Imam Square and its mosques
- Wander through the bazaar in Kashan
- Meet Iranian people and be welcomed to their country

Day 1 Tehran

After arriving at Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) in Tehran, our representative will meet and greet you at the airport. The local representative will transfer you to your hotel to rest.

Day 2 Tehran

This morning, we will take you to a World Heritage Site, the lavish Golestan Palace (A UNESCO World heritage site). Built during the Qajar Dynasty, that rose to power in the late 1700s, this fabulous walled complex is centered on a landscaped garden with tranquil pools. Many of the elements you'll admire today, date to the 19th century when local Qajari architects and artisans were looking to integrate traditional Persian style with elements of Western and Russian origin. The palace buildings are among the oldest in modern Tehran and they are still regarded as a crowning achievement of the Qajar era. Then, we will walk around Tehran Bazaar. In the afternoon, you will visit the National Museum of Iran, where you can see fabulous historical items from 5000 BC to the advent of Islam in Iran which shows a brief history of our land. We will also visit the Carpet Museum of Iran, home to a dazzling collection of Persian carpets collected from around the country and representing centuries of extraordinary art and skill.

Day 3: Tehran - Shiraz

Today we fly to Shiraz. After breakfast, you will visit Nasir-al-Molk Mosque (Pink Mosque) few steps far from Vakil Bazaar. It built by the order from one of the lords of the Qajar Dynasty, Mirza Hasan 'Ali Nasir-al-Molk, it took 12 years to complete in 1888. Its interior reveals a magnificent masterpiece of design with stunning colors. This is a space where light and worship intertwine. The mosque comes to life with the sunrise and colors dance throughout the day like whirling dervishes. It reflects on the ground, walls, the arches and the towering spires. It even reflects on the visitors as if a colorful ball is hit by the first sun ray and explodes to thousands of butterflies all around. Then you will visit Karim Khan Citadel. Built during the Zand Dynasty. 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. After that, you'll visit the lovely garden tomb of Hafez, one of our most outstanding poets to feel the taste of Persian Literature. Hafez is one of great poets who impressed everyone with his mastery. His poems give us a special feeling and the peace in his tomb is really outstanding.

In the afternoon, we prepare and have dinner together with a Shirazi family.

Very welcoming and friendly, this experience also allows you to discover the essence of Iran throughout a Persian family, recipe, stories and the pleasure to share a meal.



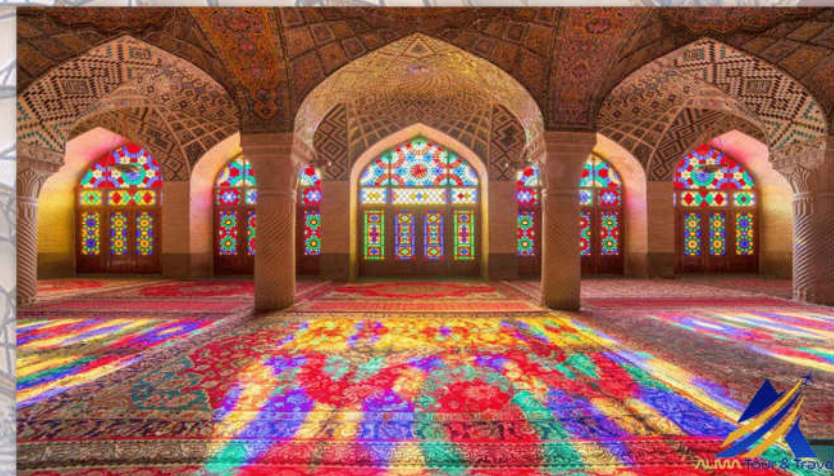
Golestan Palace - Tehran, Iran



Vakil Bazaar - Shiraz, Iran



Tomb of Hafez Shirazi - Shiraz, Iran



Nasir al-Mulk Mosque - Shiraz, Iran

Day 4 Shiraz – Yazd

We have a full day of driving today to reach our destination of Yazd (A UNESCO World heritage city). We will have some stop in our way to visit legendary city of Persepolis (A UNESCO World heritage site), former capital of Darius the Great and founded in 512 BC. There was no more impressive construction in the ancient world, except perhaps Karnak in Egypt. Darius built the terrace, the Apadana (great audience hall), the Tachar (palace), the monumental staircases and his son, Xerxes, added the harem and the Hall of 100 Columns. Alexander the Great entered Persepolis in January 330 BC and then committed an uncharacteristic act of wanton destruction that still mystifies historians today, burning the mighty city to the ground. Though a shadow of its former self, the soaring pillars, terraces and sculptures of Persepolis still remain, but probably most impressive are the bas reliefs which line the site, telling the story of ancient governors and kings that came to Persepolis to pay tribute to the Persian Emperors. Then visit Pasargadae (A UNESCO World heritage site), tomb of Cyrus the Great and former capital of the Achaemenid Empire. We will spend some time exploring the site and though not as striking as Persepolis, there is a great viewpoint where we can look over the site and the surrounding area. Continue to Yazd and check in to our hotel.



📍 Pasargadae – Shiraz, Iran



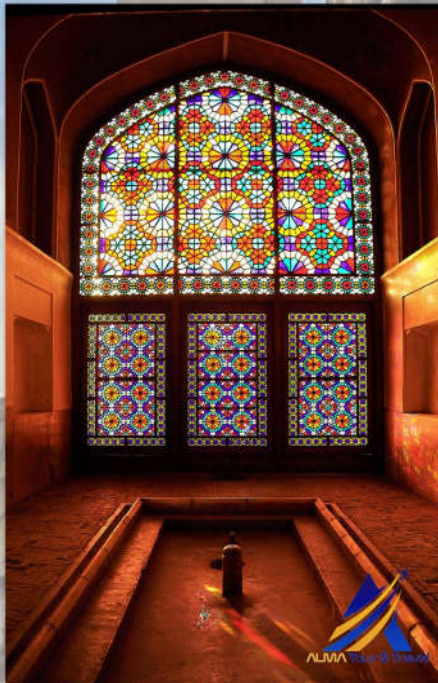
📍 Yazd, Iran



📍 Fire Temple - Yazd, Iran



📍 Tomb of Saadi - Shiraz, Iran



📍 Dowlatabad Garden – Yazd, Iran

Day 5 Yazd

Yazd is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Iran. Its silhouette punctuated by minarets and the ingeniously designed wind towers that capture desert breezes to cool homes during the hot summer months. Yazd is also the center of the Zoroastrian community in Iran, where you will start the day of sightseeing. At the Tower of Silence (also called dakhmeh), you will discover one of the rites of this ancient pre-Islamic religion.

Until the mid-1900s, when a man dies, his immortal soul, three days later, is carried away by the wind to the place of judgment, on the bridge of Chinvat. Corpses were considered impure objects that could not be put in the ground, in water or even thrown into fire without infecting one of these three elements. Only the king's corpse was divine and therefore entitled to a tomb. At the still active Zoroastrian Fire Temple (Atashkadeh), you will see a flame that has been burning for 1500 years. It is an important place of pilgrimage for the faithful and our expert guide will offer you additional insight into one of the oldest monotheistic religions in the world. In Amir Chahkmaq Square, you will see an impressive Hussainiya—a congregational hall for Shia commemoration ceremonies. With three levels of recessed alcoves, all perfectly proportioned, its façade is one of the city's most photographed landmarks. The next place to visit is the Jame Mosque, built in 1324, where you can see the tallest minarets in the country. Among the many other historical sites to visit in Yazd are beautiful old houses and the Dowlatabad Garden (A UNESCO World heritage city). Standing by the long reflecting pool in the garden, you will be shaded by ancient cypress trees.

In front of you is an 18th century hexagonal pavilion with a beautiful stained-glass window and a graceful wind tower, the tallest in Iran. All around are flowering fruit trees and other ornamental plants and trees. Tonight, we will watch a Zurkhaneh performance. Zurkhaneh is a form of traditional martial arts in Iran, where men practice calisthenics and other body-building exercises in a ring.

In 2010 Pahlavani and Zoorkhaneh rituals inscribed on the representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Day 6 Yazd – Naein – Isfahan

Our next stop will be in Meybod, the pottery center of Yazd. Founded in the Sassanid period, cradle of the Mozaffarid dynasty which reigned in Fârs and Kermân in the 14th century.

Meybod, located on an old trade route, also offers a number of fascinating sites to visit, including its caravanserai. Built in typical Safavid style, this former desert inn has verandas, shaded passageways and nearly 100 rooms, some of which are now used as artisan workshops.

At the local icehouse, you'll learn all about the thick clay construction and underground chamber that allowed local residents to store ice and food before refrigeration, even in the intense summer heat!

En route we visit Nain, one of the ancient cities with origins dating back to the 8th century. We visit the Jameh Mosque of Naein (World heritage site).

Your visit to the province of Isfahan continues. Capital of the Safavid Empire in the 17th century, Isfahan was one of the largest cities in the world. Marvelous architecture, unimaginable wealth and a powerful political force with Europeans, Ottomans, Indians and Chinese coming to Isfahan, the heart of a vast Persian empire stretching from the Euphrates into Iraq current at the Oxus in Afghanistan. Indeed, its grandeur inspired the rhyming proverb, Isfahan nesf e jahan (Isfahan is half the world).

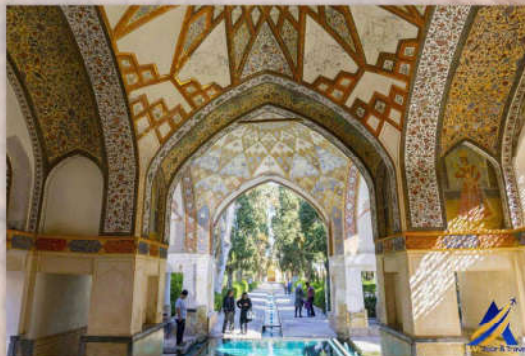
Your exploration continues on Imam Square (also called Naqsh-e Djâhân Square or Royal Square). This 17th century site is one of the largest public spaces in the world. Here in the square, you will visit the 17th century Imam Mosque (Masjed-e Imam), considered a masterpiece of Islamic architecture and easily recognizable by its beautiful tilework, cupola and its minarets (World heritage site).

You will also visit the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, also known as the Ladies Mosque, as it was built for the Shah's Harem, renowned for its colorful domed ceiling, where the light creates the image of a peacock. In the Ali Qapu Palace (the High Gate), you will be amazed by its magnificent music rooms and the balconies where Safavid kings would sit to enjoy the polo matches taking place in the square below.

You will end your discovery of the square by visiting the Qeysarieh Bazaar (or royal bazaar). With hundreds of local vendors specializing in traditional arts and crafts, it's a wonderful place to shop for intricately inlaid pottery, enamel, jewelry and board games.



📍 **Boroujerdi Traditional House**



📍 **Fin Garden – Kashan, Iran**



📍 **Meybod Caravanserai-Yazd, Iran**

Day 7 Isfahan

Our next stop will be Chehel-Sotun Palace (A UNESCO World heritage site). Set in landscaped, wooded grounds opposite a tranquil reflecting pool, this elegant pavilion was originally built by Shah Abbas I in the early 17th century. and finished by Shah Abbas II in 1947 for amusements and short receptions. Entering through a portico with twenty slender wooden columns, you will discover huge rooms decorated with frescoes, paintings and mosaics; the hall of mirrors is beautiful! In the city's Armenian Quarter, you'll delve deeper into the region's complex history by visiting several churches, including the 17th-century Vank Cathedral, with its richly decorated interior and unique blend of Islamic and European architectural elements.

DINNER EXPERIENCE: Tonight, we will visit one of the local restaurants to see and experience how one of the most famous Isfahani meals, Biryani cooked. We will have dinner at the restaurant.

Day 8 Isfahan – Kashan – Tehran

Leaving Isfahan behind, we'll travel north to Kashan, a town originally famous for its textiles and ceramic production, but now better known for Fin Garden.

Fin Garden (A UNESCO World Heritage Site) is our first stop; a relaxing and visually impressive Persian garden with water channels all passing through a central pavilion. There is also the chance to buy some rose water, a local specialty, outside of the site.

Then, you will visit Boroujerdi Traditional House. It was built about 130 years ago in the reign of Qajar dynasty (1857) by Iranian famous architect Ustad Ali Maryam. The owner was Haj Seyed Hasan Natanzi, a well-known merchant who mostly dealt with people of Boroujerd city. That's why the house is known as Boroujerd's House.

Day 9 Tehran

Our representative will transfer you to Imam Khomeini International Airport according to your flight time.

8 Nights / 9 Days Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival

Arrival at Tehran IKA International Airport, transfer to hotel. Check-in and rest.

Day 2: Tehran City Tour

Today is a day to go through history from the 5th millennium BC to 648 AD the pre-Islam archaeological museum covers Persia's history to a view of Islamic works of art. We can walk to get into an old traditional café to have lunch. The Golestan Palace from the Qajar period is listed on the UNESCO heritage list. Build on the leftovers of a citadel is one of the oldest buildings in Tehran. The complex has several palaces and a lovely garden. The Qajar family was ruling Iran from 1785 to 1925. The Grand Bazaar in Tehran is less than 200 years old, but for a much longer time spot trading has been going on. In total there is more than 10 kilometer of lanes full of stores. Each part of the bazaar has its specialty, for example, copper, paper, gold, spices, and of course carpets.

Day 3: Flight To Qeshm, Transfer To Tabl Village

Transfer from hotel to Mehrabad Airport, flight from Tehran to Qeshm; transfer from airport to Tabl Village & welcome ceremony with traditional music performance, lunch in the local house; afternoon island tour: Mangrove forests (Hara marine forests) and Left historical port.

Day 4: Visiting Geological Sites In Qeshm Then Hengam Island

Half-day excursion in Qeshm to visit Borka Khalaf (Berkeh-ye Khalaf) village and Stars Valley; ferry transfer to Hengam Island; lunch: local food in a local house, colored aquatics and dolphins, return to Qeshm for tasty local dinner.

Day 5: Excursion To Larak Island

Visit of wonders of Namakdan Salt and Khorbes caves, ferry transfer to the beautiful coasts of Larak, scuba diving on Larak coasts, and return to Qeshm.

Day 6: Transfer To Hormoz, Half-day Island Tour

Ferry transfer to Hormoz Island, visit of the Portuguese Castle, museum, and gallery of Ahmad Nadalian.

Day 7: Day tour On Hormoz Island

Full day tour to visit geological attractions of Hormoz with beautiful red soil, Sculptures Valley, and Rangin Kaman (rainbow) valley.

Day 8: Transfer To Qeshm, Fly Back To Tehran, Transfer To Hotel

Ferry transfer to Qeshm island, flying back to Tehran, transfer to hotel and rest.

Day 9: Departure

Transfer to Tehran IKA International Airport, departure, and fly back home.



8 Nights / 9 Days Itinerary

Day 1

Meet us in Tehran and get transferred to Mehrabad Airport to catch a domestic flight to Ardabil (1500m). The flight from Tehran to Ardebil takes about an hour and 5 minutes. In Ardabil, have a tour around the city and check out the elegant architecture of the UNESCO-listed Tomb of Sheikh Safi-ad-din Ardabili.

Overnight: Hotel in Ardabil

Day 2

Let's have a ride toward Sabalan Mountain! Hit the road from Ardabil to Sareyn (around 30 km). From there, make our way toward Alvares (around 15 km). Then, have an off-road ride on the foots of Sabalan from Alvares to our Sabalan exclusive camp (around 45 min).

Overnight: Our Exclusive Camp

Day 3

Today is the summit day! Early in the morning, start ascending the beautiful Sabalan and reach the summit in around 6 hours. Then head back to the camp and spend the night there.

Overnight: Our Exclusive Camp

Day 4

Leave the camp and get a ride to Sareyn where you'll have a pleasant and relaxing experience at the hot springs. Finally, have a road trip back to Ardabil (around 32km).

Overnight: Hotel in Ardabil

Day 5

First thing in the morning, catch an about 1-hour domestic flight to Tehran (1117m) and check into the hotel there. You'll have the rest of the day to rest and prepare for the rest of your adventure.

Overnight: Hotel in Tehran

Day 6

Start the day with a road trip (around 118 km) from Tehran to Rineh (2889m) and from there have an about 1-hour 4WD ride to Damavand's Gusfandsara Camp, (3000m).

From Gusfandsara, go on a 4-5-hour trek up to Bargah-e Sevom Shelter (4200m) and spend the night there.

Overnight: Our Exclusive Camp

Day 7

Early in the morning, trek up to the summit of Damavand (5610m). Having conquered the giant in 5-7 hours, descend to Bargah-e Sevom (4200m) for an overnight rest.

Overnight: Our Exclusive Camp

Day 8

Take a trek (about 2hrs) down to Gusfandsara (3200m). From there, get a ride on a 4WD (about 1 hour) to Rineh (2889m). Then have a road trip (around 118 km) back to Tehran (1118m).

