

SURFIRAN

THE BEST OF PERSIA

IRAN 7-DAY TOUR



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 **SURFIRAN**
TRAVEL BEYOND YOUR WORLD

OVERVIEW



Starting in Tehran by a comfortable couch, 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 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**, **Isfahan**, **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.

TRAVEL ITINERARY

DAY 1: TEHRAN (ARRIVAL)

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.

Optional

Time permits, you'll see the **Tabiat (nature) Bridge**. It's easy to see why this multilevel, sculptural pedestrian bridge, designed by Iranian architect Leila Araghian, has won awards and been a huge hit with locals. The 270m long walkway connecting Park-e Taleghani and Park-e Abo-Atash over the busy Modarres Expwy is a fun space to relax and, in good weather, it provides superb views of the north Tehran skyline against the Alborz Mountains.

There's a decent food court at one end and an OK restaurant at the other, as well as plenty of places to sit and socialise, making it a highly popular place to hang out in the evenings.

ACCOMODATION

- Hally 3-star hotel or a similar one in Tehran

DAY 2: TEHRAN – SHIRAZ (FLIGHT)

This morning, we will take you to a World Heritage Site, the lavish **Golestan Palace**. 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.

Tonight, we fly to Shiraz.

ACCOMODATION

- Arg 3-star hotel or a similar one in Shiraz

DAY 3: SHIRAZ

After breakfast, you will visit **Nasir-al-Mulk 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-Mulk, 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.

AUTHENTIC COOKING CLASS AND FOOD TOUR

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.

ACCOMODATION

- Arg 3-star hotel or a similar one in Shiraz

DAY 4: SHIRAZ – ISFAHAN 6 H (487 KM)

We have a full day of driving today to reach our destination of **Isfahan**.

We will have some stop in our way to visit **legendary city of Persepolis**, 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 **Tachara** (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 **Isfahan** and check in to our hotel.

ACCOMODATION

- Setareh 3-star hotel or a similar one in Isfahan

DAY 5: ISFAHAN

Your exploration starts in **Imam Square** (A UNESCO World Heritage Site). This 17th-century site is one of the largest public spaces in the world. Here in the square, you'll visit the 17th-century **Shah Mosque**, revered as a masterpiece of Islamic architecture and easily recognized by its magnificent tile-work and soaring cupola and minarets. You will also visit **Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque**, also known as the Ladies Mosque, as it was built for the Shah's harem, renowned for brightly colored domed ceiling, where the light creates the image of a peacock. In the **Ali Qapu Palace**, you'll marvel at its beautiful music rooms and the balconies where Safavid kings would sit to enjoy the polo matches unfolding in the square below. You'll end your exploration of the square by visiting the **Qeisarieh Bazaar**. With hundreds of local vendors that specialize in traditional arts and crafts, it's a wonderful place to shop for pottery, enamel, jewelry and delicately inlaid board games.

Next up is **Chehel Sotun Palace** (A UNESCO World Heritage Site). Set in a landscaped and forested park in front of a tranquil reflecting pool, this graceful pavilion was built by Shah Abbas II for entertainment and court receptions. Entering through a portico with twenty slender wooden columns, you'll discover soaring halls embellished with frescoes, paintings and mosaics; the Hall of Mirrors is especially breathtaking!

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.*

ACCOMODATION

- Setareh 3-star hotel or a similar one in Isfahan

DAY 6: ISFAHAN – KASHAN – TEHRAN 5 H (440 KM)

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**. (A UNESCO World Heritage Site)

Fin Garden 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.

ACCOMODATION

- Hally 3-star hotel or a similar one in Tehran

DAY 7: TEHRAN (DEPARTURE)

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

Note: Those who need an extra night of accommodation should pay for that.

QUALITY STANDARDS OF THE ACCOMMODATIONS

The local star ratings differ from international standards, where 4-star hotels are similar to 3-star ones in European countries.

ESSENTIAL TRIP INFORMATION

Please note that travelers cannot use debit or credit cards while in Iran. You will need to bring all the money you will need for your entire trip with you. Please read through the money matters section of your essential trip information for further details. Please note that travelers cannot use debit or credit cards while in Iran. You will need to bring all the money you will need for your entire trip with you. Please read through the money matters section of your essential trip information for further details is included on this trip.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

While we always endeavor to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, please contact your guide or contact person directly.

In case of an emergency, you can reach us on the numbers below.

SURFIRAN OFFICE:

+98 21 8884 3831 (Sunday to Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Thursday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Fridays weekend.)

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