

SURFIRAN Travel & Tours Co.

is proud to present

THE PERSIAN CARAVAN TRAIN[©]

A JOURNEY THROUGH PERSIA ON A PRIVATE TRAIN





TOUR OVERVIEW

Tour route and stop details



The Persian Caravan Train tour is an iconic experience of discovering the story of Persia. This all-inclusive adventure will take you through richly diverse landscapes, cultures and heritage sites. The Persian Caravan Train offers unique excursions with tours ranging from beloved Iranian cities such as Isfahan, well known for its beautiful historic architecture and magnificent Persian gardens that trace their design principles to the days of Shah Abbas. Pasargadae and Persepolis, cities of the Achaemenid Empire that rank among the world's greatest sites of antiquity and the warmth of the Iranian people. Yazd which is also very well known for its Zoroastrian fire temples, Persian handicrafts and its high quality confectionery as well as Kerman that is known for its tropical fruits and dates, excellent beef and dairy product. Over a week, the Persian Caravan Train will delight all of your senses as you travel through Iran to reveal the pearl of Persia. During the day, the train provides a warm, naturally lit observation area. Here you can enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while taking in the scenery.



TRAVEL ITINERARY

Discover the ancient Persia



DAY 1 WELCOME TO IRAN

After arriving at Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) our representative will meet and greet you then you will be transferred to hotel for resting.

 5 star hotel in Tehran

DAY 2 TEHRAN – TO SAVADKOOH (TRAIN)

Among the unique characteristics of this route, mention can be made of geographical variety, specific landscapes of multiple climates of center and North of Iran as well as its amazing views.

A complete collection of beautiful natural resources including Alborz mountain range, Hyrcanian forest, plains as well as Kavir desert can be seen on this day tour. Starting from Tehran main station in the early morning, going through Garmasar, Bonakuh, Simindasht, Zarrindasht, Firouzkuh, Gadok, Shur Ab and Veresk to Savadkuh.

The train stops for visits to the architecture and industrial archaeology of Iran's first nation crossing railway line.

A masterpiece of building technique, the line climbs up to a height of more than 2000 m through extraordinary bridges, loops and tunnels. Enjoy the trip on one of the world's most spectacular mountain railways.

 5 star hotel in Tehran

DAY 3 TEHRAN – YAZD (TRAIN)

This morning we take you a World Heritage Site, the lavish Golestan Palace. The palace buildings are among the oldest in modern Tehran and they are still regarded as a crowning achievement of the Qajar era.

Time permitting, we can walk around Tehran Bazaar, few steps far from Golestan Palace. Continue along the Bazaar route. In afternoon you will visit National Museum of Iran, where you can see fabulous histori-

cal items from 5000 BC to the advent of Islam in Iran which shows brief history of our Land.

Tonight, we will be at the train station to move to Yazd.

 Overnight on board the train



Amir Chakhmagh, Yazd

DAY 4 YAZD (TRAIN)

Yazd is one of Iran's oldest continuously inhabited towns, 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 Iran's Zoroastrian community, which is where you'll begin the day's sightseeing.

At the Tower of Silence, you'll learn about one of the traditions of this ancient pre-Islamic religion: Until the mid-1900s, the dead were transported to this tower where they were left to decompose and be devoured by birds.

Zoroastrian tradition considers a deceased body to be "unclean" and this process of excarnation prevents contact with either fire or earth – both of which are considered to be sacred. At the still-active Zoroastrian Fire Temple, you'll see a flame that is said to have been burning for the past 1,500 years. It's an important pilgrimage site for the faithful and here our expert guide will offer additional insight into one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions.

In Amir Chakhmaq Square, you'll see a very impressive Hussainiya – a congregation hall for Shia commemoration ceremonies. With three tiers of recessed alcoves, all perfectly proportioned, its facade is one of the city's most photographed landmarks.

Then visit the Friday Mosque, built in 1324, where you can gaze upon the tallest minarets in the country.

Among the many other historic sites to be seen in Yazd are beautiful old homes and the Dowlat Abad Garden. Standing by the garden's long reflecting pool, you'll be shaded by ancient cypress trees. Ahead 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.

 5 star hotel in Yazd



Nasir-ol-molk Mosque, Shiraz

DAY 5 YAZD – MEYBOD – KHARANAQ VILLAGE – SADATSHAHR (TRAIN)

Your overland journey continues to the small town of Meybod, where your first impression might be its striking monochromatic architecture of desert brick. But set along an ancient trade route, Meybod also offers a number of fascinating sites to visit including its caravanserai. Built in typical Safavid style, this ancient desert inn features verandahs, shaded passageways, and nearly 100 rooms – some of which are now used as artisan workshops.

At the local icehouse, you'll learn about the thick-clay construction and subterranean chamber that allowed local residents to have ice and food storage before refrigeration – even during the intense desert heat of summer! Then we will visit Kharanaq village one of the last remaining mud cities of Iran. We continue to move to Sadatshahr.



Overnight on board the train

DAY 6 PERSEPOLIS – NAQSH-E ROSTAM – SHIRAZ (BUS)

Today we will visit Pasargadae, 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.

From here we will visit Naqsh-e Rostam, the Necropolis where Darius and his successors are buried. Carved into the side of a cliff, the site is extraordinary in its magnitude and sheer ambition and does not disappoint even after the impressive Persepolis.

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



Shiraz

DAY

7

SHIRAZ – ISFAHAN (TRAIN)

After breakfast, you will visit Nasir-al-Mulk Mosque (Pink Mosque) few steps far from Vakil Bazaar. Its interior reveals a magnificent masterpiece of design with stunning colors. This is a space where light and worship intertwine. Shiraz is famous for its gardens we'll visit the Narenjestan gardens, a peaceful haven loved by locals.

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. You'll also visit the lovely garden tomb of Hafez and tomb of Sa'adi, two of our most outstanding poets to feel the taste of Persian Literature.

At the end we will visit Ali Ebne Hamzeh and Qoran Gate. At night we will move to Isfahan.



Overnight on board the train

DAY

8

ISFAHAN (BUS)

As the 17th-century capital of the Safavid Empire, Isfahan was one of the world's greatest cities – architecturally striking, wealthy beyond imagine, and politically powerful with Europeans, Ottomans, Indians and Chinese coming to its court – the heart of a vast Persian Empire that stretched from the Euphrates River in present-day Iraq to the Oxus River in Afghanistan. Indeed, its grandeur inspired the rhyming proverb, Isfahan nesf-jahan (Isfahan is Half the World).

We will visit UNESCO World Heritage Site. Simple at first glance but wondrous in its rich detail and bold design, the Masjed-e Jamé is another masterpiece of Iranian architecture, covering nearly 5 acres in the heart of this historic city.

Your exploration continues in Imam Square. This 17th-century site is one of the largest public spaces in the world. Here in the square, you'll visit the 17th-cen-

tury Shah Mosque, revered as a masterpiece of Islamic architecture and easily recognized by its magnificent tile-work and soaring cupola and minarets.

Next up is Chehel Sotun. 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!

You'll join our expert guide to begin your exploration of the city, starting with some of the centuries-old, still elegant bridges that span the Zayandeh River.



Isfahan

DAY

9

ISFAHAN – TO TEHRAN (BUS)

Today we drive to Tehran and our representative will transfer you to Imam Khomeini International Airport according to your flight time.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

What's included in the tour price



Professional and Experienced Tour Guides

The Persian Caravan Train allows its passengers to explore real Iran in a fast and safe manner. Local English-speaking tour guides offer explanations of the most significant sites in each city, while there are also opportunities to experience authentic regional cuisine as well as shopping. Our tour guides are top licensed guides with one mission in mind making your tour the journey of a lifetime.

Arrival And Departure Airport Transfers

Arrival and departure transfers are included.

Hotel and On Board Accommodation

Although you will spend much of your time sightseeing or relaxing in the hotels and train's public areas, you will find your cabin a welcome retreat at the end of a rewarding day. All hotels are of five-star standard, or the best available.

Breakfast, Lunch And Dinner Daily

All meals are included, starting with dinner on the first day and ending with breakfast on the last day. Several times during the tour we will also sample authentic local cuisine and a selection of drinks on the train, which is also included in the tour price. All on board foods are cooked, prepared and served inside the train.

On Board Facilities

24-hour service in each car, facilities include a air-conditioning, a library, free WIFI, LCD screen and a large windows to watch the world go by ensures a memorable experience.

On Board Service

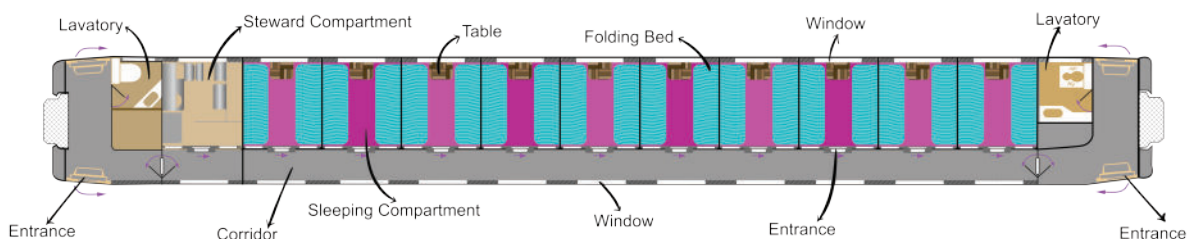
You can expect service which is attentive, friendly and unobtrusive. Your car attendants provide housekeeping services with one attendant always on duty to assist you and to ensure you are comfortable in your cabin. Complimentary tea, coffee and bottled drinking water are available in your cabin 24 hours a day.

Guided Off-train Excursions

The history and culture of the places we visit on our rail cruises will come alive through our expert local guides. All our tours include a wide-ranging sightseeing schedule to make the most of the time you have off the train and bring you closer to the culture, people and history of your destinations. We believe it is the special little touches that help create magical memories.

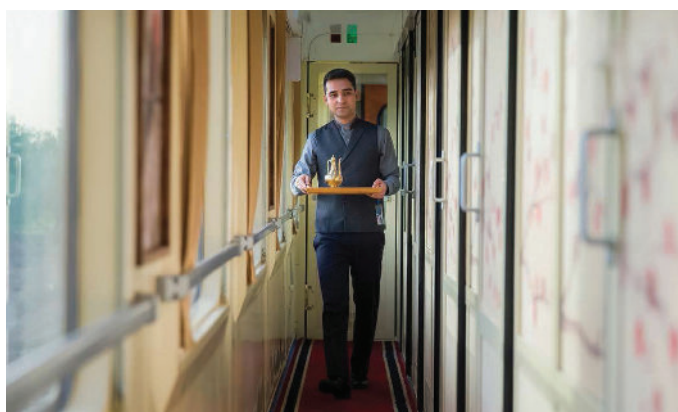
Porterage

As you may need to unpack your luggage and belongings will stay with you on the train throughout the journey, wherever necessary, porterage is included between the hotels and stations.





On-Board
Kitchen



ON-BOARD CUISINE

Onboard experience dining restaurant





On-Board
Restaurant

PERSIAN CUISINE ON-BOARD



The 5-star train is the newest train to join Iran's rolling stock by the Raja passenger train company which offers a higher class of services.

The train features 4-bunk compartments where every car has one well-trained male and female host onboard to serve passengers.

The train starts its journey from Tehran and after passing Kashan, Isfahan, Bam, Kerman, Yazd, Saadat Shahr and Shiraz will be back to Tehran again.

THE RESTAURANT

You can have food in a double decker restaurant with a magnificent and pleasant environment which has the seating capacity for 96 people. Guests will be served with a range of healthy, tasty dishes.

Passengers in the train will be served with a wide range of Iranian and exotic entrees, main courses and desserts and after the meal there hopefully a friendly conversation.

THE KITCHEN

The train has a kitchen which is located in a dedicated space apart from the dining car and guests can observe the whole process of preparing the food and order the dish of their choice. Our cuisine is designed to be enjoyed.

GET IN TOUCH

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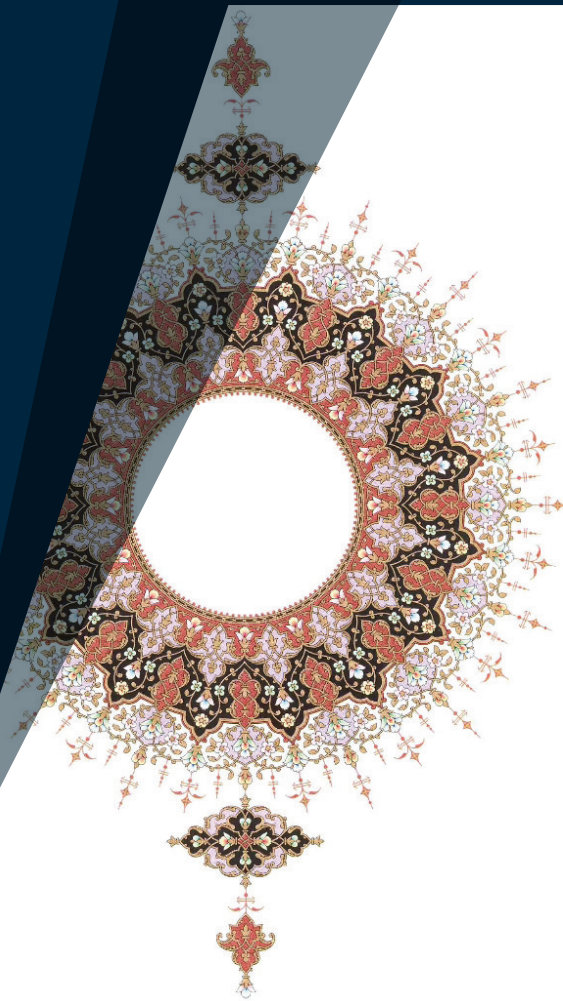
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