



The Women's Travel Group presents its second **Persian Odyssey**

November 1-11, 2019

Iran was once the seat of the mighty Persian Empire that grew up alongside the ancient Greeks and Romans. Modern Iran is a place of searing beauty, with its billowing domes and mosaic-clad mosques and madrassahs. Its monumental archaeological sites are some of the finest in the world, its architecture is infused with color and energy, and its people are unfailingly warm and engaging.

Program Highlights

- Tehran – Marvel at the spectacular crown jewels, including the world's largest uncut diamond.
- Yazd – Visit the Zoroastrian Fire Temple, where the eternal flame is said to have been burning since 470 BC.
- Shiraz – Explore the remains of ancient Persia at UNESCO-listed Persepolis, a wonder of the Ancient World.
- Isfahan – Survey the complex Persian architecture of the gracefully proportioned Imam Square, one of the largest public squares in the world, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Overview

Day 1: Depart USA

Day 2: Arrive Tehran

Day 3: Tehran

Day 4: Tehran • fly to Yazd

Day 5: Yazd

Day 6: Yazd • drive to Shiraz via Pasargadae

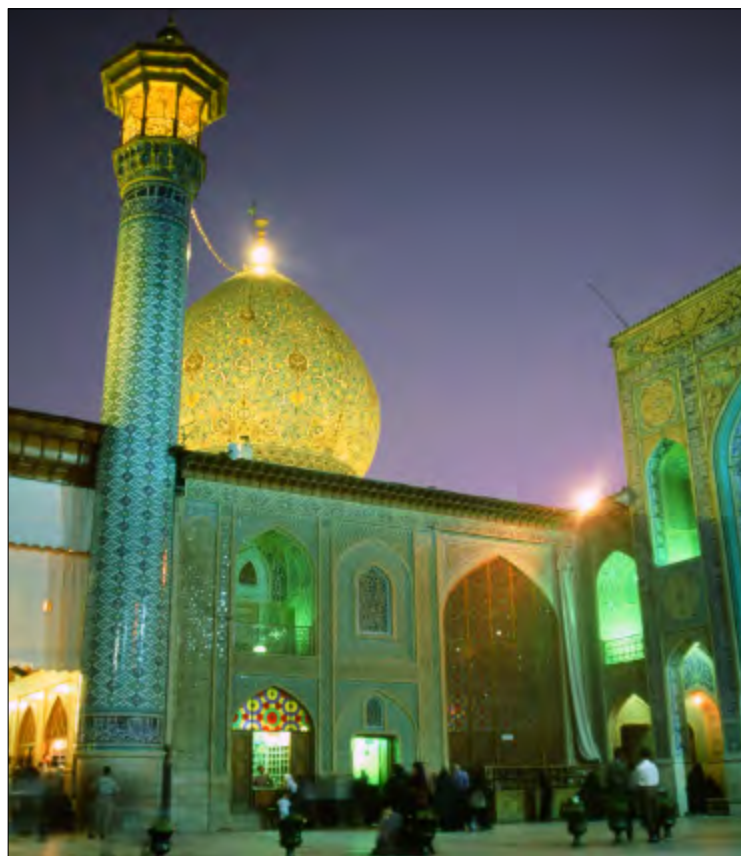
Day 7: Shiraz • day trip to Persepolis

Day 8: Shiraz • drive to Isfahan

Day 9: Isfahan

Day 10: Isfahan

Day 11: Depart Isfahan



For Reservations & Information

MIR Corporation

Tel: 855-691-7903 • Fax: 206-624-7360

Email: annet@mircorp.com • www.mircorp.com

Persian Odyssey



Day by Day Itinerary

Days 1-4

Tehran

Depart the USA and arrive next day in Iran's capital, Tehran, a modern metropolis of more than eight million. Dip into Iran's history at the Archaeological Museum, displaying Persian antiquities, art and artifacts from Iran's long past. Admire the Carpet Museum's wonderful collection of hand loomed Persian carpets, *kilims* and designs. Explore UNESCO-listed Gulestan Palace, encompassing several palatial buildings, and the State Jewels Museum, safeguarding the Darya-ye-Nur, the world's largest uncut diamond. (Inflight, 2B, 2L, 3D) *Espinas Hotel*

Day 5

Yazd

Stretching between two deserts, the ancient city of Yazd was isolated enough to offer safe haven to Zoroastrians fleeing Arab invaders. Wander UNESCO-listed Dowlat Abad Garden, a classical Persian walled garden, watered by an underground *qanat*. Visit the Zoroastrian Fire Temple to see its eternal flame, said to have been burning since 470 AD. Make a sunset visit to the Zoroastrian Towers of Silence, where the faithful brought their dead for sky burial. (B, L, D) *Moshir Garden Hotel*

Days 6-7

Shiraz via Pasargadae

On the drive to Shiraz, take a break to explore UNESCO-listed Pasargadae, founded by Cyrus the Great in the 6th century BC. In Shiraz, visit stunning Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque, an explosion of colors with some of the finest examples of Persian Islamic tilework and stained glasswork in Shiraz. Take a walk around the Vakil Bazaar, an 11th century covered bazaar lined with little shops, courtyards and bath houses. (2B, 2L, 2D) *Homa Hotel*

Days 8-11

Isfahan via Persepolis

En route to Isfahan, pay a visit to one of the most important sites of the Ancient World – the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid kings, Persepolis. Darius I (the Great) initiated the building of Persepolis, a huge undertaking of art and architecture, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. What remains is a forest of marble columns, monumental carvings, and the famous bas-reliefs showing kings, courtiers and gift-bearing representatives of the Persian Empire's tributary nations. Continue to the rock-carved tombs of Naghsh-e Rostam, thought to be the tombs of Darius the Great, Xerxes and Artaxerxes.

Arrive in beautiful Isfahan. Explore one of the world's largest public squares, Maiden-e Naghsh-e Jahan, also known as Imam Square. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the square was the symbolic center of the Safavid Empire, and is surrounded by the fabulous Imam Mosque, Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, the Ali Qapu Palace, and the brilliant Qaisarieh Bazaar. Visit spectacular UNESCO-listed Friday Mosque, its interior displaying more than 800 years of Islamic architectural styles. Browse the Qaisarieh Bazaar, where more than a mile of covered walkway shelters brass and copperware craftsmen, jewelers, miniature painters, rug merchants and throngs of shoppers. (3B, 3L, 3D) *Abbasi Hotel*

Days 11-12

Optional Kashan Extension

Spend some extra time in Iran, driving to and from Tehran to visit the beautiful city of Kashan. Located on the edge of the Dasht-e Kavir salt desert, Kashan gets its water from a system of *qanats* and from a nearby spring. These provide water for one of Iran's most treasured gardens, Bagh-e Fin, with its centuries-old cypress trees. The classical Persian Bagh-e Fin (also called the Bagh-e Tarikhi) Garden was designed for Shah Abbas I, probably in the late 16th century, and centered around a natural spring. A grid of tiled waterways, bubbling jets and pools supplies water for the cypress trees, flowering plants and orchards that help to make the garden cool and peaceful. This example of a classical Persian Garden was declared, with eight other gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011. (2B, L, D) *Airport Hotel TBA*



Persian Odyssey

11 Days

November 1-11, 2019

\$5,399 per person, double occupancy

\$975 single supplement

Kashan Extension

\$1,295 per person, based on a group size of one traveler

\$895 per person based on two or more travelers

\$85 single supplement

Included

- All accommodations based on double occupancy, hotel taxes
- All meals per itinerary
- Group arrival / departure transfers for passengers arriving to Tehran on Nov 2 and departing from Isfahan on Nov 11
- All internal air and land transportation by private coach per itinerary
- Special cultural events and extensive sightseeing, including entrance fees
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- Services of a tour manager throughout the land program
- Comprehensive pre-departure packet.

Not Included

- Gratuities to tour manager, guides, drivers and baggage handlers
- Travel insurance
- Roundtrip airfare from / to your home city. MIR can assist you with reservations
- Passport and visa fees
- Personal items such as telephone calls, alcohol, laundry, excess baggage fees
- Single supplement
- Items not expressly listed as included

Air Arrangements

Program rates do not include international airfare. Information on recommended flight itinerary will be sent by our tour operator upon confirmation.