

Code: CU- 124

Best season: All seasons

Duration: 9 D/ 7 N

Brief: Tehran - Shiraz - Isfahan - Kashan .



Day 1: Flight from Paris to Tehran

Day 2: Tehran

Arrival Tehran meets and assists at airport and then transfer to Hotel. After noon, visit Niyavaran Palace and Bazaar Tajrish and Enanzadeh Saleh mausoleum.

The Niavaran Complex is a historical complex situated in Shemiran, Tehran (Greater Tehran), Iran. It consists of several buildings and monuments built in the Qajar and Pahlavi eras. The complex traces its origin to a garden in Niavaran region, which was used as a summer residence by Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty. A pavilion was built in the garden by the order of Naser ed Din Shah of the same dynasty, which was originally referred to as *Niavaran House*, and was later renamed *Saheb Qarani House*. The pavilion of Ahmad Shah Qajar was built in the late Qajar period. During the reign of the Pahlavi Dynasty, a modern built mansion named *Niavaran House* was built for the imperial family of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. All of the peripheral buildings of the Saheb Qarani House, with the exception of the Ahmad Shahi Pavilion, were demolished, and the buildings and structures of the present-day complex were built to the north of the Saheb Qarani House. In the Pahlavi period, the Ahmad Shahi Pavilion served as an exhibition area for the presents from world leaders to the Iranian monarchs.



O/N: Tehran.

Imāmzādeh Sāleh is one of many Imāmzadeh mosques in Iran. The mosque is located at Tajrish Square in Tehran's northern Shemiran district. The mosque entombs the remains of Sāleh, a son of the Twelver Shī'ah Imām, Mūsā al-Kādhim, and is one of the most popular Shī'ah shrines in northern Tehran.



Day3: Tehran - Shiraz

After breakfast, visit Tehran Golestan Palace, Moghadam museum. After noon, transfer to train station travel to Shiraz. (departure at 16:20PM). We use night train to save one day for sightseeing, if we use to travel by air, we should go to the airport 4 hours before departure and have security check, it train we join with normal peoples and learn about habitant, customs and protocol



During rail trip, clients can drop in every station and know different peoples and culture .

The **Golestan Palace** : literally the **Roseland Palace**, is the former royal Qajar complex in Iran's capital city, Tehran. The oldest of the historic monuments in Tehran, and of world heritage status, the Golestan Palace belongs to a group of royal buildings that were once enclosed within the mud-thatched walls of Tehran's Historic Arg (citadel). It is a masterpiece of beautiful garden and buildings consist of collection of Iranian crafts and European presents from 18th and 19th century. Golestan Palace Complex consists of 17 structures including palaces, museums, and halls. Almost all of this complex was built during the 200 years ruling of Qajarian kings. These palaces were used for many different occasions such as coronation and other important celebrations. It also consists of three main archives as the royal photographic archive collection 'Album khane', the royal library of manuscripts 'Ketabkhane Nosakhe khati' and the archive of documents 'Markaze asnad'.

O/N: In Train.

Day4: Shiraz

We arrive to Shiraz at 07:00AM, transfer from rail station to the hotel and check in. Full day city tour to visit Vakil complex (bath, museum & bazaar) as well as Karimkhani Citadel And Eram garden , Aramgah e Saadi and Hafez (tombs of the Iranian Poets).

The **Vakil Mosque** is a mosque in Shiraz, southern Iran, situated to the west of the Vakil Bazaar next to its entrance. This mosque was built between 1751 and 1773, during the Zand period; however, it was restored in the 19th century during the Qajar period. *Vakil* means *regent*, which was the title used by Karim Khan, the founder of Zand Dynasty. Shiraz was the seat of Karim Khan's government and he endowed many buildings, including this mosque.



Vakil Bath is an old public bath in Shiraz, Iran. It was a part of the royal district constructed during Karim Khan Zand's reign, which includes Arg of Karim Khan, Vakil Bazaar, Vakil Mosque and many administrative buildings. The monument is inscribed with the number 917 on the list of national works of Iran.

Vakil Bazaar is the main bazaar of Shiraz, Iran, located in the historical center of the city. It is thought that the market originally was established by the Buwayhids in the 11th century AD, and was completed mainly by the Atabaks of Fars, and was renamed after Karim Khan Zand only in the 18th century. The bazaar has beautiful courtyards, caravansarais, bath houses, and old shops which are deemed among the best places in Shiraz to buy all kinds of Persian rugs, spices, copper handicrafts and antiques. Like other Middle Eastern bazaars, there are a few mosques and Imamzadehs constructed beside or behind the bazaar.



Khawāja Shams-ud-Dīn Muḥammad Ḥāfeẓ-e Shīrāzī : known by his pen name **Hafez**: was a Persian poet who "laud[ed] the joys of love and wine [but] also targeted religious hypocrisy." His collected works are regarded as a pinnacle of Persian literature and are to be found in the homes of most people in Iran, who learn his poems by heart and still use them as proverbs and sayings. His life and poems have been the subject of much analysis, commentary and interpretation, influencing post-14th century Persian writing more than any other author. Themes of his ghazals are the beloved, faith, and exposing hypocrisy. His influence in the lives of Persian speakers can be found in "Hafez readings" and the frequent use of his poems in Persian traditional music, visual art, and Persian calligraphy. His tomb is visited often. Adaptations, imitations and translations of his poems exist in all major. Hafez was born in Shiraz, Iran. His parents were from Kazerun, Fars Province. Despite his profound effect on Persian life and culture and his enduring popularity and influence, few details of his life are known. Accounts of his early life rely upon traditional anecdotes. Early *tazkiras* (biographical sketches) mentioning Hafez are generally considered unreliable.^[5] At an early age, he memorized the Quran and was given the title of *Hafez*, which he later used as his pen name. The preface of his Divān, in which his early life is discussed, was written by an unknown contemporary whose name may have been Moḥammad Golandām. Two of the most highly regarded modern editions of Hafez's Divān are compiled by Moḥammad Ghazvini and Qāsem Ġani (495 *ghazals*) and by Parviz Natel-Khanlari

Abū-Muhammad Muslih al-Dīn bin Abdallāh Shīrāzī better known by his pen-name **Saadi**, also known as **Saadi of Shiraz** was one of the major Persian poets and literary men of the medieval period. He is not only famous in Persian-speaking countries, but has been quoted in western sources as well. He is recognized for the quality of his writings and for the depth of his social and moral thoughts. Saadi is widely recognized as one of the greatest poets of the classical literary tradition. Born in Shiraz, Iran, c. 1210, his father died when he was a child. He narrates memories of going out with his father as a child during festivities. In his youth, Saadi experienced poverty and hardship and left his native town for Baghdad to pursue a better education. As a young man he enrolled at the Nizamiyya University, where he studied in Islamic sciences, law, governance, history, Arabic literature, and Islamic theology. Saadi came back to Shiraz before 1257 CE / 655 AH (the year he finished composition of his *Bustan*). Saadi has mourned in his poetry the fall of Abbasid Caliphate and Baghdad's destruction by Mongol invaders led by Hulagu in February 1258. When he reappeared in his native Shiraz, he might have been in his late forties. Shiraz, under Atabak Abubakr Sa'd ibn Zangy (1231–60), the Salghurid ruler of Fars, was enjoying an era of relative tranquility. Saadi was not only welcomed to the city but was shown great respect by the ruler and held to be among the greats of the province. In response, Saadi took his *nom de plume* from the name of the local prince, Sa'd ibn Zangi. Some of Saadi's most famous panegyrics were composed as a gesture of gratitude in praise of the ruling house and placed at the beginning of his *Bustan*. The remainder of Saadi's life seems to have been spent in Shiraz.

O/N: Shiraz.

Day5: Shiraz – Isfahan

Early morning drive to Isfahan(483KM), in the way visit Persepolis, Naghsh-e Rostam, Naghsh-e Rajab.

Persepolis : literally meaning "the Persian city," also known as the **Throne of Jamshid**, was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (ca. 550–330 BC). Persepolis is situated 60 km northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars Province, Iran. The earliest remains of Persepolis date back to 515 BC. It exemplifies the Achaemenid style of architecture. UNESCO declared the ruins of Persepolis a World Heritage Site in 1979.

Naqsh-e Rujab is an archaeological site just east of Istakhr and about 12 km north of Persepolis in Fars Province, Iran.

Together with **Naqsh-e Rostam**, which lies less than a kilometer away, the site is part of the Marvdasht cultural complex. Together, the two sites are a tentative candidate for UNESCO World Heritage status. Naqsh-e Rujab is the site of four limestone rockface inscriptions and rock-cut bas-reliefs that date to the early Sassanid era. One of the carvings is the investiture inscription of Ardashir I (ruled in 226-241 CE), the founder of the dynasty. The second investiture inscription is Ardashir's successor, Shapur I (241-272 CE). A third bas-relief, known as 'Shapur's Parade' celebrates the king's military victory in 244 over the Roman emperor Valerian and Philip the Arab. A fourth bas-relief and inscription is attributed to Kartir, high priest under Shapur I and his sons Hormizd I (272-273 CE) and Bahram I (273-276 CE).



O/N: Isfahan.

Day6: Isfahan

Full day visiting Isfahan: Naghsh e Jahan Square, Imam Mosque, Alighapoo Palace, Sheykh Lotf-ol lah Mosque, old Bazaar, Chehel soton.



Naqsh-e Jahan Square / Imam Square, formerly known as **Shah Square**, is a square situated at the center of Isfahan city, Iran. Constructed between 1598 and 1629, it is now an important historical site, and one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. It is 160 metres (520 ft) wide by 560 metres (1,840 ft) long (an area of 89,600 square metres (964,000 sq ft)). The square is surrounded by buildings from the Safavid era. The Shah Mosque is situated on the south side of this square. On the west side is the Ali Qapu Palace. Sheikh Lotf Allah Mosque is situated on the eastern side of this square and at the northern side Keisaria gate opens into the Isfahan Grand Bazaar. Today, Namaaz-e Jom'eh (the Muslim Friday prayer) is held in the Shah Mosque. The square is depicted on the reverse of the Iranian 20,000 rials banknote.

Masjed-e Shah – The Pinnacle of Safavid Architecture : The Crown Jewel in the Naghs-e Jahan Square was the Masjed-e Shah, which would replace the much older Jameh Mosque in conducting the Friday prayers. To achieve this, the Shah Mosque was constructed not only with vision of grandeur, having the largest dome in the city, but Shaykh Bahai also planned the construction of a religious school and a winter-mosque clamped at either side of it.



The Lotfollah Mosque – The Private Room of the Shah's Harem

Of the four monuments that dominated the perimeter of the Naqsh-e Jahan square, the Lotfollah Mosque, opposite the palace, was the first to be built. The purpose of this mosque was for it to be a private mosque of the royal court, unlike the Shah mosque|Masjed-e Shah, which was meant for the public. For this reason, the mosque does not have any minarets and is of a smaller size. Indeed, few Westerners at the time of the Safavids even paid any attention to this mosque, and they certainly did not have access to it. It wasn't until centuries later, when the doors were opened to the public, that ordinary people could admire the effort that Shah Abbas had put into making this a sacred place for the ladies of his harem, and the exquisite tile-work, which is far superior to those covering the Shah Mosque.



Ali Qapu Palace: Ali Qapu (pronounced, ah-lee gah-poo) is in effect but a pavilion that marks the entrance to the vast royal residential quarter of the Safavid Isfahan which stretched from the Maidan Naqsh-i-Jahan to the Chahar Bagh Boulevard. The name is made of two elements: "Ali", Arabic for exalted, and "Qapu" Turkic for portal or royal threshold. The compound stands for "Exalted Porte". This name was chosen by the Safavids to rival the Ottomans' celebrated name for their court : Bab-i Ali, or the "Sublime Porte"). It was here that the great monarch used to entertain noble visitors, and foreign ambassadors. Shah Abbas, here for the first time celebrated the Nowruz (New Year's Day) of 1006 AH / 1597 A.D. A large and massive rectangular structure, the Ali Qapu is 48 m (157 ft) high and has six floors, fronted with a wide terrace whose ceiling is inlaid and supported by wooden columns. On the sixth floor, the royal reception and banquets were held. The largest rooms are found on this floor. The stucco decoration of the banquet hall abounds in motif of various vessels and cups. The sixth floor was popularly called (the music room) as it was here that various ensembles performed music and sang songs. From the upper galleries, the Safavid ruler watched polo games, maneuvers and horse-racing below in the Naqsh-i-Jahan square.



At night, visit Old Bridge Se o Se Pol (Big Bridge with 33 arches) and Khajo Bridge.

O/N: Isfahan

Day 7: Isfahan

Full day tour of Isfahan, visit Vank Cathedral, Shaking minaret Isfahan.



The **Vank Cathedral** was one of the first churches to be established in the city's Jolfa district in 1606 by the hundreds of thousands of Armenian deportees that were resettled by Shah Abbas I during the Ottoman War of 1603-1618. The varying fortunes and independence of this suburb across the Zayanderud and its eclectic mix of European missionaries, mercenaries and travelers can be traced almost chronologically in the cathedral's combination of building styles and contrasts in its external and internal architectural treatment.

The **Monar Jonban** (Shaking Minarets), or **Menar-e-jomban**, is a monument located in Isfahan, in central Iran. Construction began in the 14th century to cover the grave of *Amu Abdollah Soqla*. Its notable feature is that if one of the minarets is shaken, the other minaret will shake as well.

O/N: Isfahan.

Day: 8 Isfahan - Kashan

After breakfast drive from Isfahan to Kashan (218 KM). Visit Brojerdi and Tabatabai old houses, Fien Garden.



Fin Garden, or **Bagh-e Fin**, located in Kashan, Iran, is a historical Persian garden. It contains Kashan's Fin Bath, where Amir Kabir, the Qajarid chancellor, was murdered by an assassin sent by King Nasereddin Shah in 1852. Completed in 1590, the Fin Garden is the oldest extant garden in Iran.

The origins of the garden may be anterior to the Safavid period; some sources indicate that the garden has been relocated from another place, but no clear picture of it has been found.

The settlements of the garden in its present form was built under the reign of Abbas I of Persia (1571-1629), as a traditional bagh near the village of Fin, located a few kilometres southwest of Kashan.

The garden was developed further during the Safavid dynasty, until Abbas II of Persia (1633-1666). It was highly recognized during the reign of Fat'h Ali Shah Qajar and was considerably expanded. The garden subsequently suffered from neglect and was damaged several times until, in 1935, it was listed as a national property of Iran. On 2007, 8 September, Bagh-e Fin was submitted to the Unesco's Tentative List. Unesco declared the garden a World Heritage Site on July 18, 2012.

The **Borujerdi House** (Persian *Khāneh-ye Borujerdihā*) is a historic house in Kashan, Iran.

The house was built in 1857 by architect Ustad Ali Maryam, for the bride of Haji Mehdi Borujerdi, a wealthy merchant. The bride came from the affluent Tabatabaei family, for whom Ali Maryam had built the Tabatabaei House some years earlier.

It consists of a rectangular beautiful courtyard, delightful wall paintings by the royal painter Kamal-ol-molk, and three 40 meter tall wind towers which help cool the house to unusually cool temperatures. It has 3 entrances, and all the classic signatures of traditional Persian residential architecture, such as *biruni* and *daruni* (*andarun*). The house took eighteen years to build using 150 craftsmen.

On the way to the International air port, dinner en route

After dinner, we continue to go to the airport for formality to check in with airline to travel back home

As all international airlines fly from Tehran early morning to arrive passengers to European destination, therefore we can't enter Tehran and check in with the hotel, because we have no more time to rest and should return to airport immediately.

Day9: Departur

Early morning fly back to home and ending memorable trip to Great Iran