

Prefixed dates			
Winter 2023	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Fall 2023
27 December / 6 January 2023 21 / 31 January 15 / 25 February 10 / 20 Mars	21 April / 1 May 5 / 15 May 19 / 29 May	9 / 19 June 14 / 24 July 4 / 14 August 18 / 28 August 17 / 27 September	6 / 16 October 20 / 30 October 17 / 27 November 26 December / 5 January 2024

## *The charm of Persia*

11 days – 10 nights

### **1° day Home country – Tehran**

Arrival in Iran, transfer to hotel, accommodation and overnight.

### **2° day Tehran**



In the morning visit of the city, located between 1100 and 1750 meters close to Mount Damavand. The name is composed of "Teh" (hot) and "ran" (location). The day begins with a visit to the Iran Bastan Museum, the National Museum, where there is a splendid collection of ceramics, terracotta, sculptures and stone engravings found in the main archaeological excavations. We will visit the Museum of Glass and Ceramics, a splendid exhibition with hundreds of finds coming mainly from Neishabur, Kashan, Rey and Gorgan, dating back to the 2nd millennium BC.

Royal Palace of Golestan, the oldest among Tehran's historical monuments, the Royal Palace of Golestan (UNESCO) (Palace of Flowers) belongs to a group of royal buildings that were once enclosed within the mud-straw walls of historic Tehran Arg (citadel). In its current state, Golestan Palace is the result of nearly 400 years of construction and renovation. The buildings in the contemporary location, each have a unique story. Then visit the Azadi (Freedom) Tower the symbol of Tehran plus a walk on the Tabiat bridge. Overnight.



### **3° day Tehran– Kashan – Yazd**

In the morning, departure to Yazd, during the journey we will visit Kashan, famous for the production of glazed ceramics and for all its handicrafts. Visit to the 19th century Iranian villas: bioclimatic dwellings dug into the ground (Brugherdi) with a visit to the beautiful Hammam of Soltan Amir Ahmad. Also visit Fin Garden (UNESCO) where the great Shah Abbass was crowned. Continuation of the journey with a visit to Meibod, with its 3000-year-old Narin castle, 1600s caravanserai. Late afternoon arrival in Yazd, one of the most important medieval caravan centers that welcomed merchants and travelers for centuries, hotel accommodation. Overnight.



### **4° day Yazd**

The whole day is dedicated to visiting the city of Yazd: the visit to the Mirchakhmaq square, the Jame Mosque, the water museum, the very lively Bazaar, the walks in the ancient district of Fahadan (UNESCO), in its historical context, many houses are built with clay and mud, the city that houses the largest community of followers of Zoroaster, offers us a visit to the "Sacred Fire" the temple where a flame has been kept that has been burning since 470 AD, the "Towers of Silence" two barren hills, where the Zoroastrians left their dead to the vultures to pick off their bones, nearby a modern cemetery of the ancient religion.



### **After which a visit to Zurkhaneh :**

Pahlevani rituals and zurkhaneh are the UNESCO inscribed name for varzesh-e pahlavāni ("heroic sport"), a traditional system of athletics and martial arts form, originally used to train warriors in Iran (Persia), and it was appeared for the first time mentioned under this name and form in the Safavid era, with similarities to systems in adjacent lands under other names.

Combine martial arts, calisthenics, strength training and music. It contains elements of pre-Islamic and post-Islamic culture of Iran (especially Zoroastrianism, Mithraism and Gnosticism) with the spirituality of Persian Shia Islam and Sufism. Practiced in a domed structure called a zurkhāneh, the training sessions mainly consist of ritualistic gymnastic movements and climaxes with the core of the sparring practice, a form of submission-grappling called koshti pahlavāni. Overnight.



### **5° day Yazd – Pasargad – Shiraz**

Morning departure for Shiraz. On the way visit to Pasargad (UNESCO), the first capital of the Achaemenid kingdom, where the tomb of Cyrus the Great is located, on the way a visit to the city of Abarkuh, where there is the oldest cypress tree in the Middle East by 4500 years. Late afternoon, arrival in Shiraz, check-in at the hotel. Overnight.



### **6° day Shiraz – Persepoli – Naqsh e Rostam – Shiraz**

Morning excursion to visit Persepolis (UNESCO). Originally called Takh-e Jamshid was built in the 5th century. B.C. by order of Darius, Xerxes and their successors. The visit takes place among columns, sculptures and imperial stopovers in an atmosphere of charm and mystery among the ruins of the Achaemenid kingdom. We continue with a visit to Naqsh-e-Rostam where the tombs of four Achaemenid kings have been carved into the slope of a mountain. In the afternoon, return to the city and visit the monuments such as the Vakil complex (Mosque - Bazaar - Hammam), Arg Karim Khan (from the outside), Khan's Koranic school, Moshir caravanserai, the tomb of Hafez and garden of Delgosha. Overnight.



### **7° day Shiraz – Bishapur – Shiraz**

In 266 AD the Sasanian king Shapur I, after the victory over the Roman emperor, ordered to build a city in a safe and peaceful area on the way to Persepolis. During the Achaemenid period, this road connected the cities of Persepolis and Ashtrak to Susa. Shapur gave his name to this city. Bishapur was settled and inhabited till 13th century.

The Anahita Temple dedicated to the Goddess of water, was a place for praying. In the eyes of Zoroastrians, the four sacred elements of water, earth, wind and fire were sacred and of particular importance. Anahita was the embodiment of fertility and beauty.

The temple is built in the shape of a cube and each of its sides is 14 meters. It was also built at a depth of 6 meters above the ground so the water was more easily direct to the central courtyard of the temple, so the water of the Shapur River flows through a 250-metre channel. As for the water setting stones and the narrow stone streams which guide the movement of the water beautifully towards the middle tank; For the distribution of water in this monument, methods are used to show the beauty and glory of water in the most beautiful way possible.

The visit continues with the Strait of Ciogan, the bas-reliefs of the Sassanid period where you will have lunch with a nice picnic, return in the afternoon to Shiraz, overnight.

### **8° day Shiraz - Isfahan**

Morning departure to Isfahan, the city of a thousand and one nights with an altitude of 1590 M. In the afternoon arrival in Esfahan and start of the visit, accommodation in hotel - overnight.

### **9° giorni Isfahan**



There is an old Persian saying that says: "if you want to see the world, just see Venice and Isfahan". The visits to this city, which one of the most evocative in the world, are as following: For centuries the city has been a crossroads of commerce, merchants, enlightened craftsmen who have given impetus to the creation of a cultural, elegant city that leaves breath for the beauty of its monuments. The period of greatest splendor in its ancient history was during the reign of Abbas I (1587-1629), the Safavid ruler who had mosques, palaces and mansions of exquisite workmanship built, transforming Isfahan into an artistic and cultural center of the first magnitude. In the afternoon, visit the beautiful square, the Imam Mosque and the Bazaar. In the large central square Naghsh-e Jahan (512 x 163 meters) (UNESCO) overlook two rows of arches, in the lower part occupied by artisans' shops (the shops of precious jewels are interesting: miniatures, turquoise, fabrics), you can see at the ends of the square the poles that served to delimit the Polo field built 400 years ago. Among the arcades of the Masjed-e Emam (shah's mosque), absolutely one of the most beautiful in the entire Islamic world for the refinement of the decoration of blue and yellow tiles and the harmony of the dome and the interior spaces, the small jewel of the Masjed-e Shah Lotfollah mosque, the Safavid royal palace Ali Ghapu, the royal palace of Chehel Sotun and the entrance to the central bazaar covered by small domes surmounted by an opening from which filters all the light needed to illuminate the goods exposed. The visits will continue with the Armenian quarter, its churches and cathedrals, the famous Sio se pol and Khajou bridges, with magnificent architecture, the Friday Mosque, the very lively Bazaar and the various monuments commissioned by Shah Abbass and the Safavid successors. Hotel accommodation. Overnight.



### **10° day Isfahan – Tehran's airport**

Complete visits to Esfahan, after lunch departure to Tehran. Late afternoon arrival at Tehran International Airport, dinner and overnight.

### **11° day Tehran's airport – Home country**

Transfer with the hotel shuttles in front of the airport (5 minutes on foot) for the departure flight. End of services.

### **The price includes:**

- all formalities from Tehran for issuing visa in European countries or upon arrival at the airport in Iran
- Welcoming on arrival and assistance at the airport
- accommodation as planned and indicated on the itinerary in hotels carefully selected by us for the best services and cost
- buffet breakfast in the hotel, lunches and dinners (from the breakfast of the second day, including the dinner of the penultimate day, included a bottle of water) in the characteristic Iranian restaurants in all the places visited, tea will be offered in our means of transport, biscuits and a bottle of water per day and seasonal fruit in during the trips.
- transport from the hotel to the planned locations, with air-conditioned and quality vehicles at complete disposal for the whole day (depending on the number of participants, AC grand touring coach, van, minivan, minibus and car)
- professional tour guide specialized in the language of the tourist's origin who will personally take care of the interaction with all the local service personnel.
- all entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums mentioned in the program.

### **The price DOES NOT include:**

- international flight fees
- consular fees (when getting to the airport, travelers have to pay p.p. 75 euros based on the current cost which may change).
- medical, luggage and trip cancellation insurance.
- all personal expenses, laundry, telephone calls. mance alla guida e all'autista
- anything not expressly indicated under "The price includes".

### **Hotel list :**

**Tehran : Grand Hotel(2) 4\***

**Yazd : Garden Moshir 4\***

**Shiraz: Setaregan 4\***

**Esfahan : o Khajoo 4\* o Hotel Traditional** (ideal for individual groups, central located traditional house)

**Tehran alla partenza : Hotel Remis 4\*** (in front of airport)