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### **Full Itinerary**

# Iran Historic Cities and Deserts (9 Days)

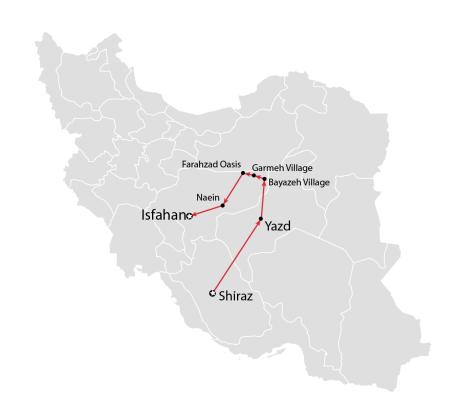
Route: Shiraz - Yazd - Bayazeh Village - Garmeh Village - Farahzad - Naeen - Isfahan

- A three-day trek in the central desert
- Comfortable night accommodations
- Deep familiarity with the Zoroastrian religion
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Persepolis, Pasargadae, Yazd City, Chehel Sotoun Palace, and Naqsh-e Jahan Square



# **Tour Overview**

Group Size: 2 - 20	Date Available: Oct to Apr	
<b>Distance:</b> 1280 Km	Range: 15 to 75 year old	
<b>Altitude:</b> 1222 m - 1576 m AMSL	Theme: Cultural & Ecological	
Physical Rate: 2 out of 5	Tour Code: STC103	





#### **Itinerary**

#### In a Nutshell

This is the right package for those who are interested in the culture and history of Iran. The leader will give you plenty of information about the Zoroastrians and the Achaemenid Dynasty which have been of great importance to the inhabitants of this ancient land.

#### Day 1: Shiraz

You'll arrive to Shiraz at the midnight and will be transferred to hotel by Shakiba's representative. After breakfast, we'll start visiting the city. At first, you'll be taken to **Nasir al-Mulk Mosque**. A mosque is full of color and light known as the pink mosque. **Khan School** is your next destination. This school was built in the Safavid period and a lot of scholars was trained in all sciences of that time especially in philosophy. We go on to the **Narenjestan Qavam**. This place belongs to luxurious houses of the Qajar era which is composed various sections, such as a bathroom and a school. It's the time to drop in on **Shiraz Bazaar**. This indoor and traditional market is located near the **Karim Khan Citadel** which was built in the Zandieh era. When the evening arrives, it is the best time to visit **Tomb of Hafez**. Hafez is the greatest poet in Persian literature whose poetry has excited German Goethe.

Overnight: Shiraz, Meals: B, L, D

#### Day 2: Shiraz - Yazd

Today is dedicated to visiting the ancient sites of the Achaemenid period. During this period, most of the civilization was under the control of the Achaemenids. **Persepolis** (World Heritage Site) is the first place to visit. This place is filled with large stone columns that its magnificence will delight you. After the Perspolis, you'll go to **Necropolis** where the stone tomb of the ancient kings of Iran was carved in the heart of the mountain. You should ask, where is the tomb of the greatest king of the Achaemenid, Cyrus? Yes, you have to go to **Pasargadae** (World Heritage Site) to witness the greatness of the tomb of Cyrus. He was a king whose name appeared in the text of the Torah and was named as the Savior king. We go on the route toward Yazd (World Heritage Site) up to arrive to Abarkooh, a thousand-year-old tree. The big tree which how the closer you get into it, you perceive its greatness more.

Overnight: Yazd, Meals: B, L, D

#### Day 3: Yazd

We start to visit Yazd with the **Tower of silence**. In the Zoroastrian religion, placing the dead bodies in the tower of silence is equivalent to the burial ceremony in the Christian religion, which is no longer performed among the Zoroastrians in Iran. After that, the **Zoroastrian Fire Temple** is the place you should visit. Pay attention to the entrance of this fire temple which was decorated with a Zoroastrianism symbol. It is interesting to note that Hanabandi (immersing hands and feet with **henna**) is one of the oldest Iranian traditions that is used in various religious and ritual ceremonies. It is better to try henna and see its color closely. Certainly, the passage through the muddy lanes of Yazd will give you more memorable moments.

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By passing through this neighborhood, we will reach **Yazd Jameh Mosque**. The mosque is a masterpiece of the Timurid era (14th and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries AD). You rarely see a mosque same as this in Iran, where its minarets are as high as a Yazd Jameh Mosque. The **Water Museum** will be the last place to visit today. In this museum you can find out Iran's water management system.

Overnight: Yazd, Meals: B, L, D

#### Day 4: Yazd - Bayazeh

Iranian deserts are warmer and more intimate than anywhere you've ever been! Maybe the silence and beauty of Iran's desert will be the greatest gift for you. It is the place where people welcome your thoughts with the hospitality and only one question remains in your mind, where is it?! Yes, here is the deserted village, **Bayaze**, that today we'll take a stroll in it. On the one side of the village, there is an old castle that tour guide will lead you there. If you are lucky and have time in Bayaze, you'll experience a beautiful sunset.

Overnight: Bayazeh (guesthouse), Meals: B, L, D

#### Day 5: Bayazeh - Garmeh - Farahzad

Today, we are still in the heart of the desert of Iran. We'll move toward the **Garmeh** and finally Oasis **Farahzad** village. The Garmeh is a wonderful village in the province of Isfahan, which gives you a great opportunity to walk. If you like **fish therapy**, there is a small spring around the village that calms your leg. Afterwards, we'll move to Oasis Farahzad. After dinner, we'll go to observe the **starry sky** in the area with a description of astronomical Instructor. Early morning you wake up, you'll see the **sunrise** and the beginning of the desert life.

Overnight: Farahzad (guesthouse), Meals: B, L, D

#### Day 6: Farahzad - Naein - Isfahan

Welcome to three thousand years old city, Naein. **Jameh Mosque** is the first place to go at Naein. This mosque is one of the first mosques was built in Iran. **Cloak (Aba) Weaving Workshop** is another attraction to be seen here. Workshops which continue to be produced in the traditional way of several hundred years ago. The **House of Pirnia** is from old houses of Naein. It's belonged to the ruler of Naein in the past and now it becomes an ethnographic museum. The museum holds objects of deserted culture. Later, we'll move towards the center of civilization in Iran. Isfahan is waiting for you.

Overnight: Isfahan, Meals: B, L, D

#### Day 7: Isfahan

"Isfahan is half of the world" is the motto that many tourists know it. You'll start to visit Isfahan with **Chehel Sotun Palace** (World Heritage Site). This palace has been the the meeting place of the Safavid kings with ambassadors of foreign countries that in its main hall, you'll watch the beautiful paintings of parties and wars of Safavid and Qajar kings. When you leave Chehel Sotun Palace, you pass through a park on Ostandari Street and arrive at **Nagsh-e Jahan Square** (World Heritage Site).



Naqsh-e Jahan is the most important structure of Safavid era, which is a symbol of the government power and people's religion. When you enter to the **Shah Mosque**, you arrive to the main courtyard with a twisted path. This mosque consists of thousands of tiles that you'll definitely love it. If you move toward the north of the square, you'll see **Qeysarieh Bazaar**. This Bazaar can be the best place for your shopping. In the evening, you'll be taken to visit **Si-o-se Pol Bridge** (33 arched bridge) and **Khaju Bridge**. These bridges are walking and recreational places for people of Isfahan and they are good places to meet the tourists from different countries.

Overnight: Isfahan, Meals: B, L, D

#### Day 8: Isfahan

We would choose **Jolfa Quarter** to visit for the second day in Isafan. Jolfa has long been the home of Christians and Armenians. There are numerous churches in this quarter, one of them is **Vank Cathedral**. The cathedral was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Vank has an Armenian-Iranian architecture that is very enjoyable to see. Do not miss taking a stroll in Jolfa Quarter. You can spend your time in the traditional cafes there. Perhaps you'll find an Iranian friend too. You'll invite to Music Museum. Listening to the live performance of Iranian ethnic music is very audible and you get familiar with Iranian music well. After leaving Jolfa quarter, you go to **Ali Gholi Agha Quarter**. The Ali Gholi Agha bath is your first stop. Here you can understand the old bathing style. It's better to go to the **Zoorkhaneh** (wrestling house). Zoorkhaneh was a former Iranian gym, which athletes were exercising there in a special way and preparing themselves for war.

Overnight: Isfahan, Meals: B, L, D

**Day 9:** Isfahan Departure



## **Need to Know**

Theme	Historical, Cultural & Ecological			
Accommodation Standard Class 3-4-5* Hotels & Guesthouse	Total - 7 nights in 3-4-star double room & 2 nights in guesthouse  2 Night - Hotel in Shiraz  2 Night - Hotel in Yazd  1 Night - Guesthouse in Bayazeh  1 Night - Guesthouse in Farahzad  3 Night - Hotel in Isfahan			
Transport	Private Car (2 Pax), Van (3 -9 Pax), Middle Bus (10 -20 Pax)			
Meals	B: 8	L: 8	D: 8	
Inclusion	<ul> <li>- Hotel Accommodation</li> <li>- Airport - Hotel - Airport Transfer</li> <li>- Meals as it's mentioned</li> <li>- Iran Visa (Reference Code)</li> <li>- Entrance fees as it's mentioned</li> <li>- Professional Tour Guide</li> <li>- Free Wi-Fi</li> <li>- Iranian SIM Card</li> </ul>			
Exclusion	<ul><li>International Airfare</li><li>Personal Insurance</li><li>Visa Stamp Fee</li><li>Expenses of Personal Nature</li><li>Tips and Portages</li></ul>			



# Why travel with Shakiba?

A to Z Services: Shakiba Travel Company offers all the necessary services you need from A to Z, during your trip to Iran. The services include visa collection assistance, tour guides, transfer, transport (private car, van, bus, plain and train), and accommodation (hotels, hostels, Eco lodges, homestays, guesthouses).

**Iran Visa:** Shakiba experienced visa team highly recommends travelers to get their Iran visas before coming to the country. This will accelerate and facilitate the trip and will cause lots of comfort upon arrival. Sometimes it has been noticed that some travelers applied to get a visa upon arrival and unfortunately they were rejected due to some problems. If travelers collect their visa before arrival they will guarantee their trip and there won't be the risk of rejection. Our team at Shakiba Travel Company is well ready to assist its customers with the process of visa application and is online 24 hours to answer all visa-related questions.

**Reasonable Prices:** There is always the possibility of comparing our prices with other companies and make sure of our low fees. There are also different occasions for benefiting from Shakiba Company's offers and discounts.

Free of Charge: One free in groups of up to 10 person

**Security:** Iran is generally a very safe place to travel. Violent crime against foreigners is extremely rare and, indeed, if you do your best to fit in with local customs, you are unlikely to be treated with anything (<a href="https://www.lonelyplanet.com/iran/safety">https://www.lonelyplanet.com/iran/safety</a>).

**Service Quality:** Shakiba does its best to fully satisfy the customers to receive travel services with the quality they expect. So, we guarantee your satisfaction.

**Full-Time Support (7/24):** Our experienced team is always ready to support its customers all day long. Customers and travelers can always feel free to ask whatever questions they have and receive immediate responses and advise on their selected package. Our professionals are willing to assist with all of your tour-related inquiries.