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Full Itinerary

Spiritual Highlights of Iran

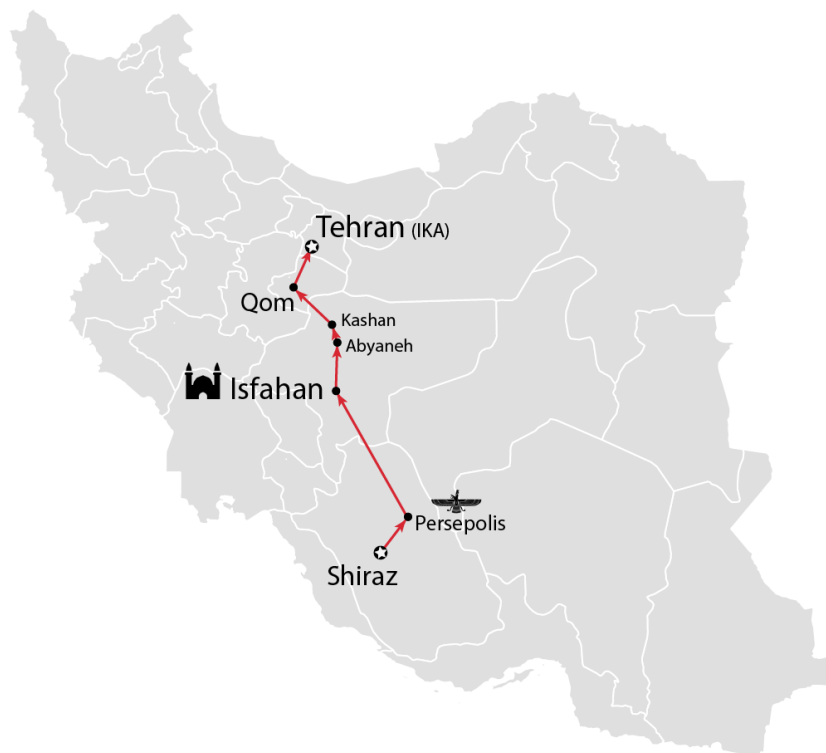
Route: Shiraz - Persepolis - Shiraz - Isfahan - Abyaneh - Kashan - Qom - Tehran

- In-depth familiarity with Iran's classical architecture
- Street walks to visit local culture
- A visit to the glorious ancient Persian Empire
- Visit atmospheric old Abyaneh
- Marvel at the glittering Achaemenid Palaces in Persepolis
- Discover the azure tiles of the stunning monuments in Naqshe Jahan Square, Isfahan
- Stroll through old mansions in the cradle of civilization, Kashan
- Taste the romance of Persian Poetry in Shiraz
- Enjoy a fascinating insight into Qom
- Savor the smell of citrus blossoms and fruit strolling around the city of poets, Shiraz
- **UNESCO World Heritage Sites:** Persepolis, Pasargadae, Chehel Sotoun Palace, Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Jame Mosque of Isfahan, and Fin Garden



Tour Overview

Group Size: 2 - 20	Date Available: Weekly on Saturdays
Distance: 1100 Km	Range: 12 to 75 year old
Altitude: 936 m - 1519 m AMSL	Theme: Cultural & Ecological
Physical Rate: 1 out of 5	Tour Code: STC108





Itinerary

In a Nutshell

Imagine yourself in the middle of culture and civilization by visiting the ancient cities of Shiraz, Isfahan, Kashan, Qom and Abyaneh Village to explore another side of classical architecture of Persia. Go behind the scenes of sightseeing as you enjoy splendid attractions unique to Iran. Stroll through mud-structure Quarters of the central cities of Iran and admire the kindness of the locals with their gentle looks.

Day 1: Shiraz

Upon your arrival, our representative welcomes you at Shiraz International Airport. You will be transferred to your hotel to check into your room. After serving your breakfast, your tour starts with a visit to the city of Shiraz. You start your sightseeing by visiting **Nasir-al-Mulk** mosque whose pink arrays invite you to a deep silence. Then, you head into **Khan School** to get familiar with one of the developed schools of the Safavid Dynasty. At this school, Mulla Sadra, who was the great philosopher of the East, has published many books. The next site you are going to visit is **Narenjestan Qavam**, which was formerly an educational institute for the famous orientalist, Arthur Pope. Arthur Pope and his wife have used the place for doing researches and have changed it into a museum. In the evening, you will have a walking tour to see the exterior view of **Karim Khan Citadel** and go shopping in **Vakil Bazaar**. If you feel like tasting a local desert, just make sure to try Faloodeh, which is the most delicious dessert in the city. The final plan for today is the visit to Shah Cheragh. You will definitely enjoy the light of the lamps there. **Shah Cheragh** is the holy shrine of a person who is sacred to the Iranians and is highly respected by them. The construction of the shrine dates back to the 12th century and many travelers visit the place annually.

Overnight: Shiraz, **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 2: Shiraz - Persepolis - Shiraz

Today we move toward Yazd. Before arrival, you will see some parts of the rich history of Iran. In many history books, you have certainly heard the name of the Cyrus Cylinder as the oldest declaration of human rights. Yes, today is the time to get familiar with part of the Achaemenid Empire. That is why your tour guide will take you to the **Persepolis** (World Heritage Site). Persepolis is a very famous historical monument, which dates back to many centuries before Christian and had been a place for the reign of the Achaemenid Kings. To continue your trip, you stop at **Naqsh-e Rostam** and visit four tombs of the ancient kings. After lunch we will back to Shiraz. Free afternoon is at leisure.

Overnight: Shiraz, **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 3: Shiraz - Isfahan

After breakfast we drive explore **Tomb of Cyrus the Great** (World Heritage Site), the king known as the Savior of the Jews in the Old Testament. After getting familiar with the majesty and glory of the Achaemenid Empire, you drive to Isfahan. By the end of the day, you have time to visit the historical bridges of **Khaju and Si-o-Seh Pol** where local people are singing songs and passing happy time near each other.

Overnight: Isfahan, **Meals:** B, L, D



Day 4: Isfahan

Today, Iran beauty awaits to welcome you. You will arrive to Isfahan. In this city, **Chehel Sotun Palace** (World Heritage Site), which is an excellent example of a Persian garden, is a UNESCO site you are going to explore. The palace has been previously used by the Safavid kings as a palace for welcoming the foreign ambassadors. **Naqsh-e Jahan Square** (World Heritage Site) is another UNESCO site, which awaits you. It is one of the most beautiful and oldest squares in the whole world and embraces the four other attractions of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, Ali Qapu Palace, Abbasi Mosque and Qeisarieh Bazaar. If you would like to locate yourself in Naqsh-e Jahan, you need to know that **Ali Qapu Palace** is situated on the West side of the square. The palace is a six-story building that leads you to its music hall on the sixth floor by the help of spiral staircases. In the afternoon, we pass time in the shops around the square and get familiar with a variety of local souvenirs. In the evening, you get prepared for another visit to Naqsh-e Jahan Square where you get mesmerized by the magnificent **Sheikh Lotfullah Mosque**. There will be free time at the markets around the square to enable you to chat with the local people and salesmen and see how they are buying and selling goods.

Overnight: Isfahan, **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 5: Isfahan

We highly recommend you to wake up early this morning because we have a lot to do. After breakfast, you head into **Atiq Jameh Mosque** (World Heritage Site), which is registered by UNESCO and is regarded as an encyclopedia of different styles of Iranian architecture. You will have a walking tour in the nearby **Jewish Quarter**. Jewish people stepped into the country in the first millennium before Christian and reside in central Iran. Your guide will give you sufficient information about this religion and the way Jewish people lived in the country. Next step is **Jolfa Quarter** where Christian people were requested to live by the order of Shah Abbas who was the Safavid King. You are given time to get familiar with Christian people of Iran and learn about their way of life. You are then guided to **Vank Cathedral** that is home to many picturesque paintings depicting the stories of the Bible. Afterwards, you will enjoy the traditional Iranian music at the **Music Museum** and learn about all the old and modern Iranian musical instruments.

Overnight: Isfahan, **Meals:** B, L, D

Day 6: Isfahan - Abyaneh - Kashan - Qom

We make our way to Kashan. In the middle of the way, we head out to **Abyaneh village** located in the northwest of Natanz. Upon arrival at the village and crossing through the alleys, you'll face with stepped view, red-colored houses and local clothing of villagers. If you want to hit one of the village doors, check the doorknockers on. There are two doorknockers on the door. One for men and one for women! Each one has a different sound. Try them! We then leave Abyaneh to Kashan where you are going to visit some of the best houses in size and design including **Borujerdiha House**. We'll also have an opportunity to take a look at the historically significant **Fin Garden** (World Heritage Site) with a special system for pools and fountains. In the evening we'll be on a road trip to Tehran visiting the Shia holy city of **Qom**. (It depends on your departure time, visiting the city of Qom is an optional based on your preference). The holy shrine of Fatima Masumeh sibling of Imam Reza, is the highlight of Qom. We end our journey at Imam Khomeini International Airport.

Overnight: -, **Meals:** B, L, D



Need to Know

Accommodation 3-4* Traditional Hotel	3 Nights - Hotel in Shiraz 3 Nights - Hotel in Isfahan		
Transport	Private Car (2 Pax), Van (3 -5 Pax), Mini Bus (6 - 9 Pax), Middle Bus (10 -20 Pax)		
Meals	B: 6	L: 6	D: 6
Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hotel Accommodation - Transportation: Air-conditioned vehicles as it's mentioned - Airport - Hotel - Airport Transfer - Meals as it's mentioned - Iran Visa (Reference Code) - Entrance Fees as it's mentioned - Professional Tour Guide - Free Wi-Fi - Iranian SIM Card 		
Exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Airfare - Personal Insurance - Visa Stamp Fee - Expenses of Personal Nature - Tips and Portages 		



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 on-line 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.

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 (<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/iran/safety>).

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.