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INTRODUCTION

Iran has a rich and diverse history with a chronology of different periods, each characterized by its own architecture, art and literature. The first recorded history of Iran dates back to 7000 B.C. The first distinct people to emerge around 3800 B.C. were Elamites (3000 B.C. TO 639 B.C.) who were influenced to a large extent by Sumerians. It was during this period that successive waves of immigrants of Indo-European origin settled down on the central plateau. A kind of feudal system was developed at about this in Iran, mentioned for the first time in 844 B.C. in Assyrian texts. The Medes Empire (825 B.C.) reunified the country but it set the scene for many battles and invasions. Several dynasties from this time founded great empires, extending from the borders of India and Asia-Minor to the Mediterranean in the west.

As for the Islamic Period, the monuments which were left from the east, such as the Mongols and the Timurids, are also fascinating and significant, particularly those of the Safavid Dynasty (1501-1736).
REMINISCENT OF ANTIQUITY

The area known as Iran today is home to one of the oldest human civilizations and was the center of the Persian Empire, officially the Achaemenid Persian Empire. Dating back to the 6th century BC, they ruled a huge area that covers modern day North Africa, Turkey, parts of the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, all the way to west India. This was an important time for fostering the cultural, technological and religious growth and even today, visitors can see remnants of this incredible period in Iran’s past.
HISTORY

Human civilization in Iran dates back to the Lower Paleolithic era (over 800,000 years ago), which is proven by archaeological finds made in the Kashafrud Basin. Some of these can be seen at Zagros Paleolithic Museum in Kermanshah in western Iran. The Persian Empire was founded by Cyrus the Great and ruled a vast area that stretched from southern Europe to India. The central location of Persia means that it was subject to many invasions and much turmoil. During the 7th century, the Muslims arrived, followed by the Turks in the 11th century, the Mongols in the 13th century, and finally the Ottomans. This upheaval added to Iran’s colorful past and remnants of the various conquerors can still be seen today. The most impressive examples are Persepolis, Bam and Bisotun. If unable to travel to these regions, one can visit the National Museum in Tehran, which is the right place to cater for those avid to learn about the history of the country.
CULTURE

Iran’s culture is deeply intertwined with its long and rich history, especially from the Persian Empire. Art, literature, architecture, and music have deep roots which are still visible today. In fact, Persian artifacts can be seen in many leading museums around the world, such as the British Museum and the Louvre. Iran’s society has also been strongly influenced by its neighboring countries, such as Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan. Much of Iran’s culture is reflective in its handicrafts. The art of carpet-knotting, a significant industry, dates back centuries. Another key art form is intricate metal- and woodworking, known as khatamakari or minakari. These handicrafts are still alive and well, and antique versions can be seen in museums while modern substitutes can be purchased at the bazaars.

Art and literature thrived during the Persian Empire and although they have changed based on various intellectual and beliefs ever since, Iranian contemporary art is a proud tradition. There are many talented artists whose works can be seen at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. Tehran International Short Film Festival showcases leading movie makers in Iran every October.
Iran at a Glance

Name: The official name of the country is the Islamic Republic of Iran (Jomhuri-ye Eslami-ye Iran) but it is also sometimes referred to as Persia.

Official language: Farsi (AKA Persian)

Population: 81.5 million, according to a 2017 estimate

Capital: Tehran

Main Religion: Shia Islam

International Dialling Code: +98

Climate: Iran has a diverse climate. Winters are cold in the northwest whereas summers are very hot in the south.

Iran is located in West Asia, between the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, and the Caspian Sea. It is bordered by Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. It has been the center of many different civilizations, such as the Kassites, Mannaens, Gutians and of course the historical conquests of adjacent regions led by the Persians have made Iran a multi-ethnic and multicultural country.
Covering an area of 1,648,000 sq km (636,296 sq mi), Iran is known to be one of the world's oldest civilizations. Its rich history has had a wide-reaching influence on many countries including Greece, Macedonia and Italy.

Iran has been the center of many empires and many conquests, and according to archaeological studies, the earliest accounts of humans inhabiting this region date back to the Stone Age. The ancient Persians arrived in 1500 BC, bringing great advances to agricultural technology, such as irrigation systems, to the land. The Persians had attempted (and failed) to conquer the Greeks on two separate occasions and in retaliation Alexander conquered the entire Persian Empire in 330 B.C. In the eleventh century, it was conquered by the Turks and then later, Persia was overrun by the Mongols in 1250. However, in the early sixteenth century, the present form of Shi'ism as the Iranian state religion was founded by a religious movement - the Safavids.
A new "Pahlavi" dynasty was established in 1925 by Reza Shah. However, this dynasty was short-lived and in 1979, his successor, Muhammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, was overthrown and sent into exile after a successful revolution led by Ayatollah Khomeni.

Etiquette and Customs

Iranians have many beautiful customs and traditions. They are close to extended family members, and have great respect for the elderly and are very hospitable to foreigners. These traits remain highly visible parts of Iranian etiquette. The most important things in Iranian culture are:

Loving God
Loving Iran
Loving family
Taarof

The core concept in Persian culture is called Tarof (or taarof). It is based upon acknowledgement of other people. It shows humbleness and respectfully. For example, it is always polite to let others through a door before you, or say "No, after you." The word to use in this scenario is ‘shoma befarmayeen’ (please go ahead).

Another situation in which you can come across this phenomenon is while paying at a restaurant. Everyone in the group will offer to pay the bill. The appropriate word here to use is ‘nemishe’ (not possible), and of course, denying offered food and saying, "Oh, no thank you." (in Persian: na merci) when you really do want some is customary. Most likely they will insist a second time and that time you should act humbly and accept their offering.
Iranian Cuisine

Nowadays you can find a vast range of cuisines in Iran, as in most countries of the world. There are many varied traditional Iranian dishes, such as the chelo-kabab (kebab and rice), every Western dish, as well as, Indian, Chinese, Korean cuisines and so forth. And of course pizzas and hamburgers can be found anywhere.

Rice and bread are the staple foods of Iranians which they eat with meat and vegetable dishes along with herbs and yogurt. Iranians also make a wide range of sweets and confectionery, in most of which they put pieces of almonds, pistachios and hazelnuts as well as dried fruits. Yazd, Kerman and Tabriz are well-known for their sweets. The sohan from Qom and Isfahan, and kolooches (cookies) from Gilan have a reputation throughout Iran and are very much cherished. Iranians also prepare many types of sharbats or sweet drinks.
Dress code

Women are required to wear head scarves as stated in the Quran; this is to demonstrate modesty. Clothing should be loose, up to knee length, with full sleeves, however three-quarter length sleeves are also acceptable. Men can dress in western attire, but it is advised not to wear shorts or shirts with sleeves that are too short. In Iran, business attire for men does not usually include a tie.
Currency

Once you get to Iran, it is recommended to change your currency to Iranian Rials to get the best value but quite often you will find retailers willing to take US Dollars, Euros and GBP, although the exchange rate will not be favorable. Therefore, once you arrive it is best to exchange enough money for the next few days to avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Also remember only to use reputable offices to exchange your currency, often found in Airports or exchange agencies around the country.

If you take smaller local currency bills with you when exchanging to Rials, many places will give you a lower rate. Credit and debit cards are useless in Iran at present, so it is advised to bring hard currency for the duration of your stay.

Toman is used while billing at restaurants, shopping, etc but it is not mentioned on any currency note or coin. Toman is simply one tenth of the Rial price.
For those who desire to discover Iran and ancient Persia

We are pleased to offer the following selection of suggested itineraries with highlight journey (UNESCO world heritages) based on our experiences. By combing through these itineraries, we can tailor any journey to make it special, unique and designed for our guests.

PACKAGES
Amazing Persia

Day 01: Tabriz
Arrival at Tabriz International Airport.
A half-day visit to the museums of Tabriz, such as the extraordinary monuments of Blue Mosque and Azerbaijan Museum.

Day 02: Tabriz-Tehran
Visiting the Bazar of Tabriz, which is the largest covered Bazar in the world. Visiting the Arg of Tabriz, built under advisory of Il-khanid minister Taj-edin-Jahanshah.
Also visiting the Iron Age Museum, and Il-goli Park followed by a flight to Tehran. Staying overnight in Tehran.

Day 03: Tehran
On the first tour to the capital, you will visit the Carpet Museum, and also the Jewelry Museum, as well as the Abgineh Museum. In the afternoon, the Archeological museum, Golestan Palace and Bazar are on the itinerary. At the end of the day, we will enjoy a great panoramic view of the Capital from the top of Milad Tower.
(Tehran's museums are closed on Mondays).

Day 04: Tehran-Kashan
Departure to Kashan.
Visit of Fin Garden (UNESCO World Heritage), Tabatabai House and Bazar. Staying Overnight in Kashan.

Day 05: Kashan
Visit of Sialk site, Agha Bozorg Mosque and Manouchehri house.
Staying Overnight in Kashan.

Day 06: Kashan-Isfahan
Departure to Isfahan via Abyaneh, a beautiful village protected by UNESCO. To begin with the tour of Isfahan, we will visit the Khadju, Si-o-se-pol (literally translated into 33 bridges) and Shahrestan bridges and Friday Mosque.

Day 07: Isfahan
Visiting the palace pavilions of Chehel Sutun, the remarkable Naqsh-e Jahan Square (UNESCO World Heritage), including Ali-Qapu Pavilion, Shaikh Lutfollah Mosque, Imam Mosque and the monumental entrance to Qayssarieh Bazaar. Staying Overnight in Isfahan.

Day 08: Isfahan-Yazd
Departure to Yazd, via Nain. We will visit Masjed Jom'eh (Friday Mosque) in Nain and then we head to Yazd. Staying Overnight in Yazd.

Day 09: Yazd
A visit of the Friday Mosque, Mir Chakhmagh Square, and tasting the famous sweet specialties of Iran is on the list. Afterwards, we will have a visit of the ancient quarter of Yazd including an introduction of the Qanat water-supply system (UNESCO World Heritage), Zoroastrian Fire Temple and the Bazar. In the afternoon, there will be a tour of the traditional Iranian sport resort (UNESCO World Heritage), Zourkhane. Staying Overnight in Yazd.

Day 10: Yazd-Shiraz
Departure to Shiraz, the city of roses, and the birth city of famous poets, Hafez and Saadi. Visit of Hafez and Sadi's Tombs, Eram Garden. At the end of day, we will visit the Shah Cheragh Mausoleum. Staying Overnight in Shiraz.

Day 11: Shiraz-Persepolis
Visiting the Persepolis (UNESCO World Heritage), one of the greatest archeological sites 60 km away from Shiraz, Naghsh-e Rostam and Darvazeh Qoran at the entrance of Shiraz, wishing good trips for travelers and welcoming visitors, the religious School, Nassir-al-Molk Mosque and visiting the superb Bazar of Shiraz. Staying Overnight in Shiraz.

Day 12: Flight Back Home
There would be a transfer service to Shiraz International Airport and fly back home according to your flight time.

Note: According to your flight information, you may have a domestic flight from Shiraz to Tehran.
Swimming & Skiing

DAY 01: Tehran
Upon Arrival at Imam Khomeini International Airport, our professional tour guide will meet and greet you before being transferred to your hotel.
Staying Overnight in Tehran.

DAY 02: Dizin
After breakfast, we will have a ride to Dizin ski resort via Chalous road, one of the most picturesque roads in the world. Dizin ski resort is not only the most important ski resort, but also the most prestigious one in the entire Middle East. This resort is located to the north of Tehran and the first ski resort in Iran that was approved by the International Ski Federation for official tournaments and won an international title. We will enjoy skiing there the entire day.
Staying Overnight in Dizin.

DAY 03: Dizin
Full day skiing in Dizin.
Staying overnight in Dizin.

Day 04: Kish
After half a day of skiing in Dizin and trying a delicious Iranian meal, we will be transferred to the domestic airport in Tehran and fly to Kish Island in the south of Iran in the heart of the Persian Gulf.
Staying overnight in Kish.

Day 05: Kish
The whole day will be spent visiting Kish, a wonderful Island.
Staying overnight in Kish.

Day 06: Shemshak
After visiting Kish for a half more day and enjoying water sports in the evening, we will fly back to Tehran and head directly to Shemshak ski resort and ski in this highly professional site for half a day.
Staying overnight in Shemshak.

Day 07: Shemshak
We will enjoy skiing in Shemshak resort the whole day. Shemshak resort is the second largest ski resort in Iran. The resort lies 57 km away to the northeast of Tehran.
Staying Overnight in Shemshak.

Day 08: Tehran
After half a day of enjoy skiing in Shemshak resort we will return to Tehran in the evening.
Staying Overnight in Tehran.

Day 09: Flight Back Home
There will be a transfer service to Imam Khomeini International Airport and you can fly back home according to your flight time.
From Blue Cupola to the Caspian Sea

Day 01: Arrival In Tehran

Day 02: Tehran
Visiting Golestan Palace, Abgineh and National Museum
Visiting Tajrish Bazar and Nature bridge at the end of the day.
Staying overnight in Tehran.

Day 03: Tehran - Tabriz
Flying to Tabriz one of the most important cities of the country in the morning. Visiting the city center and Blue Mosque and Azarbaijan Museum.
Finally, visiting the Bazar (the longest bazar in Iran).
Staying overnight in Tabriz.

Day 04: Tabriz - Marand - Jolfa - Maku - Tabriz
A ride to Marand, visiting Friday Mosque, moving on to Jolfa, Visiting St. Etienne (Darre Sham cathedral), then visiting St. Thaddeus (Kara Kalsa) (Unesco world heritage) in Maku and returning to Tabriz.
Staying overnight in Tabriz.

Day 05: Tabriz- Ardebil
Departure to Ardebil and visiting Sheikh Safi Mausoleum (UNESCO world heritage site).
Staying overnight in Ardebil.

Day 06: Ardebil - Bandar Anzali - Massuleh - Rasht
Departure to the region Gilan by the Caspian Sea
Having a ride to Anzali.
Before visiting the lagoon of Anzali, we will have an excursion in the village of Massuleh, whose spectacular architecture is popularly known as "The yard of the building above is the roof of the building below". At last, we will move on to Rasht.
Staying overnight in Rasht.

Day 07: Rasht-Ramsar
We will have a visit to the bazar and museum of Rasht. Then we will return to Ramsar to see Ramsar garden and Mohammad Reza Shah's palace.
Staying overnight in Ramsar.

Day 08: Ramsar - Tehran
In the morning, we will have a ride to Javaherdeh (a small village in Ramsar).
Finally, we will return to Tehran.

Day 09: Flight Back Home
Beauty of Desert

Day 01: Tehran
Following the arrival at Imam Khomeini International Airport, we will have rest for a few hours. Afterwards, we will visit the National Museum. In the afternoon, National Jewelry Museum and Carpet Museum will be on the list to visit. Staying Overnight in Tehran. (Tehran’s museums are closed on Mondays).

Day 02: Kerman
On the second day, we will fly to Kerman, the most important and also the largest city in the southeast of Iran. This city offers many historic mosques and Zoroastrian fire temples. Staying Overnight in Kerman.

Day 03 & 04: Lut Desert
We will have a ride to the Lut Desert (UNESCO World Heritage). This place is a large salt desert in Kerman Province and it is the world’s 25th largest desert. We will camp in the desert and enjoy the overnight stay.

Day 05: Zein-o-Din Caravanserai
The Zein-o-Din Caravanserai, as old as 400 years, lies in Yazd province on the ancient Silk Road. This caravanserai, with circular towers, was built at the behest of premier Shah Abbas to cater for passengers. Zein-o-Din Caravanserai is our destination for the day to staying overnight.

Day 06: Yazd - Mehriz
On the way to Yazd via Mehriz we will visit Qanat systems in Mehriz (UNESCO World Heritage). In the afternoon, we will visit the Tower of Silence and Zoroastrian Fire Temple. Staying Overnight in Yazd.

Day 07: Yazd
Jame’ Mosque, Alexander Prison, Twelve-Imams Tomb, Amir Chakhmaq Square and the old parts of the city are the sites we will visit. Staying Overnight in Yazd.

Day 08: Shiraz
After we arrive in Shiraz via Pasargadae (UNESCO World Heritage), we will spend a full day city tour to explore the main highlights of Shiraz, including the Citadel of Karim Khan Zand, Nasir ol-Mulk Mosque, Naranjestan Garden, and the Tombs of Hafez and Sa’di. Staying Overnight in Shiraz.

Day 09: Shiraz - Persepolis - Shiraz
Nothing can beat an excursion to Persepolis (UNESCO World Heritage) and Naqsh-e Rostam. On top of that, after returning to Shiraz, we will enjoy visiting Darvazeh-Quran, Shah Cheragh Mausoleum and Vakil Bazar. Staying Overnight in Shiraz.

Day 10: Shiraz - Isfahan
We will start our day with a ride to Isfahan. On arrival, we will have a tour of the historical bridges (Khaju and Si-o-se-pol) and Friday Mosque (UNESCO World Heritage). Staying Overnight in Isfahan.

Day 11: Isfahan
The visit to the capital of Safavid Dynasty includes Chehel Sutun Palace, the remarkable Naqsh-e Jahan Square (UNESCO World Heritage) embracing Ali Qapu Pavilion, Shaikh Lutfollah Mosque, Imam Mosque and the monumental entrance to Qeyssarieh Bazar. Staying Overnight in Shiraz.

Day 12: Isfahan - Kashan
On the way to Kashan, we will visit the UNESCO-recognized village of Abyaneh. Then, we will tour Tabatabaiha and Boroujerdiha houses and Fin Garden (UNESCO World Heritage) in the city of Kashan. Staying Overnight in Kashan.

Day 13: Flight Back Home
To conclude, we will have a ride to Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Airport and flight back home.
East to West

Day 01: Mashhad
Arrival in Mashhad International Airport
Mashhad is a city where the eighth Imam of Shiites, Imam Reza was martyred and thus is an important site for Shiite Muslim pilgrims full day city tour in Mashhad (Imam Reza’s Holy Shrine, Ferdowsi’s Tomb, Nader Shah Museum).
Staying Overnight in Mashhad.

Day 02: Neyshabour-Mashhad
Two of the sights worth visiting in Neyshabour are Khayyam (well-known philosopher) & Attar’s (a great Iranian mystic and a prolific writer on mysticism) mausoleums.
Staying Overnight in Mashhad.

Day 03: Bastam
We will have a ride to Bastam, a small town in Semnan Province, where Bayazid Bastami, a master Sufism was buried in the 9th century.
Staying overnight Bastam.

Day 04: Shahroud
The fourth day will begin with a ride to Shahroud via Abr Forest (Abr means cloud). Which offers a picturesque view in Iran. A visit to Sheikh Kharaqani’s Shrine will wrap it up for the fourth day.
Staying overnight in Shahroud.

Day 05: Damghan
There will be a ride to Damghan to visit Tarikhane Mosque (the oldest mosque in Iran), Pir Alamdar Tower and Chehel Dokhtaran (which means forty girls) Tower.
Staying overnight in Damghan.

Day 06: Tehran
We will have a ride to Tehran and enjoy a full-day city tour of Tehran.
Visiting the Golestan Palace (UNESCO World Heritage) and the grand Bazar, Carpet Museum and also the Jewelry Museum. At the end of the day, we will visit Milad Tower
Staying overnight in Tehran.
(Tehran’s museums are closed on Mondays)

Day 07: Zanjan-Sarein
On the way to Sarein, a small town in Ardabil Province, we will visit Soltaniyeh Dome (a world heritage site) in Zanjan After that, we will visit Chalab Oghi Khangah, an old Sufi of the 14th century. Sarein where we pamper ourselves in hot water spas brimming with mineral water will make our day.
Staying overnight in Sarein.

Day 08: Ardebil
The eighth day is marked by a ride to Ardebil to visit Sheikh Safi (a Master Sufi of the 13th and 14th century) and Sheikh Jebrael’s (a great Sufi and Sheikh Safi’s father) Shrines.
Staying overnight in Ardebil.

Day 09: Tabriz
Finally, we will have a ride to Tabriz and visit the Blue Mosque and Azerbaijan Museum, The last site to visit is the Grand Bazar (world heritage site).
Staying overnight in Tabriz.

Day 10: Tabriz- Flight Back Home
Persian illuminations

Day 01: Arrival in Tehran

Day 02: Tehran - Shiraz
In the morning, we will explore the city of Tehran, visit Carpet and Abgineh Museums and Golestan Palace (UNESCO World Heritage). In the afternoon we will fly to Shiraz. Staying overnight in Shiraz.

Day 03: Shiraz
Some of the sights worth visiting in Shiraz are Narenjestam Garden, Hafez and Saadi’s Tombs, Nasir-al-Molk Mosque and religious School. We will end the day by a visit to the Holy Shrine of Shah-Cheragh. Staying overnight in Shiraz.

Day 04: Shiraz - Persepolis - Shiraz
One thing visitors should not miss is an excursion to Persepolis as well as Naghshe Rostam. After that, we will return to Shiraz and visit Darvazeh Qoran and the Vakil Bazar (the colorful Bazar of Shiraz). Staying overnight in Shiraz.

Day 05: Shiraz - Kerman
On the way to Kerman, we will go past Lake Bakhtegan and in the afternoon, we will visit the Bazar. Staying overnight in Kerman.

Day 06: Kerman
First of all, we will visit Ganj-Alikhan Bath in Kerman. Following that, we will have an excursion to Mahan to visit of Shahzadeh Garden that shines in the heart of the desert. Ultimately, we will return to Kerman and visit Friday Mosque and Moshtaghieh Tomb. Staying overnight in Kerman.

Day 07: Kerman - Yazd
On the seventh day, we are supposed to have a ride to Yazd. On the way, we will have a stop at Abarkouh. Finally, we will carry on to Yazd and visit the Silence Tower. Staying overnight in Yazd.

Day 08: Yazd - Isfahan
The eighth day includes a visit to the old city of Yazd in Farhadan quarter, Friday Mosque, Mirchaamagh Square and Fire Temples. Departure to Isfahan. Staying overnight in Isfahan.

Day 09: Isfahan
One should not miss the visit to Chehel Sotoun Palace, Vank Cathedral and Museum not to mention Hashtbehesht Palace. At night, we will visit the famous bridges of Isfahan. Staying overnight in Isfahan.

Day 10: Isfahan
The day will start with a visit to the Royal Square, Imam Mosque, Sheikh Lotfola and Aliaghapou Palace. The visit to the roofed Bazar will end the day. Staying overnight in Isfahan.

Day 11: Isfahan - Kashan - Tehran
On arrival in Kashan form Isfahan, we will visit Fin Garden, Tabatabi House and Aghabozorg Mosque. Finally, we will have a ride back to Tehran. Staying overnight in Tehran.

Day 12: Flight Back Home
Mervelous Persia

Day 01: Welcome to Isfahan
Upon Arrival at Isfahan International Airport, our professional tour guides will meet and greet you then you will be transferred to your hotel.
Some of the most amazing sights to visit in Isfahan are Si-o-se-pol (33 Arches), Khajou Bridge and Shahrestan bridge all over beautiful Zayandehroud River.
Staying Overnight in Isfahan
Notes: The order of sights to see is subject to change due to the time of your arrival, preference of your guide and also official and unoffical holidays of some museums.

Day 02: Isfahan
You will have a ride to Varzaneh, regionally and internationally famous for its spectacular desert.
The second day includes a visit to the old Bridge of Varzaneh, Friday Mosque, Robat Shah Abbas, Caravanserai and "old wind towers, ab anbar (means water reservoir), pigeon towers, castles and traces of water mills and also Gav Chah (a traditional method of irrigation).
Staying Overnight in Isfahan.

Day 03: Isfahan
The third day, which is densely programmed includes visiting the Palace Pavilion of Chehel Sutun, the remarkable Naqsh-e Jahan Square (UNESCO World Heritage) visiting Ali Qapu Pavilion, Shaikh Lutfollah Mosque, Imam Mosque and the monumental entrance to Qayssarieh Bazar. In the afternoon, after visiting the Cathedral of Maryam in the Armenian quarter, we will move on to visit the Bazaar of Isfahan. Staying Overnight in Isfahan.

Day 04: Qeshm
We will fly to Qeshm, the biggest Iranian island of the Persian Gulf. Right after landing, we will visit the fortress constructed in 1507 by the Portuguese admiral Afonso de Albuquerque. The site, known as Morna, contains the biggest fortress in the south of the island and also houses the Geopark Museum and the town’s Bazar.
Staying Overnight in Qeshm.

Day 05: Qeshm
We will head for the biggest natural salt grotto or cavern known to exist in the world, a site. Then we will visit the grotto of Kherbes, and Forest of Hera
Staying Overnight in Qeshm.

Day 06: Shiraz
After landing in Shiraz, we will visit the Atigh Mosque, and enjoy visiting Shah Cheragh Mausoleum (Holy Shrine)
Staying Overnight to Shiraz.

Day 07: Shiraz
The places to visit are Nassir-al-Molk Mosque (Pink Mosque), Narenjestan Garden, Zinatol Moluk House and in the evening, we will visit Karim Khan Citadel, Vakil complex (Mosque, Bath, Bazaar). For the rest of the day, we will have free time to explore this beautiful city.
Staying Overnight in Shiraz.

Day 08: Shiraz
We will go to the Persepolis, one of the greatest archeological sites, 60 km away from Shiraz. Then we will visit Naghshe-e Rostam, 7 kilometers away from Persepolis. Finally, we will return to Shiraz to visit Darvazeh-Quran then visiting Sadi and Hafez’s (two famous Iranian poets) tombs.
Staying Overnight in Shiraz.

Day 09: Flight Back Home
To meet the schedule, you will be transferred to the International Airport according to your flight time.
Note: According to your flight information, you may have a domestic flight from Shiraz to Tehran.
The Ancient Persia

DAY 01: Arrival
Arrival in Tehran

DAY 02: Tehran
There will be a full-day visit to some of Tehran’s major museums: the Abguineh and the Carpet Museum, Jewelry Museum and also Golestan Palace (UNESCO World Heritage)
(N.B. these museums are closed on Mondays). Staying overnight in Tehran.

DAY 03: Tehran-Ahwaz
We will fly to Ahwaz, and then divert to Shushtar, a small town perched on limestone cliffs above the Karun River, whose past can be traced through a remarkable series of interconnecting channels, dams, bridges and water mills (UNESCO World Heritage). Staying overnight in Ahwaz.

DAY 04: Ahwaz/Excursion To Chogha Zanbil & Susa
A full-day excursion to Chogha-Zanbil, to visit the Ziggurat (UNESCO World Heritage) built by Untash Gal, King of Elam about 1250 B.C., and visiting Haft-Tappeh or Seven Mounds (Elamite Necropolis) and Susa (UNESCO World Heritage) are considered for the fourth day. Staying overnight in Ahwaz.

DAY 05: Ahwaz-Shiraz
On the way to Shiraz, we will visit Bishapur, the remains of the Sassanid city built by Shapur 1st (241-273 A.D.); there are also six Sassanid rock-reliefs at Tange-Choghan, commemorating Shapur’s victories over the Romans and other adversaries. Staying overnight in Shiraz.

DAY 06: Shiraz
The whole day will be spent touring Shiraz, including a visit to some famous gardens, such as Narenjestan Garden, the tomb of Iran’s greatest poets, Hafez and Sa’adi; Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque, the Madrassa Khan (Theological School) and the Holy Shrine of Shah-e-Cheragh. Staying overnight in Shiraz.

DAY 07: Shiraz/Excursion To Persepolis & Naghsh-e-Rostam
One of the most appealing activities to do in Shiraz is a full-day excursion to Persepolis (UNESCO World Heritage) one of the most important sites of the Ancient World, not to mention the visit to Naghsh-e-Rostam before returning to Shiraz where we can visit Vakil Bazar. Staying overnight in Shiraz. (Bazar is closed on Fridays).

DAY 08: Shiraz-Yazd
On the way to Yazd, we will visit Pasargadae (UNESCO world Heritage), the Tomb and remains of the palaces of Cyrus the Great (the Founder of the Persian Empire); also stop over at the small desert town of Abarkuh to see the 4000-year-old Cypress tree; subsequently, we will move on to Yazd; visit Dakhme and the Silence Tower. Staying overnight in Yazd.

DAY 09: Yazd-Na’in-Isfahan
Visiting the old city of Yazd (UNESCO world Heritage) in Fahadan Quarter, including Friday Mosque, Mir Chakhmag Square and the Fire Temple, a modern building where a holy Fire has been burning for over a thousand years belonging to Zoroastrian community are some of the attractions of Yazd. Then, we will depart for Isfahan via Na’in, visit Friday Mosque. After arrival in Isfahan, we will visit 33Bridges, Shahrestan, and Khajou Bridge. Staying overnight in Isfahan.

DAY 10: Isfahan
The morning will be allotted to visiting the Chehel Soutoun and the Armenian Quarter with its Cathedral and Museum. In the afternoon, we will visit Friday Mosque. Staying overnight in Isfahan.

DAY 11: Isfahan
On the 11th day, we will explore the wonders of Isfahan, Naghsheh – Jahan square (UNESCO world Heritage) the Imam Mosque, and the Sheikh Lotfolah Mosque and to the east of the square, a mosque without minarets of unique beauty, earlier called the Woman’s Mosque. In the remaining time in the afternoon we will visit the Bazaar. Staying overnight in Isfahan.

DAY 12: Isfahan-Abyaneh-Kashan-Tehran
Finally we will depart to Kashan, via Abyaneh In Kashan, we will visit Bagh-e-Fin (a traditional Persian garden (UNESCO world Heritage)), the Taba - Tabais’ House, the residence of a 19th century merchant and the Agha Bozorg Mosque. Afterwards, we will arrive in Tehran and check-in at our hotel. Staying overnight in Tehran.

DAY 13: Flight Back Home
On the last day, you will have a Transfer to IKA airport to end an excellent trip to Iran.
The Amazing West

Day 01: Welcome to Tehran
Upon Arrival at Imam Khomeini International Airport, our professional tour guide will meet and greet and then transfer you to your hotel. Golestán Palace, one of the world’s heritage sites, and Tehran’s Grand Bazaar will be at the bottom of the first day’s itinerary. Staying overnight in Tehran.
Notes: the priority in sightseeing may be changed due to the time of your arrival, preference of your guide and also official or unofficial holidays of the museums *** (Tehran’s museums are closed on Mondays).

Day 02: Tehran
The second day will be allotted to museums, such as the Abghineh Museum, Carpet Museum and the Treasury of National Jewellery Museum. Staying overnight in Tehran.

Day 03: Hamadan
On the way to Hamadan, we will visit the Ali Sadr Cave Hegmataneh Hill in Hamedan will be the next sight to visit (an Archaeological site). Staying overnight in Hamadan.

Day 04: Hamedan
Avicenna’s Tomb, Ganj Nameh and Babataher’s Tomb, Alavian Tomb and the Bazar are on the itinerary of the Hamadan. Staying overnight in Hamadan.

Day 05: Kurdistan
On the fifth day, we will head to Kurdistan. On the way to Marivan, we will visit the Negel village famous for its old mosque, where the ancient manuscript Qur’an keep. Staying overnight in Kurdistan.

Day 06: Kurdistan
A little caving in the Karaftoo cave would be fun. Then, we will visit the house of Kurds (Asef mansion), Hajar-e-Khatoon’s Shrine and Takhte Nard Bazaar. Staying overnight in Kurdistan.

Day 07: Kermanshah
After riding and arriving in Kermanshah, visiting the Tekieh Moaven-ol-Molk and Es’haqvand’s Rock Tomb and tasting one of the most exquisite Kebabs, Dande Kebab (rack of ribs) – a specialty from Kermanshah- and visit the Bazaar of Kermanshah are a must. Staying overnight in Kermanshah.

Day 08: Kermanshah
On this day, we will have a ride towards Taq-e Bostan’s bas-reliefs and Bistoun’s inscription (Preserved by UNESCO’s World Heritage). Actually, Anahita Temple would be the next site to visit. Staying overnight in Kermanshah.

Day 09: Flight Back Home
There would be a transfer service to Kermanshah International Airport and fly back home according to your flight time.
Note: According to your flight information, you may have a domestic flight from Kermanshah to Tehran.
Iran world heritage sites

And some intangible cultural heritage

registered on UNESCO
Nowruz

New Year is often a time when people wish for prosperity and new beginnings. March 21 marks the start of the year in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It is referred to as Nauryz, Navruz, Nawrouz, Nevruz, Nooruz, Novruz, Nowrouz or Nowruz meaning ‘new day’ when a variety of rituals, ceremonies and other cultural events take place for a period of about two weeks. An important tradition practised during this time is the gathering around ‘the Table’, decorated with objects that symbolize purity, brightness, livelihood and wealth, to enjoy a special meal with loved ones. New clothes are worn and visits made to relatives, particularly the elderly and neighbours. Gifts are exchanged, especially for children, featuring objects made by artisans. There are also street performances of music and dance, public rituals involving water and fire, traditional sports and the making of handicrafts. These practices support cultural diversity and tolerance and contribute to building community solidarity and peace. They are transmitted from older to younger generations through observation and participation.
Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran

The Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran, in the north-west of the country, consists of three monastic ensembles of the Armenian Christian faith: St Thaddeus and St Stepanos and the Chapel of Dzordzor. These edifices - the oldest of which, St Thaddeus, dates back to the 7th century - are examples of outstanding universal value of the Armenian architectural and decorative traditions. They bear testimony to very important interchanges with the other regional cultures, in particular the Byzantine, Orthodox and Persian. Situated on the south-eastern fringe of the main zone of the Armenian cultural space, the monasteries constituted a major centre for the dissemination of that culture in the region. They are the last regional remains of this culture that are still in a satisfactory state of integrity and authenticity. Furthermore, as places of pilgrimage, the monastic ensembles are living witnesses of Armenian religious traditions through the centuries.

Bam and its Cultural Landscape

Bam is situated in a desert environment on the southern edge of the Iranian high plateau. The origins of Bam can be traced back to the Achaemenid period (6th to 4th centuries BC). Its heyday was from the 7th to 11th centuries, being at the crossroads of important trade routes and known for the production of silk and cotton garments. The existence of life in the oasis was based on the underground irrigation canals, the qanats, of which Bam has preserved some of the earliest evidence in Iran. Arg-e Bam is the most representative example of a fortified medieval town built in vernacular technique using mud layers (Chineh).
Bisotun

Bisotun is located along the ancient trade route linking the Iranian high plateau with Mesopotamia and features remains from the prehistoric times to the Median, Achaemenid, Sassanian, and Ilkhanid periods. The principal monument of this archaeological site is the bas-relief and cuneiform inscription ordered by Darius I, The Great, when he rose to the throne of the Persian Empire, 521 BC. The bas-relief portrays Darius holding a bow, as a sign of sovereignty, and treading on the chest of a figure who lies on his back before him. According to legend, the figure represents Gaumata, the Median Magus and pretender to the throne whose assassination led to Darius's rise to power. Below and around the bas-reliefs, there are ca. 1,200 lines of inscriptions telling the story of the battles Darius waged in 520-521 BC against the governors who attempted to take apart the Empire founded by Cyrus. The inscription is written in three languages. The oldest is an Elamite text referring to legends describing the king and the rebellions. This is followed by a Babylonian version of similar legends. The last phase of the inscription is particularly important, as it is here that Darius introduced for the first time the Old Persian version of his res gestae (things done). This is the only known monumental text of the Achaemenids to document the re-establishment of the Empire by Darius I. It also bears witness to the interchange of influences in the development of monumental art and writing in the region of the Persian Empire. There are also remains from the Median period (8th to 7th centuries B.C.) as well as from the Achaemenid (6th to 4th centuries B.C.) and post-Achaemenid periods.

Cultural Landscape of Maymand

Maymand is a self-contained, semi-arid area at the end of a valley at the southern extremity of Iran's central mountains. The villagers are semi-nomadic agro-pastoralists. They raise their animals on mountain pastures, living in temporary settlements in spring and autumn. During the winter months they live lower down the valley in cave dwellings carved out of the soft rock (kamar), an unusual form of housing in a dry, desert environment. This cultural landscape is an example of a system that appears to have been more widespread in the past and involves the movement of people rather than animals.
Golesthan Palace

The lavish Golesthan Palace is a masterpiece of the Qajar era, embodying the successful integration of earlier Persian crafts and architecture with Western influences. The walled Palace, one of the oldest groups of buildings in Teheran, became the seat of government of the Qajar family, which came into power in 1779 and made Teheran the capital of the country. Built around a garden featuring pools as well as planted areas, the Palace's most characteristic features and rich ornaments date from the 19th century. It became a centre of Qajari arts and architecture of which it is an outstanding example and has remained a source of inspiration for Iranian artists and architects to this day. It represents a new style incorporating traditional Persian arts and crafts and elements of 18th century architecture and technology.

Gonbad-e Qabus

The 53 m high tomb built in AD 1006 for Qabus Ibn Voshmgir, Ziyarid ruler and literati, near the ruins of the ancient city of Jorjan in north-east Iran, bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran. The tower is the only remaining evidence of Jorjan, a former centre of arts and science that was destroyed during the Mongols' invasion in the 14th and 15th centuries. It is an outstanding and technologically innovative example of Islamic architecture that influenced sacral building in Iran, Anatolia and Central Asia. Built of unglazed fired bricks, the monument's intricate geometric forms constitute a tapering cylinder with a diameter of 15.5-17 m, topped by a conical brick roof. It illustrates the development of mathematics and science in the Muslim world at the turn of the first millennium AD.
Historic City of Yazd

The City of Yazd is located in the middle of the Iranian plateau, 270 km southeast of Isfahan, close to the Spice and Silk Roads. It bears living testimony to the use of limited resources for survival in the desert. Water is supplied to the city through a qanat system developed to draw underground water. The earthen architecture of Yazd has escaped the modernization that destroyed many traditional earthen towns, retaining its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples and the historic garden of Dolat-abad.

Masjed-e Jamé of Isfahan

Located in the historic centre of Isfahan, the Masjed-e Jamé ('Friday mosque') can be seen as a stunning illustration of the evolution of mosque architecture over twelve centuries, starting in ad 841. It is the oldest preserved edifice of its type in Iran and a prototype for later mosque designs throughout Central Asia. The complex, covering more than 20,000 m2, is also the first Islamic building that adapted the four-courtyard layout of Sassanid palaces to Islamic religious architecture. Its double-shelled ribbed domes represent an architectural innovation that inspired builders throughout the region. The site also features remarkable decorative details representative of stylistic developments over more than a thousand years of Islamic art.
Meidan Emam, Esfahan

Built by Shah Abbas I the Great at the beginning of the 17th century, and bordered on all sides by monumental buildings linked by a series of two-storeyed arcades, the site is known for the Royal Mosque, the Mosque of Sheykh Lotfollah, the magnificent Portico of Qaysariyyeh and the 15th-century Timurid palace. They are an impressive testimony to the level of social and cultural life in Persia during the Safavid era.
Pasargadae

Pasargadae was the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire, founded by Cyrus II the Great, in Pars, homeland of the Persians, in the 6th century BC. Its palaces, gardens and the mausoleum of Cyrus are outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization. Particularly noteworthy vestiges in the -160ha site include: the Mausoleum of Cyrus II; Tall-e Takht, a fortified terrace; and a royal ensemble of gatehouse, audience hall, residential palace and gardens. Pasargadae was the capital of the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia. Spanning the Eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Hindus River, it is considered to be the first empire that respected the cultural diversity of its different peoples. This was reflected in Achaemenid architecture, a synthetic representation of different cultures.

Persepolis

Founded by Darius I in 518 B.C., Persepolis was the capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It was built on an immense half-artificial, half-natural terrace, where the king of kings created an impressive palace complex inspired by Mesopotamian models. The importance and quality of the monumental ruins make it a unique archaeological site.
Shahr-i Sokhta

Shahr-i Sokhta, meaning ‘Burnt City’, is located at the junction of Bronze Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau. The remains of the mudbrick city represent the emergence of the first complex societies in eastern Iran. Founded around 3200 BC, it was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BC, during which time there developed several distinct areas within the city: those where monuments were built, and separate quarters for housing, burial and manufacture. Diversions in water courses and climate change led to the eventual abandonment of the city in the early second millennium. The structures, burial grounds and large number of significant artefacts unearthed there, and their well-preserved state due to the dry desert climate, make this site a rich source of information regarding the emergence of complex societies and contacts between them in the third millennium BC.

Sheikh Safi al-din Khanegah

Built between the beginning of the 16th century and the end of the 18th century, this place of spiritual retreat in the Sufi tradition uses Iranian traditional architectural forms to maximize use of available space to accommodate a variety of functions (including a library, a mosque, a school, mausolea, a cistern, a hospital, kitchens, a bakery, and some offices). It incorporates a route to reach the shrine of the Sheikh divided into seven segments, which mirror the seven stages of Sufi mysticism, separated by eight gates, which represent the eight attitudes of Sufism. The ensemble includes well-preserved and richly ornamented facades and interiors, with a remarkable collection of antique artefacts. It constitutes a rare ensemble of elements of medieval Islamic architecture.
Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System

Shushtar, Historical Hydraulic System, inscribed as a masterpiece of creative genius, can be traced back to Darius the Great in the 5th century B.C. It involved the creation of two main diversion canals on the river Kārun one of which, Gargar canal, is still in use providing water to the city of Shushtar via a series of tunnels that supply water to mills. It forms a spectacular cliff from which water cascades into a downstream basin. It then enters the plain situated south of the city where it has enabled the planting of orchards and farming over an area of 40,000 ha. known as Mianāb (Paradise). The property has an ensemble of remarkable sites including the Salāsel Castel, the operation centre of the entire hydraulic system, the tower where the water level is measured, dams, bridges, basins and mills. It bears witness to the know-how of the Elamites and Mesopotamians as well as more recent Nabatean expertise and Roman building influence.
**Soltaniyeh**

The mausoleum of Oljaytu was constructed in 12–1302 in the city of Soltaniyeh, the capital of the Ilkhanid dynasty, which was founded by the Mongols. Situated in the province of Zanjan, Soltaniyeh is one of the outstanding examples of the achievements of Persian architecture and a key monument in the development of its Islamic architecture. The octagonal building is crowned with a 50 m tall dome covered in turquoise-blue faience and surrounded by eight slender minarets. It is the earliest existing example of the double-shelled dome in Iran. The mausoleum’s interior decoration is also outstanding and scholars such as A.U. Pope have described the building as ‘anticipating the Taj Mahal’.

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**Susa**

Located in the south-west of Iran, in the lower Zagros Mountains, the property encompasses a group of archaeological mounds rising on the eastern side of the Shavur River, as well as Ardashir’s palace, on the opposite bank of the river. The excavated architectural monuments include administrative, residential and palatial structures. Susa contains several layers of superimposed urban settlements in a continuous succession from the late 5th millennium BCE until the 13th century CE. The site bears exceptional testimony to the Elamite, Persian and Parthian cultural traditions, which have largely disappeared.
Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex

Tabriz has been a place of cultural exchange since antiquity and its historic bazaar complex is one of the most important commercial centres on the Silk Road. Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex consists of a series of interconnected, covered, brick structures, buildings, and enclosed spaces for different functions. Tabriz and its Bazaar were already prosperous and famous in the 13th century, when the town, in the province of Eastern Azerbaijan, became the capital city of the Safavid kingdom. The city lost its status as capital in the 16th century, but remained important as a commercial hub until the end of the 18th century, with the expansion of Ottoman power. It is one of the most complete examples of the traditional commercial and cultural system of Iran.

Takht-e Soleyman

The archaeological site of Takht-e Soleyman, in north-western Iran, is situated in a valley set in a volcanic mountain region. The site includes the principal Zoroastrian sanctuary partly rebuilt in the Ilkhanid (Mongol) period (13th century) as well as a temple of the Sasanian period (6th and 7th centuries) dedicated to Anahita. The site has important symbolic significance. The designs of the fire temple, the palace and the general layout have strongly influenced the development of Islamic architecture.
The property includes nine gardens in as many provinces. They exemplify the diversity of Persian garden designs that evolved and adapted to different climate conditions while retaining principles that have their roots in the times of Cyrus the Great, 6th century BC. Always divided into four sectors, with water playing an important role for both irrigation and ornamentation, the Persian garden was conceived to symbolize Eden and the four Zoroastrian elements of sky, earth, water and plants. These gardens, dating back to different periods since the 6th century BC, also feature buildings, pavilions and walls, as well as sophisticated irrigation systems. They have influenced the art of garden design as far as India and Spain.
Tchogha Zanbil

The ruins of the holy city of the Kingdom of Elam, surrounded by three huge concentric walls, are found at Tchogha Zanbil. Founded c. 1250 B.C., the city remained unfinished after it was invaded by Ashurbanipal, as shown by the thousands of unused bricks left at the site.

The Persian Qanat

Throughout the arid regions of Iran, agricultural and permanent settlements are supported by the ancient qanat system of tapping alluvial aquifers at the heads of valleys and conducting the water along underground tunnels by gravity, often over many kilometres. The eleven qanats representing this system include rest areas for workers, water reservoirs and watermills. The traditional communal management system still in place allows equitable and sustainable water sharing and distribution. The qanats provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.
Lut Desert

The Lut Desert, or Dasht-e-Lut, is located in the south-east of the country. Between June and October, this arid subtropical area is swept by strong winds, which transport sediment and cause aeolian erosion on a colossal scale. Consequently, the site presents some of the most spectacular examples of aeolian yardang landforms (massive corrugated ridges). It also contains extensive stony deserts and dune fields. The property represents an exceptional example of ongoing geological processes.

Pahlevani and Zoorkhaneh rituals

Pahlevani is an Iranian martial art that combines elements of Islam, Gnosticism and ancient Persian beliefs. It describes a ritual collection of gymnastic and callisthenic movements performed by ten to twenty men, each wielding instruments symbolizing ancient weapons. The ritual takes place in a "Zoorkhaneh," a sacred domed structure with an octagonal sunken arena and audience seats. The "Morshed" (master) who leads the Pahlevani ritual performs epic and Gnostic poems and beats out time on a "zarb" goblet drum. The poems he recites transmit ethical and social teachings and constitute part of Zoorkhaneh literature. Participants in the Pahlevani ritual may be drawn from any social strata or religious background, and each group has strong ties to its local community, working to assist those in need. During training, students are instructed in ethical and chivalrous values under the supervision of a "Pahkesvat" (champion). Those who master the individual skills and arts, observe religious principles and pass ethical and moral stages of Gnosticism may acquire the prominent rank of "Pahlevani" (hero), denoting rank and authority within the community. At present, there are 500 Zoorkhanes across Iran, each comprising practitioners, founders and a number of "Pahkesvata."
Ta’ziye

Ta’ziye (or Ta’azyeh) is a ritual dramatic art that recounts religious events, historical and mythical stories and folk tales. Each performance has four elements: poetry, music, song and motion. Some performances have up to a hundred roles, divided into historical, religious, political, social, supernatural, real, imaginary and fantasy characters. Each Ta’ziye drama is individual, having its own subject, costumes and music. Performances are rich with symbolism, conventions, codes and signs understood by Iranian spectators, and take place on a stage without lighting or decoration. Performers are always male, with female roles being played by men, and most are amateurs who gain their living through other means but perform for spiritual rewards. While Ta’ziye has a prominent role in Iranian culture, literature and art, everyday proverbs are also drawn from its ritual plays. Its performances help promote and reinforce religious and spiritual values, altruism and friendship while preserving old traditions, national culture and Iranian mythology. Ta’ziye also plays a significant role in preserving associated crafts, such as costume-making, calligraphy and instrument-making. Its flexibility has led it to become a common language for different communities, promoting communication, unity and creativity. Ta’ziye is transmitted by example and word of mouth from tutor to pupil.

The Radif of Iranian music

The Radif of Iranian music is the traditional repertoire of the classical music of Iran that forms the essence of Persian musical culture. More than 250 melodic units, called "gushe," are arranged into cycles, with an underlying modal layer providing the backdrop against which a variety of melodic motifs are set. Although the main performance practice of Iranian traditional music unfolds through improvisation according to the mood of the performer and to the response to the audience, musicians spend years learning to master the radif as the set of musical tools for their performances and compositions. The radif may be vocal or instrumental, performed on a variety of instruments with different performance techniques including the long-necked lutes "tar" and "setar," as well as the "santur" hammered zither, "kamanche" spike fiddle and "ney" reed pipe. Passed from master to disciple through oral instruction, the radif embodies both the aesthetic practice and the philosophy of Persian musical culture. Learning the radif stretches over at least a decade of self devotion during which the students memorize the radif's repertoire and engage in a process of musical asceticism intended to open the gates of spirituality. This rich treasury lies at the heart of Iranian music and reflects the cultural and national identity of the Iranian people.
“Iran; undiscovered treasure” has been designed for those who desire to know Iran better. We as specialists, have tried to gather all information that everyone needs to know.

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