

Ancient Persia – Modern Iran

IRAN FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

SMALL GROUP TOUR



18 Days

Cultural Series Land Tour

\$5,895 per person, double occupancy

Plus internal air \$150

(economy class, subject to change)

Single supplement \$1,195

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

Group Size 5-16 travelers

2012 Land Tour Dates

April 3-20 • April 10-27 • September 11-28

Stay a little longer... Combine this tour with Journey Through Central Asia: The Five 'Stans, page 67. Contact us for details.

MIR Signature Experiences

- Wonder at the fine bas-reliefs of humans and animals at Persepolis, 25 centuries old
- Walk the ancient mud-brick citadel of Rayen
- Learn about the nomadic clans of the Qashqai tribe in Firuzabad

photo: Ann Schneider



Amir Chakmak Mosque in Yazd

Persia, the exotic land that is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations, has been known in the west as Iran since 1935, and is a modern country of almost 69 million people. On this 18-day journey that crisscrosses the country, explore Iran's fabulous bazaars, admire its splendid architecture and complex ornamentation, discover its formidable archaeological sites and converse with the people who call it home.

Days 1-5: Tehran, Bandar-e Anzali, Masuleh Begin in Tehran, sampling a few excellent museums before a foray into the Caspian Sea region. Wind along the coast from Bandar-e Anzali to the mountain village of Masuleh, built into the side of a steep hill, with the rooftops of one tier of houses serving as the street for the houses above.

Days 6-9: Yazd, Kerman, Rayen, Mahan, Jupar Fly to the desert town of Yazd, famous for its wind towers and silk textiles. Drive to Kerman and the ancient citadel of Rayen. In Jupar and Mahan, visit textile-weaving centers, carpet workshops and animated local bazaars.

Days 10-14: Shiraz, Persepolis, Firuzabad, Kazerun, Yasuj Journey on to Shiraz, an important medieval city that reigned as the capital of several Islamic dynasties. Spend a day at one of Iran's most famous archaeological sites, the astonishing ruins of Persepolis. Darius I initiated the building of Persepolis in the 5th century BC, a huge undertaking of art and architecture. Visit Firuzabad, winter quarters of the Qashqai tribe, and tour the weaving workshops of this nomadic settlement. Continue along a mountainous road to Kazerun to see the remains of the old city of Shapur and its imposing palace.

Days 15-16: Isfahan In Isfahan, admire the magnificent Islamic buildings of Imam Square, decorated with pale blue tiles. Shah Abbas the Great built the graceful ensemble in the early 17th century. Lose yourself at the covered Grand Bazaar, overflowing with jewelry, enamelware, carpets, beaten copper, spices, silks and block-printed textiles.

Days 17-18: Tehran Return to Tehran and enjoy a farewell dinner.

photo: Ann Schneider



Heart to heart

