

Pan Am World Wings Highlights of Iran: Tehran, Shiraz and Isfahan

March 29-April 6, 2017



Masjed-e Shah, Isfahan

Join us as Pan Am returns to Tehran!

Pan Am's service to Iran dates back to 1955, when the first flight from the US landed in Tehran. The airline had a long and successful history in the country, which included a Technical Assistance Program in the 1960's and the operation of the Inter-Continental Tehran Hotel. The Isfahan Inter-Continental was under contract to be built when the revolution curtailed all plans. Pan Am continued its Tehran service through the beginning days of the revolution and played a historic role in the 1979 evacuation of many American families.

Join us as we return to Iran to explore this magnificent country. Over its rich history successive civilizations have left a wealth of images from distant caravans to immense vaulted bazaars surrounded by rose gardens. Our journey begins in Tehran's National Archeological Museum where Iran's history comes to life. We continue on to Shiraz, a city known for its poetry. We will explore Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of Darius the Great who ruled the Persian Empire in the 5th century B.C. The program ends in Isfahan known for its UNESCO-listed architecture and a new generation of artisans who continue the city's artistic traditions.

The Pan Am Historical Foundation is partnering with Distant Horizons, who has managed our Cuba tours, and first pioneered the new era of travel to Iran beginning in 1997.

I encourage you to make your reservation today!

Warmest regards,



Ed Trippe
Chairman
Pan Am Historical Foundation

Itinerary

March 29: Wednesday.

Depart the US.

March 30: Thursday. Tehran. D

Arrive mid-afternoon and transfer to the *Espinas Hotel*. Welcome dinner this evening at the hotel.

March 31: Friday. Tehran. B,L,D

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Tehran. Drive to the north of Tehran to explore the Niavaran Palace and Museum, the last home of Mohammad-Reza Shah and his family located in the north-east part of the city.

Continue on and visit the modest home of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Jamaran.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.



Before returning to the hotel visit the Carpet Museum which has a small number of excellent Iranian carpets.

Dinner tonight will be at a local restaurant.

April 1: Saturday. Shiraz. B,L,D

This morning enjoy special visit to the Aaran Gallery where Nazila Noebashari, owner of the gallery – one of Tehran's most important contemporary art galleries, will meet you and talk more about contemporary art in Tehran.

Continue on to the National Museum, also known as the Archaeological Museum, which contains a collection including a stone capital of a winged lion from Susa and a 6th century B.C. audience hall relief of Darius the Great from the Treasury at Persepolis.

After lunch visit the Iranian crown jewels. This spectacular collection of jewels, stored in the basement vault of the Bank Milli Iran, was closed for many years but is now open to the public. Admire the world's largest uncut diamond as well as the Peacock Throne.

Late afternoon flight to Shiraz, a city synonymous with poetry, roses, nightingales and wine.

Upon arrival transfer to the *Homa Shiraz Hotel* for dinner and overnight.



April 2: Sunday. Shiraz.

B,L,D

Spend the morning exploring Shiraz. Begin at the Eram Gardens which was built during the 19th century in a quadripartite Persian Paradise Garden structure and is set within the Shiraz Botanical Garden.

From here drive to the Fars Museum, an octagonal pavilion which was originally built by Karim Khan and was used for official receptions.

A short distance away by foot is the citadel or Arg-e Karim Khan. The citadel was built in 1766 when Karim Khan invited the best architects and artists of the time to work on the design.

Stroll through the bazaar and discover the heart of the city.

Stop at the Pink Mosque or Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque which is the oldest mosque in Shiraz and one of the most elegant mosques in southern Iran.

Enjoy lunch at the delightful Shaterabbas Restaurant.

End the day at the tombs of two of the country's most well-known poets, Saadi, one of the major Persian poets of the time, and Hafez, whose work was placed here inside a small shrine by Karim Khan in 1773.

Dinner this evening at the wonderful Haft Khan Restaurant.



April 3: Monday. Isfahan.

B,L,D

Depart this morning for Isfahan stopping at Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenian Empire and perhaps one of the most beautiful and spectacular archaeological sites surviving today in Iran.

Close by is Naghsh-E Rostam, home to four enormous carved tombs of four Achaemenian tombs.

Enjoy an early lunch sitting in the shade of grape vines at the Laneh Tavoos Restaurant.

Upon arrival transfer to the *Abbasi Hotel*, a converted caravan-serai.

Dinner in the courtyard of the hotel this evening.

April 4: Tuesday. Isfahan.

B,L,D

After breakfast begin exploring Isfahan, perhaps the most beautiful of all Iranian cities.

Stroll from the hotel to the Palace of Forty Columns, a charming pavilion used to receive dignitaries and ambassadors.

From here walk to the enormous Maydan-e Shah square and discover the four jewels of 17th century architecture which adorn each side of the square. These structures symbolize the political, economic and religious spheres of Safavid Persia. On the north side is the entrance to the Royal Qaysariyyeh Bazaar, on the east side is the Lotfallah Mosque. On the west is the Ali Qapu Palace and on the southern side, the towering portal of the Shah Mosque, a monument to the grand vision of Shah Abbas the Great who died shortly before its completion.

After lunch at the Bastani Restaurant, located in the heart of the bazaar, enjoy free time in the bazaar.

Return to the hotel mid-afternoon.

Enjoy a dinner at a lovely local restaurant.

April 5: Wednesday. Isfahan.

B,L,D

Begin today by admiring some of the five bridges crossing the Zayendehrud River at Isfahan. Perhaps the most beautiful is the two-story Khaju Bridge which was constructed by Shah Abbas II in about 1650. The oldest bridge is the Shahrestan where, over massive stone piers dating from the Sassanid period, the Seljuks built pointed arches designed to allow for the rush of spring waters.

After seeing the Bridge of 33 Arches, drive to the Christian and Armenian quarter of Isfahan. This area dates from the time of Shah Abbas who set up this colony of Christians from the town of Jolfa and named it New Jolfa. There are fourteen churches here and, after lunch, we have planned a walking tour through



the narrow, twisting alleys and streets.

Stop for lunch at the Hermes Café.

After lunch continue by foot to the Vank Cathedral which was one of the first Armenian churches to be established in the Jolfa district after the Ottoman War of 1603-1605. Construction took over 50 years and consists of a domed sanctuary similar to a Persian mosque but with the addition of a semi-octagonal apse and raised chancel usually seen in western churches.

Enjoy an early dinner at the hotel.

April 6: Thursday. Depart.

Transfer to the airport in the very early morning for flights back to Europe which will connect with your onward international flights to the US.



What to Expect:

Contrary to what the media might have us believe, Americans are warmly welcomed in Iran – a safe country where crime and violence are almost unheard of.

Spring is a lovely time to travel in Iran when temperatures range from 65-75 degrees Fahrenheit. The infrastructure in Iran is quite good with modern roads and buses. Hotels are comfortable with private bathrooms and air-conditioning. Food is freshly prepared and we eat at delightful local restaurants. During the program participants should be dressed modestly and women will be required to have their head covered while in public areas. Alcohol is not available.

Participants should be in good health and able to keep up with an active group.



Trip Price: \$4,270

Single Room Supplement: \$945

Group size is limited to participants: 30

Trip price includes:

All domestic flights within Iran, all hotel accommodations in deluxe or best-available hotels based on double-occupancy, transportation in an A/C coach, meals as listed in the itinerary (B,L,D.), all tours, excursions, sightseeing, entrances and portage.

Trip price does not include:

International airfare into and out of Iran, visa fees for Iran (\$90 at time of printing), excess luggage charges, medical expenses, trip insurance, gratuities, and items of a purely personal nature.



For additional information contact Seema Bakshi at
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or 800-333-1240.

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RESERVE YOUR TRIP TO IRAN TODAY!

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

Title ___ First _____ Mid.Intl. ___ Last _____

Title ___ First _____ Mid.Intl. ___ Last _____

Street Address _____

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Office: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

I/We authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land Program

I will share accommodations with: _____
(Form sent separately.)

I prefer single accommodations
(Single supplement applies, limited availability).

I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Full payment will be due by January 29, 2017. Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, payable to Distant Horizons.

Please sign and return this form with a \$1000 deposit* check (per person) payable to "Distant Horizons" to:

Distant Horizons, 350 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802

*Your deposit is refundable up to 60 days prior to departure less a \$500 administration fee.