

# "Iran Highlights Tour"

## Tehran:

It is the capital of Iran which started growing into a city around 200 years ago when it was declared as capital. It is a cosmopolitan city in which you see various cultural classes. With a huge population of approximately 16 million at daylight, it represents the very active face of Iran.

### 1. National Museum:

There are exquisite items from ancient Persia period at this museum that begin with 7000 years ago till 100 years ago.

To learn more about the items on display, visit:

[http://www.destinationiran.com/National\\_Museum.htm](http://www.destinationiran.com/National_Museum.htm)



### 2. Saad Abad Palace Complex:

It is one of the palace complexes of Tehran that has been built at the site of some Qajar mansions.

It was first chosen as a location for building palaces by Reza Shah in 1920s. Later, it turned out to be the summer palace of Pahlavi royal family in Tehran till 1979. To learn more about this palace complex, visit:

[http://www.destinationiran.com/Saad\\_Abad\\_Palace\\_Complex.htm](http://www.destinationiran.com/Saad_Abad_Palace_Complex.htm)



### 3. Carpet Museum:

Iranian rugs (Persian Carpets) deserve to have a museum to be displayed there. This museum is an effort to give you an opportunity so that you can have a glance at this unique artistic collection.

This museum was opened in 1979. It includes two floors: The lower floor is a permanent museum, and the second is usually allocated to some carpet-related exhibition.

visit:

[http://www.destinationiran.com/Carpet\\_Museum.htm](http://www.destinationiran.com/Carpet_Museum.htm)

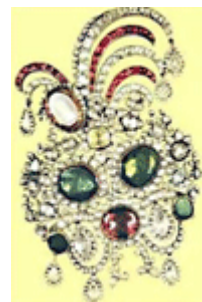


### 4. Treasury of National Jewels:

It is a Collection of the most expensive jewels of the world, the incomparable "Treasury of the National Jewels" is collected over centuries. The value of the objects exhibited cannot only be judged by putting prices on them.

To learn more about this exquisite collection, visit:

[http://www.destinationiran.com/Treasury\\_of\\_National\\_Jewels.htm](http://www.destinationiran.com/Treasury_of_National_Jewels.htm)



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**Shiraz:** The history of Shiraz goes back to Achaemenian period, 500 BC although it had not been the most famous city of the region at that time. Shiraz had its flourishing era under Karimkhan, the Zand ruler of Iran in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

5. **Persepolis:**

Achaemenian ceremonial palace complex and the meeting place of once 29 nations of the world. It is one of the masterpieces of architecture in ancient Persia.

Persepolis is also registered in the UNESCO list of World Human Heritage. To learn more about Persepolis, visit:

[http://www.destinationiran.com/UNESCO\\_List.htm](http://www.destinationiran.com/UNESCO_List.htm)



6. **Naqsh-e-Rostam:**

This place was first used by Elamites' to depict their rock relieves.

Achaemenians used it later to create their rock tombs (Darius, Xerxes, Artaxerxes I & Darius II) and the unique building of Zarathustra's Cube. Finally, Sassanians carved rock relieves there.



7. **Bazaar of Shiraz:**

This is the traditional roof-vaulted bazaar of 18<sup>th</sup> century that was restored later consisting of Sara-ye-Moshir where beautiful Iranian handicrafts are put to sale.

The high ceiling of this bazaar together with glittering colorful fabrics for tribal costumes is the two most eye-catching factors that could keep you there for hours.



8. **Tomb of Hafez:**

This is the burial place of Hafez, the master of Persian lyrical poetry who inspired Goute. It was built in 18<sup>th</sup> century and restored in 20<sup>th</sup>.

Several people go to visit this tomb and treat Hafez like an endeared friend with whom they can communicate through his exquisite poems after 7 centuries.



9. **Tomb of Sa'dy:**

Sa'dy is the well-known Iranian poet of 13<sup>th</sup> century. The burial place of Sa'dy was built in 18<sup>th</sup> century and restored in 20<sup>th</sup>.

He is still considered the master of the Persian language, famous for his succinct expressions and eloquence.



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### 10. Gate of Koran:

This is a 1000-year-old city gate restored in 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This gate was located at a gorge on the Northern side of the city which was the only entrance to the city and exit from the city on that side.

In 18<sup>th</sup> century, a chamber was built at the top of this gate and a big volume of Koran was placed inside it to safeguard the travelers going underneath.



**Pasargadae:** In Persian, it is called Pasargad, the gathering place of Persians. This used to be the battlefield where Cyrus defeated the last median king and found his the Persian Empire.

### 11. Tomb of Cyrus the Great:

Cyrus the Great is buried in Pasargadae, which is the first palace complex of Achaemenians.

It is also registered in the UNESCO list of World Human Heritage. To learn more about the resting place of the Cyrus the Great, visit:

[http://www.destinationiran.com/UNESCO\\_List.htm](http://www.destinationiran.com/UNESCO_List.htm)



**Izadkhast:** An old village now turned into a small town, Izadkhast had been built at the edge of a valley.

### 12. A Safavid Caravansary:

This is one of the caravansaries in the region which has become special due to its location.

### 13. Remnants of Izadkhast Village:

The half-ruined village, though sad, have made a picturesque landscape out of it.

When the rocks under the houses went loose, people evacuated their houses and moved out to build their homes somewhere nearby.

**Esfahan:** One of the ancient cities of Iran laid at a very pleasant location along the river called Zayandeh Rud. The city has been the capital of Iran for some times, but the most flourishing period was under Safavid kings when Shah Abbas I moved the capital from Qazvin to Esfahan.

### 14. Si-o-Se Pol (Allahverdikhan) Bridge:

Si-o-Se, meaning 33, refers to the number of arches along the bridge. This is the longest old bridge on Zayandeh Rood, flowing through Esfahan.

It is a Safavid Bridge inside Esfahan connecting northern bank to the southern one of the city built in 1600.



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### 15. **Khajoo Bridge:**

This bridge was built in 1650 in Esfahan to connect northern bank to the southern bank of the city.

Also, this structure was served as a water dam. As the water stopped at this structure, the river elevation raised to the point where it could be transferred to the royal gardens on both banks.



### 16. **Meidan-e-Emam Khomeini (Naqsh-e-Jahan Square):**

It is a large square built in early 17<sup>th</sup> century consisting of several fantastic monuments.

The square itself is two times larger than the Red Square in Moscow. It is also registered in the UNESCO list of World Human Heritage. Visit: [http://www.destinationiran.com/UNESCO\\_List.htm](http://www.destinationiran.com/UNESCO_List.htm)



### 17. **Chehelsootun palace:**

This Safavid palace was built in mid 17th century under Shah Abbas II within the royal gardens at the northern bank.

There are very striking mural paintings on the walls inside the palace and some of the earliest instances of European artistic influence at the ones on the exterior of this palace.



### 18. **Emam Khomeini Mosque:**

Formerly known as Abbasy Friday Mosque, it was ordered to be built by Shah Abbas I. This is one of the two mosques built at Naqsh-e-Jahan Square.

The Iranian architecture in mosque building reached its zenith in Safavids era. Such climax in Iranian architecture could nowhere else be so tangible than in these two structures in Naqsh-e-Jahan Square.



### 19. **Shiekh Lotfollah Mosque:**

It is another mosque at Naqsh-e-Jahan Square. This mosque is unique in terms of its architecture and function with beautiful decorations built by Shah Abbas I.

This mosque has got no minarets, which adds to its uniqueness, but there is strong reason for the lack of minarets here.



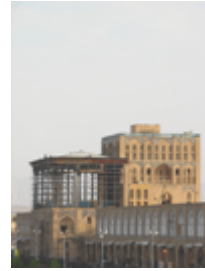
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### 20. **Aliqapoo Palace:**

This palace was built by Shah Abbas I overlooking Emam Khomeini Square.

From the porch of this palace, the king could show the flourishing economy of the capital to his guests as there have been a lot of shops all around this square right from the beginning.

Besides, there were lots of caravans arriving there from different parts of Asia.



### 21. **Oeisariyeh Bazaar:**

This bazaar is a famous traditional roof-vaulted bazaar of 17<sup>th</sup> century.

It is very popular among Iranian as well as non-Iranian tourists for its handicrafts.

Iranian handicrafts are good souvenirs which could be bought in great varieties in Esfehan.



### 22. **Vank Cathedral:**

This building was constructed in mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is famous for its mural paintings and the world's third best Armenian Museum in it.

Also, there is a library at a corner of its courtyard with lots of valuable manuscripts, which are considered the cultural heritage of Armenians.



### **Natanz:**

Natanz is another ancient town which used to be inhabited since pre-Islam period in Iran. It is located at the foot of the local mountain range called Karkas. Tile and ceramic making has got a history of almost 6000 years here.

### 23. **Ebady ceramic workshop:**

It is the only workshop of its type remained functioning out of hundreds a couple of centuries ago.

What makes this workshop is its use of stone instead of clay to make ceramics.

### **Abyaneh:**

It is an ancient village the history of which dates back to approximately Achaemenian period, 500 B.C.

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### 24. **A walking tour of Abyaneh:**

Abyaneh is still inhabited by the people who prefer to have their local costumes on.

Most of them are farmers and shepherds and make a living by selling handicrafts to Iranians & non-Iranian tourists.

### **Kashan:**

It is a typical Iranian town at the edge of desert that has been inhabited since antiquities. You will find some of the very devout Muslims and several shrines at Kashan.

### 25. **Fin Garden:**

Typical Iranian garden dating back to 17<sup>th</sup> century & restored in 19<sup>th</sup> century where Amir Kabir, vanguard of modernization of Iran was assassinated.

This garden gives such a cool refreshing feeling to its visitors in hot seasons of the year which reminds one of nothing but the description of paradise.



### 26. **Ameris House:**

The house of a 19<sup>th</sup> century merchant of Kashan with several courtyards each has their own interior and exterior sections.

In 19<sup>th</sup> century, there used to be several houses of this type at Kashan and other cities of Iran, but this one is unique in terms of its size and the sections it includes.



## "Iran Highlights Tour"

Day	Sightseeing & Other Activities	City of Stay
01	<p>Arrival in Tehran's International Airport. Meet with Guide. Transfer to hotel. visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Museum</li> <li>• Golestan Palace Complex (if not on Sun &amp; Thu)</li> <li>• Treasury of National Jewels (if on Sat to Tue)</li> </ul> <p>At the end of the excursion, transfer to hotel.</p>	Tehran
02	<p>In Tehran, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saad Abad Palace Complex</li> <li>• Carpet Museum</li> </ul> <p>Transfer to airport to fly to Shiraz. Transfer to hotel.</p>	Shiraz
03	<p>Drive outside Shiraz to visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persepolis</li> <li>• Naqsh-e-Rostam</li> <li>• Bazaar of Shiraz</li> <li>• Tomb of Hafez</li> <li>• Tomb of Sa'dy</li> <li>• Gate of Koran</li> </ul> <p>Transfer to hotel.</p>	Shiraz
04	<p>Drive to Esfehan. en route, at Pasargadae, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tomb of Cyrus the Great</li> </ul> <p>Then, proceed toward Esfehan and stop at Izadkhast to visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Safavid Caravansary</li> <li>• Remnants of Izadkhast Village</li> </ul> <p>Inside Esfehan, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Si-o-Se Pol (Allahverdikhan) Bridge</li> <li>• Khajoo Bridge</li> </ul> <p>Transfer to hotel.</p>	Esfehan
05	<p>Inside Esfehan, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chehelsotun Palace</li> <li>• Meidan-e-Emam (Naqsh-e-Jahan Square)</li> <li>• Emam Khomeini Mosque</li> <li>• Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque</li> <li>• Aliqapoo Palace</li> <li>• Qeysariyeh Bazaar</li> </ul> <p>Transfer to hotel.</p>	Esfehan
06	<p>Inside Esfehan, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vank Cathedral</li> <li>• Jolfa Armenian quarter</li> </ul> <p>Drive to Abyaneh. En route, at Natanz, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ebady Ceramic Workshop</li> </ul>	Abyaneh

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	And at Abyaneh ancient village, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A walking tour of Abyaneh</li></ul> Transfer to hotel.	
07	Drive to Tehran via Kashan. In Kashan, visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fin Garden</li><li>• Ameries House</li></ul> Proceed to Tehran. Transfer to hotel and pack up for departure.	Tehran
08	Transfer to Tehran International Airport. Fly back home.	

**The End of "Iran Highlights Tour" in Tehran.**