

# THE BEST OF PERSIA



Iran is historically and culturally one of the most fascinating countries of the Middle East and packed with World Heritage listed sites. We begin our 17-day small group tour in Shiraz considered to be the heartland of Persian Culture. You will be in awe of the unique architecture of Masuleh and majestic buildings of Esfahan. We will enjoy the unique experience of interacting with the people, visit their homes and bazaars. Iranians are considered one of the friendliest people in the world and come from Arab, Greek, Mongol and Turkic descendants, they will make you welcome with their genuine hospitality wherever you are in their country.

This all group tour will travel by private vehicle accompanied by an English-speaking local expert guide who is passionate about his or her country. We stay in 4 - 5-star comfortable accommodation in a convenient location to all attractions, all meals will be of a local flavour of the country. Join us on the amazing in-depth tour of Iran old and new.

## **17-Day Tour Ex Shiraz April 2022**

### **Ex Shiraz**

#### **Day 1:**

Upon your arrival at Shiraz International airport, the guide will meet and transfer you to your hotel. Then you will have time to take rest, before exploring the cradle of civilization. After lunching your exiting tour will begin by visiting Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque, which is known as Pink Mosque. Here, sunrays will paint the floor and the columns colours by passing through the colourful window glasses.



Lunch/Dinner would be (Kalam polo (Cabbage), and one of the most popular meals in Iran. Combination of cabbage (kalam) with Persian rice, flavourful herbs, and minced meat, makes an aromatic food or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries:

(Meat and potatoes of various styles plates, myriad types of pasta and pizza, dishes of meat, vegetables and fish)  
e soup)

## **Day 2: Breakfast at hotel flight to Ahvaz (Duration 1:56')**

On arrival transfer to hotel Pars Ahvaz4\* or similar

- The suspended bridge or white bridge symbolizes the city of Ahvaz. We will visit **Karoon county** or known as "**Kut Kut**" is where most of the Ahvaz tourist attractions are gathered. Kut Kut is home to water buffaloes. here local Arabs with their one of a kind cultures in the country, live a simple village-like life just 10 minutes' drive away from city centre. they answer every "Hello" with sincere "welcome". they bring their cattle to the water during the day, making a breathtaking view. also, their simple yet strong breakfast is offered to every traveller who knocks on the door.
- **Ghazaviyeh Village** is one of the most elegant villages in the region. it is 6 km away from the city, filled with date palm farms and vineyards which are all green even in the dead of summer. here, you can see the famous classic Arabic gatherings every day at noon and participate in their coffee ceremonies hosted by the head of the village.
- **Riverside Park**, Kianpars, Ahvaz. Riverside Park the oldest park of the city. It is in Kianpars and beside the White Bridge. The view of Karoun river, white bridge, other side of the city and the islands are interesting. The best places in Ahvaz are situated alongside the river. The river boulevard is a nice place to stroll and has many parks.
- **White Bridge**. The white bridge was the first bridge crossing Karoun river made by German engineers in the 1930s. The bridge is now considered as the main symbol of the city.

Lunch/Dinner e.g. Ghalieh Mahi (Persian Fish Stew) is a famous and spicy stew recipe from southern province of Iran (Khuzestan province). It is a combination of fish, herbs, garlic and tamarind paste or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries:



Dinner: Taller fish

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries:

O/N in hotel Pars Ahvaz4\* or similar

### **Day 3: After breakfast driving 117 KM to Susa**

**Susa – once the capital of the world** (Prospective World Heritage Site), one of the world's largest archaeological sites, the capital of the world at the height of its importance when the empire touched the boundaries of all the lands under the Persian Empire, with magnificent polychrome glazed brick panels decorating its famous Apadana Palace.

**Susa** was one of the most important cities of the Ancient Near East. In historic literature, Susa appears in the very earliest Sumerian records: for example, it is described as one of the places obedient to Inanna, patron deity of Uruk, in *Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta*.

visiting Ziggurat Chogh Zanbil-Moziff, Choqa Zanbil the jewel in the crown of Elamite history (World Heritage Site), Iran's best preserved and architecturally mesmerizing ziggurat of 1250 BC, decorated with glittering blue and green glazed fire bricks, inlaid ivory mosaics, as well as opaque glass mosaics, and guarded by guardian bulls and winged griffins in glazed terracotta.



Lunch on the way Kebab( beef or Chicken)

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries:

### **Visiting Dez dam**

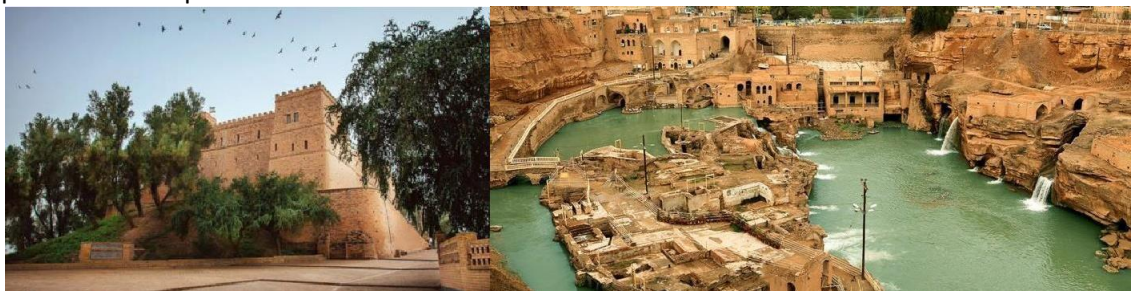
Shahi Lake or Dez Dam Lake is in Khuzestan province. The lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in Iran in the northwest of Dezful behind the two mountains Shaydab and Tengan and has given a beautiful face to the Shahiyoun area. This lake has created a favourable environment for water sports such as sailing, skiing, swimming.

**Dinner ; Falafel sandwich** Which is a deep-fried ball, or a flat or doughnut-shaped patty, made from ground chickpeas, fava beans, or both. Herbs, spices, and onion relatives are commonly added to the dough. It is a Levantine and dish that most likely originated in Egypt, but is commonly eaten throughout Western Asia

**O/N Shushtar Tabib Traditional Hotel or similar**

### **Day 4: After breakfast of Traditional : Cheese ,Butter ,Milk ,Egg), we will visit Darius Palace, Susa casstel,**

The Palace of Darius in Susa was a palace complex in Susa, a capital of the Achaemenid Empire. The construction was conducted parallel to that of Persepolis. Man-power and raw materials from various parts of the empire contributed to its construction





**Lunch: kubideh kebab** which is made with **ground lamb or beef or a combination of the two**.

This is one of the most popular kabobs you can find on the **streets of Iran**. This Kabob is usually grilled over hot coals and is served in fancy restaurants and clubs, as well as in the little shacks scattered in any given recreation park

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

After noon visiting Shushtar Historical Hydraulic system

(World Heritage Site), a masterpiece of creative genius forming spectacular water cascades flowing into a stream basin.

Dinner: Aush( thick soup/stew )

**O/N Shushtar Tabib Traditional Hotel or similar**

**Day 5: This morning we will return to Shiraz by plane – Transfer to our hotel – Ario Barzan)**

Shiraz is a city in south-central Iran, known for its literary history and many gardens. Shiraz is a gateway to Persepolis, the ruined 6th-century-B.C. capital to the northeast, with its immense gateways, columns and friezes.

Lunch : Lubia polo(Beans)

**Half a city tour visiting Vakil grand bazaar**

Vakil Bazaar is one of the traditional Bazaars of Iran and it exists as the main attraction of Shiraz city. Vakil Bazaar is one of the attractions of Zandieyeh Complex including the Bazaar itself, Vakil Bathhouse, Vakil Mosque and Karim Kan Citadel. Among other attractions of this city near this bazaar are Pars Museum, Zinat-ol-Moluk House, Qavam House, Nasir al-Molk Mosque and Shahe Cheragh. You can spend half a day visiting these historical attractions of the beautiful city of Shiraz.



**Dinner: Dow piازه(Onion)** made from fried onion, potatoes, and in most cases, tomatoes is one of the famous dishes in Shiraz

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

**O/N Shiraz (Ario Barzan 4\* or similar)**

**Day 6: Today we will visit Pasargad & Persepolis**

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 .



**Lunch on way: Chelo kebab**

**Dinner: Yakhni polo(Peas)** Is a food attributed to Shiraz and is made from meat, peas, potatoes, onions, salt and turmeric.

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

**O/N Shiraz (Ario Barzan 4\* or similar)**

**Day 7 After breakfast depart by bus to Yazd (440 klms)** – Iran's first historic city on UNESCO's world heritage list. The city dates from the 5th century CE and was described as the “noble city of Yazd” by Marco Polo. The desert city of Yazd is as picturesque as Middle Eastern cities come. Its well-preserved mud brick old town, distinctive badgirs, or wind-catchers, dotted around the skyline, and numerous historical sites make it a necessary destination for any tourist visiting Iran

**Lunch : Qorme Sabzi Ghormeh Sabzi – Persian Herb Stew** is one of the most delicious stews in Persian cuisine. A mixture of fragrant herbs and spices makes this stew very special!

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

After lunch visit Amir Chakhmagh Complex, Amir Chakhmaq Complex is a well-known structure in Yazd, central Iran. The complex is noted for its symmetrical sunken alcoves. It is a mosque located on a square by the same name. The complex also houses a caravanserai, a Tekieh (a place where religious mourning rituals are held), a public bath, a cold water well, and a confectionery.

Fahadan is the oldest neighbourhood in Yazd, which is said to be the living place of the lords in the past. Four military leaders in the year 1040, created a fence containing towers and forts around the area. The neighbourhood of Fahadan is also significant in terms of location

Zeyaeyeh School (Aleksandra Prison),

**Dinner: pottages**

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

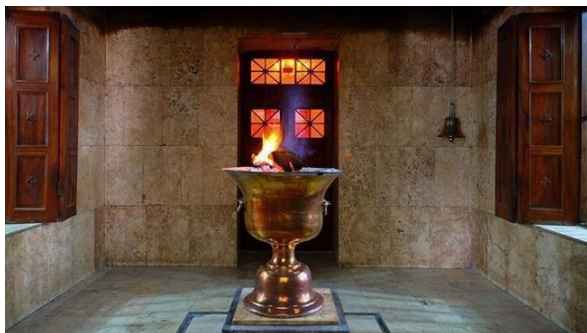
**O/N Yazd Dad hotel 4\* or similar**

**Day 8 : After breakfast visit - Jame Mosque,**

Zoroastrian old Fire Temple , The Yazd temple is one of the world’s nine Zoroastrian fire temples which hold the sacred Atash Behram, meaning Fire of Victory.

**Lunch: Xereshk polo(Barberry)** in its most basic form, is Persian steamed rice, flavoured with saffron, then layered (or topped) with barberries. The zereshk provide a tartness to the rice, perfectly complimenting the floral, musky and a touch bitter saffron

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries



Afternoon visit to the tallest wind tower in Dolat Abaad Garden , One of 9 Iranian gardens that have been named in the UNESCO World Heritage List and have international reputation. This garden has the world’s tallest windmill, and architecturally it is quite unique. In the eye-catching area of the garden and the old building itself.



Yakhchal complex the Iranian Yakhchal (meaning ice pit in Persian) is a type of ancient structure and system used to produce, harvest and store ice in winter for cooling uses later in the year

**Dinner: Chicken**

**O/N Yazd Dad hotel 4\* or similar**

**Day 9 : Traditional breakfast , lunch and dinner: Cheese ,Butter ,Milk ,Egg ,Abgoosht)**

After breakfast driving 307 KM to Garmsar Isfahan - Mesr desert( Garmsar) Drive to Mesr desert Visiting Salt Lake, the Salt Lake, includes a beautiful salt cover in the form of polygons, saltwater puddles, salt mines in an area of 300km squared. The landscape is shiny and white, and a good place to make photos, while at night, off-road in desert , Garmsar spring, beautiful night om the desert, **O/N in campus**



**Day 10:**

**After breakfast driving 425 KM to Isfahan,**

There are so many beautiful places in Iran, but Isfahan wins the place in both our hearts. There's just something so magical and sublime about this mesmerizing city

**Check in hotel Avin hotel4\* or similar,**

**Lunch: Beryani**

Nowadays Isfahanis and tourists know Beryani as a dish rich in fat and a specialty for lunch made from lamb and lungs

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

In the afternoon we will visit Imam Square, which is an important historical site and one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. The square is surrounded by buildings from the Safavid era.





**Carpet bazaar, and evening walking on Chehel Sotoun, UNESCO Cultural Heritage list.**

An architectural masterpiece in form of garden has emerged inside the city of Isfahan which is called Chehel Sotoun (fourth columns) Garden. Chehel Sotoun is a mansion in the heart of a garden constructed by Shah Abbas II for receptions and amusements. Ambassadors and dignitaries from other countries were received in here by the Safavid King of Iran inside its reception halls

**Dinner: Kashke Bademjan(Eggplant)**

Kashke Bademjan is a simple Persian eggplant dip that is made with a handful of ingredients.

This tasty vegetarian dip is full of amazing flavours and is the perfect appetizer for any table!

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

**O/N in Avin hotel4\* or similar**

**Day 11:**

After breakfast visiting Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque,

Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque is a famous masterpiece of Iranian architecture, standing on the eastern side of Naqsh-e Jahan Square, the first built of the four monuments of the square. The mixture of modest shape and rich interior and exterior tile ornaments made the mosque one of the most recognizable tourist sites of Isfahan.



Ali Qapu Palace, the impressive entranceway was no doubt intended to symbolize the strength and authority of the Safavid monarchs. It is forty-eight meters high and there are seven floors, each accessible by a difficult spiral staircase. In the sixth floor, music room, deep circular niches are found in the walls, having not only aesthetic value, but also acoustic.

**Lunch: Baghali polo(Bean)**

*Baghali polo or Persian dill rice is a fragrant and fluffy rice dish that pairs the pleasant flavours of dill, basmati rice and saffron with plump soft broad beans. All topped with a delightful crunchy golden crust*

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

After noon visiting Jolfa Square and Vank was established in 1606 for hundreds of thousands of Armenian deportees who came to Iran during the Ottoman war. The construction was finally completed in 1655 – 1664 when the major design changes were amended by Archbishop David.

**Dinner: Tahchin Morgh** also known as Persian Baked Rice Cake, is an Iranian rice cake primarily consisting of rice, yogurt, saffron. Tahchin is composed of two different parts: The thin Tahdig part which includes the chicken fillets, saffron, and other ingredients at the bottom of the cooking pot and the second part which is the white rice

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

**O/N in Avin hotel4\* or similar**

**Day 12: After breakfast driving 445 KM to Tehran enroute Kashan**

Lunch: **Khoresh Gheyme** also called Gheymeh Polo (polo means rice) is a Beef and Split Pea

Stew which is a very traditional and popular Iranian stew with saffron potatoes that is served over white

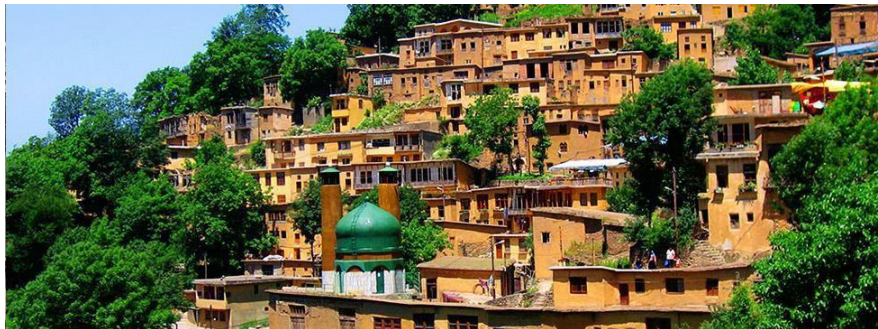
rice Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

After noon visiting Fin Garden and Bath ranking among the finest traditional Iranian gardens, the Fin Garden was founded during the Safavid period. It was laid out slightly to the north of the original Fin Garden that could be contemporaneous with the Sialk civilization, tracing its history at least to the 5th millennium B.C



**In the afternoon we will continue our drive to Tehran. Overnight Hotel.**

**Day 13: Early morning driving 374 KM to Masuleh** The most important feature of Masuleh is its architecture. In this village the yard of the building above is the roof of the building below. Masuleh is surrounded by forest from valley to mount and fog is the predominant weather feature of Masuleh.



**Lunch in Moiin Hotel or similar – Kale Kebab**

Kebab is a northern food made from eggplant, sour pomegranate juice, vegetables, garlic and nutmeg. Kebab served with salami and salmon fish

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

**After lunch we will take a hiking tour of Musule.**

**Dinner : Mirza Ghasemi (Eggplant)** an Iranian appetizer or main based on tandoori or grilled aubergine (eggplant), consists of aubergines seasoned with garlic, tomato, turmeric, oil or butter, salt and pepper bound together with eggs  
Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

**O/N Moiin Hotel or similar**

**Day 14: After breakfast driving 359 KM to Tabriz -**

Biblical clues point to the Ajichay River flowing out of the Garden of Eden, which places Tabriz at the gates of paradise. Long a buffer between empires, Tabriz' historical heritage and Silk Road pedigree is no more evident than in its thriving bazaar, one of the world's best. This sprawling city, rich in Azeri culture, with its famous carpets, teahouse hammams, love of music and excellent transport links, makes a perfect introduction to Iran.





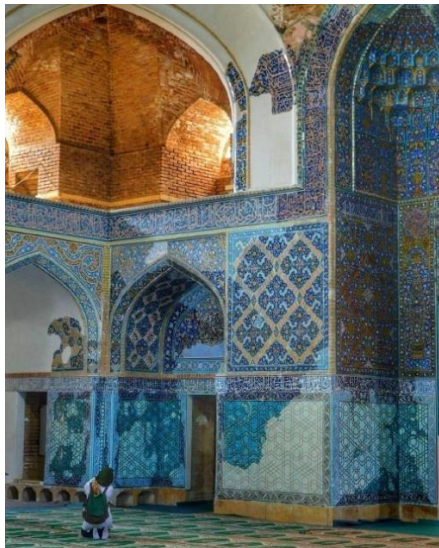
### **Lunch Meatball Tabrizi(Kufteh)**

**Kufteh Tabrizi**, is an Iranian meatball recipe from the city of Tabriz. The dish normally includes a big meat ball with meat, rice, yellow split peas, herbs and other ingredients and its juice which is served in a separate dish with shredded Sangak or Lavash bread before the main course

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

### **After lunch visiting Blue Mosque**

One of the historical and important mosques of Iran is Blue Mosque. It is a rare mosque in blue. The reason it is called the Blue Mosque or Kabud Mosque is the blue tiles used in the structure. It is one of the main attractions of Tabriz.



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



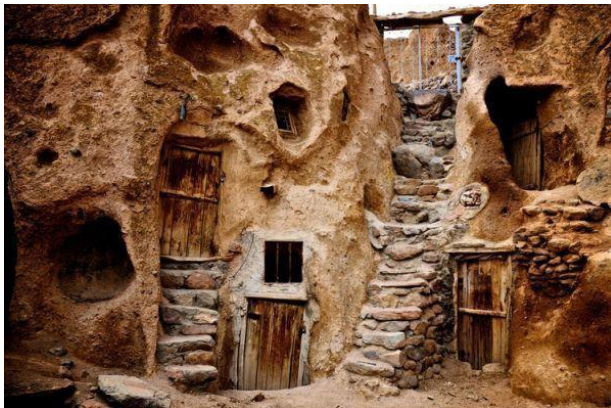
**Dinner: grape leaves stuffed (dolme barge-mo)** Dolme barge mo are the Persian version of stuffed grape leaves, with a delicious filling of rice, yellow split peas, herbs and meat  
Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

**O/N Pars Ele Goli hotel 4\* or similar**

**Day 15: After breakfast visiting Kandovan Village, (a Rocky Architectural Oddity) in Tabriz**

**Kandovan Village** is famous for its wonderful rocky architecture which is the result of volcanic activities and hand-carved structures. The inhabitants, basically, carved every room of the cliff houses like kitchens, halls, and even pens out of stone to make windows for the rooms and later, to decorate them with colourful glasses.

**Lunch and dinner different type of kebab**



**Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries**

**- O/N Pars Ele Goli hotel 5\* or similar**

**Day 16: Flight back to Tehran –**

**Check in hotel Parsiak Kawsar 5\* or similar**

**Lunch : Bademjan(Eggplant)** Khoresh Bademjan or Bademjooon is a Persian Eggplant Stew with meltingly soft eggplants in a thick, tomato-based sauce with pieces of meat to make it hearty

**Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries**

**Half a city tour visiting Tabiat bridge,**

Nature or Tabiat Bridge in Tehran is the biggest overpass for pedestrians in Iran constructed for connecting two public parks of Taleghni and Ab-o Atash (water and fire) via passing Modares Highway which is one of the most important expressways in the capital city of Iran. Leila Araghian has designed the bridge and has won many prizes for her fabulous design such as Popular Choice Design for Highways and Bridges which was a global architecture competition in New York



**Dinner: Donor kebab** Donor kebab is a type of kebab, made of meat cooked on a vertical rotisserie. Seasoned meat stacked in the shape of an inverted cone is turned slowly on the rotisserie, next to a vertical cooking element.

Or any other type of Persian and/or Common foods from other countries

**O/N Parsiak Kawsar 5\* or similar**

**Day 17:** Departure IKA to connect withy hour flight home.

<i>Service Includes</i>	Hotel accommodation( FB) All Meals Sightseeing and entrance fees Experienced English speaking local guides All transfers Domestic flights Visa affairs
<i>Service Excludes</i>	Intl flights Personal insurance Tips & Portages

**Tour Price : AUD4650 TWIN SHARE**

The validity of this rate is max to 6 months