Land Program Rate: $6,995  
Single Supplement: $1,395

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### Day by Day Itinerary

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Hotel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Arrive in Tehran, transfer to the hotel. (Meals in flight) – Espinas Hotel</td>
<td>Tehran</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>Spend the morning at leisure adjusting to the time difference before visiting UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace and the State Jewels Museum, guarding the world’s largest uncut diamond. (I, L, D) – Espinas Hotel</td>
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<td>Explore the Reza Abassi Museum and the Archaeological Museum, displaying Persian antiquities, art and artifacts. (I, L, D) – Espinas Hotel</td>
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<td>Ahwaz • day trip to Susa</td>
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<td>Drive to UNESCO-listed Chogha Zanbil, an ancient Elamite ziggurat. Pay a visit to Hafez Tappeh, a city built around 1000 BC by the Elamites. (I, L) – Fajr Grand Hotel</td>
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<td>King Shapur I built Bishapur in 266. Shapur and one of his successors used the steep walls of the Bishapur River canyon as a gallery for enormous carvings. (I, L, D) – Huma Hotel</td>
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<td>In Shiraz, visit Arg-e-Karim Khan, a massive 12th-century stronghold; Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque, with fine examples of stained glasswork; and existing Vakil Bazaar. (I, L) – Abbasi Hotel</td>
<td>Shiraz</td>
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<td>Pay a visit to UNESCO-listed Persepolis. In 1933, archaeologists from the Oriental Institute were instrumental in discovering a trove of clay tablets in the palaces of Persepolis. Continue to the tombs of Nakhaste-Rostam, with their monumental rock carvings. (I, L, D) – Homa Hotel</td>
<td>Shiraz • day trip to Persepolis</td>
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</tr>
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<td>October 22</td>
<td>Cyrus the Great founded Pasargadae, the first capital of the Achaemenid Empire. Set apart from the other ruins is the limestone mausoleum of Cyrus. (I, L, D) – Master Garden Hotel</td>
<td>Shiraz • drive to Yazd via Pasargadae</td>
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<td>October 23</td>
<td>In Yazd, visit the beautiful Friday Mosque and stroll UNESCO-listed Dowlat Abad Garden. Make a stop at the Zoroastrian Fire Temple, with its eternal flame, said to have been burning since 470 AD. Enjoy a sunset visit to the Zoroastrian Towers of Silence. (I, L, D) – Master Garden Hotel</td>
<td>Yazd</td>
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</tr>
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<td>October 25</td>
<td>Discover Maybod’s massive mudbrick fortress, 2000-year-old Narin Castle. Visit the small town of Naein to see the 10th-century Jameh Mosque. (I, L, D) – Abbasi Hotel</td>
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<td>Explore UNESCO-listed Imam Square, one of the world’s largest public squares, and browse Isfahan’s amazing 17th-century bazaar. (I, L) – Abbasi Hotel</td>
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<td>Survey Isfahan’s famed arched bridges over the Zayandeh River, the Vank Cathedral in the Armenian Quarter and the UNESCO-listed Friday Mosque, encompassing over 800 years of Islamic architectural styles. Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner. (I, L, D) – Abbasi Hotel</td>
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<td>Walk through Isfahan’s Jewish Quarter, or Jolfa. By special arrangement, attend a performance at a zoorkhaneh, a traditional Persian gymnasium. The afternoon and evening are free to independently explore. (I, L) – Abbas Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
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Program Highlights

- Admire the UNESCO-listed Shushtar Hydraulic System, begun in the 5th century BC.
- Visit Ahwaz, one of the oldest settlements in the world, encompassing the ruins of the Palace of Darius.
- Explore the vast remains of ancient Persia at UNESCO-listed Persepolis, a wonder of the Ancient World.
- Visit the Zoroastrian Fire Temple in Yazd, where the eternal flame has been burning since 470 BC.
- Witness feats of strength during a visit to a zoorkhaneh, a traditional Persian gymnasium where men practice stylized physical and spiritual exercises.

Tour Leader: Abbas Alizadeh

Dr. Abbas Alizadeh is Senior Research Associate and Director of the Iranian Prehistoric Project at the Oriental Institute, as well as the director of the Susa National Research. He has been critical to the success of the Oriental Institute’s research into Iranian prehistory. Combined with his intimate knowledge of local history, art, and culture, guests will be able to develop an appreciation of Iran’s antiquity and the tremendous changes it has experienced through the centuries.

Day by Day Itinerary

**October 13**
Arrive in Tehran, transfer to the hotel. (Meals in flight) – Espinas Hotel

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Spend the morning at leisure adjusting to the time difference before visiting UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace and the State Jewels Museum, guarding the world’s largest uncut diamond. (1B, 1L, 1D) – Espinas Hotel

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Survey the Carpet Museum, with its wonderful collection of hand loomed Persian carpets, kilims and designs. In the afternoon fly to Ahvaz in southwestern Iran. (1B, 1L, 1D) – Fajr Grand Hotel

**October 17**
Visit Susa, dating from 4000 BC, to see the ruins of the Palace of Darius and the Tappeh-ye Chogha Mish archaeological site. Excavations by Oriental Institute of Chicago archaeologists found the low hill to be an incredibly rich site. Continue on to Shushtar, with its UNESCO-listed Shushtar Hydraulic System. (1B, 1L) – Fajr Grand Hotel

**October 18**
Drive to UNESCO-listed Chogha Zanbil, an ancient Elamite ziggurat. Pay a visit to Hāft Tappeh, a city built around 1000 BC by the Elamites. (1B, 1L) – Fajr Grand Hotel

**October 19**
Ahwaz • drive to Shiraz via Bishapur

King Shapur I built Bishapur in 266. Shapur and one of his successors used the steep walls of the Bishapur River canyon as a gallery for enormous carvings. (1B, 1L, 1D) – Huma Hotel

**October 20**
Shiraz
In Shiraz, visit Arg-e-Karim Khan, a massive 12th-century stronghold; Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque, with fine examples of stained glasswork; and exciting Vakil Bazaar. (1B, 1L) – Huma Hotel

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Cyrus the Great founded Pasargade, the first capital of the Achaemenid Empire. Set apart from the other ruins is the limestone mausoleum of Cyrus. (1B, 1L, 1D) – Mashir Garden Hotel

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Discover Maybod’s massive mudbrick fortress, 2,000-year-old Narin Castle. Visit the small town of Naein to see the 10th century Jameh Mosque. (1B, 1L, 1D) – Abbasi Hotel

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Walk through Isfahan’s Jewish Quarter, or Juibareh. By special arrangement, attend a performance at a zoorkhaneh, a traditional Persian gymnasium. The afternoon and evening are free to independently explore. (1B, 1L, 1D) – Abbasi Hotel

**October 28**
Isfahan
Depart Isfahan

The tour concludes with a transfer to the airport.

For more information or to register, contact:
Anne Thorsteinson at MIR Corporation
(855) 691-7903 / annet@mircorp.com
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