

THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS

Through the Pishtaq: Art, Architecture and Culture of Persia

APRIL 22 - MAY 9, 2018



clay-baked caravansaries, and everywhere a horizon pierced by mosques and turquoise minarets.

More than five hundred years before Christ, Cyrus the Great founded one of the world's first empires at Pasargadae. Over the centuries Persian civilization has been impacted by diverse cultural influences from invading Greeks, Arabs, Mongols and Turks. Join Dr. Keelan Overton on a journey through Iran where impressive monuments serve as vivid testament to the extraordinary history and culture of the country. The name Persia, used by the ancient Greeks, is derived from the southwesterly province of Pars which was the cradle of the Persian Empire. It was here that the Achaemenids became the first kings of a united country. They built capitals at Pasargadae and Persepolis and ruled over territory which stretched from the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea and from China in the east to the Mediterranean shores in the west. It is a welcoming and beautiful country of contrasts, of jagged mountains and golden deserts punctuated by slender wind towers, crumbling

Tour Highlights

Tehran – 3 nights

Visit the National Museum of Iran complex:

- Museum of Ancient Iran (History and Archaeology)
- Museum of the Islamic Era
- See Reza Abbasi Museum (Ancient Persian art to early 20th c.)
- Take an excursion to archaeological sites in Ray and Varamin

Hamadan – 1 night

- Stop in Qazvin to visit the holy shrine of Shahzadeh Hossein
- See rock inscriptions of Darius I and Xerxes at Ganjnameh
- Explore the Tomb of Esther and Mordechai
- View the Gonbad-e-Alavian, a 12 c. Seljuk domed tomb
- Visit the Tomb of Avicenna, a 10th c. Persian polymath

Kermanshah – 2 nights

- Visit the Sassanian Temple of Anahita in Kangavar
- See Achaemenid bas-relief cuneiform inscriptions and Darius the Great relief at Bisotun*
- Admire the Sassanian bas-reliefs and grottoes at Taq-e Bostan
- Drive to Tepe Nush-e-Jan, an ancient Iron Age settlement
- Visit the Takieh Mo'aven ol-Molk Hosseinieh shrine/theatre complex

Shiraz – 3 nights

- Explore Persepolis,* ceremonial capital of the Achaemenids.
- See Sassanid reliefs at Naqsh-e Rostam
- At Naqsh-e-Rostam see Achaemenid rock-cut tombs of Persian kings.
- See the dazzling Nasir-ol Molk "Pink Mosque"
- View the Pars Museum
- Visit the Qajar Narenjestan Garden and House
- Wander through the Vakil Bazaar

- Visit Jameh Atigh, 9th c. Friday Mosque
- Learn about tribal rugs at a nomadic gallery

Yasuj - 1 night

- Drive through the beautiful Zagros Mountains to Yasuj
- Observe Qashqai and Boyer-Ahmadi nomads in the area

Isfahan – 4 nights

Explore the splendid 17th century Safavid capital:

- Survey historic arched bridges over the Zayandeh River
- Visit Vank Cathedral in the Armenian Quarter
- Walk around the Maidan-e Naghsh-e-Jahan Square*
- Marvel at the architecture of the ancient Shah Mosque*
- Visit the exquisite Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque* and Ali Qapu Palace
- Visit the Chehel Sotoun Palace* (Palace of Forty Columns)
- Explore Mas'jed-e Jameh*
- Admire the Hasht Behesht pavilion.
- See Harun-e Velayat Shrine and Ali Minaret and View the Darb-e Imam shrine complex
- Shop in the Qeisarieh Bazaar
- Visit the ethnographic museum - Hammam-e-Ali Gholi Agha

Kashan - 1 night

- In Natanz see the mosque, monastery and tomb of Sheikh Abdolsamad
- Visit rose cultivation and processing in Qamsar
- See the Bagh-e Fin gardens*
- Celebrate with a special farewell dinner
- Drive to the Fatima Masumeh Shrine in Qom

Tehran Airport Hotel - 1 night

* UNESCO World Heritage Sites

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: STRENUOUS

There will be extensive walking on uneven surfaces, stair climbing, and extended periods of standing. The trip is not suitable for those with mobility problems.

SAA is now a vendor of CSA Travel Protection Insurance 800.348.9505 www.csatravelprotection.com
Producer code: 20100719.

Our journey will take us to ancient cities, glorious mosques and fabulous archaeological sites. In the capital, Tehran, we will visit three superb museums: National Museum (Museum of Ancient Iran and the Museum of the Islamic Era) and the Reza Abbasi Museum which contain works from 2nd millennium BCE to 20th century. We will have an opportunity to take a walk through northern Tehran which will culminate in a delicious traditional lamb dinner at a local restaurant. The next day is an excursion to Shahr-e Ray; to Tepe Cheshmeh Ali, an archaeological site and to the Seljuk Toghol Tower in nearby Varamin. We will visit the 14th century Friday Mosque; the Shrine of Imamzadeh Yahya; and the 12th century Ala al-Din Tomb Tower. We will enjoy a picnic lunch in the countryside and then drive to Hamadan via Qazvin. In Qazvin visit the holy shrine of Shahzadeh Hossein. In Hamadan, the capital of the Median Empire in the 7th century BCE and the summer capital of the Achaemenid kings in the 5th century BCE, visit Ganjnameh with inscriptions by Darius I and Xerxes and the tomb of Esther and Mordechai. Drive to Kermanshah via ancient Kangavar to see the Temple of Anahita, Goddess of water and fertility. In Kermanshah visit the Sassanian reliefs at Taq-e Bostan. Drive to Tepe Nush-e-Jan, the ancient Iron Age settlement, then on to the Takieh Mo'aven ol-Molk Shiite shrines/theatres where plays were enacted. Fly to Shiraz, an important city in the medieval Islamic world. Through its many artists and scholars, Shiraz has been synonymous with learning and poetry. Enjoy an excursion to the magnificent site of Persepolis which comprises one of the most remarkable archaeological sites found in the Near East. Visit the rock-cut tombs of Persian kings at Naqsh-e Rostam. In the city of Shiraz, see the Pars Museum; the Pink Mosque, the Qajar Narenjestan Garden and House; the Vakil Complex and the bazaar. Learn about tribal rugs at a nomadic carpet workshop and gallery. Drive to the

nomadic area of Yasuj and continue through the scenic Zagros mountains called "Land of Waterfalls" to arrive at Isfahan. Spend 4 nights in this city of unsurpassed beauty. Tour the 17th century capital of the Safavids to see the famous bridges of Shahrestan/Khaju/Sio-se-pol and the Armenian quarter. Experience one of the world's grandest squares, the Maidan-e-Naghsh-e-Jahan with its extraordinary mosques and palace. Visit the Friday Mosque with its famous prayer niche and the Harun-e-Velayat shrine and Ali Minaret. Drive to Shah Abbas II's Palace of Forty Columns and Shah Soleiman's Pavilion of Eight Paradises. Shop in the Qeisarieh handicrafts bazaar. See the Hammam-e Ali Gholi Agha ethnographic museum displaying the traditions of bathhouses. Visit the Darb-e Imam shrine complex and Sarban Minaret. In the charming desert town of Natanz visit the mosque, monastery and tomb complex of Sheikh Abdolsamad. Enjoy a tea break under a 500 year-old plane tree. Participate in a special farewell dinner. In Kashan visit the Bagh-e Fin Gardens. On the way to Tehran visit the Shrine of Fatima Masumeh in Qom. Continue to a Tehran airport hotel for an overnight before heading home the next day. The trip will be accompanied by **Dr. Keelan Overton**, an independent scholar of Islamic art and architecture who has taught at Pomona College, the University of California at Santa Barbara, University of California, Los Angeles, and Occidental College. Formerly she was Associate Curator in the Art of the Middle East Department at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Prior to that she served as Curator of Islamic Art at the Doris Duke Foundation of Islamic Art at Shangri La in Honolulu. She holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Art History from the University of California, Los Angeles (2011). She currently is editing an interdisciplinary book project on artistic exchange between Iran and the Deccan, c. 1400-1600.

Land Package: \$5,995.00 **Single Supplement: \$1,200.00
Price based on a minimum of 15 participants and maximum of 20
The tour cost includes:

- Deluxe and First class properties in most cities and one or two hotels superior tourist class in smaller towns for a few nights.
- All meals (Full-board) as specified in the itinerary:
- All tours as per itinerary including entrance fees.
- English speaking guide throughout the trip.
- Transfers/transportation by large comfortable modern A/C vehicle during the whole tour.
- Daily mineral water on touring days plus juice, coffee and tea on board the bus.
- All local taxes and service charges on included items.
- Tipping guide, driver, porters, hotel & restaurant staff.

Internal flights in Iran.

Not Included are:

- International airfare to Tehran and back
- Iran visa (Cost is currently \$148.00, subject to change). *Passport should not include any Israeli stamps.*
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees at sites, laundry, phone calls, emails, excess luggage, etc.)
- Travel protection insurance.
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on scheduled flights/tour dates.
- Dayroom or overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules.

I would like to reserve _____ space(s) for the **SAA Iran Tour April 22 - May 9, 2018**. (Please note you must be a member of the Society for Asian Art to go on this trip. If you are not currently a member, you may join or renew at the SAA website www.societyforasianart.org/membership).

Enclosed is a deposit of \$500 per person, in the total amount of \$ _____. **Please make checks payable to Spiekermann Travel Service.**

(Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a \$250 per person administration fee.)

Room Arrangements

- Single Supplement Double Occupancy, I will be sharing a room with: _____
 I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

Personal Information (please write clearly)

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
 Daytime phone (_____) _____ Email Address _____

Send reservation form and deposit to: The Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Applications will be accepted by mail only and your inclusion will be based on the postmark date. A confirmation letter, a declaration & waiver form and a travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit.

For more information or a detailed itinerary, call Spiekermann Travel at (800) 645-3233 or the Society for Asian Art at (415) 581-3701.