THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS IRAN: ARTS OF ANCIENT PERSIA

APRIL 30 - MAY 15, 2016 WITH OPTIONAL EXTENSION IN NORTHWEST IRAN MAY 15 - 22, 2016



More than five hundred years before Christ, Cyrus the Great founded one of the world's first empires at Pasargadae. In the following centuries, invasions by Greeks, Arabs, Mongols, and Turks fed the Persian nation with rich and diverse cultural influences. Join Dr. Keelan Overton on a journey through Iran where vast monuments serve as vivid testament to the extraordinary history 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 country of contrasts, of glittering canals of water, of golden deserts punctuated by slender wind towers, crumbling clay-baked caravansaries, and everywhere a horizon pierced by mosques and turquoise minarets.

TEHRAN – 3 nights Espinas Hotel

- Explore the Golestan Palace
- Marvel at the Crown Jewels
- Meet with Nazila Noebashari at the Aaran Contemporary Art Gallery
- Visit the National Museum
- Survey the Reza Abbasi and Glass and Ceramics Museums

MASHHAD – 1 night *Homa Hotel*

- Explore the Imam Reza Shrine Complex and Museum
- Visit the Tomb of Nader Shah Afshar
- Discover the mausoleum of Ferdowsi

KERMAN – 2 nights Pars Hotel

- Discover the medieval city of Rayen
- Visit the mausoleum of Shah Nematollah Vali
- Explore Gombad-E Jabaliye

YAZD – 2 nights Moshir Garden Hotel

 Stroll though the Dowlat-Abad House

Tour Highlights



- Discover the Water Museum
- Visit the Friday Mosque
- Wander through Yazd's historical core
- Learn about the Zoroastrian religion at the Towers of Silence and village of Taft

SHIRAZ – 3 nights *Homa Hotel*

- Wander through Persepolis, Naqsh-e Rajab and Naqsh-Rostam
- Visit Cyrus the Great's Pasargad
- Stroll through the Eram Gardens
- Explore the Arg-e Karim Khan and the bazaar
- Discover the Pink Mosque
- Explore Saadi & Hafez's tombs

ISFAHAN – 3 nights Abbasi Hotel

- ◆ Admire Hasht Behesht
- Visit the Palace of Forty Columns
- Discover the bridges crossing the Zayendehrud River
- Explore the Armenian Quarter
- Marvel at the Friday Mosque and the mosques of the Imam Square

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 <u>www.csatravelprotection.com</u>, Producer code: 20100719. You are able to purchase trip insurance which will repay all non-refundable costs for cancelling this trip for ANY reason. This must be purchased at the time of your initial deposit.

Our journey will take us to ancient cities, glorious mosques and fabulous archaeological sites. Begin in Tehran where we have scheduled two full days to explore the country's capital city. Spend a morning at the Golestan Palace a former

residence of the royal family in the 18th century. Enter the basement vault of the Bank Milli Iran to marvel at the spectacular Crown Jewels. End the day at the Aaran Contemporary Art Gallery and meet the vibrant owner, Noebashari. Nazila The following dav visit the Archaeological Museum with its fine collection, including a 6thcentury audience hall relief of Darius the Great. Fly to Mashhad to explore the massive Imam Reza Shrine Complex. Visit Tus and the tomb of Ferdowsi before flying to Kerman located on the ancient Asian trade routes. In Kerman explore the old city of Kerman, walking down long, shady alleys that run into the town's extensive bazaar, mosque, and caravanserai complex. Drive to Yazd, the country's center of Zoroastrianism, where the most

Iran: Arts of Ancient Persia \$6,100 per person • Single Room Supplement \$1,460 Group size is Limited to 20 travelers Extension: \$2,740-2,890 per person • Single Room \$610 The Tour Cost includes: Accommodation as listed based on double occupancy • Breakfast daily, 13 lunches and 14 dinners Services of a national Iranian guide • • Sightseeing and entrance fees • Local transportation Gratuities to all staff • Porterage • A \$400 donation to the Society for Asian Art • Not Included are: • International airfare to and from Iran • Airport departure taxes Passport and visa fees • Personal insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation • Items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed For more information or a detailed itinerary, call Distant Horizons at (800) 333-1240 or (562) 983-8828; or the Society for Asian Art at (415) 581-3701.

traditional Persian architecture is found. Discover the wind towers whose slatted towers capture the slightest desert breeze, pooling it down to the lower level and cooled by passing over water. En route to Shiraz wander through Pasargad, the site of the first Achaemenian capital. Explore 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. Spend a final three days in Isfahan - a town of unsurpassed beauty where brilliant blue-tiled buildings and

majestic bridges are often recognized as the perfection of Islamic architecture. Return home from Isfahan.

The trip will be accompanied by Dr. Keelan Overton currently an Associate Curator in the Art of the Middle East Department at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Previously she an Adjunct Assistant was Professor in Art History at University, Portland State Curator of Islamic Art at the Doris Duke Foundation of Islamic Art at Shangri La in Honolulu and holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Art History from the University of California, Los Angeles (2011). She is currently preparing a book project on artistic exchange between Iran and the Deccan, c. 1400-1600.

Northwest Iran Extension

Begin the extension in Tehran visiting sites in the north of the city. Travel towards Zanjan visiting Soltaniye en route. Spend a full-day at Takht-e Soleiman before continuing on to Ardabil to explore the mausoleum and shrine complex of Shaykh Safi al-Din. Drive towards Tabriz to visit the historic bazaar, Blue Mosque and the ruins of the Arg-e Tabriz. Depart Tabriz for Istanbul and your onward flight.

THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART: IRAN: ARTS OF ANCIENT PERSIA RESERVATION FORM

I would like to reserve space(s) f	for the <i>Iran: Arts of Ancient Pe</i>	rsia tour April 30-May 15, 2016
I would like to reserve space(s) f	0	1 0 0
Enclosed is a deposit of $\$500$ per perso	n, in the total amount of \$	Please make checks payable to Distant Horizons
(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 b	e sharing a room with:
□ I would prefer a roommate, but will p	bay the single supplement if one	is not available.

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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.

CST: 2046776-13