

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.

Tour Highlights

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



- ◆ 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 Rostam 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.

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