

Persia

Travelling the Silk Road and Beyond in Iran

Highlights

- Exploring Iranian-Islamic architecture and art in mosques, bath houses, bazaars, caravanserais, gardens, bridges, palaces...from early Islam to modernity
- Exploring art and architecture of ancient Persia in UNESCO world heritage sites: Pasargadae and Persepolis, Naghshe Rostam and Naghshe Rajab
- Visiting Qeshm—the largest island of Southern Iran
- Visiting Hormuz, the rainbow island of the Persian Gulf
- Tasting traditional Iranian food
- Getting familiar with still working workshops such as carpet waving, Henna powder making, traditional cloak weaving and much more



Price: **1400 €**

(400 € in advance and 1000 € later in cash can be paid)

Duration: **15 days**

Arrival and Departure:
Tehran International Airport

The tours are held as group from 18 up to 30 tourists

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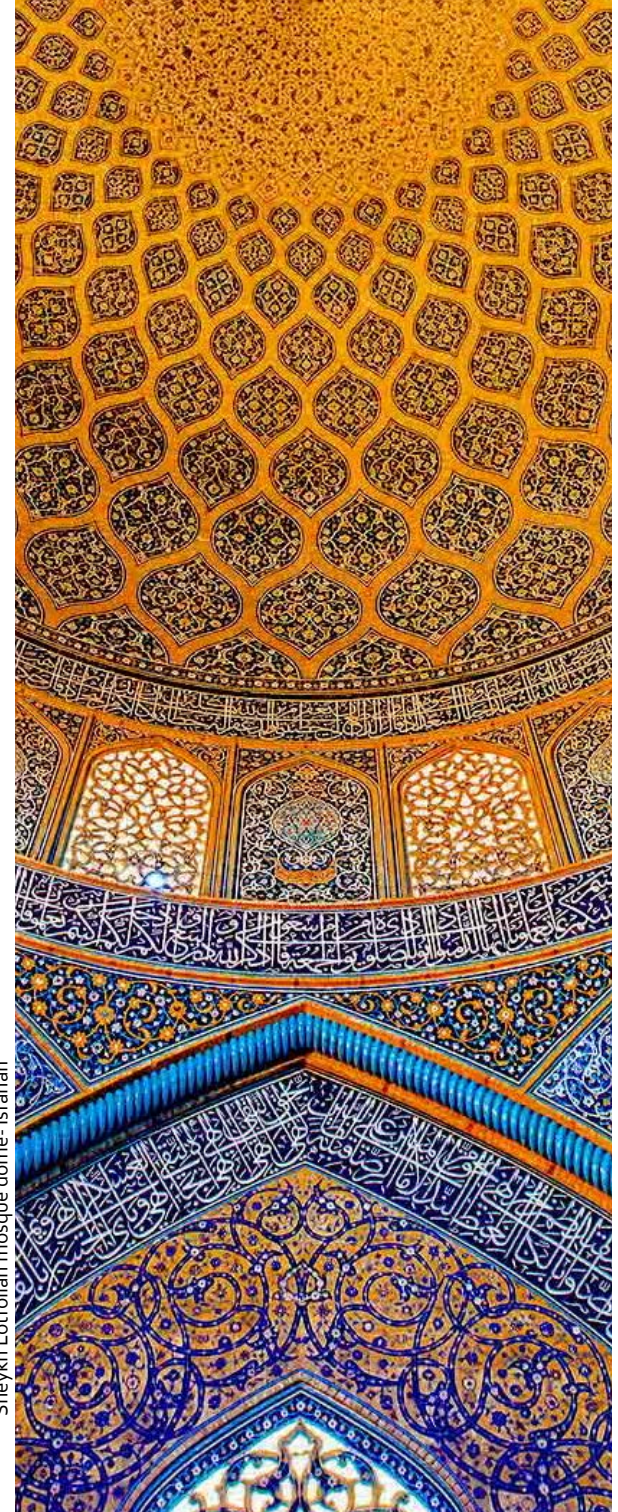


Old Bath House-Kashan

Services

- Fulltime experienced English language tourist guide
- Full time executive facilitator
- Full time driver and a comfortable bus
- Extensive information about Iran's civilization, nature, culture, history and art
- All entrance fees
- 4star hotels with breakfast
- All lunches and dinners in good restaurants plus
- healthy snacks every day (fruits, water, tea, coffee...)
- Liability insurance
- Permission from authorities
- Airport pick up and drop off

Sheykh Lotfollah mosque dome - Isfahan



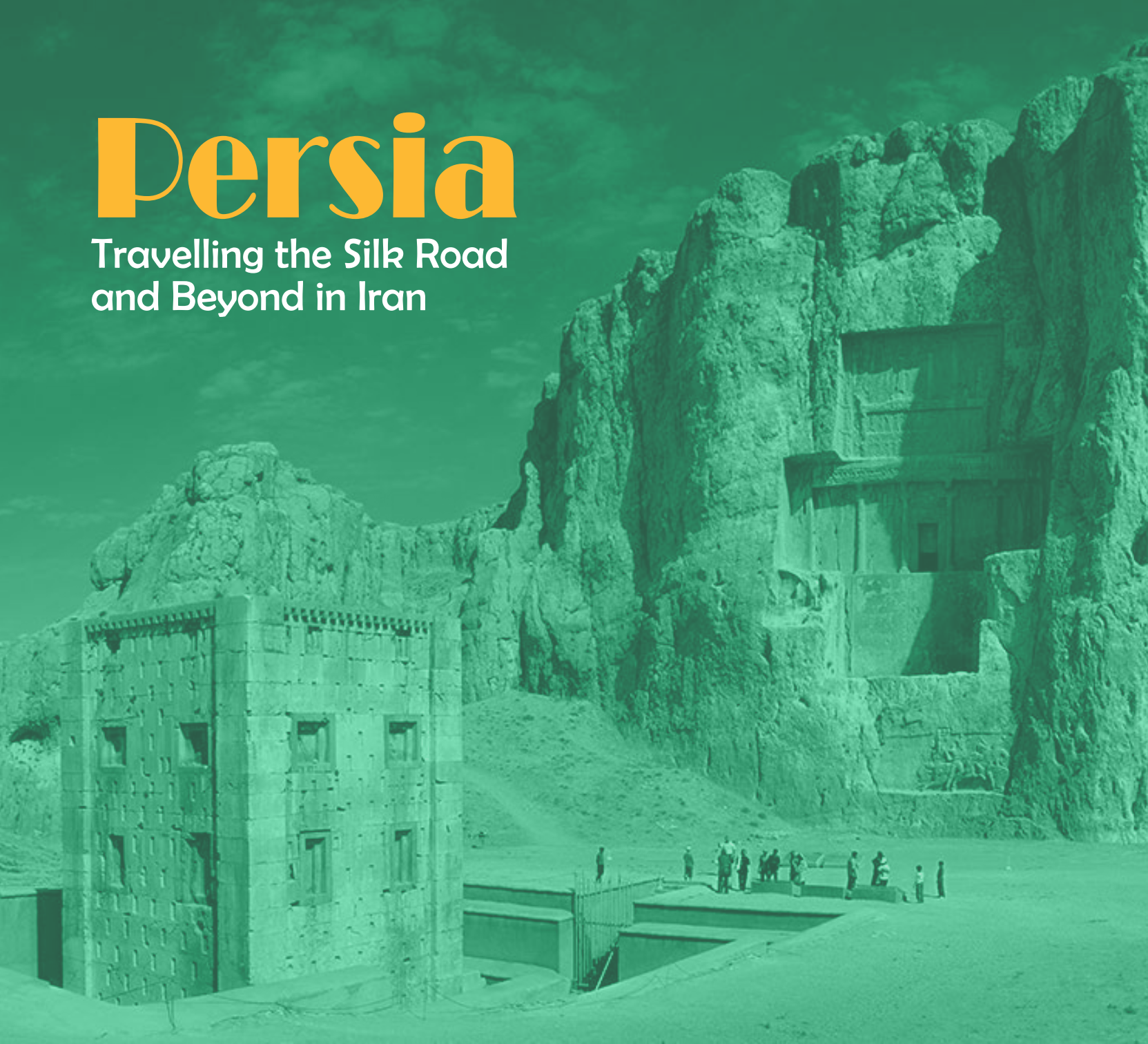
Itinerary



Day	City	Main Attraction	Accomodation In
1	Tehran, Kashan, Nain	Fin Garden, Sialk ancient archeological site in Kashan; Nain Friday Mosque, Pirnia traditional house and ethnology museum, traditional cloak weaving workshop in Nain	Nain
2	Nain, Meybod	Pigeon Tower, Shah Abbasi Carvanseray, ice house, Chaparkhaneh (ancient post office), flatwoven cotton carpet museum, Narin castel and pottery workshops in Meybod	Yazd
3	Yazd	Jame mosque, Seyyed Roknaldin mausoleum, walking in old part of the city full of narrow allies, Eskandar prison, Abolmali bathhouse, Markar clock tower, Zoroastrian fire temple, Mazari (henna gridding) workshop, Zoroastrian towers of silence	Yazd
4	Yazd	Water museum, Dolat Abad Persian garden, Amir Chakhmagh square, "Five wind towers" water reservoir, Bazar	Yazd
5	Sirjan	Zeynaldin caravanserai on the road between Yazd and Sirjan, twins ice house of Sirjan	Bandar Abbas
6	Hormuz island	visiting colorful Hormuz island by three wheeled motorcycle van, Nadalian museum and house, colorful sand carpet, red soil and salt mines, Hindu temple of Bandar Abbas	Bandar Abbas
7	Qeshm island	Stars valley, traditional wooden ships ("Lenj") workshops, Chahkooh Canyon, Mangrove forests "Hara" in Qeshm	Bandar Abbas
8	Darab	Ancient Stone water mills, ancient round city of Darabgerd, Azarakhsh fire temple all around the city of Darab	Shiraz
9	Shiraz	Karim Khan citadel, Pars museum, Wakil mosque, Wakil bathhouse, Wakil bazar, "Hafezieh and Sadieh", the tombs of two famous Persian poets, and Qoran city gate	Shiraz
10	Shiraz	Pink mosque, Naranjestan and Qavam house, Eram Persian garden in the city of shiraz and Naghshe Rajab and Naghshe Rostam rock reliefs out of the city of Shiraz	Shiraz
11	Shiraz	UNESCO world heritage sites Persepolis and Pasargadae northeast of the city of Shiraz	Isfahan
12	Isfahan	Imam Square, Ali Qapu palace, Shah mosque, Sheikh Lotfollah mosque, Qeysarieh bazar, Chehel Sotoun palace, Hasht Behesht palace, Siosepol bridge	Isfahan
13	Isfahan	Vank cathedral, Menar Jonban monument, Jame mosque and Khajou bridge	Isfahan
14	Abyaneh, Natanz	Jame mosque, Sheikh Abdosamad complex, Sassanid fire temple, Abyaneh village	Kashan
15	Kashan	Borujerdiha house, Soltan Amir Ahmad bath house, Agha Bozorg mosque	-

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DAY 1: Arrival in Tehran, Kashan and Nain

After your arrival at Imam Khomeini International Airport you will meet your tour guide and driver. Depending on the arrival time we can have breakfast or lunch and then drive to Kashan. After visiting the historical wonders of Kashan, we continue the road to the historical city of Nain. We will take a walk into the city and enjoy the atmosphere of an arid city at the middle of Iran and visit some of the most outstanding monuments in all of Iran: the Jame Mosque, one of the first four mosques built in Iran after the Arab conquest.



Negin Historic House Resort-Kashan



Tabatabaee House-Kashan

DAY 2: Meybod

After travelling 120 kilometers we will arrive in Meybod, a small and mostly unknown city, untouched by tourism. Despite this it is full of ancient, pre-Islamic places such as a medieval ice house, a caravanserai, a pigeon tower and, most astounding, a -1500year-old muddy brick castle sitting on a natural hill in the city. In Meybod we can experience the traditional production of pottery in local workshops. In the evening we will arrive in Yazd and find comfortable rest in a traditional hotel.



caravanserai-Meybod



Pigeon Tower- Meybod



Narin Castle-Meybod

DAY 3: Yazd

On our third day, we will have a full day excursion in the city of Yazd, tasting local foods in traditional restaurants and watching the sunset on top of the Tower of Silence, an ancient Zoroastrian burial ground. We will explore the historical parts of the city full of narrow allies which is recognized as a world heritage site.



Amirchakhmaq Complex- Yazd

DAY 4: Yazd

The next day will continue exploring Yazd, walking through the old Bazar, visiting many historical water reservoirs and wind towers, of which Yazd possesses more than any other city in Iran. Because of that the city is called the “city of wind catchers”. In one of the water reservoirs we can observe so called Zoorkhaneh ritual that was originally used to train warriors in

ancient Iran and today is a traditional rhythmic exercise. Then we will enjoy the sound of water in the Dolat Abad Persian garden. Given that Yazd is located in one of the most arid areas of the world and building such a Persian garden shows the profound skill and craftsmanship of Iranian architects who aimed at nothing less than creating a paradise on the earth.



Hammam Khan- Yazd

DAY 5: Bandar Abbas

We will drive to Bandar Abbas and visit Zeinaldin, a Silk Road caravanserai in a round shape, and a twin ice house in the city of Sirjan. When we arrive at Bandar Abbas is already late, so we will take a good rest in our comfortable hotel.



Bandar Abbas beach



Traditional Fisherman-Bandar Abbas

DAY 6:

After breakfast we will try to get the first speedboat from the harbor of Bandar Abbas to Hormuz Island. We cross the sea and visit the colorful island and its attractions such as the Old Portuguese fortress, the salt mine and one of the world's most famous red clay mines. We will taste local sea foods and enjoy the beaches of the Persian Gulf. When we come back to Bandar Abbas, we take an evening walk and will visit the Hindu temple and some other places.



Hormuz Island red sands



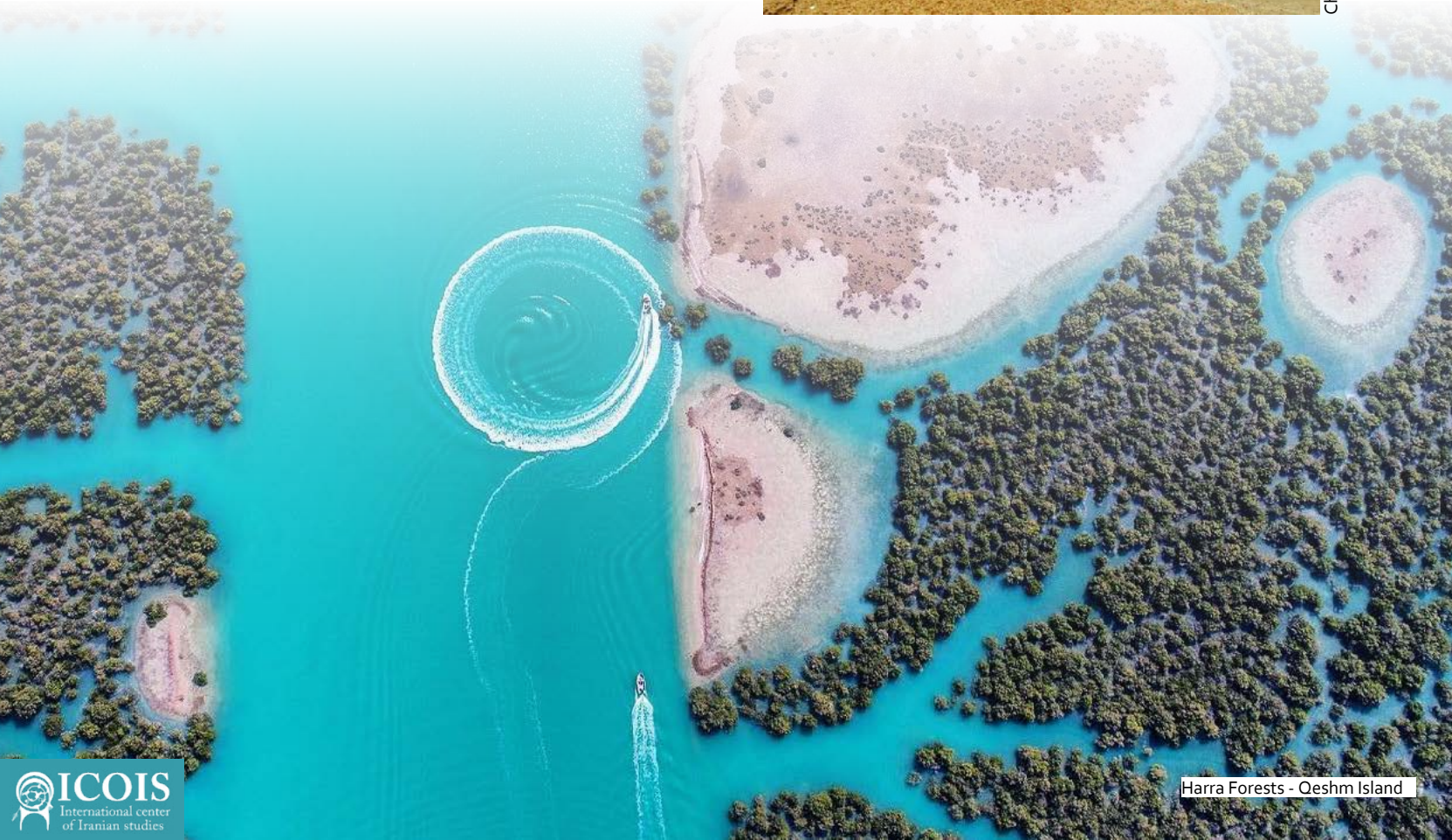
Old Portuguese fortress

DAY 7:

We will take a boat from Bandar Abbas port to Qeshm the biggest island in Southern Iran. We spend the whole day on the island for visiting the ecotourism attractions such as the Hara marine forests and mangrove forests also historical attractions such as the ancient Portuguese fort, historic mosques, the Seyyed Mozaffar and Bibi Maryam shrines, which have laid across the azure waters of the Persian Gulf. Then after a long day we will come back to Bandar Abbas and rest in the hotel



Chah Kooh Valey- Qeshm Island



Harra Forests - Qeshm Island

DAY 8:

After breakfast and check-out from the hotel, we will leave Bandar Abbas and drive to Shiraz. Darabgerd is in our way. This city is situated seven kilometers southwest of the modern town of Darab in Fars province and one of the oldest cities dates back to the Achaemenid dynasty. The plan of the city is concentric with a radial system of streets. After visiting this city, we continue the road to Shiraz and in the evening, where we will arrive in the early evening hours.



Narenj Castle- Darab



Darabgerd Ancient Site

DAY 9:

We spend all day sightseeing in Shiraz—the city of love and poetry. Shiraz is an amazing city to explore the rich culture of Iran through its beautiful historical places.

After the 13th century Shiraz became a center for Iranian rulers and therefore there are many eye-catching attractions. Persian gardens are always silent and peaceful and the best place to enjoy Iranian traditional music and taste Falude—a delight Persian noodle ice cream. At night people are used to read poems and sing Persian songs at the tomb of the national poet of Iran, Hafiz, which is surrounded by a lush garden full of bitter orange trees. Nightlife in Shiraz is different from every other experience you had before.



Nasir-ol-Mulk Mosque-Shiraz



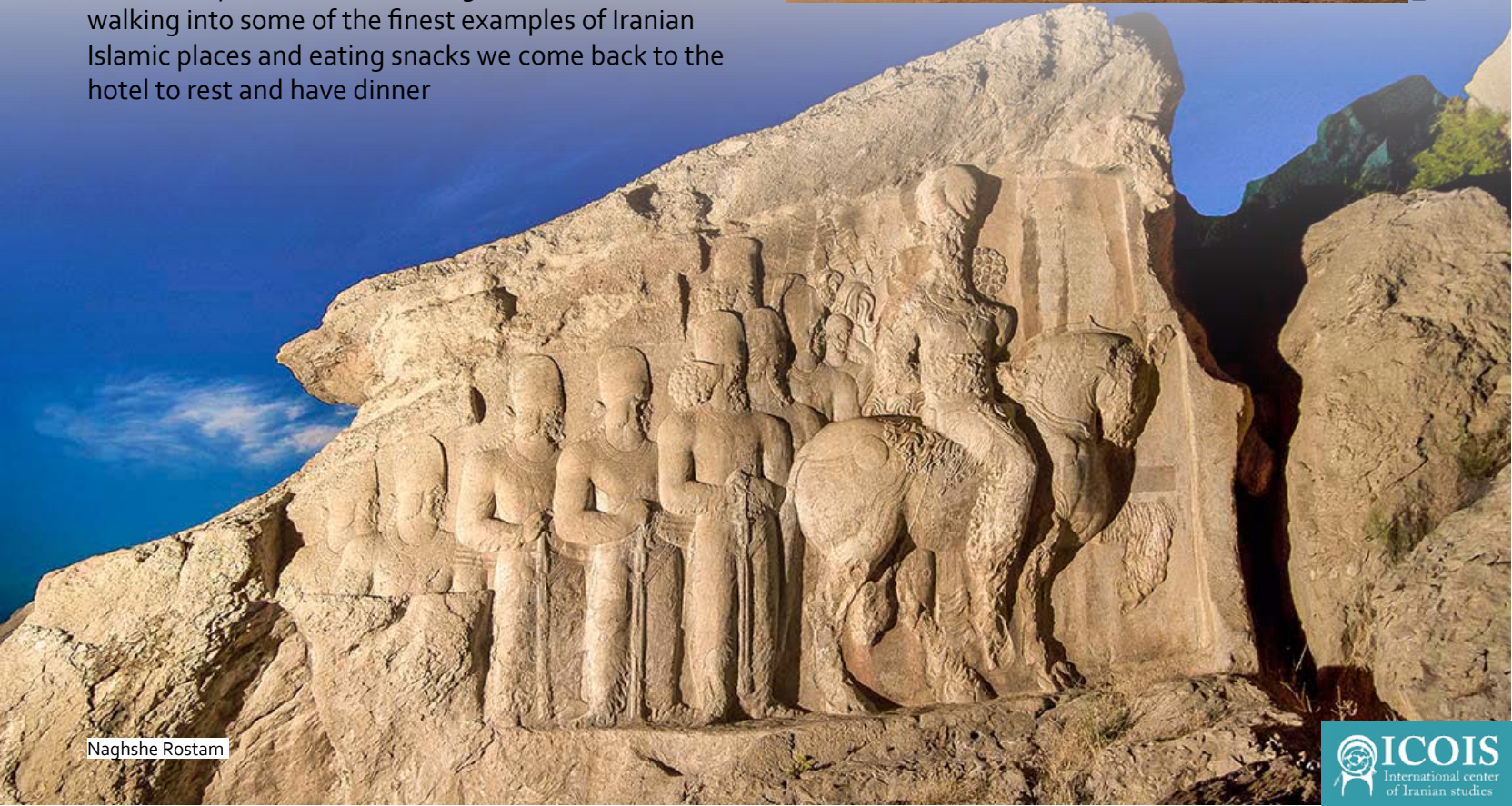
Eram Garden- Shiraz

DAY 10:

We will visit the rest of the tourist spots in Shiraz and then leave the city toward Naghshe Rajab and Naghshe Rostam rock reliefs that are out of the city. Naghshe Rostam is an ancient site consisting of several tombs that belong to the Achaemenid, Elamite and Sassanid kings of Persia. They are carved into a sacred mountain that looks over a main path of the Silk Road so the passing caravans could see the glory and splendor of the Persian kings. Naghshe Rajab is also an ancient site that includes four rock reliefs from the early Sassanid era. They show the coronations of the king and celebrate the king's victory over two Roman emperors. In the evening we return and after walking into some of the finest examples of Iranian Islamic places and eating snacks we come back to the hotel to rest and have dinner



Naghshe Rajab



Naghshe Rostam

DAY 11:

We spend the whole day in Persepolis and Pasargadae, the ancient capitals of Persia which are located just 60 km away from Shiraz. These royal cities are from Achaemenid dynasty 530 BC and registered as world heritage sites. If you are interested or not in the history of old Persia you will definitely be amazed by the glory of Persepolis and Pasargadae which were built by Darius I and Cyrus the Great. It takes the complete day to visit the two sites. In the evening we continue our journey and travel to Isfahan.



Kourosh Grave-Pasargad



Perspolise-Shiraz

DAY 12:

We will spend the whole day exploring the historical spots in Isfahan. It is said Isfahan is half of the world. This city once was the magnificent capital of Shah Abbas's Safavid Empire full of blue-tiled mosaics, splendid Quranic calligraphy, glittering Iwans and minarets in mosques, palaces, bazars... which are widely regarded as the most beautiful specimens of their kind. We will have lunch in the city probably in a traditional restaurant to taste some local foods and for dinner we come back to the hotel. After that we have two options: taking a good rest or walking to the city and enjoying the inspiring atmosphere of Naghshe Jahan square at night.



Aali Qapuo interior dome (music hall)- Isfahan



Imam Mosque- Isfahan

DAY 13:

We will continue our exploration of Isfahan and will shift our focus to another amazing part of its history. Isfahan is famous for its Armenian population who were settled to New Jolfa five hundred years. Jews, Muslims and Christians lived peacefully next to each other and influenced each other's art and architecture. Dozens of Armenians churches, among them the famous Vank cathedral, are their remaining legacy. And today New Jolfa strives with its many fancy cafes are good restaurants.



Vank Church Inside



Vank Church-Jolfa

DAY 14:

After breakfast and checking out t we drive to Kashan through the small cities of Abyaneh, Natanz and Ardestan. We take a walk in Abyaneh: the historical museum village. It is famous for being one of the last original villages in Iran. All it outdoor decorations are red because of the red natural stone found in this area. The combination of the colorful local dresses, the beautiful landscape and old houses is eye catching. The next city is Natanz. The tomb of Sufi Sheikh Abdolsamad is famous over there. He was an Islamic scientist and Sufi and very respectful in the Islamic world. Natanz is small but green and full of joy and a uniquely positive atmosphere. Pomegranates and orange trees adorn the city. In the evening we will arrive in Kashan and rest in the hotel.



Abyaneh Historical Vilage



Abyaneh Historical Vilage Hotel-Kashan

DAY 15:

After a relaxed last day in Kashan and exploring some attractions besides having good food, we will drive to Imam Khomeini International Airport. We say goodbye to each other hoping you come back to your countries with good memories and looking forward to come back again.



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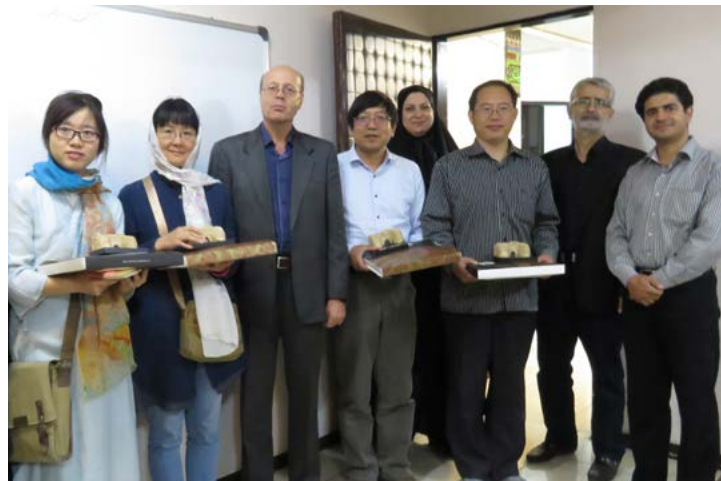


They Came from Germany





They Came from China





They Came from China



