

Perspectives **OF IRAN**



SEPTEMBER 20–OCTOBER 4, 2018



U.S. to TEHRAN

Thursday, September 20

Depart the United States.

TEHRAN

Friday, September 21

Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel.
Espinas Hotel

TEHRAN

Saturday, September 22

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Tehran concentrating on its excellent museums. Visit the Archaeological Museum with its fine collection including a stone capital of a winged lion from Susa. Explore the Golestan Palace (Palace of Flowers) and enjoy a private visit to a contemporary art gallery.

Espinas Hotel (B,L,D)

TEHRAN

Sunday, September 23

Head to northern Tehran to visit the Niavaran Palace and the Museum, the last home of Mohammad-Reza Shah and his family. The complex boasts two palaces, a pavilion, Persian gardens, a museum and a smaller gallery. Continue on to Khomeini's home where one is allowed a glimpse of the dwelling. After lunch, visit the Iranian crown jewels stored in the basement vault of the Bank Milli Iran. Admire the world's largest uncut diamond as well as the Peacock Throne.

Espinas Hotel (B,L,D)

TEHRAN / YAZD

Monday, September 24

Visit the Museum of Contemporary Art which was designed by Kamran Diba using elements from traditional Persian architecture and is considered to be one of the most valuable collections of modern art outside of Europe and the United States. This afternoon, fly to Yazd, a major stop on the international caravan routes to Central Asia and India.

Moshir Garden Hotel (B,L,D)

YAZD

Tuesday, September 25

Visit the former home of the Governor of the city to see and learn more about traditional Persian architecture and the *badgers*, wind towers ingeniously designed to catch a passing breeze. Explore the bazaar and enjoy a stroll through it before visiting the Water Museum. Stop at the Haj Khalifeh Ali Rahbar pastry shop opened in 1916 and the Amir Chakhmaq Complex with its perfectly proportioned sunken alcoves and tiles laid out in intricate patterns. Visit the Friday Mosque, the best preserved 14th century mosque in Iran, and enjoy a walking tour through the covered streets of Yazd's old quarter. Spend the balance of the afternoon concentrating on the Zoroastrian religion.

Moshir Garden Hotel (B,L,D)

YAZD / SHIRAZ

Wednesday, September 26

Head to a small village called Taft where a large number of Zoroastrians still live. En route to Shiraz visit the site of Pasargad where Cyrus the Great defeated Astyages the Mede in 550 BC and, according to tradition, decided to build the first Achaemenian capital on the site of his victory.

Zandiyeh Hotel (B,L,D)

SHIRAZ

Thursday, September 27

Visit the 19th century Eram Gardens built in a quadripartite Persian Paradise Garden structure. Head to the Fars Museum and then explore the citadel or Arg-e Karim Khan built in 1766 using the best architects and artists and materials of the time. Stop at the "Pink Mosque" or Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque which is the oldest and one of the most elegant mosques in southern Iran. Continue on to the tomb of Saadi, one of the major Persian poets of the time and known all over the world for the quality and depth of his social and moral thoughts in his writings. End the

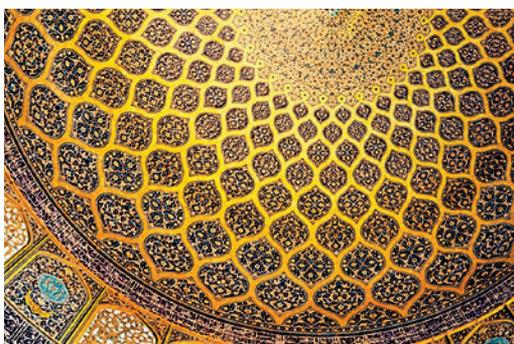
TRIP DETAILS

INCLUDED: Accommodation as per itinerary; meals as listed in the program; airport transfers if on the recommended flights; bottled water on the bus; all sightseeing in an air-conditioned coach; internal flights; all entrance fees and special events listed; full educational program and study leader; pre-departure materials and reading list; local Iranian guide; professional tour manager who will accompany the group; gratuities for drivers, porters, restaurant and hotel staff for all group activities.

DOES NOT INCLUDE: International airfare into and out of Iran (approximately \$1,500); visa fees for Iran; excess luggage charges; medical expenses; trip insurance; items of a purely personal nature; gratuity to local Iranian guide.

COST: \$7,490 per person, double occupancy; \$1,460 single supplement

GROUP SIZE: Minimum 15, Maximum 25



day at the tomb of the celebrated poet Hafez which is located in a small garden.
Zandiyeh Hotel (B,L,D)

SHIRAZ / PERSEPOLIS

Friday, September 28

Today we enjoy a full day excursion to Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenian Empire and one of the world's most beautiful and spectacular archaeological sites. This palace city was built by craftsmen from around Darius' vast empire. Superb bas reliefs depict the flow of ritual processions. After lunch sitting in the shade of grape vines, visit Naghsh-E Rostam which contains the carved tombs of four Achaemenian kings.
Zandiyeh Hotel (B,L,D)

SHIRAZ / ISFAHAN

Saturday, September 29

Drive to Isfahan stopping en route for lunch. Upon arrival in Isfahan in the late afternoon, visit Hasht Behesht which is located in the center of the Garden of Nightingales (the Bagh-e Bulbul), and is one of Isfahan's two surviving Safavid pavilions.
Abbasi Hotel (B,L,D)

ISFAHAN

Sunday, September 30

Isfahan is perhaps the most beautiful of all Iranian cities. Visit the Palace of Forty Columns, a charming pavilion where the walls and ceilings are covered with frescoes and paintings. Walk to the Maydan-e Shah or Imam Square, the central focus of this fascinating city which never failed to inspire and awe European merchants and ambassadors to the Safavid court. Explore the Lotfollah Mosque, the Ali Qapu Palace and the towering portal of the Shah Mosque. After lunch, spend the afternoon exploring the bazaar and learning more about traditional crafts in Iran.
Abbasi Hotel (B,L,D)

ISFAHAN

Monday, October 1

Visit the Friday Mosque with its tiled ivans, vaulted ceilings and lofty domes that display more than 800 years of Persian religious architecture. Admire some of the five bridges crossing the Zayendehrud River and wander through the city's fascinating Armenian quarter. We also visit Isfahan's new Music Museum.
Abbasi Hotel (B,L,D)

KASHAN

Tuesday, October 2

Depart for Kashan, the epitome of everything that is typically Persian from its mosques, caravanserais and stately gardens, to its carpets, ceramics and delicate embroideries. Along the way stop at the historic village of Abyaneh, one of Iran's oldest villages. Arrive for lunch, and then visit the Tabatabai House, a traditional house built in the early 1880s, which is renowned for its mirror and stained glass work. Visit the historic Kashan Bazaar, the center of trade in the city for almost 800 years.
Manouchehri Hotel (B,L,D)

KASHAN / TEHRAN

Wednesday, October 3

After breakfast drive to Tehran. We stop at the Tomb of Ayatollah Khomeini, which is the centerpiece of a complex which is planned to include a cultural and tourist center, a university for Islamic studies, a seminary and a shopping mall. Check in to our hotel, located very close to the airport. Enjoy a festive farewell dinner.
Novotel Hotel (B,L,D)

TEHRAN TO U.S.

Thursday, October 4

Depart Tehran for international flights home.
(B)



WHAT TO EXPECT

Participants must be in very good health and able to keep up with an active group. In order to participate, one should be able to walk 1-2 miles per day comfortably, climb steep stairs without handrails or assistance and walk and stand for periods of two hours at a time.

Fall is a lovely time to travel in Iran when temperatures range from 60-85 degrees Fahrenheit. The infrastructure in Iran is quite good, with modern roads and buses. Hotels are comfortable, with private bathrooms and air-conditioning. Food is freshly prepared and healthy. During the program, participants should be dressed modestly and women will be required to have their head covered while in public areas. Alcohol is not permitted in Iran. More details will be provided upon registering for the trip.



Perspectives OF IRAN

RESERVATION FORM

SEPTEMBER 20–OCTOBER 4, 2018

Name 1 _____

Name 2 _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email Address _____

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$500 per person) for _____ spaces.

Enclosed is my check **OR** Charge my deposit to my Visa MasterCard

CARD # _____ Expires _____ Security code _____

Authorized Cardholder Signature _____ Date _____

Final payment must be by check. Please make checks payable to "Distant Horizons." Do not write "Iran" on your check. Your deposit is fully refundable up until 14 days after receipt of your reservation form. A confirmation letter, full terms and conditions, reading list and a travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit.

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.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

- I/we wish to be booked on the suggested group flight from SFO
- I/we wish to be booked on a departing flight from: _____
- I/we will make travel arrangements to arrive in Tehran and depart from Isfahan

WE REQUIRE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB TO TRAVEL WITH US. PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

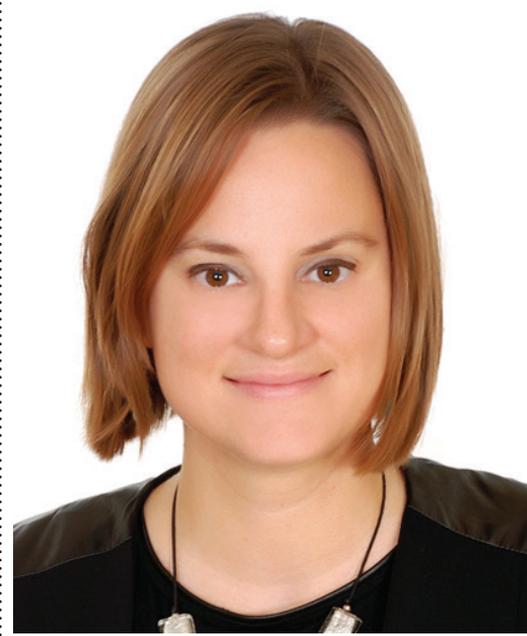
- I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.
- Please use the credit card information above to sign me up or renew my membership.
- I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR DEPOSIT TO:

Commonwealth Club Travel
110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94105
You may also fax the form to 415.597.6729

Phone: (415) 597-6720 | Fax: (415) 597-6729 | travel@commonwealthclub.org

Please note the State Department has had a Travel Warning for Iran since 1979. You can read this Travel Warning at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings/iran-travel-warning.html>. Our tour operator has operated many trips to Iran. The Commonwealth Club and our tour operator are closely monitoring the situation in Iran and will not operate the trip if the situation within the country becomes hostile or unsafe.



STUDY LEADER

Dr. Emily Jane O'Dell is an assistant professor at Sultan Qaboos University in the Sultanate of Oman. Previously, she held the Whittlesey Chair of History & Archaeology at the American University of Beirut, and taught at Columbia University, Brown University, and Harvard University—where she received an award for excellence in teaching. Emily completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Humanities Center. She received her Ph.D., MA, MFA, and MA from Brown University, and an additional Masters in Central Asian Studies from Columbia University.

Emily's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Salon*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Al Jazeera*, NPR, and *Huffington Post*. Her recent academic publications touch upon Iranian cinema, Sufism, disability in Iran, Islamic law, and archaeology. In 2009, she was invited to speak (in Persian) at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran on Iranian and Tajik cultural and historical connections.

For her field research and expertise on Islam, Sufism, cultural heritage, and politics, Emily has been a State Department Critical Languages Fellow for Persian and Tajiki, Fulbright-Hays Fellow, Harvard Traveling Fellow (Iran), Edward A. Hewett Policy Fellow, American Councils Research Fellow, IREX Fellow, and Columbia Pepsico Fellow.