



Iranian Holiday Package: Horse Riding and Sightseeing in Persia

14 days horse riding tour and visiting the major sights of the great cities of Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz Horse riding holiday in Iran is simply unique. It takes place in the Tukomen Stepper, to the North East of the Caspian Sea, and in the area of Golestan Park. This is an area of extraordinary historical, cultural and natural interest. The area particularly is famous for its horses and their mythical speed, endurance and beauty. Turkmens are a semi-nomadic tribe who originated in the Central Asian steppes, archetypal nomad warriors and horse breeders. The stamina of Turkmen racehorses is legendary. The Turkmen horse is valued above all other possessions by the kings, emperors and aristocrats of three continents throughout three millennia of history. Alexander the Great captured hundreds of the horses to Return to Europe after his Persian Campaigns, and the modern Thoroughbred owes everything to Turkmens blood, bred directly and indirectly through the great lines. This tour is a unique opportunity to ride the world's original hot-blooded horses, and visit Turkomen tradition, carpets, clothes lifestyle and ceremonies and enjoying their hospitality and food. The riding will be in and around the Iran's oldest National Park at Golestan. This mountainous region provides a magnificent diverse natural habitat for animals including leopard, gazelle, wild sheep, ibex, wild boar, birds such as the colourful kingfisher, the Siberian and wild flowers. You will explore the north of the country to the east of the Caspian Sea where the Elborz Mountains form a fertile green belt. The rides will be 6 to 8 hours a day in a wide circle through the forested slopes and open plateau of the Golestan National Park over various terrains. There will be frequent breaks to rest both the riders and the horses.

The itinerary includes an optional tour after the ride to the important historical sites of Shiraz, Persepolis and Isfahan. You can either join in our set tours with the set dates or we can plan an itinerary to match your aspirations and requirements. This allows you to explore your own interests backed by our specialists.

Dates 2018:

09 May - 22 May

19 Sep - 02 Oct

Dates 2019:

08 May - 21 May

25 Sep - 08 Oct

TOUR COST:

£3650 without flight

Single supplement: £220

Persian Voyages

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Please continue for itinerary

What is included in the tour price:

- Accommodation at a 3* hotels
- Sharing a twin room
- Airport transfers
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner for horse riding part
- Land transport
- All excursions and sightseeing entrance fees
- Porterage
- An English speaking guide

What is not included:

- International flight (£450-£650)
- Lunch and dinner for cultural part
- Iranian Consulate visa fee £165
- Travel insurance.

The horses are all Turkmen, schooled and mannered, some part of the way it is better to canter, so you should be able to trot and canter,

The route should be flexible due to the weather at the time and other conditions. The maximum weight of rider should be 80 kilos.

Sleeping bag is provided unless the riders prefer to bring their own sleeping bags. The riders should bring water canteens, oral hydrates and rain coats. The weather can turn cold at night so please bring a warm jacket or fleece and water proof

ITINERARY

Day 1, Tehran - Arrive in Tehran, meet at the airport and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight Tehran

Days 2, Tehran-Gorgan: Transfer to the domestic flight airport for the flight to Gorgan.

Arrive in Gorgan, meet at the airport and transfer to horse riding centre. To get to know the horses.

Overnight at the centre

Day 3, Horse Riding - Horse ridding

O/N Camping

Day 4, Horse Riding - Horse ridding

O/N Camping

Day 5, Horse Riding - Horse ridding

O/N Camping

Day 6, Horse Riding - Horse ridding

O/N Camping

Day 7, Horse Riding - Back to horse riding centre

Overnight at the centre

Day 8, Gorgan-Tehran: Transfer to airport for the flight to Tehran, meet at the airport and transfer to your hotel

Overnight Tehran

Day 09, Tehran-Shiraz; Meet at the hotel to transfer to the Mehrabad airport for the flight to Shiraz Meet at Shiraz airport for a full day exploring Shiraz itself, visiting the

Eram Garden, Hafez and Saadi Tombs, and the colourful Bazaar

Overnight in Shiraz

Day 10, Shiraz-Persepolis-Isfahan: After breakfast leave hotel to visit the tombs of **Nagsh-e Rostam** which is magnificently cut into a cliff high above the ground, bas relief and archaeological site of **Naghsh –e Rajab**. Then the highlight of any visits to Iran - Darius the Greats' fabulous Persepolis. After a few hours at the site we make our way back to Shiraz airport for the flight to Isfahan. Arrive in Isfahan airport and transfer to your hotel. (495km 7-8 hours)

Overnight Isfahan

Day 11, Isfahan: flashing with brilliant aquamarine mosaic domes, lofty minarets, and some of the world's finest architecture, is a visual treat and the indisputable centre of attraction for everyone.

The sites you will visit include:

Royal Square-This vast square is home to what is arguably the most majestic collection of buildings in the Islamic world. It's also the second-largest square in the world.

Imam Mosque -At the end of the Royal Square is One of the most breath-taking Islamic monuments in the world, the Imam Mosque. The rectangular entrance portal and the two turquoise minarets which flank it, dominate the Square. The Imam mosque is one of the Iran UNESCO Heritage site

Aliqapou Palace - The 16th-century palace of Shah Abbas Safavi, with its curious ornamentation. This palace was built as a functioning seat of government, and included a huge pavilion from where the Safavid rulers could watch the activities in the square below. The elevated trance offers a magnificent view over the surrounding mountains, town and the best view of the Square. The room on the sixth floor known as Music room, the wall and ceiling cut with the shapes of Persian musical Instruments and other household shapes

Sheikh Loffollah Mosque - A shimmering mosque with amazing ceramic work, built in 1617. The mosque is unusual because it has no minaret or courtyard. The mosque was once called the Ladies's Mosque, because there is apparently a tunnel between this mosque and the Ali Qapu Palace which is on the opposite side of Royal Square, allowing Ladies from court's royal haram to attend prayers without being seen in public

Chehel Sotoun - ('The Forty Columns') a Safavid palace with a delightful pavilion supported by twenty columns, which double to make the legendary forty when reflected in the water. Inside are important murals, mirror mosaics and an exquisitely decorated wooden roof

Hasht Behesht Palaces (Eight Paradises) - An attractive 17th century small palace with wooden columns set in a delightful garden of Nightingales. The garden, is visible

through the great arches, the most interesting part of this palace are the spandrel title decorations on the exterior showing pairs of often mythical hunting animals

Isfahan Bazaar – A typical eastern bazaar, one of the oldest and longest roofed bazaar in the world. There are several traditional tea houses and restaurants. Wondering around in bazaar with its fragrant scents and spices is absolutely a real treat.

Zorkhaneh -(house of strength) 9if open)this sport is unique to Iran and dated back thousands of years, picked up different components of moral, ethical, philosophical and mystical of Persian civilisation
Overnight Isfahan

Day 12, Isfahan

Friday Mosque - A building typifying nine centuries of Iranian sacred architecture, with vaulted arches, stucco carvings, and a marble pool. With no doubt Friday mosque is an architectural treasure and one of the most magnificent of all building in Isfahan, the architecture of the mosque is extremely complex and constructed in different periods. The main part belongs to 11th century of the era of the Seljuks. Later extensively redecorated and repaired by The Mongols.

The Bridges of Isfahan - The Zayandeh Rud (river) starts in the Zagros Mountains, flows from west to east through the heart of Isfahan, and dries up in the Kavir desert. The bridges over the river include some of the nicest architecture in Isfahan.

Khajoo bridge- A magnificent structure with two tiers of arches which was built by Shah Abbas II in 1650. It is 123 metres long with 24 arches, and it also serves as a sluice gate.

Si-o-se-pol - built in 1632 by Shah Abbas, It consists of two rows of 33 arches. There is a larger base plank at the start of the bridge where the Zayandeh river flows under it, supporting a tea house, Where one can admire the beauty of Its impressive architecture

Vank Cathedral -

A Christian cathedral with lavish interior and domed in the same manner as the Persian mosque. The wall and ceiling is covered with magnificent Christian imagery, fine painting and tile works

The 'Shaking Minarets' – .These twin minarets belong to a 14th century Mongol mosque and have a unique feature, when one of the minarets shaken, the movement transmit to its twin minaret and it shakes as well. So far there is no convenience explanation for this unusual phenomenon

Sassanian Fire Temple - The ruins of a Zoroastrian, part-Mongol edifice. Located at top of the hill and the place of worship for Overnight Isfahan Zoroastrians

Overnight Isfahan

Day 13 Isfahan-Tehran: Drive to Tehran, (435km 6-7 hours)
Overnight Tehran

Day 14 Tehran: Transfer to the airport for the return flight.

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