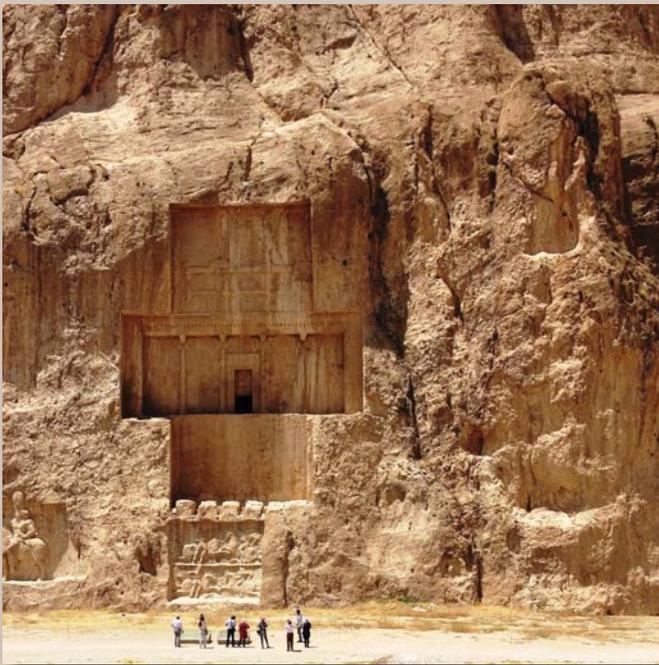


# INTERCULTURAL TRAVEL GROUP

*Curators of Worldwide Fundraising  
and Incentive Tours*



# Day 1

Arrival in Tehran: Check-in at the five-star **Espinas Hotel**, situated right in the heart of the city's center.



# Day 2



Visit the **National Museum of Iran**, which contains treasures and artifacts that trace the history of Persia from the Paleolithic to the Sassanid period.



Visit the **Carpet Museum of Iran**: the museum displays 19th and 20th century carpets, representing both urban and village weaving, which illustrate the status of carpets as an art form and a reflection of Persian history and culture.

Lunch at a local restaurant

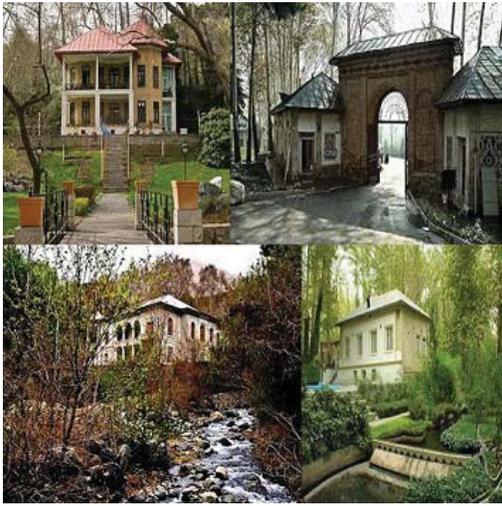


Visit the **Ceramic and Glass Museum**. Originally the private residence of Ahmad Qavam a prominent Persian minister during the Qajar dynasty (1795-1925), the palace later served as the embassy of Egypt. Today, the building houses a collection of extensive collection of earthenware, glassware, ceramics, china and crystal objects that date back from the 4th millennium B.C. to the present.

Dinner and overnight stay in Tehran

*Times and events are subject to change*

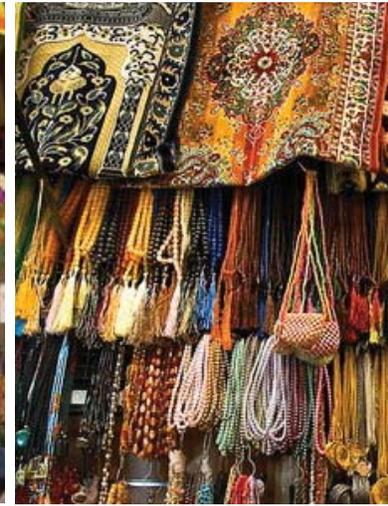
# Day 3



Short trip to the northern part of Tehran to visit **Saad Abad complex**, the royal residence and palace of the Pahlavi dynasty .



Visit to **Tajrish Square**, the Bazaar in the northern part of Tehran where locals buy fruits and vegetables, and other traditional Iranian merchandise.



Lunch at a local restaurant



Visit **The National Jewelry Treasury**, housed within the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Here you'll find the most dazzling collection of gemstones and jewelry in the world, including the Peacock Throne, which reflect the creativity of Iranian craftsmen and artists over the different eras of Persian history.

Dinner and overnight stay in Tehran

# Day 4



Visit to **Golestan Palace**, a masterpiece of the Qajar era. The walled Palace is one of the oldest groups

of buildings in Teheran. Built around a garden featuring pools and lush landscapes, the Palace contains thousands of remarkable furnishings and ornaments from the 19th century.



Visit to the **Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art**. The museum contains more than 3000 items that include 19th and 20th century's world-class European and American paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures. The museum also has one of the greatest collections of Iranian modern and contemporary art

Lunch at a local restaurant

Continued...



### Day 4 (continued)

Visit the **Mausoleum of Ayatollah Khomeini**. This expansive complex houses the tomb of Ruhollah Khomeini and his family – his wife Khadijeh Saqafi and his second son Ahmad Khomeini. Spread over almost 5,000 acres, the complex houses a cultural and tourist center, and a university for Islamic studies.

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Dinner and overnight stay in Tehran

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## Day 5



Qom and Karshan: We depart Tehran and drive to **Qom**. Known as the holiest city in Iran, Qom is the seat of the Islamic council that governs Iran today. The city is filled with Mullahs who come to Qom for their religious training. We will see the mausoleum of **Hazrat Masume**, the burial place of Imam Reaz's sister Fatmah, who died in the 9th century.

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Lunch at a local restaurant

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Our next stop will be **Kashan**. Known for the city's famed carpets, Kashan rose to prominence during the Seljuk period from the 11th to 13th century, where it became legendary for rugs, ceramics and tile work. These crafts were elevated to an even higher art form under Shah Abbas I, during the 16th and 17th centuries.

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Dinner and overnight in Isfahan

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# Day 6



**Isfahan** is one of the most truly beautiful cities in the world. With tree lined streets and exquisite architecture, it's difficult to imagine this quiet, scenic city has nearly 2 million inhabitants. Divided by the Zayandeh River and its three ancient bridges, Isfahan is a visual delight. Time will be allotted to exploring the **Bazar-e Bozorg**, Isfahan's main bazaar.

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Lunch at a local restaurant

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Visit **The Jameh Mosque**, a wonderful example of Islamic design, reflecting the influence of the 11th century Seljuk dynasty. Walk leisurely through the beautifully designed **Naghch-E-Jahan Square**, the second largest public square in the world. Visit the Sheikh Lotfollah mosque and the Ali Ghapu Palace.



Visit the **Chehel Sotoon Palace**, the beautiful ceremonial hall of Shah Abbas the Safavid.

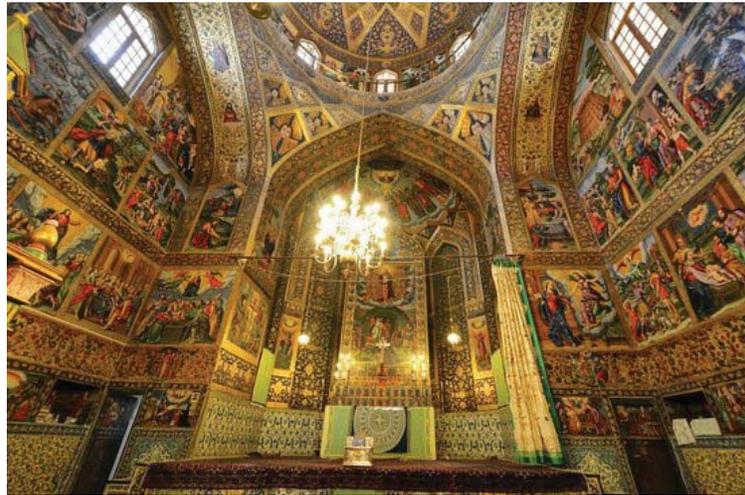
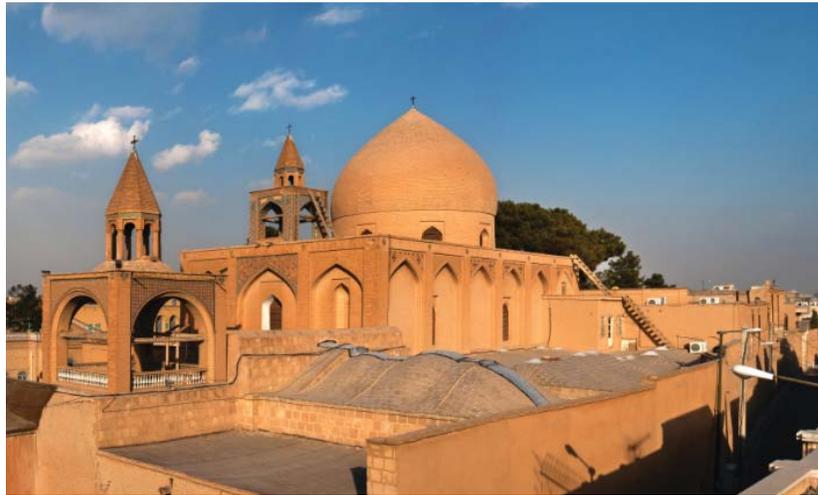
Back to the square for shopping in the Bazaar

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Dinner and overnight in Isfahan

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# Day 7



Visit **Vank Cathedral**, established in 1606, which was dedicated to the hundreds of thousands of Armenian deportees that were resettled by Shah Abbas I during the Ottoman War of 1603-1618. The church features a magnificently painted interior and dome.

Lunch at a local restaurant

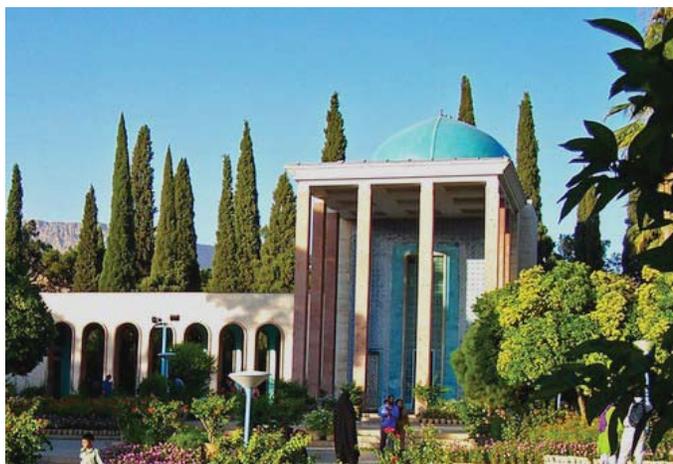


Explore the famous 17th century bridges of Isfahan, the **Si-o-Se Pol** and the **Khajoo**.



Dinner and overnight in Isfahan

# Day 8



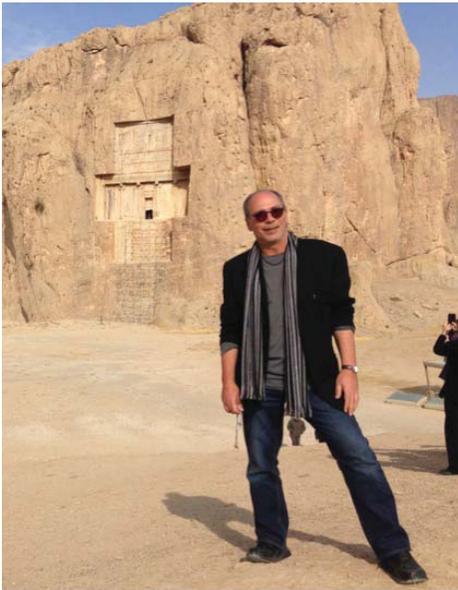
After a morning drive to **Shiraz**, this afternoon we will visit the tombs of Iran's two most famous poets: Hafez and Sadi. These tombs are pilgrimage sites for countless visiting Iranians.

Dinner and overnight in Shiraz

# Day 9



After breakfast, we will depart for **Persepolis**, perhaps the greatest embodiment of Persian culture. Established by Darius the Great (522 to 486 B.C.) Persepolis was the showplace under the Achaemenian dynasty (550-330 B.C.). The sheer expanse of Persepolis was awe inspiring to all its visitors, most of whom were subjects from various part of the Empire who would come here bearing gifts for the rulers. While much of Persepolis has been renovated, restored or destroyed, one cannot help being struck by the sheer scale and beauty of what remains.



From Persepolis, we will continue to nearby **Naqsh-e Rostam**, an ancient necropolis located in Fars Province. Here, four tombs belonging to Achaemenid kings are carved out of the rock face at a considerable height above the ground. The tombs are locally known as the Persian crosses, after the shape of the facades of the tombs.



In the afternoon, we drive to **Pasargad**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where we visit the tomb of Cyrus the Great.

Dinner and overnight in Shiraz

# Day 10



Morning departure from Shiraz, connecting through Istanbul or Munich, back to the US.

*Times and events are subject to change*