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Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Iran - Discover Persia" (ARIR), [but here are some similar trips](#).



Iran - Discover Persia

14 days, Tehrān to Tehrān

Trip code ARIR

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Tehran city tour (full-day)

- Yazd city tour including Zoroastrian sights
- Mehriz stop with Saryazd fortress visit
- Learn about Iranian Aqueducts
- Rayen and Mahan villages and sights visit
- Zein-o-din Caravanserai heritage stay
- Shiraz city tour including the tombs of Hafez and Sa'adi
- Persepolis excursion with guided tour
- Pasargadae visit
- Isfahan city tour including the famous square and mosques
- Abyaneh village stay with guided walk
- Kashan stop to visit Khan-e Borujerdi house and Agha Bozorg Mosque
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2015 - December 31st, 2016

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

Tehrān

Arrive at any time.

There are no activities planned until an evening welcome meeting.

Flights often arrive very late at night or early in the morning in Tehran. Keep in mind the evening welcome meeting when booking your travel.



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

Tehrān/Yazd

Explore Tehran with a local guide, visiting the Sa'd Abad Palace and National Jewel Museum before boarding an evening train to Yazd.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Tehran City Tour

Tehrān

3h

Visit some highlights of this delightful Persian city with your local CEO. Depending on timing, the sights may vary, but are likely to include the main museums and palaces. Such as the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Golestan Palace, the National Museum, and the Grand Bazaar.

Sa'd Abad Palace Visit

Tehrān

2h

Enjoy a visit to this beautiful palace complex built by the Pahlavi dynasty of Iran as a summer home. It was first inhabited by Qajar monarchs and the royal family in the 19th century. You can still get a taste of royal life here: parts of the palace compound have been converted to museums, which house dishes and automobiles belonging to the royals, among other things.

National Jewels Museum

Tehrān

1h

The National Jewels of Iran date back to Safavid era, in which it was decided that national jewels belong to the National Treasury of government. The valuable collection in this museum includes the pink diamond of Darya-ye-Noor (a mere 182 carats!) and the ornate Peacock Throne (Takhte Tavous), built during the reign of Fathali Shah; it consists of 12 different pieces joined together, with a total of 26,733 jewels and is stunning.

Local Train

Tehrān - Yazd

5h30m-6h

Climb aboard, take your seat, and get around like the locals do. Dinner can be ordered on the train.

Day 3

Yazd

Tour the old town of Yazd, marvelling at the unique towers that scatter the city. Visit the Jameh Mosque, Amir Chakhmaq Complex, Zoroastrian Fire Temple, and the Towers of Silence burial grounds.

The desert city of Yazd is known as the centre of the Zoroastrian religion. Learn more about the fascinating customs of one of the world's oldest monotheistic religions and take in the unique architecture of this city.

With some free time, opt to rent a bike, relax in a teahouse, or wander the bazaars.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Yazd City Tour

Yazd

4h

Embark on a tour of this unique city exploring the labyrinth streets and iconic sites. Check out its wonderful preserved mud brick old towns, Zoroastrian Fire Temple, the 'Towers of Silence,' and the Amir Chakhmaq Complex, encompassing Jameh Mosque, Bagh-e Dolat Abad, and Alexander's Prison, among other marvels.



Optional Activities - Day 3

Bike Rental

Rent a bike from a local shop and head out to explore.

Day 4

Yazd/Kermān

Travel to the Kerman region, home to the villages of Rayen and Mahan, both steeped in history.

Travel to one of Iran's oldest cities. Kerman was founded in the early third century and the city has historically played an important role on the Trans-Asian trade routes.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Zein-o-Din Caravanserai - Kermān

4h-4h30m

373km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Spend the day visiting highlights of the area. Visit the Shah Nematollah Vali Shrine and Shahzadeh Garden. Later, visit the Bathhouse Museum and the Rayen Citadel.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Shah Nematollah Vali Shrine Visit

Māhān

1h

The Nematollah Vali historical complex contains the mausoleum of Shah Mentollah Vali, one of Iran's revered mystics and poets. The shrine was built in 1436 and has since become a pilgrimage site.

Shazdeh Garden Visit

Māhān

In a country known for its beautiful gardens, the Prince's Garden is a particular delight. It is a walled garden encompassing 5.5 hectares, and the residential building at one end looks out over fountains and manicured flora.

Rayen Citadel Visit

Rāyen

1h30m

The Kerman region is known for its fantastic mudbrick cities. One of the finest, Bam, was completely destroyed in the 2003 earthquake. Rayen is similar in style and boasts the same architectural elements. Enjoy a fascinating look into what is believed to be an over 1,000-yr-old city; its structures are all extremely well-preserved and it was inhabited until about 150 yrs ago.

Ganjali Bathhouse Museum Visit

Kermān

1h

Located in a Safavid-era complex, complete with school, caravanserai, and a mosque, the Bathhouse Museum is worth a visit. Now converted into an anthropology museum, its interior is meticulously and beautifully decorated, with different rooms for changing and offering different temperatures, all with intricate domed ceilings.

Day 6

Kermān/Shiraz

Explore the city and visit the Karim Khan Citadel, Vakil Mosque, and the tombs of Hafez and Sa'adi.

There is free time to explore the city's beautiful Regents mosque, Nasiralmolk mosque, Khan madrasa, Bagh-e Eram gardens, and perhaps even listen to some poetry being recited at the Hafez tomb.

This vibrant student city is buzzing with life and is a great place to interact with some Iran's youth.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Kermān - Shiraz

7h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

City Tour

Shiraz

3h

Enjoy a tour to some of Shiraz's most stunning highlights, with visits to the famous "Pink Mosque," Eram Garden of paradise, the Tomb of Hafez, and see an impressive traditional teahouse, and the converted bathhouse of Hamman-e Vakil.

Day 7

Shiraz

Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Persepolis, the ceremonial palace of Darius, and admire its amazingly well-preserved carvings. Later, wander the streets and mingle with the students in laid-back Shiraz.

Travel to Persepolis to explore this fascinating sight. On the way back to Shiraz, visit the rock cut tombs at Naqsh-e-Rostam, the burial place of Darius the Great and his successors.

With free time, enjoy the vibe of Shiraz.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Shiraz - Persepolis

1h

Visit Persepolis and Nasqt-e Rostam before returning to Shiraz.

Persepolis Tour

Persepolis

4h

Visit the country's premier attraction, Persepolis. In Greek, Persepolis literally means the 'capital of Persia'. It was built in 518 BC by Darius the Great as the capital of the mighty Achaemenid Empire. Alexander the Great burnt the city to the ground in 330 BC, but many remnants of its former glory remain and Persopolis lives on as one of the greatest wonders of the ancient world.

Learn the history of this amazing ancient place and marvel at the stunningly preserved bas-relief carvings.

Naqsh-e-Rostam Visit

Fārs

1h30m

Visit the rock cut tombs at Naqsh-e-Rostam, the burial place of Darius the Great and his successors.

Free Time

Shiraz

Explore this vibrant university town.

Day 8

Shiraz/Isfahan

Stop at the Koran Gate and the UNESCO-listed Pasargadae complex en route to Isfahan, one of the finest Islamic cities in the world.

Embark on an included visit to Pasargadae and explore the capital and burial site of Cyrus the Great.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Shiraz - Isfahan

485km

Stop en route to explore Pasargadae.

Pasargadae Visit

Pasargadae

1h

Visit Pasargadae, the capital and burial site of Cyrus the Great. it's a UNESCO World Heritage Site and also an important archaeological site.

Free Time

Isfahan

Start exploring this gorgeous city.

Day 9

Isfahan

Tour the beautiful city of Isfahan, enjoying the famous square, mosques, and bartering at the bazaar. Hang out on the many bridges that make Isfahan unique, or shop for an authentic Persian rug.

Wander the tree-lined boulevards of Isfahan, the jewel of ancient Persia. On a city tour, visit Imam Square and mosque, Sheikh Lotfallah Mosque, and the Ali Qapu Palace. Wander the bazaar and learn the history of Isfahan's bridges.

Stop in a miniatures shop and learn about this intricate art form before sampling some delicious gaz, a candy famous in Isfahan.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Isfahan City Tour

Isfahan

4h

Enjoy a tour of this fascinating city, with its beautiful tree-lined boulevards and an atmospheric bazaar. Start in the world's second largest public square – Imam Square. Learn about life under Persia's greatest ruler, Shah Abbas, and visit the Imam Mosque, Sheikh Lotfallah Mosque, and the Ali Qapu Palace. Imam Square, actually built as a royal polo ground, was once home to entertainers, storytellers, preachers, and Silk Road caravans. Explore the bazaar with its wonderful scents and spices, and watch the locals as they engage in masterful bargaining. You might pick up a tip or two!

Free Time

Isfahan

Spend time shopping or exploring.

Day 10

Isfahan

Spend a full day exploring this gorgeous city.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Free Time

Isfahan

The perfect place to shop or relax, explore to your heart's content.

Day 11

Isfahan/Abyāneh

Take a scenic drive through Natanz to the mountain village of Abyaneh, known for having retained its ancient charm. Enjoy a village walk to learn more.

This beautiful mountain village has preserved its traditions, language and dress. Wander the quiet lanes, sample dried fruit, and relax in the hotel overlooking the green fields below.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Isfahan - Abyāneh

175km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Abyaneh Guided Walk

Abyāneh

2h30m

3km

Wander the narrow lanes of this mountain village. Observe locals in traditional dress and learn more about the simple way of life in this scenic spot.

En route to Tehran, visit Kashan and Qom. Back in Tehran, visit Imam Khomeini's shrine.

In Kashan, opt to visit Fin Garden, Khan-e Borujerdi house, and Agha Bozorg Mosque.

In Qom, visit the Qom Shrines en route to Tehran.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Abyāneh - Tehrān

320km

Stop at highlights en route to Tehran.

Kashan Visit

Kāshān

3h

Visit Kashan, a beautiful city known for its gardens. Fin Garden is one of the finest examples of these ancient Persian gardens. Check out the historic Persian style house here, Borujerdi, to learn more about the lifestyle of wealthy Persians in the mid-1800s. Opt to visit an 18th-century mosque, Agha Bozorg.

Qom Shrines Visit

Qom

1h

Qom is the most strictly religious city in Iran and a huge pilgrimage site. Non-Muslims will not be able to enter religious buildings.

Tomb of Imam Khomeini Visit

Tehrān

1h30m

Visit the tomb of Ayatollah Khomeini, under construction since 1989. The complex engulfs 20sq km (12.4 sq mi) and includes a cultural centre, Islamic university and seminary, and a mall.

Day 13

Tehrān

Enjoy a final day of sightseeing in the busy capital of Tehran. Visit Golestan Palace, National Museum, and the Carpet Museum.

Ramble through the enormous bazaar and visit the Imam Khomeini Mosque. View the many political murals that surround the former US Embassy then relax like the locals do by drinking chai and chewing on dates in a traditional chaikhuneh (teahouse).

Try some more of the fine Iranian cuisine like dizi (stew you crumble bits of bread into and mash up with a mortar and pestle right at the table!) while enjoying traditional music at a local restaurant.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Golestan Palace Visit

Tehrān

1h

Visit the gorgeous Qajar complex. One of the oldest monuments in Tehran, the palace is part of a group of royal buildings once contained within the city's citadel. Originally built in the 1500s, there have been many changes, both additions and destruction, to the complex throughout the years.

Carpet Museum Visit

Tehrān

1h

Persian carpets are famous the world over for good reason. Learn more about them and enjoy displays of different types of these beautiful rugs from all over Iran at the Carpet Museum. Built in 1976, this museum holds carpets from as far back as the 18th century.

Tehran City Tour

Tehrān

3h

Visit some highlights of this delightful Persian city with your local CEO. Depending on timing, the sights may vary, but are likely to include the main museums and palaces. Such as the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Golestan Palace, the National Museum, and the Grand Bazaar.

Depart at any time.



Meals included

Breakfast

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Tehran city tour (full-day)
- Yazd city tour including Zoroastrian sights
- Mehriz stop with Saryazd fortress visit
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- Kashan stop to visit Khan-e Borujerdi house and Agha Bozorg Mosque
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Barter in the bazaars, walk through stunning palace gardens, savour flavourful and exotic Persian cuisine, visit ancient Persepolis and Pasargadae, wander through the mazes of ruined fortresses, relax in classic tea houses and meet the friendliest locals in the world.

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Barter in the bazaars, walk through stunning palace gardens, savour flavourful and exotic Persian cuisine, visit ancient Persepolis and Pasargadae, wander through the mazes of ruined fortresses, relax in classic tea houses and meet the friendliest locals in the world.

Is there an itinerary Disclaimer?

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

1. Proof of insurance may be required at the airport to avoid purchasing local insurance.
2. For American citizens, a guided airport transfer is mandatory. Please inquire for details and pricing at the time of booking.

CULTURE AND DRESS

1. Iran is one of the safest and friendliest places you can travel but it is VERY conservative. It is very important that before you sign up for this tour you are committed to following a strict dress code (particularly for women) in what may be quite warm weather.

2. DRESS CODE: Iran is a traditional Islamic nation and a strict dress code (hijab) is enforced throughout the country. Men must wear long trousers at all times but can wear short sleeved shirts in less strict destinations. Plan to be as conservative as possible when visiting mosques or holy sites. Open toed sandals are now acceptable for men (again, in less conservative areas), though ankles must be covered.

Women must wear a headscarf at all times, apart from in their hotel bedrooms. Hijab for women is a head covering (some hair can show in front), a long shirt with a collar coming to the base of the throat and the bottom reaching to just above the knees, long sleeves (some places three-quarter sleeves are acceptable) and long pants. A typical outfit for stylish Iranian women would be something called a 'manteau' that looks a bit like a trench coat over a pair of jeans and Converse sneakers. There is no rule for the colour of your outfit as long as it is modest and includes a head scarf. Iranian women are extremely chic and have found ways to follow hijab and still look fantastic. Bring only one or two headscarves as you'll want to buy loads while you're there!

Travellers can easily wear the loose fitting clothes sold from Indian or hippie-style shops where the tops are loose long sleeved (tunics) and cover your bottom and a loose scarf for your head. You can wear any type of pants underneath as long as they cover your ankles. Women are allowed to wear open toed shoes and sandals as long as their ankles are covered. Typically, wearing a dress over a pair of pants works as well, if it follows all the other rules, too. If you are not sure what to bring or wear please email our office and we will be happy to help you out.

ALCOHOL/PROHIBITED ITEMS

Alcohol is strictly forbidden in Iran and will be confiscated at customs by anyone attempting to bring it into the country. Drug laws are also extremely strict and travellers face lengthy jail terms if caught breaking the law. Additionally, pornographic or obscene material (even glossy magazines showing people in immodest poses), and controversial CDs or literature will all be confiscated by customs officials if found. Upon leaving the customs hall, all passengers are required to put their bags through X-ray machines for scanning.

MONEY

Due to the restrictions on changing money in Iran, only notes/bills printed after 1996 and in good condition will be accepted for exchange. Usually 50 and 100 USD/EUR notes get better exchange rate. We recommend to bring smaller denominations as well as many vendors accept them if you don't have local currency.

Iran is a strictly CASH country. Due to US banking restrictions no foreign credit cards can be used for withdrawing money at Iranian banks and ATMs. The only time you will be able to use your credit card in Iran is if you buy a carpet in a shop that has a bank account in Dubai or UAE. (Find more information in the "Money" section of these Tour details.)

What we have found is that the farther from Tehran you travel, the less conservative the dressing, so while in Tehran area please take a bit of care about what you wear. At holy sites female travellers will be given a thin full length abayah (head

to toe covering) to use while visiting the mosques. In somewhere like Shiraz there are plenty of fashionable students pushing the limits of hijab. Go shopping!

RAMADAN

According to the lunar cycle, Ramadan will fall between April 23 and May 24, 2020. Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-Muslims throughout the day. It is very important to display increased cultural sensitivity during Ramadan. Please wear loose fitting clothes, that cover knees and shoulders, and try to avoid eating, drinking or smoking in public out of respect for those who can't at that time.

What is the group leader like?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEO). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

How large will the group be?

Max 15, avg 10

What meals are included in this trip?

13 breakfasts

What are the meals like on this trip?

While traveling with us you will experience the vast array of wonderful food available in the world. Generally, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat, not all meals are included in the trip price. This also gives you more budgeting flexibility. As a rule our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favorite restaurants during your trip. Please check the "Meal inclusions" section below for details of meals included. Remember there is absolutely no alcohol in Iran; non-alcoholic beer is available in a variety of flavors including lemon, apple (quite good) and strawberry (less good) as well as coke, fanta, etc.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Air-conditioned bus, train.

What transportation will we take on this trip?

Air-conditioned bus.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (11 nts), guesthouse (2 nts).

Will I get my own room?

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my tour?

Day 4 (Caravanserai).

What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

What are the joining instructions?

Please note that in Iran a guided airport transfer is mandatory for American citizens. Please inquire for details and pricing at the time of booking.

Proof of insurance may be required at the airport to avoid purchasing local insurance.

You'll arrive at one of Tehran's two main airports. The newer airport, Iman Khomeini Airport, is located 40kms south of central Tehran. The best way for transportation is Taxi. It takes around 45 minutes to more than one hour (during rush hour). The cost may vary from 250,000 to 350,000 Rials depending on time of your arrival.

There are also buses available in the airport to Imam Khomeini Shrine Metro station and from there you can continue on subway to Vali Asr Square station, walk up to main Vali Asr street & walk to north of the street or take a bus going to Vali Asr Square bus stop.

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day during which no activities have been planned.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

If your call is specifically concerning Airport Transfer complications please call our local G Adventures Transfer provider directly at:

Negin Beikzadeh: +98 (0) 91 2206 4149

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (Tehran)

Negin Beikzadeh

During office hours (9am-5pm local time)

From outside Iran: +98 21 8873 2191 Ext. 129

From within Iran: 021 8873 2191 Ext. 129

After office hours emergency phone

From outside Iran: +98 91 2206 4149

From within Iran: 091 2206 4149

G Adventures Office Central Asia:

Mr Laziz Otayarov (Operations Manager - Central Asia)

Mobile 1: +99890 963 4779 (24h)

Mobile 2: +99897 921 7087 (24h)

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What should I take on my trip?

What you need to bring will vary according to the trip style you have chosen, the countries you are visiting and when you are travelling. Generally speaking though, you should pack as lightly as possible. On the vast majority of our trips you are expected to carry your own luggage (please see below for exceptions), and though you will not be required to walk long distances with your luggage (max 30 minutes) we recommend keeping the weight under 10kg/22lb.

Suitcases are not recommended for G Adventures travellers! Most travellers carry their luggage in a backpack, although an overnight bag with a shoulder strap would suffice if you travel lightly. Smaller bags with wheels are acceptable, although we recommend your bag has carry straps as well, as you may be required to negotiate bus and railway station steps. You will also need a day pack/bag to carry water and a camera etc for day walks and day trips.

What should be on my packing list?

Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers
- Warm waterproof jacket

Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

What the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

Iran:

To apply for an Iran visa, all nationalities must present an official Iran Authorization Number/Visa Grant Number.

IMPORTANT

- **US/Canadian/UK Passport holders: please submit your application 120 days prior to departure date.**
- **Other nationalities: please submit your application at 90 days prior to your entry into Iran.**

The details will be forwarded to our local agent in Iran and you will be emailed your Authorization Number/Visa Grant Number approximately 45 days after you submit your application.

If you have booked the tour within 90 days of the start date, you must complete this Authorization Number/Visa Approval Number application at the time of booking.

As Iran visas are dated specifically for entry and exit, please ensure you enter the correct dates. We can only provide an Authorization Number/Visa Grant Number for the length of the tour, plus any pre or post night accommodation booked through G Adventures.

American, Canadian, and British travellers will require a guide at all times throughout their stay in Iran. If American, Canadian, and British travellers reserve additional accommodation before or after the tour, a guide will be required for any travels during the day at an additional cost. If travellers from these 3 countries reserve only 1 pre-night and/or 1 post-night, the services of the guide will be arranged and paid for on the ground with our local representative. Any additional days must be requested from our local office team (allowing 2-3 business days for a response), our local team will then advise of the additional charge to be paid in advance of departure. Other nationalities can request additional accommodation as much as they plan with no obligatory guide booking requirement.

Input your name exactly as it appears on the passport you're planning to travel with. Changing passport information will incur extra charges and reapplying for visa approval.

If you have an umlaut or other character not recognized in the english alphabet in your name (ie. ü), please enter your name exactly as it appears in the code at the bottom of the main passport page (ie. ue).

If your country has an official Iran Consulate/Embassy, you must choose this as your 'Visa pickup Embassy'. If you do not see a local Consulate/Embassy on this list, please locate your nearest neighbouring Embassy or Consulate. **Please be sure that you choose the Embassy/Consulate where you can pick up your visa. Changing visa pickup place will require extra costs as well as reapplying for approval.**

Some nationalities may be able to obtain a visa upon arrival at the Tehran Airport, but you must make sure to check if this applies for your nationality. A visa obtained on arrival is only valid for 15 days, so for stays of longer than 15 days you must apply for your visa in advance. A copy of your flight tickets, as well as your Authorization number, will be required for this option.

Canadian, American, and British citizens are NOT eligible to obtain their visa on arrival.

At time of writing, the below documents will be needed to obtain your visa (however, we do advise you confirm this with your nearest Embassy):

1. A standard visa application form from the Embassy or Consulate where you will collect your visa
2. 2 colour, passport sized photos, taken within 14 days (it is recommended for female travellers to cover their hair under a scarf)
3. Payment for the visa (this will be dependent on your nationality and will sometimes need to be made at a local bank - check with the Embassy to confirm details)
4. Passport with empty pages and at least 6 months validity
5. Iran Authorization Number/Visa Grant Number
6. Trip vouchers as well as proof of onward travel (flight tickets entering and leaving the country)
7. No evidence of any Israeli stamps is allowed (your visa WILL be refused if you have Israeli stamps in your passport)
8. We also recommend bringing a copy of the itinerary, printable from our website

Please carefully check all the information below prior to submitting

Once you have received your Authorization Number / Visa Grant Number you can apply for your visa by going to the Iran Embassy you listed in the online application. Processing times vary but generally are between 3 and 6 business days. Please be aware that Iranian Embassies and Consulates observe many statutory holidays and are often closed, delaying processing time.

When you are completing your visa application at the Embassy or Consulate, please make sure that you write the Authorization Number/Visa Grant Number directly onto the application. If there is no spot to do so, please write it clearly on the top of your application.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Because this is a time sensitive process, we highly recommend NOT using a visa service to get your Iran visa.

As the Authorization Number / Visa Grant Number is issued by the Iran Ministry of Foreign Affairs - unexpected delays can occur.

Information accurate as of March, 2019

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR CANADIAN, US, AND BRITISH NATIONALS:

Scan of all passport pages is required for your visa application.

Information accurate as of March, 2019

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND NATIONALS

We recommend applying for the option to pickup your visa upon arrival in Tehran. Travelers coming from Australia and New Zealand have had difficulty reaching their local Iranian consulate within the limited time the authorization number is issued before departure.

Information accurate as of March, 2019

Link to Iranian Visa Form: <https://www.gadventures.com/visa-forms/iran/>

How much spending money do I need for my trip?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

The official printed currency of Iran is "Rial". There is another money unit called "Toman" (discussed currency) which is most used by locals. 1 Toman is equal to 10 Rials (when discussing Toman, the "0" is frequently dropped); it is best to clarify with the person or service provider to tell you the price in Rials so you pay the correct amount.

TRAVELLER CHEQUES:

Iran is currently under sanction by the USA; this means that traveller cheques of any brand or denomination cannot be exchanged in Iran.

CREDIT CARDS & ATM CARDS:

Credit and Debit/Convenience cards cannot be used in Iran; the only exception for this is for major purchases (generally USD300+) where the shop has connections abroad and can phone through and have the transaction processed in the UAE in Dirhams; this basically applies to carpet shops, but this process should not be depended upon.

CASH:

US dollars and EURO notes are generally the only hard currencies accepted at Iranian banks and money-changers. Occasionally exchange booths will accept CAD, AUD or GBP, but this is not guaranteed and should not be relied upon. Banks and money-changers can be found in most of the places that we'll visit throughout the country. The largest Iranian Rial note is the 100,000 IRR note. You can also get a 500,000 IRR cheque, that can be exchanged into small denominations in shops and hotels.

We recommend to bring some of your cash (about 70 USD) in small denominations: 1, 5 and 10 USD notes. If you are not able to get local currency it's always possible to pay in USD or EUR.

Note: you cannot change Iranian Rials into hard currency outside of Iran. Upon arrival at the Tehran airport there are a few places where you can change money and we recommend you change some money at the airport before departing. Remember if you run out of money while in Iran it is essentially impossible to get more sent to you.

We recommend you take at least \$500 US with you for your 14 day trip in Iran. This will cover basic needs: optional activities, meals, special clothing requirements, some souvenirs and other small items. If you're a big shopper and/or are interested in purchasing bigger ticket items such as silverware and carpets, we recommend you bring more. Please take into consideration the safety issues of carrying this much cash with you; although Iran is considered a safe country for travellers, a money belt is essential for your travel to this region, and it is always recommended that you use the safety deposit boxes in hotels where available.

How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Do I need to pay a departure tax?

All departure taxes should be included in your international flight ticket.

Should I be tipping on my trip?

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group.

Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$2-3USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$20-25 USD per person, per week can be used.

What activities are optional on this trip?

Yazd

- Bike Rental

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit, hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. In Asia pharmacies tend to stock the same western drugs as you get at home but they are usually produced locally so please bring the full drug name with you when trying to purchase a prescription drug. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical Demand ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

What are the trip specific safety considerations?

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

As stated in the Important Notes section, Iran is a traditional Islamic nation and a strict dress code is enforced throughout the country. The code of dress must be adhered to at all times. Please read the Important Notes for information on what to bring.

Your CEO will advise you of what attire is appropriate for which destinations or activities during the welcome meeting. Upon arrival in Iran women not wearing a headscarf, long sleeves, closed shoes and a loose-fitting long skirt or pants may be refused entry into the country (to avoid this problem bring with you a thin full length raincoat if you choose to buy a manteau after you arrive). Men must be wearing long trousers upon arrival and shirts that cover their shoulders, or they may be refused entry.

Female travellers: Please don't bring tight fitting clothing with you to Iran as it's forbidden to show any hint of the shape of your body. You will see locals pushing the limits of this restriction but best to be as conservative as possible. You may wish to buy local 'manteaus' in country but to be prepared we recommend jeans or loose cotton trousers, potentially a knee-length dress to wear over those pants, Indian-style tunics or a combination of layers that keep you covered the appropriate amount (described in Important Notes). Additionally, a lot of make up is also against the rules, so plan to be as modest as possible. Many locals wear dark colours but there is no law requiring it.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customersolutions@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.