



## 18 DAYS PAK-IRAN ROAD TRIP ITINERARY (FALL/WINTER: OCTOBER - MARCH)

### DAY 1: KHI/ISL – QUETTA

Meeting the group and welcoming; Driving all day to Quetta. Checking in hotel, having dinner and rest.



### DAY 2: ZAHEDAN

Today we will wake up early in the morning as we will have to reach [TAFTAN BORDER](#) till noon (12:00). To do that we must leave as early as 4:00 a.m. After reaching the border we will start our documentation which will take around an hour. After the documentation we will cross the border and stamp our visa papers by the Iranian Immigrations. (We make sure our customers don't get Iranian immigration stamps on their passports). The Iranian side will take around one hour and then we will be free to leave the border. After getting free from documentation, we will start our journey towards Zahedan. We will reach our hotels in the evening and rest there for a while before having our dinner.



### DAY 3: BIRJAND

Today, you will have a city tour of Zahedan after the breakfast. Do not forget to try the delicious Iranian Ice cream in the Bazaar.

First, we will go to the [MAKKI MOSQUE](#) (the biggest Sunni mosque in Iran). After exploring the mosque, we will visit [ZAHEDAN MUSEUM](#). It is one of the largest museums in the area of historical, cultural and artistic art in the south-east of Iran, located in the center of Sistan and Baluchistan province.

In this museum, the ancient artifacts of the province, the local coverage of the province, local cuisine of the province and species of animals in the province are exhibited. After having Lunch around noon, we will leave for Birjand. We will drive around 500 km to reach Birjand in the evening. After checking in the hotel and having

some rest, we will have dinner. After dinner, we will go to visit the [BIRJAND CASTLE](#). The castle is really beautiful at night and the weather is very pleasant for the tour.



#### DAY 4: BIRJAND – MASHHAD

Today we will leave our hotel after having breakfast and go to visit [AKBARIEH GARDEN](#), a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2011. It annually receives thousands of domestic and foreign tourists. It is concomitantly used as a museum and tourist space. Akbarieh House and Garden is one of the historical buildings in Birjand and another great example of Persian gardens. This monument includes a mirror hall, several museums, art galleries, and gift shops. After the visit, we will have lunch in Birjand and then leave for Mashhad. Today's journey will be around 500 km and we will reach Mashhad in the evening. After checking in the hotel and having some rest, we will have dinner.



#### DAY 5: EXPLORING MASHHAD

Today we will leave our hotel after having breakfast and go to visit the famous [IMAM REZA SHRINE](#). Mashhad is the second-most-populous city in Iran, located in the relatively remote north-east of the country about 900 km from Tehran. After visiting the shrine, we will visit [BAZAAR REZA](#) which is one of the oldest shopping malls in Mashhad on the east side of Razavi Holy Shrine and is one of the most important shopping malls for pilgrims and tourists. It is designed to look semi traditional, but is a 20th-century creation.

Since we are driving continually for 5 days now, it's time for some refreshment. To start refreshing our minds, we visit the [MINIATURE PARK](#) which is a theme park in west Mashhad. Here are some Marquette of famous buildings in Iran and Mashhad. For example Kandovan village, Khajoo Bridge, Karoon 3 dam, Arg bam and others. You can visit almost all of famous attractions of Iran here and know about it.

Mashhad has many natural and city tourist attractions. Stone Mountain or [KOOH SANGI](#) is one of them. This is one of the famous and oldest recantation parks in Mashhad city. As there are two stone mountains in this park, it is called as "KooH- Sangi". This park is one of the well- known parks among travelers.

The Stone Mountain is located in the southwest of the Mashhad city, at the end of the "Kuh- Sangi" street which is named after the name of the park. This area was located out of the city, but due to the expansion of the city and the growth of the population, it is a part of the city nowadays. This park is a combination of stone, lightning, water, and greenery.

After a day full of fun, we will leave in the evening towards Neyshapur. It is a one hour drive from Mashhad and is famous for Ferouza Market and Omar Khayyam Tomb. We will stay tonight in a traditional Persian hotel which will make you feel the vibes of Persian culture. Dinner will be served there.



### DAY 6: NEYSHAPUR TO TEHRAN

Today after having breakfast, we will leave to visit the tomb of famous [OMAR BIN KHAYYAM](#). This Complex geometric structure is a fitting tribute to the great Persian poet, mathematician and astrologer. It is beautiful and elegant with a garden around it. There is also a bust of the poet within the compound which is famous for its facial expression. Within the complex there are souvenir shops which sell the famous [NEYSHABOURI TURQUOISE \(FIROZE\)](#). After the shopping, we will have lunch on our way to Tehran. In our way we will visit the tomb of [BAYAZID BUSTAMI](#) also. Our journey today will be around 800 km so we will try to reach our destination as quickly as possible. After reaching Tehran around 9 p.m. we will check-in and have dinner.



### DAY 7: EXPLORING TEHRAN

We are in the Persian capital today and all we have to do today is enjoy and explore. Starting our day with the breakfast, we will hop in our vehicles to visit the [GOLESTAN PALACE](#). It is a historic royal complex located in the heart of Tehran. This complex was inscribed as a UNESCO world heritage site on 2013. It consists of royal palaces, gardens, museums and art galleries. Today, Golestan palace is one of the most visited historic places on Tehran tours, attracting visitors from all over the world. After visiting the Palace, we will drive towards [AZADI SQUARE](#). It consist the famous Azadi Tower which is the symbol of Tehran. After taking some pictures with the tower, we will move towards [MILAD TOWER](#). It is another symbol of Tehran which is worth the visit. You can see almost entire Tehran from its top. After seeing Tehran from a bird-eye view, we will visit [TABIAYT BRIDGE](#). Tabiat or 'nature bridge' is a very large bridge or pedestrian overpass that connects two public parks. What is impressive is that the bridge itself was a wonderful place to walk around and spend time. The views from the bridge are amazing and there are many restaurants. Finally, our last visiting place will be [THE NATIONAL JEWELRY TREASURY](#). Iran's National Jewelry Museum is a unique and precious treasure of the most exquisite jewels in the world, which no one has been able to estimate its true value until now. The National Jewelry Museum is considered one of the most attractive tourist places in Tehran, which preserves an exquisite



treasure of royal jewels under the title of National Treasury. The unique and valuable gems that exist today in the National Museum of Iranian Jewelry are a collection of the history and art of the past ages of this land.

We call it a day and it's time for some local cuisine to try. After having a Persian dinner, we move towards our hotel to rest.



### **DAY 8: TEHRAN – ISFAHAN VIA QOM**

After visiting historical sites and hustle and bustle of cities, it's time now to spend some time in the historical district of Tehran; **TAJRISH**. Tajrish district is famous for two places; **TAJRISH BAZAR** and **SAAD'ABAD PALACE**.

People like to travel all over the world, from best-known places to far-flung corners of the globe. But one reason that can motivate you to travel is immersing yourself in the traditions of an original place. Should you travel to Tehran, not only can you visit the most modern attractions, but also you have a chance to dive into one of the most ancient bazaars in the world, through which everything but the kitchen sink can be found. Surely walking through Tajrish Bazaar would be one of the highlights of your travel. An interesting fact is that "Tajrish" means arrow or pointed. It probably stems from the neighboring mountainous topography. The air inside the bazaar is cooler than that of central Tehran. The combination of daylight sneaking through skylights in the domed hallway of the bazaar, plus the cool breeze, makes you feel awesome.

This covered bazaar has very ancient architecture and structure. Some of its places have been built more than 200 years ago, back in the Qajar dynasty. Thus, it has been recorded as a National Monument of Iran. When you arrive at the bazaar, you'll be greeted by a lengthy hallway, lined with brown brick, which has been popular with many people who reminisce about Iran's olden days. However, no matter how busy the surrounding city may be, once you step foot into the bazaar, with its distinct turquoise signs and vibrant aromas, you'll instantly feel at home.

All in all, it is a must-see tourist attraction when you visit Tehran in the sense that it attracts a massive influx of tourists. The reason would be that it is smaller and more compact than the big one, meaning that you could experience lots of things in a short span of time. Walking through the covered, historic antique shop would be an incredible and memorable experience in your life.

Near to the Tajrish Bazar is The **SA'DABAD COMPLEX** which is a 110 hectare complex built by the Qajar and Pahlavi monarchs. Today, the official residence of the President of Iran is located adjacent to the complex.

The complex includes more than 180 hectares of natural forest, streets, qanats, galleries, mansions/palaces and museums. The complex was initially built and inhabited by Qajar dynasty of monarchs in the 19th century. After extensive expansions, Reza Shah of the Pahlavi dynasty resided there in the 1920s. His son, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, moved there in the 1970s. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter stayed in the palace during a visit to Iran to guarantee U.S. support for the regime. After the 1979 Revolution, the complex became a public museum.

After visiting Tajrish, we start moving towards the famous **Jamkaran Mosque** in Qom. We'll have our lunch there while exploring the sacred and historical Mosque. After the exploration and lunch, we restart our journey towards Isfahan and hopefully we'll reach there before Sunset. After Check-in, we head straight towards our

dinner in the historical city of Esfahan. Since we had a busy day today, we won't explore the city in the night so that we can be ready for tomorrow's exploration with full energy.



### **DAY 9: EXPLORING ISFAHAN (NISF JAHAN)**

Esfahan is one of the most beautiful and historical cities of Iran. It is even mentioned in the Islamic scriptures (Hadith). We'll start our day with the buffet breakfast. First place we explore will be [THE HOLY SAVIOR CATHEDRAL](#) or the Church of Saintly Sisters is widely known as Vank Cathedral. It is an Armenian church, located in the New Julfa district in the center of Isfahan. The name "Vank" derives from the Armenian word "monastery". Due to its outstanding interior, Vank Cathedral is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Isfahan. We will also go to the [ISFAHAN MUSIC MUSEUM](#), where you can see more than 300 instruments from around Iran: a variety of animal-skin drums, reed flutes (ney), nomadic camel bells and a majestic harp, all in beautifully lit glass cabinets on crisp white walls. Visitors are welcome to pick up and try the less precious pieces. Your visit culminates in a small, intimate performance, where traditional love songs and Persian poetry are played by modern masters. Then we will head straight to [NAQSH-E-JAHAN SQUARE](#), formerly known as Shah Square or the Royal Square (and after the Iranian Revolution of 1979 with the official name of Imam Square), is the central square of *Isfahan*, which is located in the heart of the historical complex of Naqsh-e Jahan. Historical monuments on the four sides of Naqsh Jahan Square include [AALI QAPU PALACE](#), [SHAH MOSQUE](#) (Imam Mosque), [SHEIKH LOTFOLLAH MOSQUE](#) and [QEYSARIEH GATE](#), which is the main entrance of Isfahan Bazaar. In addition, there are two hundred two-story shops around the square, which are generally a market for [Iranian Art and handicrafts](#). Before the city of Isfahan was chosen as the capital of [Safavid Empire](#), there had been a Naqsh-e Jahan garden that was also the location of government buildings and the palace of the Timurid and Agh Qyunlu rulers.

During the Safavid Era, architecture style and ornamentation of built structures were among the most important arts. The Safavid constructions in Iran are probably the most attractive monuments throughout Iranian architecture. Artists and architects of Safavid Period have left masterpieces of art, most of which were executed on the orders of Shah Shah Abbas I, who was an art lover king. A collection of remarkable buildings, including [CHEHEL SOTOUN PALACE](#), [HASHT BEHESHT](#), [MIRROR HALL](#), [NAMAKDAN PAVILION](#), [ASHRAF HALL](#), etc. were all constructed in this magnificent period.

After spending the day at the Naqsh-e-Jahan Square and other historical buildings, it's time to have some fun in the evening. When you are in Isfahan and want to hangout, there's no better place than [POL-E KHAJOO](#) which is gorgeous at nights with its yellow lights on! It's very crowded during the New Year's and people keep randomly singing and dancing. Just go there at night and listen to singers, singing under it. The combination of music & people's sounds make it a perfect romantic stop. You will be definitely invited to join the families picnicking there.

After a whole day of exploring Esfahan, we'll ask you whether it is rightly called Nisf Jahan (Half of the world)? We hope your answer will be an affirmative. It's time now for a traditional Persian dinner before going back to our hotel and have a good sleep since we've explored Half of the World in a day.



## DAY 10: ISFAHAN – SHIRAZ VIA PERSEPOLIS

We have a distance of 450 km to cover today. After the breakfast, we start our drive but before entering Shiraz, we'll visit [PASARGADAE](#). If you're just a little curious about the history of the world, you have definitely heard about the biggest kingdom of the ancient world, the Achaemenids. And if you have heard about them, then you must know something about Cyrus the Great, the founder of this dynasty.

Pasargadae is more than 2500 years old. It includes Cyrus the Great's palaces, a monument that is believed to be Cambyses's tomb, remains of the ancient city's fortifications and most importantly the tomb of Cyrus the Great. It was also the first Persian Garden ever known.

If you're visiting this place, remember to read a little about its history so that you enjoy it much more.

After visiting Pasargadae, we move on to visit [NAQSH-E-ROSTAM](#). It includes the tombs of four of Achaemenian kings: Darius the Great, Xerxes I, Artaxerxes I and Darius II. Under these fabulous tombs cut into the cliffs, are rock reliefs that belong to the Sassanid period. You can also see a tower, called Kabeye Zartosht, with inscriptions on it in Middle Persian and Greek languages, belonging to Parthians, Selucids and Sassanid dynasties.

Last but not least, it's time to visit the most important site of this whole Iran tour; [PERSEPOLIS](#). If there's one place we simply can't miss in this whole trip --- it is this one. Undoubtedly, Persepolis is one of the most valuable attractions in Iran and the world. Almost no tourist leaves Iran without seeing this UNESCO attraction. This monument is an unbelievable place with unique architecture and 2500 years history, which was the first United Nations of the world and was built by Achaemenid Darius, a Persian king.

After spending second half of our day in one of the most historical places in the world, it's time to move on towards Shiraz. After Check-in hotel, we will have dinner in the historic [VAKIL BAZAAR](#) which is the main section of the Shiraz Bazaar; built in 11th Century by Karim Khan as part of a plan to make Shiraz into a prominent trading center. You can find actually everything there including many nice souvenirs, handmade art. After the delicious Persian dinner, we better return to our hotels for a good night sleep.



## DAY 11: EXPLORING SHIRAZ

Our morning will be as usually started with the breakfast. Today, we have all day to explore Shiraz. First place we'll visit is the famous [NASIR AL-MULK MOSQUE](#) which is also known as Pink Mosque. It has stained glass windows and the light makes it seem like a perfect blend of both mosque and cathedral. It is a beautiful and peaceful place.



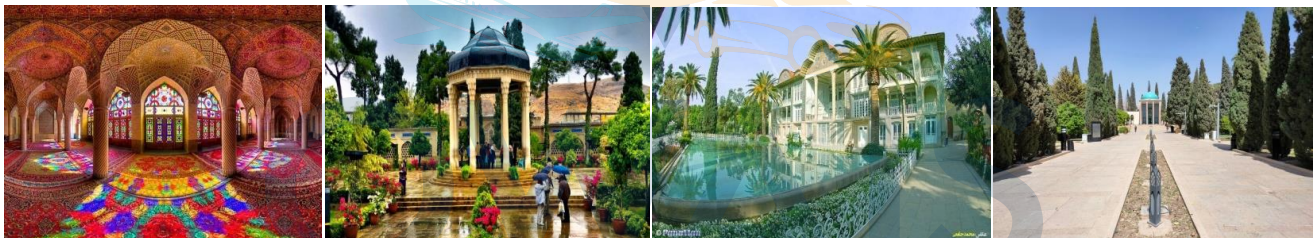
After taking Instagram pictures in Pink mosque, we will move on towards [TOMB OF HAFEZ](#). There is no way for a Persian to hear Shiraz's name and doesn't immediately think about Hafiz. To Persians, he is nothing less than a prophet; a prophet of love, art, and beauty inside. Hafiz is an inseparable item of any Persian celebration and ceremony such as Nowrouz and Yalda Night. He is one of the poetry geniuses from all times, whom Goethe, the great German poet, wished to be one of his disciples. The chances of not finding a Hafiz book in any Persian house are zero. Hafiz Shirazi is beloved among Iranians, and anyone, from children to the elderly enjoys reading his smart, beautiful, and involved poems. Every year, on 22nd October, people show their respect to him on national Hafez day by his tomb, Hafezieh.

The next attraction to be visited today is [PARADISE GARDEN](#); a well-known garden in Shiraz, with a history of more than 900 years, and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as a representative of "Persian Gardens". It is called the Garden of Paradise because the word Eram is a Persian variant of the Arabic Iram, which means "heaven" in the Qur'an. The garden was built in the Qajar Dynasty, and the rulers of the later Zand Dynasty also lived here. The plants in the garden are scattered and colorful, especially the tall cypress trees. There is a beautiful fountain and a long canal in the middle of the garden, and there is a "Paradise Palace" next to it, which is a small-scale Qajar period building and is not open to tourists.

Shiraz is also famous for another Muslim Sufi poet; [SAADI SHIRAZI](#). He is one of the greatest Iranian poets. He is not only famous in Persian speaking countries, but also known all over the world. Saadi was a world traveler in his time, he visited a lot of countries. When he returned to Shiraz he wrote his memories and experiences in the form of poetry and prose in 2 books.

This place has a beautiful garden and Saadi poems are written on a blue inscription on the wall around his tomb. There is also a beautiful small fish pool in the underground floor around which people make a wish and throw a coin in it.

It's time for some Shirazi dinner after exploring Shiraz all day. Dinner served, our beds are waiting for us in our hotels. Let's gain some energy for tomorrow by sleeping early tonight.



## DAY 12: SHIRAZ – BANDAR-E-LENGEH

Today we have to cover 590 km. It will take 8 hours of driving so we better start moving early in the morning. After the breakfast, we will start our journey towards the Persian Gulf city. This part of Iran is among the driest part and there isn't much to explore on our way. Without any unnecessary stops we shall reach our destination around sunset. Dinner will be served after check-in.



### DAY 13: BANDAR-E-LENGEH – KISH ISLAND

**KISH** is a 91.5-square-kilometre (35.3 sq mi) resort island in Bandar Lengeh County, Hormozgan Province, off the southern coast of Iran in the Persian Gulf. Owing to its free trade zone status, the island has numerous malls, shopping centers, tourist attractions, and resort hotels. Kish Island is one of the most-visited vacation destinations in the Middle East, after Dubai and Sharm el-Sheikh. It has an estimated population of almost 40,000 residents and about 1 million visitors annually. To reach the island we will take a **FERRY RIDE** from Bandar-e-Lengeh which takes around 5 hours. We shall reach the island before evening.

After checking-in the hotel and having lunch, we head straight towards **KARIZ UNDERGROUND CITY**. Kariz or Kahriz is a Persian word meaning “aqueduct”. Aqueduct or kariz was invented by Iranians and has a historical background equal to the civilization of the Ancient Iran. Despite its long history and development of modern technologies, it is still vital for people living in many hot and dry areas. Aqueducts usually start from the heights or the mother well and finally end in kariz embody where water comes out of ground. The aqueducts of Kish Island in the Persian Gulf date back to 2,500 years ago. It once provided the islanders’ drinking water. Today, it is transformed into an amazing underground city, with an area of 10,000 square meters.

After visiting the underground city we shall visit **DOLPHIN PARK COMPLEX** which is the first dolphinarium in Iran; located in the fantastic Kish Island. Not only you can enjoy the great and amusing dolphin performances in this complex, but also you can visit Bird Garden and Kish Aquarium.

Its night time in Kish and for the dinner and to experience the night life we move towards **DAMOON SHOPPING CENTER**. It's not one of the big Kish malls, but it has a modern and cozy environment. You may hear someone playing the piano in the atrium while shopping. The food court is good, and you can have your meal on the terrace when the weather is good.

After having dinner we move back towards our hotel to have some much needed rest and get prepared for tomorrow’s busy day in Kish.



### DAY 14: EXPLORING KISH

We start our day after breakfast by going towards **OCEAN WATER PARK** which is a 5.6 hectare outdoor water park located in Kish Island, Iran. It is the first Iranian themed water park and outdoor water park, themed based on story of the Mystery of the Sun Castle. It was opened on January, 2017 and currently has 13 rides, 4 swimming pools and one spa in addition to numerous restaurants, beverage stops, coffee shops and shopping areas.

Kish Island is also famous for **SCUBA DIVING**. After visiting the water park, a dive in the Persian Gulf can be a once in a lifetime experience.

Scuba is not the only water activity in Kish. If you are interested in more, you can try **FLYBOARD**. Flyboarding is an extreme water sport in which athletes compete using equipment called flyboards. A flyboard can be best described as a personal water craft fitted with a water jetpack/hoverboard.



After having lunch, it's time to spend some time on the beach. [GREEK-SHIP BEACH](#) is an excellent beach to spend an afternoon on, where you can take beautiful pictures, water is absolutely clear and there are huts to have a drink or snack in.

After having some relaxing sunset on the beach we move towards a [NIGHT TOUR OF A BOAT TRIP WITH TRADITIONAL PERSIAN DINNER AND LIVE MUSIC](#). It might be our last activity on the Island but we make sure it won't be the least. You will remember this night for many decades. After the dinner we move towards our hotel and have some sleep.



# OWAIS

## DAY 15: KISH-BANDAR ABBAS

We will take a ferry towards Bandar-e-lengeh after breakfast. Upon reaching Bandar-e-lengeh we start driving towards Bandar Abbas which is a 2 hours drive. It will be around evening when we will check-in our hotel and have some lunch. After lunch we can head towards [BIRD GARDEN](#) which is one of the tourist attractions of Bandar Abbas. There are more than 90 species of beautiful birds here. In the bird garden, there are all kinds of birds, aquatic animals, aquatic birds, hunting birds, pigeons, ostriches, eagles, chickens, peacocks, parrots and everything you can think of.



**DAY 16: BANDAR ABBAS-ZAHEDAN**

Today we have a long drive ahead of us. The total distance to be covered is around 730 km and driving time is around 9 hours so we will have to start driving as early as possible in the morning. As said earlier, this part of Iran is among the driest part and there isn't much to explore on our way. Without any unnecessary stops we shall reach our destination around sunset. Dinner will be served after check-in.

**DAY 17: ZAHEDAN-QUETTA**

It's our last day in Iran. Let's say good-bye to Iran as early as possible in the morning because we have to cross the border and then travel to Quetta which takes 8 hours from border. After early breakfast, we start our journey towards Taftan. If everything goes well, we shall enter Pakistan by 10:00 a.m. After entering Pakistan we can't afford to waste time so we should start moving towards Quetta without any unnecessary stops or delays. We should try to reach Quetta before sunset. After reaching Quetta, we will check-in our hotel. It's been two weeks since we last ate Pakistani food. To refresh our taste buds, we will have a typical Quetta dinner.

**DAY 18: QUETTA – KHI/ISB**

It's our last day of adventurous International road trip. Those coming from Punjab and K.P.K will see-off other companions coming from southern part of Pakistan i.e. Karachi & Sindh. We'll take some last group pictures and then take one last stretch towards our homes.

**Included Services:**

Iran Visa

Luxury Hotels

Breakfast & Dinner

Carnet de Passage (including security deposit)

Iran vehicle insurance

Repair & Maintenance of vehicle

Ferry tickets

Transport in Kish

Fuel

Tour Guide

Vlogging of entire trip

**Excluded Services:**

Lunch

Entrance Fee of museums etc/water sports tickets/

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**(NO HIDDEN CHARGES WHATSOEVER)**