

# Persian Trilogy

Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran • Touring • 22 Days

*We think the Persian Silk Road is one of Central Asia's great unsung journeys. This region is rich in archaeological treasures and diverse cultures dating back to the age of Central Asia's greatest civilisations. Our itinerary commences in Tashkent and traces the western extension of the Silk Road to the great historical cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Merv and Nissa. In Turkmenistan we get right off the beaten track to visit the newly excavated city of Gonor-Tepe and in Iran we explore ancient Persepolis and visit the exquisite ornate cities of Esfahan and Shiraz; the historic centre of Islamic culture in Central Asia*



## Persian Trilogy TRIP DETAILS

### 2010 Departures

**Escorted Small group**  
• 15th April - 6th May

**Trip Price :** NZD7900

### Private Departures

- May
- September
- October

**Trip Price :** Price on application

**Trip Length:** 22 Days

**Activity Type:** Touring

**Link:** To Anatolia Silk Road

## WHAT'S INVOLVED IN THIS ITINERARY

### • ROUTE

**Includes Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Mary/Merv, Mashaad, Tehran, Kashan, Esfahan, Shiraz.**

We travel by comfortable air conditioned coach or van and stay in quality tourist class hotels and guesthouses with ensuite rooms. There are a few long days on the road but plenty of breaks are provided. Sightseeing is arranged to avoid the heat of the day and includes a mix of monuments and opportunities to meet local people. This journey is not a progression of long days on the road and one night stops. We balance our sightseeing with impromptu stops and free time.

### • GROUP SIZE and ESCORTS

The maximum group size is 12 people. SRA leaders accompany groups of 6 or more otherwise our groups are accompanied by local English speaking professional guides.

Private departures may either be fully or partially escorted by our local guides depending on your preference.

### • ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable tourist standard hotels and guesthouses (en suite).

Single room supplement NZD920 To be confirmed

### • INCLUSIONS

Our group departure prices are fully inclusive. Meals, local flights, road and rail transportation, entries and transfers are included. There are no hidden costs, no supplementary extras and no add-ons apply to any of the services associated with the advertised programme once it commences.

Meal plans for Private departures are flexible.

## Itinerary at a Glance :

### 15-Apr-10 Tashkent

Arrive Tashkent

### 16-Apr-10 Tashkent

Sightseeing to include the Old City, Tillya Sheikh Mosque, Navoi Theatre Square. Lunch and dinner at local restaurant.

### 17-Apr-10 Tashkent to Samarkand

Morning in Tashkent including a visit to the Ethnographic Museum and Chorsu Bazaar. After lunch depart for drive to Samarkand.

### 18-Apr-10 Samarkand

Full day sightseeing of Samarkand including a visit to Reghistan Square, Bibi Khanum Mosque and bazaar, Gur Emir mausoleum, the observatory of Ulug Bek and Afrasiab Museum. Dinner tonight at a national Uzbek family restaurant.

### 19-Apr-10 Samarkand

Morning visit to the mausoleum of Imam al Bukhari (short drive from Samarkand) and history Museum. Afternoon free time to revisit Reghistan Square for late afternoon photography or relax.



### 20-Apr-10 to Bukhara via Gijduvan

This morning, depart for 5 hour drive to Bukhara. En route visit the ruins of Rabbat Malik Caravansarai, also visit ceramic workshop at Gijduvan.

### 21-Apr-10 Bukhara

Full day sightseeing will include Bolo Hauz Mosque, Ark Fortress, Chasmal Ayub, Labi Hauz complex, Kalan Mosque, Trade Domes, Ismail Samani mausoleum and tandir (national bakery). Finish the day with an evening folk show at Nodir Devonbegi Madrassah.

### 22-Apr-10 Bukhara to Mary

Depart for 2 – 3 hrs drive to the Uzbek/Turkmen border. After completing border formalities, transfer to Turkmenistan transport to continue to Mary.

### 23-Apr-10 Merv / Merv

Full day visit today to Merv, the ancient oasis city located 25km from Mary. Sightseeing will include the mausoleum Sultan Sanjar (XII century), Kyz Kala, Bola Kala, Gyaurl Kala and Erk Kala.

### 24-Apr-10 Excursion to Gonur Tepe/Merv

Today we are off into the desert in 4X4 cars today to visit the recently excavated ruins of the 2000BC city of Gonur.

### 25-Apr-10 To Mashaad via Sarakhs border

We depart for Mashaad Iran today. It is 200km to the Sarakhs border and a further 200km to Mashaad

### 26-Apr-10 Mashhad

Full day sightseeing will include the Bazaar-e-Reza spice bazaar, Imam Reza Shrine and Astan-e Ghods-e Razavi, Gombad-e Sabz (Green Dome). This evening we take the soft sleeper express to Tehran

### 27-Apr-10 Tehran

We arrive in Tehran around 7.30AM. Transfer to the hotel to freshen up and begin our sightseeing programme at Sad Abad Palace, the local Bazaar at Tajrish, and the National Jewels Museum.

### 28-Apr-10 Tehran—drive to Kashan

This morning visit the National Museum of Iran and the Glass museum. Afternoon drive via the Imam Khomeini Mausoleum and Qom to Kashan. Overnight in a traditional house.

### 29-Apr-10 Kashan

Sightseeing in Kashan including the ancient bazaar of Kashan and Tabatabaeis' traditional house. Overnight in a traditional house.

### 30-Apr-10 Drive to Esfahan

This morning drive south to Esfahan. Enroute visit Abyaneh Village and the Jame Mosque in Natanz.

### 01-May-10 Esfahan

A full day sightseeing around Esfahan is planned for today – including Naghsi-I Jahan Square, Iman Mosque, Sheikh Lotf Allah Mosque and the bridges of Esfahan. We also plan to visit Esfahan bazaar.

### 02-May-10 Esfahan

Sightseeing today will include the Jame Mosque, Vank Cathedral, Chehel Soutoun and Hasht Behest.

### 03-May10 Drive to Shiraz

Full day's drive today to Shiraz. We have time to visit the old Caravansarai at Izadkhast and Pasargad UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### 04-May-10 Shiraz

Sightseeing today will include Narenjestan (Qavam House), Nasir mosque, Vakil Mosque, Bazaar, Shahe Cheraq, Eram Garden, Sadi tomb, Karimkhan citadel.

### 05-May-10 Shiraz - Persepolis

Full day visit to Persepolis including Naqsh-e rajas and Hafez tomb

### 06-May-10 depart Shiraz

transfer to airport for departure flight.