

PERSIAN TRILOGY - Tashkent to Tehran



We think the Persian Silk Road is one of central Asia's great unsung journeys. This is an ideal programme for anyone who wants to travel beyond the desert and mountain barriers that stymied early western travellers. This itinerary traces the historic trade route along western axis of the Silk Road between Tashkent and Shiraz to explore ancient and contemporary Persia, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

WHATS INVOLVED

This is road journey by comfortable air conditioned coach or small bus. Sightseeing is arranged to avoid the heat of the day and maximise daylight. There are a few long days on the road but plenty of breaks are provided. This journey is not a progression of long days on the road and one night stops. We balance sightseeing with impromptu stops and free time.

DEPARTURE

Commences Tashkent on 19th April 2008 and concludes in Tehran on 10th May 2008

COST

NZ\$7250 / AU\$6500 per person based on twin share
Single room supplement NZ\$620 / AU\$560

GROUP SIZE and GUIDES

Maximum group size is 12 people. The group will be escorted by our NZ Trip leader plus our local guide. If there are less than six people travelling, the trip will be accompanied by our local English speaking guide.

ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable tourist standard hotels and guesthouses (en suite) on twin share basis.

MEALS

All meals are provided. We eat locally where we are confident that this is sensible.

ROUTE

22 days includes Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Mary/Merv, Ashgabat, Mashaad, Shiraz, Esfahan, Tehran.



TRANSPORT

Will be by air-conditioned coach.
Domestic flights are included.

CLIMATE

Temperatures in spring will range
between 10°C to 25°C

SIGHTSEEING and ENTRY FEES All
sightseeing and entry fees are included
in the cost

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ITINERARY

19-Apr-08 **arrive Tashkent**
Late arrival (midnight) from Bangkok, met and transfer to Hotel.

20-Apr-08 **Tashkent**
Commence itinerary late morning. After lunch sightseeing to include the Old City, Tillya Sheikh Mosque, Navoi Theatre Square. Lunch and dinner at local restaurant.

21-Apr-08 **Tashkent to Samarkand**
Morning in Tashkent including a visit to the Ethnographic Museum and Chorsu Bazaar. After lunch in the bazaar, depart for drive to Samarkand.

22-Apr-08 **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.

23-Apr-08 **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.

24-Apr-08 **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.

25-Apr-08 **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.

26-Apr-08 **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.

27-Apr-08 **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, Gyaur Kala and Erk Kala.

28-Apr-08 **Merv to Ashgabat**
Depart for 5 hour drive to Ashgabat located on edge of the Karakum desert.

29-Apr-08 **Ashgabat**
Visit to Nisa the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Parthia. Sightseeing in Ashgabat including the Mosque and central city area.

30-Apr-08 **Asgabad to Mashaad**
Late morning depart for drive to the Iran border to continue to Mashhad.

1-May-08 **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).

2-May-08 **to Shiraz**
This morning transfer to the airport for flight to Shiraz via Tehran. Depending on flight times, we may have time to include a visit to one of Tehran's museums before continuing to Shiraz.

3-May-08 **Shiraz**
Sightseeing today will include Narenjestan (Qavam House), Nasir mosque, Vakil Mosque, Bazaar, Shahe Cheraq, Eram Garden, Sadi tomb, Karimkhan citadel

4-May-08 **Shiraz - Persopolis**
Full day visit to Persepolis including Naqsh-e rajab and Hafez tomb

5-May-08 **drive to Esfahan**
Full day's drive today to Shiraz. We have time to visit the old Caravanserai at Izadkhast and Pasargad UNESCO World Heritage Site.

6-May-08 **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.

7-May-08 **Esfahan**
Sightseeing today will include the Jame Mosque, Vank Cathedral, Chehel Soutoun, and Hasht Behest.

8-May-08 **drive to Tehran**
Depart for drive to Tehran. En route we will visit Abyaneh Village, Kashan and the ancient bazaar, and Qom.

9-May-08 **Tehran**
This morning visit the National Museum of Iran and the Glass Museum. This afternoon visit the palaces at the Sad Abad Complex and the local bazaar of Tajrish. Farewell dinner tonight at Darband in the north of Tehran.

10-May-08 **depart Tehran**
This morning we have time to visit the Glass Museum and after lunch, transfer to airport for late afternoon departure flight



Tour Escort:
Denise Reid

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

We can assist with international flights

VISAS

Visas for Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran are required and can be obtained with our assistance.

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