

Persian Trilogy

Follow the western line of the Silk Road between Tashkent and Shiraz. The Persian Silk Road is an ideal **touring style** programme for travellers who want to explore one of central Asia's great unsung journeys; the influence of Persian culture on the great civilizations of central Asia. Our programme traces the historic trade routes from Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan and Iran where we explore the jewels of ancient Persia.

Visit Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Mary/Merv, Ashgabat, Mashaad, Shiraz, Esfahan, Tehran.



Length of trip	22 days
Accommodation	Hotels.
Meals included	Yes
Travel Style	Tour coach, train.
Escort	SRA tour leader for more than 6 travellers. Local English speaking escort for 6 or less travellers.
Sightseeing and entry fees	Included
Maximum group	12
Commences	Tashkent 17th April 2012
Concludes	Shiraz 8th May 2012
COST	NZ\$8,500 based on twin share. Single Rm Sup NZ\$750



Itinerary at a Glance :

Tues, 17 April 2012 Tashkent
Arrive Tashkent

Wed, 18 April 2012 Tashkent
Sightseeing to include the Old City, Tillya Sheikh Mosque, Navoi Theatre Square. Lunch and dinner at local restaurants.

Thur, 19 April 2012 Tashkent to Samarkand
Morning in Tashkent including a visit to the Ethnographic Museum and Chorsu Bazaar. After lunch depart for drive to Samarkand.

Fri, 20 April 2012 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.

Sat, 21 April 2012 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.

Sun, 22 April 2012 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.

Mon, 23 April 2012 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. Finish the day with an evening folk show at Nodir Devonbegi Madrassah.

Tues, 24 April 2012 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.

Wed, 25 April 2012 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.

Thur, 26 April 2012 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, Gyaour Kala and Erk Kala.

Fri, 27 April 2012 To Mashaad via Sarakhs border
We depart for Mashaad Iran today. It's 200km to the Sarakhs border and a further 200km to Mashaad.

Sat, 28 April 2012 Mashhad
Full day sightseeing will include the Bazaar-e-Reza spice bazaar, Imam Reza Shrine and Astan-e Ghods-e Razavi, and Gombad-e Sabz (Green Dome). This evening we take the soft sleeper express to Tehran

Sun, 29 April 2012 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.

Mon, 30 April 2012 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.

Tues, 1 May 2012 Kashan
Sightseeing in Kashan including the ancient bazaar of Kashan and Tabatabaeis' traditional house. Overnight in a traditional house.

Wed, 2 May 2012 Drive to Esfahan
This morning drive south to Esfahan. Enroute visit Abyaneh Village and the Jame Mosque in Natanz.

Thur, 3 May 2012 Esfahan
A full day sightseeing around Esfahan is planned for today – including Naghshi-I Jahan Square, Iman Mosque, Sheikh Lotf Allah Mosque and the bridges of Esfahan. We also plan to visit Esfahan bazaar.

Fri, 4 May 2012 Esfahan
Sightseeing today will include the Jame Mosque, Vank Cathedral, Chehel Soutoun and Hasht Behest.

Sat, 5 May 2012 Drive to Shiraz
Full day's drive today to Shiraz. We have time to visit the old Caravansarai at Izadkhist and Pasargad UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Sun, 6 May 2012 Shiraz
Sightseeing today will include Narenjestan (Qavam House), Nasir mosque, Wakil Mosque, Bazaar, Shahe Cheraq, Eram Garden, Sadi tomb, Karimkhan citadel.

Mon, 7 May 2012 Shiraz - Persepolis
Full day visit to Persepolis including Naqsh-e rjab and Hafez tomb

Tues, 8 May 2012 depart Shiraz

Link to :

ANATOLIA SILK ROAD

CONCLUDE the *Persian Trilogy* itinerary in Shiraz on Tuesday 8th May and join **Anatolia Silk Route** in Istanbul via Dubai.

Explore Eastern Anatolia on this **touring style** journey tracing the western most extension of the Silk Road. Explore ancient city states and historic trade routes to the Black Sea coast. At Trabazon visit the cliff hugging Sumela monastery and idyllic Ayder. In the far east there are wildflowers and stunning volcanic landscapes along the route to historic Ayni and beyond to Ararat and Van. Also visit Ufra, Harran and Antioch. To stunningly scenic Cappadocia and complete the journey in Istanbul.

CAUCASUS JOURNEY

CONCLUDE the *Persian Trilogy* itinerary in Shiraz on Tuesday 8th May and join **Caucasus Journey** in Baku via Tehran.

Join us on this **touring style** journey as we attempt to untangle the tempestuous history of Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Scenically stunning, culturally diverse, historically interesting and just a tad perverse in relationships with bigger, noisier neighbours the Caucasus have been on our agenda for years. In May this year we are off to follow the back roads between Azerbaijan and Iran. Commencing at Baku and concluding in Tehran our itinerary will trace the trade routes and explore the cultural and religious heritage of this little known region.



To BOOK or ENQUIRE

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