

Round-trip Iran - Classical Persia

Helpful information

Who is this trip suitable for: This is a classical cultural trip of Iran that includes the country's main historical cities and highlights. The tour is suitable for first-time visitors to Iran of all ages.

Accommodation & Transportation: The accommodation on this trip is in standard 3* hotels (unless otherwise requested) with breakfast included. All transportation on this trip is done by a comfortable air-conditioned tourist coaches.

Visa requirements: Citizens of most nationalities are eligible for getting a visa on arrival. The procedure to get visa on arrival is as follows:

1. Apply for a confirmation number (visa grant notice). Penguin Travel can assist you in getting grant notice when booking the trip.
2. Upon arrival at the airport, you need to present your notice to receive the visa. A travel insurance that covers Iran might also be requested.
3. You need to pay your visa fee and handling fee in cash in EUR (or USD) at the airport. The visa fee varies in cost depending on your nationality (As of September 2022, the fee for most EU countries is 75 EUR + 3 EUR handling fee).
4. The standard tourist visa allows you to stay for a period of 10 days.

*Your passport must be valid until at least 6 months after arrival. You will not be allowed to enter Iran if you have any Israeli visa or stamp in your passport.

*Citizens of Canada, the USA and the UK need to get their visa from the local Iran embassy after receiving the grant notice. The visa fee for these nationalities might be higher and is paid in the respective embassy.

Money&Currency:

The official currency of Iran is the Iranian rial (IRR). However in everyday life, on most restaurant menus and shop price-tags, you will see the prices quoted in the superunit Toman (1 Toman = 10 000 Rials).

Currently Iran has two exchange rates - the government rate and the open market rate. The exchange offices use the open market rate, which is usually a lot better than the government rate, which you can find when researching online. Sometimes the fluctuation might be up to 5-6 times better in favour of the open market rate.

Visa and MasterCard are not accepted in Iran! You need to bring all the money you need for your stay cash in EUR or USD. If you bring USD, make sure your bills are from the new series (with a blue ribbon woven into the center of the \$100 bill).

Food & Drinks: Iran is relatively inexpensive country. Prices for meals vary from 5-6 EUR per meal in a mid-range restaurant to 10-15 EUR in a more expensive one.

Importing and consuming alcohol is strictly forbidden in the country.

Dress-code: There is a dress code that needs to be followed in all public places in Iran.

- **Men:** Shorts and tank tops are not allowed. Men should wear long trousers and shirts that cover the shoulders.
- **Women:** Women's clothes should not emphasize the body shape, preferred clothing is trousers with long tunic/shirt on top that covers the thighs. Women must wear hijab (a scarf that covers the hair and neck at all times in public spaces).

Roaming & Internet: You can get an Iranian pre-paid SIM card in the bigger cities to use during your stay. The prices vary between 5-10 EUR depending on the provider and plan. The main providers are Irancell, Hamrah Aval and RighTel . You need to bring your passport when purchasing and registering your local SIM card. Some applications and social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and others are blocked in Iran. To access the restricted apps and websites, you can install a VPN on your devices before the trip.

Things to note:

- In some of the sights visited during this trip you will not be allowed to enter with your bags. (e.g Persepolis and Shah Charagh, Shiraz). You will be asked to leave your belongings in a cloakroom at the entrance.
- Some of the hotels might ask to keep your passport until check-out. It is their policy and non-negotiable.
- Tipping is common and popular in Iran. In restaurants and cafes, the expected tip is about 10%.

Penguin Travel wishes you a great trip :)

