



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
1155 E. 58TH STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60637-1540

PERSIAN SPLENDOR: JOURNEY TO ANCIENT IRAN

SEPTEMBER 13 - 28, 2012
ESCORTED BY DR. ABBAS ALIZADEH



PERSIAN SPLENDOR: JOURNEY TO ANCIENT IRAN

SEPTEMBER 13 - 28, 2012 ESCORTED BY DR. ABBAS ALIZADEH



Dear Members and Friends of the Oriental Institute,

I want to invite you to join Abbas Alizadeh in exploring one of the most magnificent civilizations of the Near East. The Oriental Institute has long been a pioneer in the discovery of ancient Persia. It was the first American research institution to conduct excavations in Iran with groundbreaking work at Persepolis that revealed the magnificent reliefs of the Apadana and an archive of administrative tablets that recorded the daily life of the Achaemenid Empire (550 - 330 BC). Subsequent projects over the last eight decades uncovered one of the most complete sequences of prehistoric and historic cultures in ancient Iran.

Dr. Abbas Alizadeh has been critical to the success of the Oriental Institute's research into Iranian prehistory. Combined with his intimate knowledge of local history, art, and culture, guests will be able to develop a deep appreciation of Iran's antiquity and the tremendous changes it has experienced through the centuries.

Dr. Gil J. Stein
Director, Oriental Institute



**THURSDAY-FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13-14**

CHICAGO TO TEHRAN

Flights with KLM depart the US in the afternoon. There is a stopover in Amsterdam with flights arriving in Tehran late in the evening (11:10 PM). Upon arrival, guests transfer to the 5-star **Espinas Hotel** in downtown Tehran.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
TEHRAN**

Today, we discover the masterpieces of

Iranian artwork in Tehran's museums. Iran's wealth is visible in silk carpets and priceless crown jewels. Its diverse cultural heritage shines in its collection of calligraphy, ceramics, and sculpture. A great day for art lovers.

(B, L, D)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

DAY IN TEHRAN, WITH OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO AHWAZ

Dr. Alizadeh will explain the highlights of Iranian art and culture from its humble beginnings to the beauti-

ful artifacts of bygone empires at the Archaeological Museum. Then enjoy the traditional life in Iran at the exhibits of Golestan Palace before enjoying a classic Persian meal, Dizi, or "twice-over" soup. Tonight, we transfer to Ahwaz via train.

(B, L, D)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

AHWAZ

Explore ancient Shushtar, whose 1,800-year old mills and bridges symbolize the dramatic changes to Iran's ancient economy that ushered in a new golden era. Lunch is served beside the Karun River, a perfect vantage point to enjoy the archaeology. Sleep at the beautiful **Fajr Hotel**.

(B, L, D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

AHWAZ

Discover the origins of Iran's oldest civilization, Elam, with a morning visit to Susa. We enjoy a picnic lunch before visiting the grand ziggurat at Chogha Zanbil. Evening at leisure.

(B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

SHIRAZ

The drive to Shiraz follows the ancient route into the highlands. The major site is Shapur I's (AD 240 - 272) grand city of Bishapur. See the nearby reliefs at Tang-e Chogan, which tell the story of Iran's ongoing rivalry with ancient Rome. Then explore the ruins of Shapur's city after lunch. Transfer to the 5-star **Homa Hotel** in Shiraz.

(B, L, D)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

SHIRAZ

Wake up in Shiraz, the City of Roses and Nightingales. Today's program is a tour of Shiraz's cultural side, including the garden fortress of Karim Khan, the tombs of renowned poets Sa'adi and Hafez, and the Pars Museum. In between, learn about traditional bread making and shop for souvenirs in the old bazaar.

(B, L, D)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

SHIRAZ

Ancient Persia comes alive with Persepolis, the grand monumental platform

of the Achaemenid kings (550 - 330 BC). Learn how the Oriental Institute helped uncover the famed reliefs of the Apadana and decipher the archives of the first Persian empire. Afterwards, visit the royal tombs at Naqsh-e Rostam before lunch under the vines at Laleh Tavooos. Dinner is at Shatar Abbas, one of Shiraz's best traditional restaurants.

(B, L, D)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

YAZD

Cyrus the Great's legacy is preserved at his royal capital, Pasargad. Visit the Pasargad Cultural Center and explore Cyrus' tomb, palaces, and royal gardens. Lunch at a private orchard and discover how Iranians made ice in the desert before arriving at the **Da'ad Hotel** in Yazd.

(B, L, D)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

YAZD

Yazd was an important center of Zoroastrian religion, so we start at the fire temple and then enjoy Yazd's old quarter with a walk from the Friday mosque through its windy streets to lunch in a traditional house. In the afternoon, we discover Cham with its 800-year old Zoroastrian shrine and finish with the Towers of Silence, where generations of believers were exposed on death.

(B, L, D)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

ESFAHAN

Today is about immersion into Iran's traditional society. Guests learn about Ziloo carpets at Meibod citadel and then discover the underground textile workshops at Mohammadiyah. After lunch, Dr. Alizadeh will explain the architecture of a 1,000-year old mosque at Na'in. Stay at the **Kowsar Hotel**.

(B, L, D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

ESFAHAN

In its heyday under the Safavid king, Shah Abbas I (AD 1587 - 1629), Esfahan was considered "half the world". We start the day at Chehel Sotun, a magnificent Safavid private palace. Then we arrive at Esfahan's grand square with the royal shrine, mosque, bazaar, and government building. After lunch at

the square, we visit the home of a master miniaturist painter before enjoying some of Esfahan's historic bridges.

(B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

ESFAHAN

Esfahan's Jameh Mosque is a veritable encyclopedia of architecture that has been renovated for over 1,000 years. In the afternoon, we explore Esfahan's Armenian side at the Vank Cathedral before dinner at the extravagant royal caravanserai.

(B, L, D)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

TEHRAN

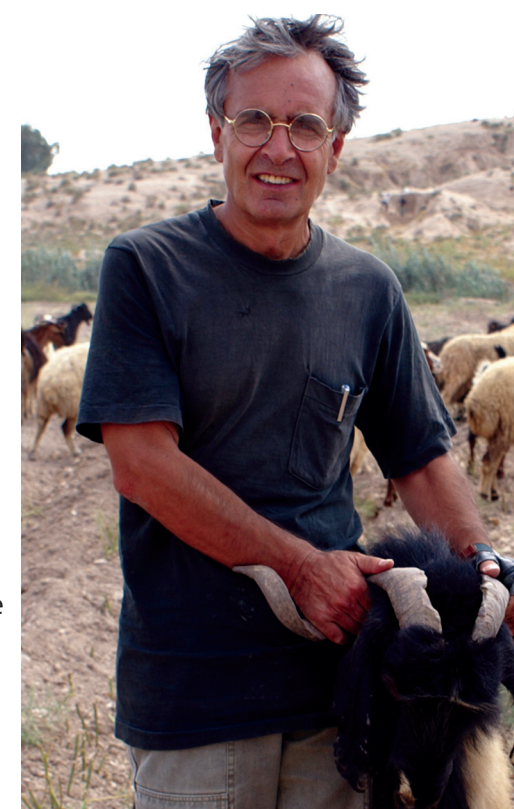
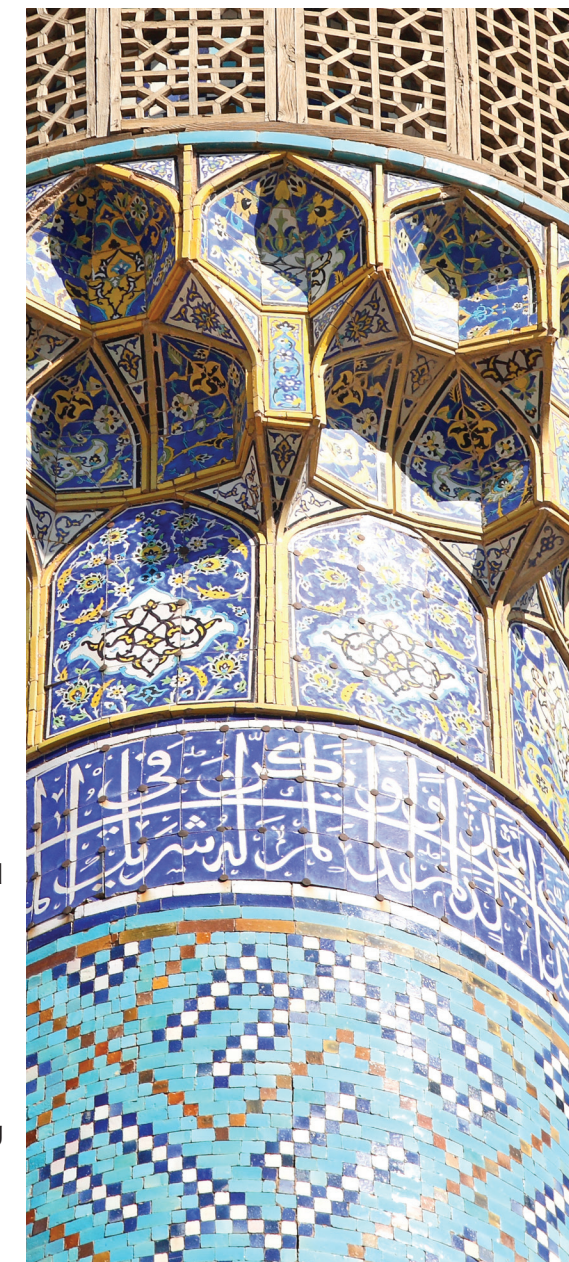
On the morning of the last day we visit the 700-year old shrine at Natanz. Then we continue to Kashan, an oasis in the desert with a historic bathhouse and gardens. After lunch, guests go inside the private house of one of Kashan's wealthy merchants and learn about the importance of herbal essences in Iranian cuisine and medicine. Evening in the **Espinas Hotel**

(B, L, D)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

TEHRAN TO CHICAGO

Your flight departs early in the morning with a stopover in Amsterdam before arriving in Chicago in the afternoon (2:10 PM), full of stories, pictures and an unforgettable experience in Iran.



ABBAS ALIZADEH IS A SENIOR RESEARCHER AT THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM AND DIRECTOR OF THE IRANIAN PREHISTORIC PROJECT. DURING THE LAST 30 YEARS, DR. ALIZADEH HAS PROVIDED A VITAL LINK BETWEEN ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN CHICAGO AND IRAN, LEADING IMPORTANT COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM AND IN THE FIELD. THE RESULT WILL BE A MIX OF ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL INSIGHTS THAT ONLY A PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGIST OF DR. ALIZADEH'S CALIBER CAN BRING.



Return form to:
Cultural Cache Tours
55315 S. Woodlawn Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637

RESERVATION FORM

PERSIAN SPLENDOR: JOURNEY TO ANCIENT IRAN

Please reserve a space for the following participants:

Name #1 (Legal name exactly as it appears on passport):

Name #2 (Legal name exactly as it appears on passport):

Street Address:

City, State, Zip code:

Daytime Phone:

E-mail address:

Enclosed is a deposit of \$ _____ (\$1000/pp, payable to Cultural Cache Tours)

Please charge my deposit of \$ _____ to my credit card

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Name listed on Credit card:

MC Visa Card Number _____ Exp. _____ CVC (3-digit code) _____

I will be sharing a room with _____ I request a roommate and understand a roommate is not guaranteed

I would like to be contacted to discuss travel insurance I would like to be contacted to discuss flight options

I /we have read the terms and conditions (below) and agree to all therein

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

COST OF TOUR:

\$5,950 (Land Only)
\$7,450 (Includes Airfare from Chicago)
Single Supplement: \$900
(See tariff for conditions)



THE TOUR RATE INCLUDES:

- Accommodations in 4 or 5-star hotels
- All meals
- All gratuities to tour escorts, guides, drivers, and porters
- A \$600 contribution to The Oriental Institute
- All transport inside Iran and airport transfer when you use the recommended KLM flight
- All fees for museums or sites while on tour
- Comprehensive pre-departure guide and notes to help you get ready for your trip

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST:

- Passport and visa fees
- Airfare
- Travel insurance
- Excess baggage charges
- Transfer to and from the US airport
- Personal expenses
- Internet and laundry charges

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS:

A \$1,000 per person deposit is required to book. Final Payment is due 60 days before departure (July 13th, 2012).

INSURANCE:

Purchasing comprehensive travel insurance that includes trip cancellation coverage is highly recommended. By purchasing comprehensive travel insurance within 14 days of your initial deposit, Travelguard will waive the usual exclusion for pre-existing medical conditions.

TARIFF:

These prices are based on foreign exchange rates in effect on December 2011 and with a minimum of 10 participants. Airfare price guarantee only applies until 60 days before scheduled departure when using KLM (July 13, 2012). The guaranteed rate only applies to the recommended KLM flight.

CANCELLATIONS:

- More than 30 days before departure: \$50 administrative fee per person
- 30-15 Days before departure: 25% of the listed tour price
- 14-03 Days before departure: 50% of the listed tour price
- 02-01 Days before departure: 75% of the listed tour price
- No Show: 100% of the listed tour price

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

The liability of the Oriental Institute as sponsor and Cultural Cache Tours as tour operator is strictly limited. The Oriental Institute and Cultural Cache Tours purchase transportation, hotel accommodation, restaurants and other services from independent suppliers. We will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, or representatives. The Oriental Institute and Cultural Cache Tours are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact the Oriental Institute Membership Office at 773-834-9777 oi-membership@uchicago.edu or Cultural Cache Tours at info@culturalcache.com