



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
1155 EAST 58TH STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60637

IRAN: PERSIA AND THE SPLENDORS OF EMPIRE
April 29 to May 15, 2010
Escorted by Dr. John E. Woods



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TOUR LECTURER

JOHN E. WOODS

John E. Woods is a Professor of Iranian and Central Asian History at the University of Chicago. A former director of the Center for Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago, Professor Woods focuses primarily on the history of Turkey, Iran, and Central Asia from the 13th to 18th century and is particularly interested in aspects of the encounter of sedentary and nomadic people in those regions during that time period. In 2008, Professor Woods received the Farabi International Award in the Humanities and Islamic Studies presented by the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology and UNESCO in honor of his work in the field of Islamic and Iranian studies.



U.S. to TEHRAN
Thursday, April 29
Depart the U.S.

TEHRAN
Friday, April 30

Arrive very late at night. Upon arrival, transfer to the former Intercontinental Hotel, now the *Laleb Hotel*.

TEHRAN
Saturday, May 1

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Tehran concentrating on its excellent museums. The first stop will be at the Archaeological Museum with its fine collection including an audience hall relief of Darius the Great from the Treasury at Persepolis. After lunch visit the Glass and Ceramics Museum before ending the day at the Carpet Museum, which has a small number of excellent Iranian carpets. Return to the hotel driving by the former U.S. Embassy. **B,L,D**

TEHRAN
Sunday, May 2

Begin the day with a visit to the Reza Abbasi Museum which is home to a superior collection of Persian miniatures. Enjoy lunch at the Nederi Restaurant, well-known for attracting Tehran's intelligentsia. After lunch, view the Iranian crown jewels stored in the basement vault of the Bank Milli Iran. Admire the world's largest uncut diamond as well as the Peacock Throne. **B,L,D**

AHWAZ
Monday, May 3

Morning visit to the site of Cheshmeh Ali, jointly excavated by the Oriental Institute, in the ancient city of Raay, near Tehran. Cheshmeh Ali is considered to be one of the most important sites in the northern Iranian Neolithic/Chalcolithic sequence owing to the excellent preservation of architecture there and the rich material assemblage found at the site. After lunch take an afternoon flight to Ahwaz. Overnight at the *Fajr Hotel*. **B,L,D**

AHWAZ
Tuesday, May 4

Enjoy a full day excursion to Chogha Zanbil. It is one of the few extant

ziggurats outside of Mesopotamia. It was built about 1250 BC by the Elamite King Untash-Napirisha, mainly to honor the great god Inshushinak. Return to Ahwaz for dinner and overnight. **B,L,D**

AHWAZ
Wednesday, May 5

Begin the day at Susa, once among the greatest cities of ancient Persia and one of the oldest-known settlements of the region and possibly the world, founded in about 4200 BC. Continue on to Chogha Mish. Excavations were conducted at the site in the mid 20th century by the Oriental Institute. End the day at Shushtar, dating back to Achaemenian times. Return to Ahwaz for dinner and overnight. **B,L,D**

SHIRAZ
Thursday, May 6

This morning drive on the most scenic mountain road to Shiraz stopping at the Sassanian site of Bishapur, which was founded towards the middle of the second century by Shapur. Continue on to the site of Tang-e-Chogan. Upon arrival in Shiraz transfer to the *Homa Shiraz Hotel* for dinner and overnight. **B,L,D**

SHIRAZ
Friday, May 7

Spend the morning exploring Shiraz beginning at the Arg of Karim Khan. Continue on to the Fars Museum which houses historic artifacts relating to the province. Explore one of the best preserved of the Shiraz houses which is the ancestral home of the Qaqam family. Drive to the Friday Mosque which is the oldest in Shiraz. After lunch visit the tomb of the celebrated poet Hafez which is located in a small garden. Continue on to the bazaar of Shiraz, considered by many to be the finest in Iran. Enjoy dinner tonight at the delightful Shaterabbas Restaurant. After dinner drive by the famous tomb of Shah Cheragh, brother of Imam Reza which is beautifully lit at night. **B,L,D**

SHIRAZ
Saturday, May 8

This morning drive to Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenian Empire and one of the world's most beautiful and spectacular archaeological

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sites. Enjoy lunch sitting in the shade of gape vines at the Laneh Tavooos Restaurant, and afterward visit Naghsh-e Rostam, which was excavated by the Oriental Institute and is located near Persepolis. **B,L,D**

YAZD

Sunday, May 9

Morning drive to Yazd stopping en route at Pasargadae. It was here that Cyrus the Great decided to build the first Achaemenian capital to commemorate a victory over Astyages the Mede. Upon arrival in Yazd transfer to the *Moshir Garden Hotel*. **B,L,D**

YAZD

Monday, May 10

Visit the Friday Mosque where the tiled portal is crowned by twin minarets. Enjoy a walking tour through the covered streets of the old quarter. Spend an afternoon concentrating on the Zoroastrian religion. Explore a small village called Taft where a large number of Zoroastrians still live. The final stop for the day will be at one of the two Zoroastrian abandoned Towers of Silence where, until forty years ago, the dead were left at the tops of the towers. **B,L,D**

ISFAHAN

Tuesday, May 11

Drive this morning to Na'in, an important trade center at the geographical center of Iran. It is well-known for its carpet making and also for its mosque from the early Islamic period. Continue on to a private house that has some superb 17th-century stucco carvings. After lunch in a charming restaurant drive to Ardestan which has a large Suljuk mosque dating from the 10th century. Upon arrival in Isfahan transfer to the *Abbasi Hotel*, a converted caravanserai. **B,L,D**

ISFAHAN

Wednesday, May 12

Isfahan is perhaps the most beautiful of all Iranian cities. The central focus of this fascinating city, which never failed to inspire and awe European merchants and ambassadors to the Safavid court, is the immense Maydan-e Shah, or Royal Square. After lunch, spend the afternoon exploring the bazaar of Isfahan and learning more about traditional crafts in Iran. **B,L,D**

ISFAHAN

Thursday, May 13

Admire some of the five bridges crossing the Zayendehrud River and wander through the city's fascinating Armenian quarter. In the afternoon view the Friday Mosque and the Palace of Forty Columns, a charming pavilion used to receive dignitaries and ambassadors. **B,L,D**

TEHRAN

Friday, May 14

Morning drive back to Tehran making some wonderful stops en route. Stop first at Natanz, well-known in Iran for its bracing climate and locally-produced fruit. Continue on to a small village called Abyaneh. Stop for lunch at the oasis town of Kashan – the epitome of everything that is typically Persian from its mosques, caravanserais and stately gardens, to its carpets, ceramics and delicate embroideries. Continue on to the site of Sialk. Return to Tehran driving through the town of Qum. Arrive in Tehran where rooms have been reserved at the *Laleh Hotel* until departure past midnight this evening. **B,L,D**

TEHRAN to U.S.

Saturday, May 15

Depart Tehran in the early morning, arriving back in the United States today.



TOUR PRICE PER PERSON: \$5,500

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,040

Tour price includes:

- Accommodation as per itinerary
- Meals as listed in the program
- Bottled water on the bus
- All sightseeing in a deluxe, air-conditioned coach
- Flight from Tehran to Ahwaz
- All entrance fees and special events listed
- Pre-departure materials and reading list
- The services of a local Iranian escort
- Local Iranian guides in Shiraz, and Isfahan
- Gratuities

Does not include:

- Roundtrip airfare between the US and Tehran (approximately \$1,700)
- Passport fees
- Visa fees for Iran
- Excess luggage charges
- Medical expenses
- Trip Insurance
- Items of a purely personal nature

Please Note: This tour should be considered moderately strenuous. It requires walking over rough, uneven terrain, step climbing and some long driving days. All participants are expected to be physically active and able to walk independently throughout our full touring days.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following terms and conditions.

Reservations, deposits and final payment

To reserve your space on this program, a \$1,000 deposit is required per person. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Your final payment is due January 29, 2010.

Cancellation and refunds

If you must cancel the trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification.

Refund for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

- Notice on or before January 29, 2010: a refund less a \$250 cancellation charge.
- Notice between January 30 & February 28: a refund less 50% of trip price.
- No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received after February 28.
- No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced.
- No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services.

Because these cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend for your protection that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information on trip cancellation insurance will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation form.

Responsibility

The liability of the Oriental Institute as sponsor, and Distant Horizons as tour operator, is strictly limited. The Oriental Institute and Distant Horizons purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent or arbitrary acts or omission of these independent contractors, their employees, agents servants or representatives. The Oriental Institute and Distant Horizons are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident or delay that may be caused by any 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. All coupons, receipts, and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line and other independent suppliers.

Please note the State Department has had a Travel Warning for Iran since 1979.

You can read this Travel Warning at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_920.html

Our tour operator has operated many trips to Iran. Both the Oriental Institute and our tour operator are closely monitoring the situation in Iran and will not operate the trip if the situation within the country becomes hostile or unsafe.

REGISTRATION FORM

To register, please return completed form to
Distant Horizons, 350 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802

Reserve your trip to Iran today

Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

(1) _____
First Middle Last

EMAIL ADDRESS

(2) _____
First Middle Last

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

HOME TELEPHONE

OTHER TELEPHONE

ROOM ARRANGEMENTS

I WILL BE SHARING WITH _____

I WOULD LIKE A SINGLE ROOM I REQUEST A ROOMMATE AND UNDERSTAND THAT A ROOMMATE IS NOT GUARANTEED

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

I/WE WISH TO BE CONTACTED TO DISCUSS MY/OUR FLIGHT OPTIONS

I/WE WILL MAKE MY/OUR OWN AIR ARRANGEMENTS

DEPOSIT

A \$1,000 DEPOSIT PER PERSON IS REQUIRED.

ENCLOSED IS A DEPOSIT OF \$ _____ TO RESERVE _____ SPACES(S) ON THE TRIP. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DISTANT HORIZONS.

PLEASE CHARGE MY VISA MasterCard IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ TO RESERVE _____ SPACE(S) ON THE TRIP.

NAME AS LISTED ON CREDIT CARD

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

SEC CODE

I/WE HAVE READ THE TOUR CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE AND AGREE TO ALL THEREIN

(1) _____
SIGNATURE DATE

(2) _____
SIGNATURE DATE