



PALACE TOURS

Golden Eagle Luxury Train: Single-Departure Journeys

Heart of Persia / 13 nights

Tehran-Tehran

Tour Dates

2016: November 24-December 7
2017: April 6-April 19; November 2-November 15; November 13-November 26

Price

Starting from \$16,495



Experience a unique look into the culture and history of Iran and ancient Persia on the Golden Eagle Luxury Train. Your tour takes you into the Heart of Persia you will visit iconic sites that few have the opportunity to lay eyes on. Palaces, mosques, and bazaars abound this journey, ensuring that there will never be a dull moment. An incredible adventure awaits on the Golden Eagle as it soars through the stunning landscape of Iran.

2016/2017 Price Details

Prices in US Dollars

Silver Class (Twin)	Silver Class (Single)	Gold Class (Twin)	Gold Class (Single)	Imperial Class (Twin)	Imperial Class (Single)
\$16,495	\$24,995	\$19,995	\$29,995	#32,995	\$64,395

Itinerary

Day 1: Tehran

Arrive in Tehran where you will be met and transferred to the five-star Espinas Hotel (or similar). Enjoy a welcome reception dinner and meet your fellow travelers on this highly anticipated journey.

Day 2: Tehran



Spend a beautiful day touring the city. The highlight of our stay in Tehran is undoubtedly the visit to the breath-taking Crown Jewels Museum in the Central Bank of Iran Building, with its vast array of crown jewels used by the Qajar and Pahlavid royalty. We will also take the opportunity to explore the city's Grand Bazaar, situated in the southern heart of Tehran. It is a historical market with a seemingly never-ending maze of bustling alleyways.

Overnight at the five-star Espinas Hotel.

Day 3: Tehran

On our tour of the capital city today we visit the prestigious National Museum of Iran, opened in 1937, detailing many periods of the rich history of the country with some artefacts dating back approximately 30,000 - 35,000 years.

Late afternoon we transfer to Tehran railway station with its huge portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Kameini at the entrance to board the Golden Eagle, our home for this remarkable adventure. Settle in to your cabin and later enjoy dinner as the train begins its exciting voyage through Iran.

Day 4: Mashhad

Arrive early morning for a whole day of exploring the city of Mashhad. On the tour, visit the Imam Reza Holy Shrine, the largest mosque in the world in terms of its dimension, followed by a tour of the Nader Shah Museum. After lunch in the city, we will visit the Tomb of Ferdowsi, the father of Persian Literature who lived over 1,000 years ago. Dinner on the train as we head south.

Day 5: Rey & Mahan

After lunch we disembark into Rayen. The 20,000 square meter Rayen castle is situated beneath the snow capped Mt Hezar in the Province of Kerman. A huge medieval mud brick citadel, it was considered second only to Bam before the 2003 earthquake. Inhabited until 150 years ago, Rayen displays all the architectural elements of a deserted citadel and is extremely well

preserved. It is considered one of the most interesting sites in Iran.

We continue by road to Mahan where we visit the 19th century Royal building, Prince Garden and tomb. We later visit the sanctuary and tomb of the famous, Soufi, Shah Nematollah Vali, dating back to the Mongol Era. Rejoin the train at dusk in time for dinner.

Day 6: Kerman

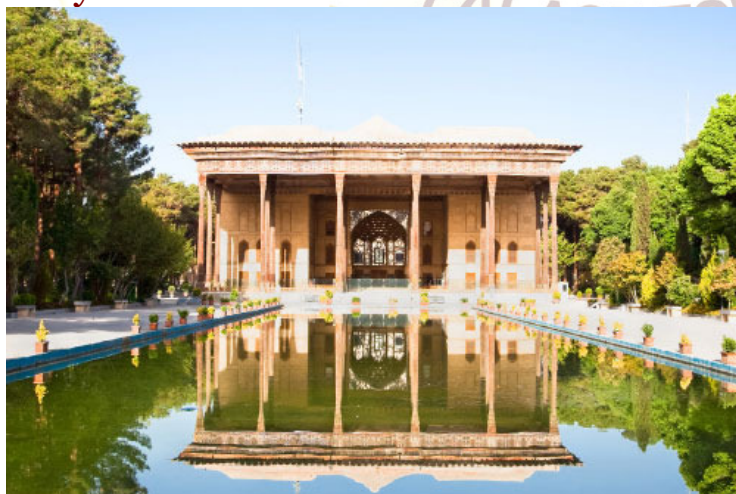


This morning we arrive in the desert trading city of Kerman. The city has a mud-brick core centered around the historic and very lively bazaar, where you will have time to explore. We'll also visit a 19th century old tea house and the Hamam Ganj Ali Khan, now restored and transformed into a museum. Wonderful frescoes adorn the walls and wax dummies illustrate the workings of a traditional bathhouse. Later this afternoon we re-join the Golden Eagle for dinner as we travel onwards to Yazd.

Day 7: Yazd

Spend the day in one of the oldest cities in the world, dating back over 3,000 years. Our tour travels to the Zoroastrian Fire Temple and Silent Towers, Amir Chakhmagh Square and the Friday Mosque, home to one of Persia's finest mosaics (both 14th century) and finally the water museum. Lunch will be served in the Moshir Garden Hotel which features a lovely Pomegranate Garden (Yazd is famous for pomegranates). Return to the train late afternoon.

Day 8: Isfahan



This enchanting city is 2,500 years old (one of the oldest in Iran) and served as Persia's capital from 1598 to 1722. As a crossroad of international trade and diplomacy, Isfahan contains a rich mixture of languages, religions and customs.

The city is famous for its silver filigree and metal work, array of great historical monuments, and the Life-Giving River, the Zayandeh-Rood, which has given the city its beauty. Isfahan is packed with some of Iran's best sights and

today we spend a whole day in the city, visiting the Vank Church in the Armenian Quarter. Following a traditional Iranian lunch we move on to Naghshe Jahan Square, a World Heritage Site and the second largest man-made square in the world, where the Ali Qapou Palace and Shah and Sheikh Lutfullah Mosques can be found. Here, the time is yours to enjoy the huge square and pick up a bargain at the handicraft Bazaar of Qaisarieh.

Day 9: Persepolis & Shiraz

Following breakfast onboard we arrive in Sadat Shaha, for the nearby ruins of Persepolis, another World Heritage Site. Perhaps Iran's most important archaeological site, this ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire dates back to the 6th century. Even now, the ruins are extremely impressive. Our final visit today is to the Necropolis at nearby Naghsh-e Rostam. After lunch we continue by road to Shiraz.

Shiraz is Persia's cultural Capital. Dating back over 4,000 years it is also known as the city of poets, literature, wine and flowers. A visit to the Quran Gate, Hafez Tomb and the Vakil Citadel are the highlights of our afternoon tour.

Day 10: Kashan

Wake up to the ancient city of Kashan where we visit stunning sites. See the Fin garden, Iran's oldest garden dating from 1590 (a World Heritage Site), and nearby Sialk Hills archaeological site, dating back almost 8,000 years. BrojerdiTaba Tabaei - 19th century historical houses wrap up this tour. Kashan is the most important centre for Persian carpets, so after lunch in a local restaurant we will visit the impressive and ancient bazaar to explore the exquisite carpets on offer, before returning to our train mid-afternoon. As dinner is served we pass through Qom and arrive at Dorud, in the foothills of the Zagros Mountains around midnight.



Day 11: Shustar, Choghazanbil & Susa

As dawn rises in Dorud, our comfortable Iranian train awaits to take us to the fascinating city of Shushtar. Admire the magnificent scenery as we meander through the mountainous landscape before arriving in the city late morning. We first visit the Hydraulic system that dates back to 590 BC and still provides water to the town of Shushtar. We move on to the Choghazanbil site dating back to 1250 BC and then tour the ancient city of Susa before re-joining the train for the spectacular return journey through the Zagros Mountains. Dinner will be served as we head back to join the Golden Eagle for our onward journey.

Day 12: Pol-e Sefid

After breakfast we leave our train for a spectacular drive through the Alborz Mountains as we head towards Pol-e Sefid where our Iranian train awaits. This afternoon enjoy the ever-changing, mountainous landscapes as we climb the Trans-Iranian Railway, crossing the infamous Veresk bridge, hailed as the 'Bridge of Victory' in World War II, and the outstanding 'Three Golden Lines' spiral, as we make our way back to the Golden Eagle for our final dinner aboard the train.

Day 13: Tehran

This morning we visit the Golestan Palace (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) with its renovated

Versailles-inspired mirror-encrusted Marble Throne Hall used for the coronation of the last Shah. Most of the remaining brick and tile buildings date back to the 19th century Qajar dynasty.

Tonight we will host our Farewell Gala Dinner at our hotel, the Espinas, where you can join fellow passengers to reminisce on all the experiences you have shared together during this remarkable adventure.

Day 14: Tehran

Following breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your departing flights.

