Our sixteen-night expedition has been crafted by Pasargad Tours (the travel agency of choice for all the best cultural and educational groups) to begin in Tabriz and end in Shiraz, using Istanbul as the gateway, since Turkish Airlines is the sole carrier to offer international flights to both of these destinations. Our itinerary will encompass a wide range of the country’s outstanding sites of artistic, archaeological, architectural and cultural significance. Taking a single internal flight between Tehran and Kerman and then traveling in a circle by land back to Shiraz, we will experience the great landmarks and places of this region, most of which would be on any dedicated traveler’s life list of key world sites. Persepolis of the Achaemenid kings Cyrus and Darius; and Isfahan of Shah Abbas were the greatest places on earth in their times. Yazd, Abyaneh and Kashan provide rich offerings of indigenous construction, mosques, gardens and traditional urban settings. It will be a memorable journey!

These are indeed interesting times to be making a visit to Iran, and the visitor, particularly those of us from the US, will be pleasantly surprised by the friendly, hospitable welcome and progressive and youthful character of the population as a whole.
Itinerary

DAY 01 (Tue, April 17): DEPARTURE ISTANBUL
(Turkish Airlines TK 882 9:30 pm booked individually by participants).

DAY 02 (Wed, April 18): ARRIVAL TABRIZ

START OF SERVICE
Arrival in Tabriz in the early hours of the morning; meet and transfer to hotel (with our room waiting for us, prebooked for April 17); after some rest, visit the Blue Mosque, known in the world as the Turquoise of Islam, and the Azerbaijan Museum, displaying a fine collection of prehistoric and historic artifacts in the area; also visit the Grand Bazaar of Tabriz (a UNESCO World Heritage Site); overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 03 (Thu, April 19): TABRIZ/EXCURSION TO KANDOVAN
Today you will drive by the 13th century Arg-e Alishah, which was originally a magnificent Friday Mosque, but turned into a fortress in the 19th century; also visit the Quran and Calligraphy Museum and the Poets’ Tombs (Maghbarat-ol-Shoara; afternoon short excursion to the intriguing troglodyte village of Kandovan, up in the heights of Mt. Sahand, a volcanic mountain. In Kandovan people have carved their houses in the rocks and still live in them as in ancient times; return to Tabriz for overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 04 (Fri, April 20): TABRIZ-ARDABIL
Drive to Ardebil to visit another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the magnificent Mausoleum of Sheikh Safi-eddin Ardebili, a widely revered Sufi philosopher of the 14th century, who made Ardebil his home. He was the forefather of the well-known Safavid kings of Iran, and since his death at the age of 83 his mausoleum has become the Mecca of thousands of pilgrims every year; nearby, the attractively brick-
DAY 05 (Sat, April 21): ARDABIL-ZANJAN-TEHRAN

Morning drive to Tehran with en route visit to one of the finest achievements of Persian architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site -- the magnificent Gonbad-e-Soltaniyeh (Soltaniyeh Dome) near Zanjan, which was built by Sultan Mohammad Khodabandeh (Uljaitu), the 14th century Il-Khanid Ruler of Iran (1304-1330). Among all the magnificent palaces, mosques, and public buildings that were built in the formerly vast plain of Soltaniyeh, only the tomb of Uljaitu has survived. The monument is remarkable in many ways; its huge dome is about 51 meters high and ranks amongst the largest domes in the world. The stucco-work, the tile-work, and other decorative elements in this monument are unique; continue to Tehran, via Qazvin, for overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 06 (Sun, April 22): TEHRAN

Full day of visits to some of Tehran's major museums: these will include Iran's National Archaeological Museum, displaying an authenticated collection of pre-historic and ancient artifacts with pottery dating back to 6-7 millennium B.C; the Islamic Museum with a unique collection of artifacts, manuscripts, silver and bronze objects and tiles from different post-Islamic periods in Iran, displayed on two floors; Abguineh (Glass & Ceramics) Museum, a valuable collection of pre-Islamic and Islamic glass and ceramics, beautifully displayed and located in an elegant early 20th-century mansion; and the Carpet Museum, with an extensive collection of old Persian carpets and rugs from the major carpet-weaving centers of Iran; overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 07 (Mon, April 23): TEHRAN-KERMAN

Further visits in Tehran to include the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Golestan Palace/Museum Complex, built by Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty, dating from the 18th to early 20th century, to visit the Marble Throne Hall, the Ethnographic Museum and the Shams-ol-Emareh (Sun) Palace, with a walk around the garden to enjoy the beautiful tile covered walls and buildings; and the Sa’ad Abad Palace/Museum Complex, built by the Qajar and Pahlavi monarchs and the
Heritage Site -- the Shahzadeh Garden, a late 19th century Qajar period garden/house; and the magnificent blue-tiled Mausoleum of Shah Nematollah-e-Vali, the great 14th century Sufi Leader; return to Kerman for overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 08 (Tue, April 24): KERMAN/EXCURSION RAYEN & MAHAN

Morning drive to the village of Rayen, to visit the Arg, or Citadel, of Rayen, a miniature version of the Arg-e-Bam, with all the architectural features of a desert citadel; on the return journey stop in Mahan to visit one of the nine Persian Gardens listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site -- the Shahzadeh Garden, a late 19th century Qajar period garden/house; and the magnificent blue-tiled Mausoleum of Shah Nematollah-e-Vali, the great 14th century Sufi Leader; return to Kerman for overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 09 (Wed, April 25): KERMAN-YAZD

Half day visits in Kerman to include the Ganj-Ali-Khan Complex (17th century Safavid period bathhouse/ethnographic museum, bazaar, and caravanseri), the Hammam-e-Vakil, another 18th century bathhouse turned into a traditional teahouse/restaurant, and the 14th century Friday Mosque; afternoon drive to Yazd, en route, visit the Zein-ed-Din Caravanserai, dating from the Safavid period; continue to Yazd for overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 10 (Thu, April 26): YAZD

Full day sightseeing in the newly listed UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Historic City of Yazd and the center for Iran’s small Zoroastrian community. On this day you will visit the active Zoroastrian Fire Temple, the fire of which has been burning for about 1500 years; and one of the two Zoroastrian abandoned Towers of Silence (called a Dakhma, a wide tower with a platform open to the sky), dating back to the 18th century, where until some 50-60 years ago corpses were left on the platform to be picked clean by vultures, a process which only took a few hours. Among Yazd’s Islamic sites are the Friday Mosque (1324 A.D.) with the highest portal and minarets in Iran, and the Mirchachmagh Maidan and Mosque. Other notable Islamic monuments in the old Fahadan area of Yazd are the Seljuk shrine dedicated to the Twelve Shi’ite Imams (currently under restoration); and Ziaeyeh Theological School, known as Zendan-e-Eskander or Alexandar’s Prison. There are also many beautiful
old houses in Yazd, among them another Persian Garden listed as World Heritage Site, the Dowlat-Abad Garden, with an 18th century feudal hexagonal house and the highest 'badguir' (wind-catcher) in Iran; overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 11 (Fri, April 27): YAZD-MEYBOD-NA'IN-ISFAHAN

Drive to Isfahan, en route stop over first in Meybod, a small desert town with several very interesting monuments of desert/mud architecture and a caravanserai; continue to the village of Mohamadiye, to see the traditional workshops weaving the camel cloaks worn by the Moslem clergy in Iran; on to Na'in, another charming desert town, half way between Yazd and Isfahan, to visit the 10th century Friday Mosque, and the 17th century Pirnia House/ Ethnographic Museum, with a walk through the old part of town; O/N stay at Abbasi Hotel.

DAY 12 (Sat, April 28): ISFAHAN

Full day tour of the beautiful city of Isfahan, the 17th century capital of the Safavids, referred to as Nesf-e-Jahan (Half of the World) in Safavid sources, to visit the famous bridges of Shahrestan, Khajou, and Sio-se-pol, the Armenian Quarter with several churches, including the important Cathedral of Vank; in the afternoon visit one of the world's grandest squares and a UNESCO World Heritage Site -- the Maidan-e-Naghsh-e-Jahan, with several sites (the Ali-Qapu Palace...
with its enchanting music rooms and balcony overlooking the Maidan, from where the Safavid Kings watched polo games, and two of Islamic world’s greatest mosques – the Sheikh Lotfollah and the Imam – with magnificent architecture and tilework), finishing with a visit to the Qesarieh Bazaar with hundreds of shops and workshops, displaying the arts and handicrafts for which Isfahan is world-famous; overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 13 (Sun, April 29): ISFAHAN

Another full day of sightseeing in Isfahan to include visit to another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the magnificent Friday Mosque (Masjed-e-Jameh), with the famous Uljaitu Mihrab (Prayer Niche) of the Il-Khanid period; the Friday Mosque is considered a museum of a thousand years of Persian religious architecture and is truly one of the world’s greatest mosques. From here drive to the Chehel Sotun Palace, built by Shah Abbas II in the 17th century; its twenty wooden columns reflected in the surface of the pool give rise to its name ‘The Palace of Forty Columns’. Final stop of the day is at the Hasht Behesht pavilion built in 1670 by Shah Solayman and known as the Pavilion of Eight Paradises or the Palace of Nightingales. This small but intricate building is set amongst tree-lined alleys, a reflecting pool and water rills; overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 14 (Mon, April 30): ISFAHAN-PASARGADAE-SHIRAZ

Morning drive to Shiraz with en route visit to Pasargadae (UNESCO World Heritage Site), pre-dating Persepolis, the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenian Empire, founded by Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C. to see the simple but impressive tomb of Cyrus, and the remains of his palaces, all located in the vast plain of Dasht-e-Morghab; continue to Shiraz for overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 15 (Tue, May 01): SHIRAZ/EXCURSION TO PERSEPOLIS & NAGHSH-E-ROSTAM

Full day excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Persepolis, one of the most important sites of the Ancient World, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid kings with remains of the palaces of Darius the Great, Xerxes and Artaxerxes, and its famous bas-reliefs, depicting kings and courtiers and gift-bearing representatives of tributary nations of the Persian Empire; also visit Naghsh-e-Rostam to see Ka’be-Zardosht (fire temple/ sanctuary), and Royal Tombs (also Achaemenid); plus seven magnificent Sassanian rock-reliefs (including Shapur the First’s famous victory over Roman Emperor Valerian); return to Shiraz and visit the tomb of Iran’s greatest lyric poet Hafez, located in a beautiful garden; overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 16 (Wed, May 02): SHIRAZ

Full day of visits in Shiraz to some of the famous gardens of this city of “roses and nightingales”, including the Eram Garden, the Pars Museum located in an elegant Zand period building situated in Nazar Garden, with a collection of Zand and Qajar period artifacts and paintings, the Arg-e-Karim Khan (18th-century citadel), the pink tiled 19th-century Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque, the Qajar-period Narenjestan Garden/House; and the Vakil Bazaar leading to Saray-e-Moshir with splendid architecture and shops; overnight stay at hotel.

DAY 17 (Thu, May 03): SHIRAZ-ISTANBUL

Midnight transfer to airport for departure flight to Istanbul by Turkish Airlines, TK 885, departing at 3:00 am and arriving Istanbul at 5:35 am. This flight is to be booked by individual participants.
REGISTRATION FORM

Iran: Magic Carpet to Persian Splendors, April 17 to May 3, 2018 (dates of arrival in and departure from Istanbul)

☐ Yes, I would like to participate in this journey!
Tour price is estimated at $8,200 per person double occupancy, $9,000 single occupancy based on a group of at least 9 participants.

Costs have fluctuated unpredictably this past year due to changes in fuel costs and exchange rates. The above costs are based on market conditions as of January 1, 2018. They are subject to increase should market conditions change.

To register please complete this registration form and send it with a $2,000 deposit per person by check to Stephen Harby, 718 Cedar Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405-3810. Only written registrations, including appropriate payment will be accepted.

Also, please e-mail a 300 dpi resolution color scan of the picture page of your passport, including the entire page spread.

Final payment of balance will be due by March 1, 2018.

Name

Name

Name

Address      City      State  Zip/Postal Code
___________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________
Home phone     Work phone   Email

Please select one of the following:

☐ double occupancy with 2 beds   ☐ I would like to have assistance booking my flights
☐ double occupancy with one bed
☐ single occupancy

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

WHAT IS INCLUDED

Hotels as indicated on the itinerary based on double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional supplement. We reserve the right to substitute other hotels of a similar quality.
Breakfast, lunch and dinner throughout the tour. (All meals are included from breakfast on April 18 through dinner on May 3).
Admission to all sites as described in the itinerary.
The handling of no more than two medium size suitcases per person
Private Coach transportation throughout and internal air flight from Tehran to Kerman.
Use of personal headset to facilitate hearing of on-site lectures and commentary.
The services of a local guide and tour leader.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

International air transportation to Tabriz and from Shiraz. Incidental expenses such as for telephone calls, fax communications, a la carte orders or items not on the set menus, alcoholic drinks (prohibited in Iran, so not applicable), laundry, and any other items not specifically mentioned as included.
TRIP INSURANCE
In the event participants cancel their trip, all non-refundable payments will be forfeited. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended for this purpose.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS
A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay. There must be no evidence of any past entry into the State of Israel. A visa for entry to the Islamic Republic of Iran is required. It will be obtained by each participant based on documentation to be provided by Pasargad Tours.

TOUR COSTS
Costs have been calculated on the basis of charges and exchange rates as of January 1m 2018. Should these change, Stephen Harby reserves the right to make appropriate adjustments to the tour cost.

ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY
Stephen Harby reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. Itinerary changes made by local travel providers are beyond the control of Stephen Harby and should such changes be made the participant will be bound accordingly.

ITINERARY DEVIATIONS
Stephen Harby assumes no liability or responsibility for any participant deviating from the group tour. Participants arriving and departing independently are responsible for their own transfers.

CANCELLATION
Should cancellation occur prior to 90 days before departure, full refund will be granted less a $200 service charge; within the following days prior to departure, the specified percentage of tour costs is non-refundable: 60-89 days - 30%; 45-59 days - 50%; 30-44 days - 75%; 29 days or fewer - 100%. Cancellations must be submitted in writing; trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. There will be no refund for any tour accommodation, service, or feature not taken, or if participant cancels for any reason while tour is in progress. Any additional costs due to leaving the tour are the responsibility of the departing passenger. In these times of uncertainty in the international realm, we also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to political actions, civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeur or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable by Stephen Harby, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants.

RESPONSIBILITY
Stephen Harby and /or agents assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, carriage, aircraft, motor coach, or other conveyance or hotel which may be used wholly or in part, in the performance of the tour. Neither will they be responsible or liable for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying or accommodating the passengers; nor for any delays, injuries, damages or losses resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, acts of governments, de jure or de facto, wars whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, terrorist activities, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, or from any causes beyond the control of Stephen Harby, and /or agents. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well being of the passengers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The sole responsibility of the airline used is limited to that set out in the passenger contract evidenced by the tickets. This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Stephen Harby. These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by the State of California.

Your signature below confirms that you have read the Terms and Conditions and accompanying itinerary and agree to abide by its contents.

Date                  Signature (participant 1)

Date                  Signature (participant 2 if applicable)