

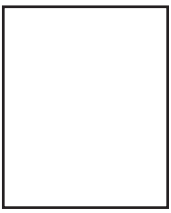
## HIGHLIGHTS

- Join our **Study Leader, Iranian-American journalist Azadeh Moaveni**, and Club travelers on a journey through Iran, where vast monuments serve as testament to the extraordinary history of this country.
- Explore **Tehran**, the country's capital, including a visit to the basement vault of the Bank Milli Iran to view the spectacular Crown Jewels, and learn about the thriving Iranian contemporary art scene.
- Discover the gardens of Shah Goli, the amazing tile work of the Blue Mosque, and the town's colorful bazaar in **Tabriz**.
- Experience the country's center of Zoroastrianism in **Yazd** where the most traditional Persian architecture is found.
- Visit the Fars Museum in **Shiraz** and take an excursion to the magnificent ruins of **Persepolis** – one of the most remarkable archaeological sites found in the Near East.
- Take in the beauty of **Isfahan** where brilliant blue-tiled buildings and majestic bridges are often recognized as the perfection of Islamic architecture.
- Enjoy excellent cuisine and art and the warmth of the people of Iran throughout the journey.



## Commonwealth Club Travel

595 Market Street, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105



# Perspectives of Iran

October 9 - 23, 2014

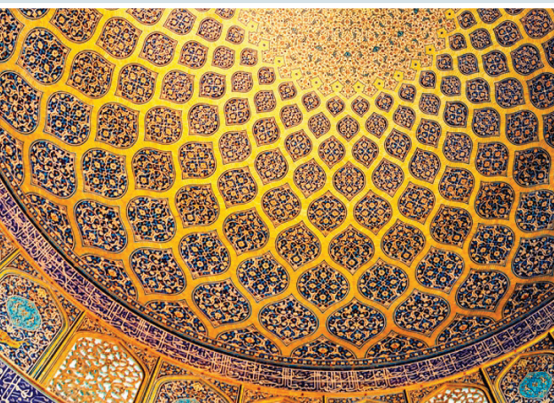
Led by Azadeh Moaveni



## What to Expect

Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with an active group. In order to participate one should be able to walk 1-2 miles comfortably, use stairs without handrails, and be able to walk and stand for periods of two hours at time.

Fall is a lovely time to travel in Iran when temperatures range from 60-85 degrees Fahrenheit. The infrastructure in Iran is quite good with modern roads and buses. Hotels are comfortable with private bathrooms and air-conditioning. Food is freshly prepared and we eat at delightful local restaurants. During the program participants should be dressed modestly and women will be required to have their head covered while in public areas. More details will be provided upon registering for the trip.



### U.S. to TEHRAN

Thursday, October 9

Depart the U.S.

### TEHRAN

Friday, October 10

Upon arrival, transfer to the former Intercontinental Hotel, now the Laleh Hotel.

### TEHRAN

Saturday, October 11

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Tehran concentrating on its excellent museums. Visit the Archaeological Museum with its fine collection including a stone capital of a winged lion from Susa. Explore the Glass and Ceramics Museum of Iran and the Contemporary Art Museum. B,L,D

### TEHRAN

Sunday, October 12

Visit to the Reza Abbasi Museum which is home to a superior collection of Persian miniatures. View the Iranian crown jewels. This spectacular collection of jewels, stored in the basement vault of the Bank Milli Iran, contains the world's largest uncut diamond as well as the Peacock Throne. B,L,D

### TEHRAN

Monday, October 13

Head to northern Tehran to visit Khomeini's home where one is allowed a glimpse of the dwelling. Enjoy lunch in a lively neighborhood, then stop at the Zahir ol Dowleh Cemetery, the resting spot for many of Iran's writers and artists. Close by is the garden home of Dr. Hesabi, a prominent Persian scientist. Enjoy tea here before returning to the hotel. B,L,D

### TABRIZ

Tuesday, October 14

Fly to Tabriz, the capital of East Azerbaijan. Until recently Tabriz was the second largest city in Iran. Visit the Blue Mosque of Tabriz, considered a masterpiece of Iranian decorative tile

work due to the quality of the work, the finesse of the designs, and the harmony of the overall composition. Continue on to the gardens of the Shah Goli (the Royal Lake), a popular site for summer picnicking and musical performances, and learn about qanats, a rather extraordinary system of irrigation, which can extend for miles. End the day at the fabulous bazaar of Tabriz which is known for its silverwork and jewelry. B,L,D

### TABRIZ

Wednesday, October 15

Today begins with an excursion to the Saint Stepanos Monastery. Dating back to the 7th century, this is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site. Situated on the south-eastern fringe of the main zone of the Armenian cultural space, the monastery once constituted a major center for the dissemination of Armenian culture in the region. This church, along with St. Thaddeus, are the last regional remains of this culture that are still in a state of integrity and authenticity. Return to Tabriz mid-afternoon. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. B,L,D

### SHIRAZ

Thursday, October 16

In the morning, enjoy a short excursion to the intriguing troglodyte village of Kandovan. The Kandovan people have carved their houses in the rocks and still live in them as in ancient times. Return to Tabriz and connect with an afternoon flight to Shiraz. Upon arrival enjoy an orientation tour of this city known for its nightingales, poetry, and, at one time, wine. Transfer to the Homa Hotel for dinner and overnight. B,L,D

### SHIRAZ

Friday, October 17

Today we enjoy a full day excursion to Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenian Empire and one of the world's most beautiful and spectacular archaeological sites. This palace city was built by craftsmen from around Darius' vast empire. Superb bas reliefs

depict the flow of ritual processions. After a lunch sitting in the shade of grape vines, visit Naghsh-E Rostam which contains the carved tombs of four Achaemenian kings. B,L,D

## YAZD

Saturday, October 18

This morning explore the city of Shiraz stopping at the tomb of the celebrated poet Hafez. The marble tombstone is engraved with a long verse from the poet's works. Continue on to the Fars Museum. This octagonal pavilion houses a collection relating to the life of Karim Khan. After lunch drive to Yazd passing through many acres of pistachios. Dinner and overnight at the Moshir Garden Hotel. B,L,D.

## YAZD

Sunday, October 19

In Yazd stop at the home of the former governor of the city to see and learn more about traditional Persian architecture and the *badgers*, wind-towers ingeniously designed to catch a passing breeze. 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. We also stop 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

Monday, October 20

Drive this morning to Na'in, an important trade center. 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 a wonderful lunch, drive to Isfahan. Upon arrival transfer to the delightful Abbasi Hotel, a converted caravanserai. B,L,D

## ISFAHAN

Tuesday, October 21

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

Wednesday, October 22

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

## ISFAHAN to U.S.

Thursday, October 23

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

*\*Itinerary is subject to change*



**Tour Price Per Person: \$5,995**  
**Single Supplement: \$1,100**

*Based on min of 10 travelers and a max of 25*

### 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
- Internal flights
- All entrance fees and special events listed
- Full lecture program and Study Leader
- Pre-departure materials and reading list
- The services of a local Iranian guide
- The services of a professional tour manager who will accompany the group throughout the trip
- Gratuities

### Does not include:

- International airfare into and out of Tehran (approximately \$1,500)
- Visa fees for Iran (\$128 at time of printing)
- Excess luggage charges
- Medical expenses
- Trip Insurance
- Items of a purely personal nature





**STUDY LEADER**

**Azadeh Moaveni** is an Iranian-American journalist and writer who specializes in covering Iran, having spent over a decade reporting throughout the region from bases in Cairo, Beirut, and Tehran. She is a former Middle East correspondent for *Time* magazine, and currently writes

widely on Iran for *Time*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Guardian*, and other publications.

As one of the few American correspondents permitted to work continuously in Iran throughout the 2000s, Azadeh has reported extensively on Iranian youth culture, women's

rights, social media and political change, and Iranian security issues. Azadeh began her career in 1999 as a reporter in Cairo and joined *Time* magazine in 2000 as a Tehran and then New York-based reporter, covering society and political stories across the Middle East. In 2003, she became a correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times* to cover the war in Iraq. She has worked for the United Nations in Afghanistan and also writes book reviews for *The New York Times Book Review* and the *Financial Times*.

Azadeh has written two books – the bestselling *Lipstick Jihad* (PublicAffairs,U.S., 2005) and *Honeymoon in Tehran* (Random House, 2009) – which focus on the country's youth culture, tangled ties with the West, and the rise of President Ahmadinejad. She is co-author of the Iranian Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi's memoir, *Iran Awakening* (Rider, 2007).

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](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_920.html). Our tour operator has operated many trips to Iran, including several fall departures in 2013. The Commonwealth Club 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.

# Perspectives of Iran Reservation Form



Phone: (415) 597-6720  
Fax: (415) 597-6729

I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) for the **Perspectives of Iran** trip.  
Enclosed is a deposit of \$500 per person, in the total amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

*Please make checks payable to "Distant Horizons." Your deposit is fully refundable up until 14 days after receipt of your reservation form. A confirmation letter, full terms and conditions, reading list and a travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit.*

## Room Arrangements

- Single Supplement
- Double Occupancy, I will be sharing a room with: \_\_\_\_\_
- I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

## Travel Arrangements

- I/we wish to be booked on the suggested group flight from San Francisco.
- I/we wish to be booked on a flight departing from: \_\_\_\_\_
- I/we will make other travel arrangements to arrive in Tehran

## Personal Information

### Traveler 1:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Traveler 2:

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed reservation form to:

**Commonwealth Club Travel, 595 Market Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105**