

Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.

IRAN

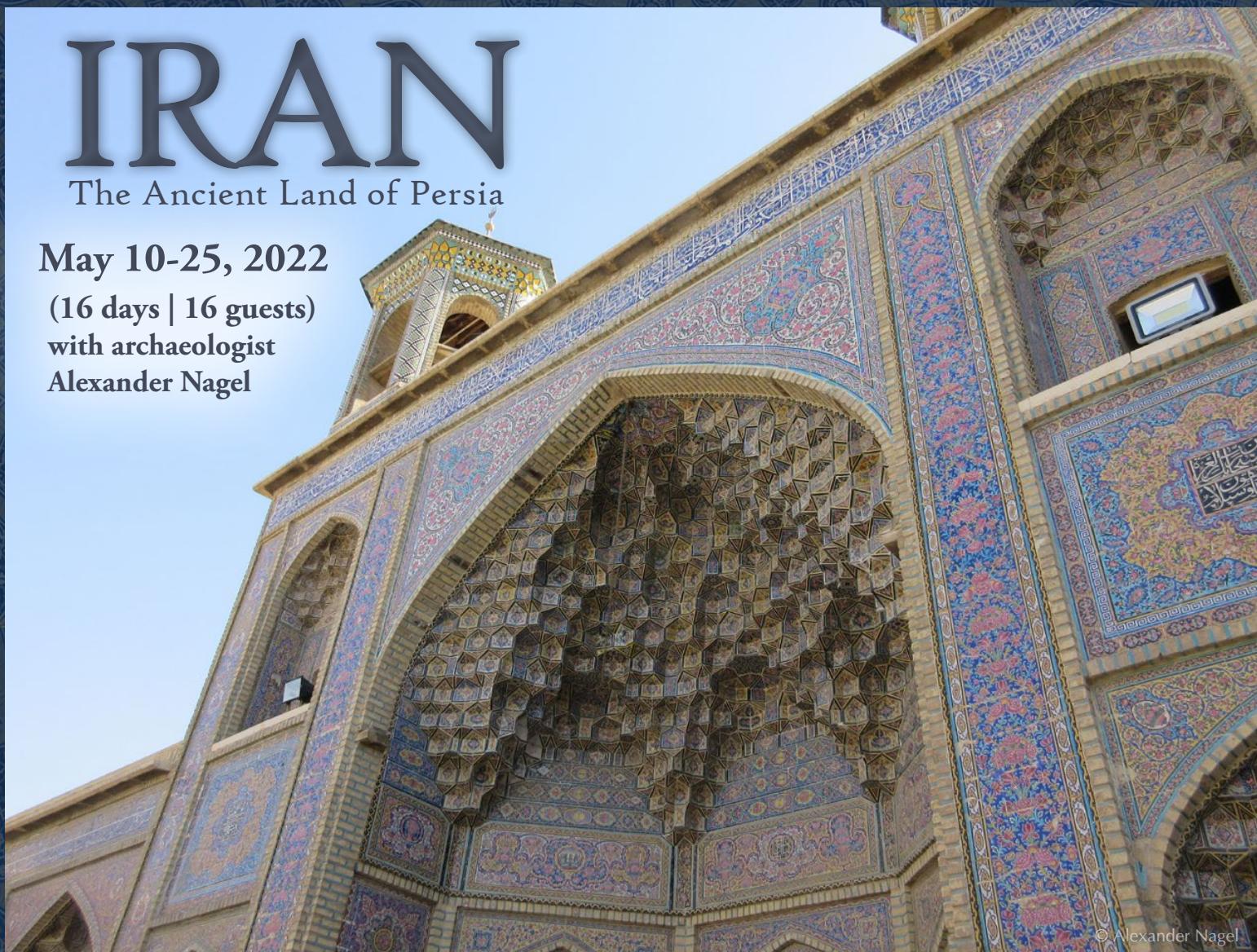
The Ancient Land of Persia

May 10-25, 2022

(16 days | 16 guests)

with archaeologist

Alexander Nagel



© Alexander Nagel



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"I loved the Iran tour, which was my first trip with AIA Tours. It will certainly not be my last as I am already signed up for [two more]...I have taken many archaeological tours...I looked for [a] company with an archaeological focus and good lecturers, not just a local guide. I am now so happy to have found AIA Tours."

— Gretchen, New Jersey





"We learned so much about Persian history. We could not have wished for a better group to be on this adventure with."

- Gordon and Charlotte, Massachusetts

Highlights

- Traveling and learning with engaging **AIA study leader Alexander Nagel**, an expert in the archaeology of Iran.
- The knowledge and services of a **professional Iranian tour manager/guide** who will attend to all of the travel logistics, freeing you to fully enjoy and experience your surroundings.
- Two full days in the capital city of **Tehran** for an introduction to Iran's archaeology, culture, contemporary art, and history, with visits to several excellent museums, art galleries, and monuments.
- Two full days in **Isfahan**, perhaps Iran's most splendid city, with glittering, tiled domes that tower above wide, shaded avenues and terraced gardens.
- **Twelve** UNESCO World Heritage Sites:
 - o Afternoon *and* morning visits to the astounding site of **Persepolis**
 - o **Pasargadae**, the location of the first Achaemenid capital, with the tomb of Cyrus II and the ruins of gardens, palaces, and altars
 - o Tehran's lavish, 18th-century **Golestan Palace**
 - o **Soltaniye**'s 14th-century mausoleum of Mongol Sultan Oljeitu Khodabande
 - o The Sassanian religious center of **Takht-e Soleiman** (Solomon's Throne)
 - o **Bisotun**, with a 6th-century bas-relief surrounded by over a thousand lines of inscriptions in Elamite, Babylonian, and Old Persian
 - o **Susa**'s Ardesir's Palace and archaeological mounds, whose layers date from the 5th millennium B.C. to the 13th century A.D.
 - o **Choga Zanbil**, a 13th-century B.C. Elamite complex with a ziggurat
 - o **Yazd**'s historic center and its traditional, underground irrigation channels (*qanats*)
 - o Isfahan's immense **Meidan Emam** (Royal Square) and **Masjed-e Jame**, one of the world's greatest mosques
- Delicious, healthy cuisine, which emphasizes fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables.

Embark on an exciting adventure across the spectacular landscapes of Iran, from the great and often green Zagros mountain chain in the west to the arid expanses of the east. Travel in Iran and meeting with Iranians is a wonderful and often heartwarming and uplifting experience. One is constantly being approached by people wanting to tell you how much they like Americans and how happy they are that you are visiting their country.

Our in-depth itinerary includes not only twelve UNESCO World Heritage Sites, but also beautiful gardens and restaurants, plus many other extraordinary sites and natural wonders that most visitors to Iran do not see. Throughout the tour you will be with an archaeologist whose work focuses on the art and archaeology of the Persian Empire and its complex interactions with ancient Greece, Mesopotamia, and Egypt, but who is also knowledgeable about contemporary art and daily life in Iran. This is a well-paced and comprehensive itinerary featuring the finest available accommodations, with all meals included.



Ceiling detail at Lotfollah mosque,
Isfahan © PMaiwald

ITINERARY

(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

Tuesday, May 10, 2022: Depart home

Depart home on overnight flights to meet connecting flight.

Wednesday, May 11: Connecting Flight TBD | Tehran, Iran

Connect with our suggested flight (TBD) to Tehran Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA), where you will be met and transferred to our hotel. Gather for dinner at the hotel this evening. *Overnight at the Espinas Hotel for three nights. (D)*

Thursday, May 12: Tehran: National Archaeological Museum, Golestan Palace, Aaran Gallery, Welcome dinner

After an introductory lecture this morning we visit the National Archaeological Museum, whose fine collection includes many famous sculptures of the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sasanian Empires. After lunch at a local restaurant we visit the lavish Golestan Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that stands on the site of the historic Arg (citadel) of Tehran. End the day at the Aaran Gallery, one of Tehran's most important contemporary art galleries. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel's Persian restaurant. (B,L,D)

Friday, May 13: Tehran: Sa'd Abad Museum Complex, Reza Abbasi Museum

This morning we call at the seldom-visited Sa'd Abad Museum Complex, a former royal estate whose opulent Green Palace houses some of the most beautiful carpets from Iran's various provinces. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue on to the Reza Abbasi Museum, whose collections focus on art, culture, and technology in Iran from the 2nd millennium B.C. to the early 20th century. Return to the hotel, and then gather for dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Saturday, May 14: Soltaniye | Takht-e Soleiman | Takab

Depart Tehran and drive northwest to Takab, stopping along the way to visit Soltaniye, known for its mausoleum of the Mongol Sultan Oljeitu Khodabande. Admire this UNESCO World Heritage Site's magnificent 14th-century tomb tower, whose decorations and patterns carved into plastered walls have inspired geometric and floral patterns on Persian textiles. After lunch, take a spectacular drive through outliers of the Zagros Mountains to Takht-e Soleiman (Solomon's Throne), another UNESCO World Heritage Site and once a great Sasanian religious center, where we find the well-preserved remains of a large, fortified settlement built around a small lake on a hilltop. Arrive in Takab, and check-in to a very simple hotel. *Overnight at the Ranji Hotel. (B,L,D)*

Meidan Emam, Isfahan



AIA Lecturer & Host

Alexander Nagel (Ph.D., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) is Assistant Professor teaching the interconnections between Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Art at the State University of New York's Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. Alex is actively involved in research and publication of materials and archaeological sites in Iran (Persepolis, Susa) and Greece (Stratos). Affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., Alex curated a number of very successful exhibitions and research projects on Iran, Iraq, Greece, Egypt, Yemen, and the ancient Near East in Washington, D.C. Born and raised in Berlin, Germany, he gained first experience of archaeological fieldwork in Germany and Greece, and worked on exhibitions on ancient Greece in the Pergamon-Museum in Berlin. In 2007, Alex began a series of projects examining and understanding the role of pigments and paints on monuments from Iran's UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Persepolis and Susa. A recipient of many international awards, including research grants and fellowships, he also conducted research at the National Museum in Tehran, and authored articles on Persepolis for the *Oxford Handbook of Ancient Iran* (2014) and other prestigious publications.

Alex has pioneered color-archaeology, integrating anthropological and archaeological fieldwork, and works with Iranian scholars on collaborative projects. A member of numerous international professional organizations, including the Musee du Louvre's Achaemenid Persia Research Project "Achemenet," he has been a board member of the local Archaeological Institute of America society in Washington, D.C.

since 2009. Alex has been a frequent lecturer on Persepolis and ancient Iran at universities and museums in Iran, Europe, and the U.S.; and led this AIA Tour of Iran to excellent reviews in 2016.



"It's amazing to me how so many things were incorporated while maintaining good organization and flexibility; our guides were wonderful and provided us with a smooth, varied and interesting journey."

- Barbara, California

Sunday, May 15: Bisotun | Taq-e Bostan | Kermanshah

Depart Takab early this morning and drive to Kermanshah. Make a stop at Bisotun, a UNESCO World Heritage Site whose principle significance is a 6th-century bas-relief ordered by Darius I ("The Great"), below and around which are over a thousand lines of inscriptions, written in three languages (Elamite, Babylonian, and Old Persian). Upon arrival in Kermanshah we have lunch and then visit Taq-e Bostan, where a series of bas-reliefs and grottoes (the latter unique in Sasanian art) were carved into the cliff face. Check-in to our hotel, get settled, and gather for dinner. *Overnight at the [Persian Hotel Kermanshah](#).* (B,L,D)

Monday, May 16: Pol-e Dokhtar | Susa | Shushtar

Set out for Pol-e Dokhtar ("Bridge of the Daughter"), whose eight arches span the River Kashkan. The bridge was part of the Sasanian royal road, which linked the Persian capitals of Istakhr and Bishapur with towns in central and northern Mesopotamia. Continue on to Susa (modern Shush), a UNESCO World Heritage Site comprising archaeological mounds and Ardashir's Palace, whose layers of urban settlements date from the late 5th millennium B.C. to the 13th century A.D. Drive about an hour more to Shushtar, where we have dinner at our hotel this evening. *Overnight at the Afzal Traditional Residency.* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 17: Chogha Zanbil | Haft Tappeh | Chogha Mish | Fly to Shiraz

Today is dedicated to exploring some of the important sites in the area around Shush. Begin the day at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Choga Zanbil, a 13th-century B.C. Elamite complex with one of the few extant ziggurats (pyramidal, stepped, tower temples) outside of Mesopotamia. (Please note that due to erosion concerns Choga Zanbil has recently been fenced, and it is not possible to get close to the site.) Continue on to the ruins of the 3,000-year-old city of Haft Tappeh ("Seven Hills"), where several of the dozens of hill-mounds on this otherwise flat landscape are thought to once have been ziggurats, and are currently being excavated. Also visit the lovely UNESCO-sponsored museum at the site. After lunch at a local restaurant, and time permitting, we visit Chogha Mish, which was a regional center during Mesopotamia's late Uruk period and is important today as a source of information about the development of writing. The site provided evidence of an accounting system that evolved from clay tokens, to clay tablets with marks, to a cuneiform writing system. Take a short, late afternoon flight from Ahwaz to Shiraz and transfer upon arrival to our recently-opened hotel, where we have dinner this evening. *Overnight at the [Zandiyeh Hotel](#) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 18: Naqsh-e Rostam |

Persepolis | Shiraz bazaar

This morning visit Naqsh-e Rostam, where we find the carved tombs of Achaemenid rulers Darius the Great, Xerxes, Artaxerxes I, and Darius II. After an early lunch, visit nearby Persepolis, ceremonial capital of the vast Achaemenid Empire. It is perhaps one of the most spectacular surviving archaeological sites in the world, and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Persepolis comprises about 15 major ceremonial buildings, including the Apadana, Treasury, and "Harem," as well as smaller palaces also embellished with sculpture. Return to Shiraz and end the day at the bazaar, considered by many to be the finest in Iran. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)



Detail of the ceiling at the Friday Mosque in Yazd © SJMarshjak

Below, two images of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Persepolis



© Babak Shakiba



Thursday, May 19: Firuzabad | Qal'eh Dokhtar & Palace of Ardashir | Tomb of Hafez, Shiraz

Take a day trip from Shiraz to Firuzabad, formerly known as Gor and Ardashir-Khorra ("Glory of Ardashir"). Firuzabad was the capital of Ardashir I (A.D. 224-241), founder of the Sasanian Empire, and was built in a circular plan more than a mile in diameter and encircled by double walls. A few miles from the old city of Gor is Qal'eh Dokhtar ("The Maiden Castle"), a three-story fortress built by Ardashir I in A.D. 209. In A.D. 224, he built the nearby Palace of Ardashir with a design particular to architects of Fars. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and visit the remains of the Sasanian Tangab Bridge. Return to Shiraz and visit the tomb of the celebrated, 14th-century poet Hafez, whose marble tombstone is engraved with a long verse from his works. Dinner is at a local restaurant with Persian-style (and limited Western-style) seating. (B,L,D)



The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Pasargadae

Friday, May 20: Return to Persepolis | Pasargadae | Yazd

This morning we drive to Yazd, making a stop at Persepolis for a repeat visit of this magnificent site. Continue on to Pasargadae, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cyrus II ("The Great") defeated Astyages the Mede nearby in 550 B.C. and Cyrus is said to have built this first Persian capital on the site of his victory. His white limestone tomb stands apart from the scattered ruins of formal gardens, palaces, and altars on a beautiful plain. Upon arriving in Yazd, those who are up to it may climb a steep, dirt path to the spiritual site of the Towers of Silence, where Zoroastrians once laid out their dead. We have dinner at our very traditional hotel this evening. *Overnight at the Moshir Garden Hotel for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Saturday, May 21: Yazd walking tour

The architecture of Yazd is perhaps the most traditionally Persian to be found, preserved by the dry climate and spared the devastations of the Mongols. Wind towers are seen all over Iran but are most highly developed in Yazd. Begin exploring Yazd at the home of the city's former Governor to learn how wind towers work and more about residential Persian architecture in the desert. Take a walking tour through the bazaar, ending at the Water Museum, an excellent introduction to *qanats* (traditional underground water channels for irrigation, which have been collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site). After lunch in the old quarter, enjoy a walk through covered streets. End the day concentrating on the Zoroastrian religion, which during Sasanian times was the state creed. There are about 400,000 Zoroastrians left in the world, of which about 60,000 live in and around Yazd. Zoroastrians worship fire as a symbol of God, and keep eternal flames burning at their temples. Visit the Ateshkade, where it is said that a sacred flame has been burning since about A.D. 470. Dinner is at a local restaurant this evening. (B,L,D)

"Isfahan was spectacular, with its beautiful Safavid mosques and palaces. Persepolis was awe-inspiring. Yazd was delightful. Most of the Iranian people we met were friendly and welcoming."

– Elizabeth, British Columbia

Sunday, May 22: Na'in | Ardestan | Hash Behesht, Isfahan

This morning we drive to Na'in, an important trade center at the geographical center of Iran that is known for its carpet-making and fine early mosque. After a visit to a private house with some superb, 17th-century stucco carvings, we have lunch at a charming local restaurant. Continue driving to Ardestan, home to a large, 10th-century Seljuk mosque (one of the earliest built on a four-ivan plan), and near to a 16th-century, carved

Naqsh-e Rostam, featuring the carved tombs of four Achaemenid rulers



alabaster tomb of a soldier and early Safavid administrator, Amin Oways, who was killed and buried on the battlefield. Drive onward to Isfahan, arriving mid-afternoon, and visit the Hash Behesht, one of the city's two surviving Safavid pavilions (restored in the 1970s), in the center of the Garden of Nightingales (Bagh-e Bulbul). Check-in to our charming hotel, a converted, double-storied caravanserai of the late Safavid period, where we have dinner tonight. *Overnight at the [Abbasi Hotel](#) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Monday, May 23: Isfahan: Palace of Forty Columns, Meidan Emam, Bazaar, Farewell dinner

Today we begin exploring Isfahan, perhaps the most splendid of all Iranian cities, at the Palace of Forty Columns, a charming pavilion whose walls are covered with frescoes and paintings. Walk to the nearby, immense, Meidan Emam ("Royal Square"), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Four jewels of 17th-century architecture adorn each side, symbolizing the political, economic, and religious spheres of Safavid Persia. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and spend some time this afternoon exploring the city's bazaar. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 24: Isfahan: Friday Mosque, Armenian Quarter, Music Museum

This morning visit the complex and magnificent Masjed-e Jame (Friday Mosque), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and truly one of the world's greatest mosques. Its tiled ivans, vaulted ceilings, and lofty domes demonstrate more than 800 years of Persian religious architecture. View some of the five bridges crossing the Zayendehrud River (which is often dry, due to drought and construction of a dam). Perhaps the most beautiful is the two-story, 17th-century Khaju Bridge that is essentially a bridge superimposed upon a dam and supported by 24 stone arches. Continue on to Isfahan's Armenian quarter, where there are 14 churches, and take a walking tour through its narrow, twisting alleys and streets. End the day with a private, guided tour of the new Music Museum, which houses more than 300 instruments from around Iran (many unchanged for centuries). We have an early dinner at our hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

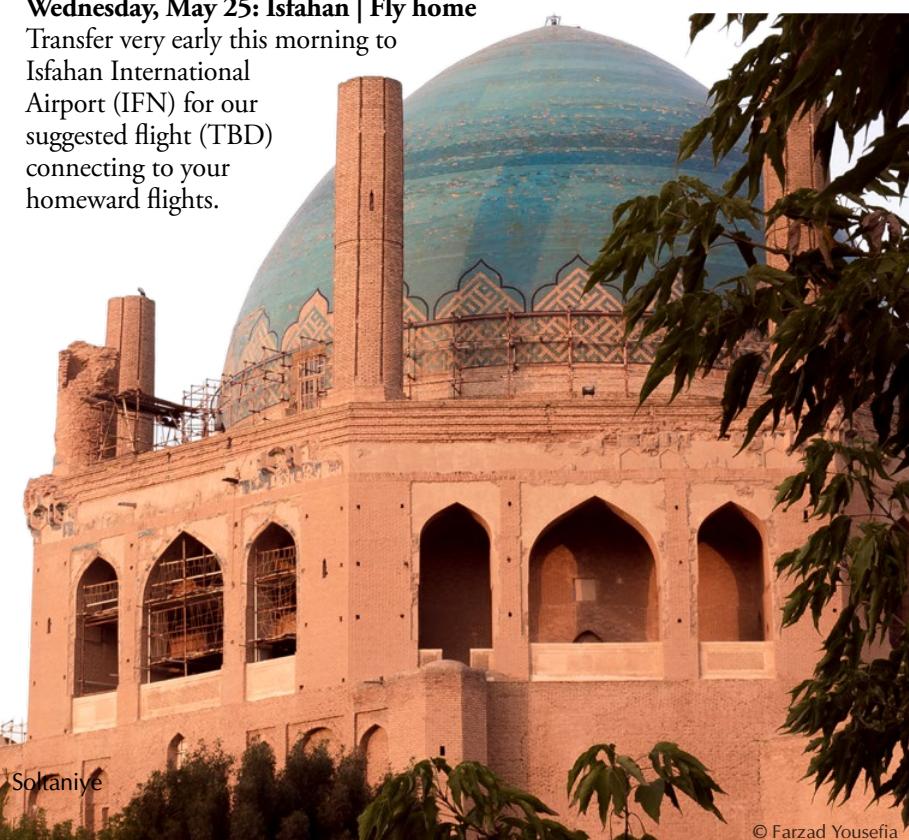
Wednesday, May 25: Isfahan | Fly home

Transfer very early this morning to Isfahan International Airport (IFN) for our suggested flight (TBD) connecting to your homeward flights.



WHAT TO EXPECT

All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. This trip is strenuous, and participants should be able to sit comfortably on a bus for extended periods of time, as there are five drives of 4-6 hours apiece (with rest stops). There will be a lot of stairs (some without handrails) and walking on uneven ground, up hills, and on very old paved flooring sometimes with difficult footing. Most stairs are spaced wider than those to which you may be accustomed. Participants who are not able to walk unassisted for one to two miles a day or stand for extended periods of time are kindly advised not to join this tour. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not the program is appropriate for you. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested, and additional costs may apply. Alcohol is illegal in Iran, and it is not possible to legally import, possess, obtain, or drink any kind of alcohol in Iran. Women are always kept at a comfortable, respectable distance, it is perfectly safe for a woman to walk alone. At the time of year that we visit, average daytime temperatures tend to range from the low 60s F to the mid 80s F. Complete pre-departure details, what to bring with you, and what to expect will be sent to participants.



© Farzad Yousefia

About the AIA & AIA Tours

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.



© Joe Moore



© operator



© Diego Delso

Tour Prices per person (14 nights)

DOUBLE Occupancy (15-16 participants)	\$9,145
DOUBLE Occupancy (10-14 participants)	\$9,445
DOUBLE Occupancy (8-9 participants)	\$10,145
SINGLE Supplement	\$1,645

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability). With fewer than 8 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

Prices Include:

- AIA lecturer and host **Alexander Nagel**
- Local **Iranian guide/tour manager** throughout
- **In-program flight** from Ahwaz to Shiraz
- **Fourteen nights' accommodations** as per the itinerary;
- **All meals** (including bottled water) as indicated throughout
- **Group transfers** in conjunction with suggested flights (TBD) on tour arrival and departure dates
- Surface transportation by **air-conditioned motor coach**, with bottled water and hand sanitizer provided
- **All excursions and entrance fees** as per the itinerary
- Local taxes and service charges
- **All gratuities** to guide/tour manager, drivers, porters, and waiters for included meals
- **Handling of one piece of checked luggage** (up to 44 lbs.) per person throughout
- **Pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading/media guide, travel guide, and packing list.

Flights & Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included. **We strongly suggest that participants book the suggested flights (to be advised closer to departure).** Group transfers upon arrival at the Tehran Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) and departure from Isfahan International Airport (IFN) will be provided in conjunction with the suggested flights. The in-program flight (Ahwaz-Shiraz) will be booked for you and is included in the tour price. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights from/to home. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

Photos: Left and right, Friday Mosque, Isfahan; center, Naqsh-e Rostam

Prices Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; inoculation fees; airport fees and departure taxes; meals and beverages except as noted; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; and individual transfers to join or leave the group when traveling independently.

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "EOS-Passenger Account-AIA Iran5/22." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 180 days prior to departure are fully refunded. Cancellations received between 179 and 90 days prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received between 89 and 61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

Note: Prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.

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For questions, and to reserve your space, please contact AIA Tours at:

800-748-6262 | Toll: 603-756-2884 | Fax: 603-756-2922 | aia@studytours.org | www.aiatours.org
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IRAN:

The Ancient Land of Persia



May 10-25, 2022 (16 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Alexander Nagel

"[Highlights were the] wonderful history backed up and integrated into the itinerary and the sites themselves, the chance to meet people like Qashkaie nomads, the leadership team on the trip, the extra archaeological talks and support throughout. Truly a great trip!"

- Gordon and Charlotte, Massachusetts

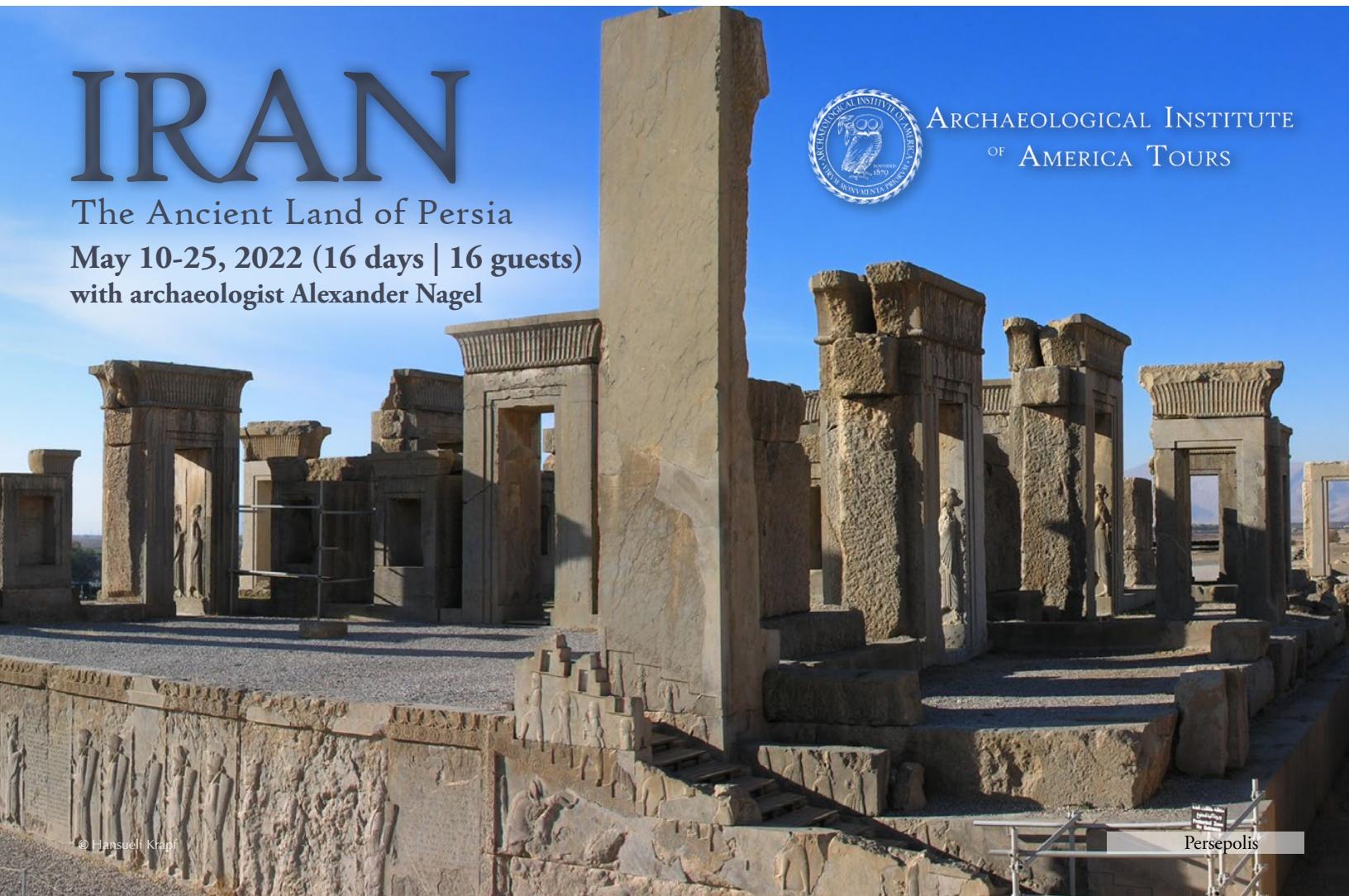
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To fill out an online reservation form, [click here](#). Or, print and mail or fax this form to the address below.



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RESERVATION FORM

IRAN: The Ancient Land of Persia

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To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or aia@studytours.org.

Name 1

(as it appears on passport)

Name 2

(as it appears on passport)

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone (home)

Phone (cell)

Email(s)

|

I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes, _____

How did you hear about this tour? eNewsletter mailing website friends/family other _____

ACCOMMODATIONS:

(Accommodation preferences are not guaranteed.)

Double (one bed) Twin (two beds) Single

I will be sharing with: _____

Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

Please share my contact information with potential roommate(s).

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment. You will receive an invoice for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (please check one):

Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account-AIA Iran5/22 Visa Master Card American Express Already paid by phone

CC#

Exp. Date

3- or 4-Digit Code

Name on Card

Please complete this reservation form and sign the release statement below. Mail or fax to:

AIA Tours - P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938

Fax: 603-756-2922 • Email: aia@studytours.org

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to all Terms & Conditions delineated throughout.

Signature (participant #1)

Date

Signature (participant #2)

Date

TERMS AND CONDITIONS,

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: The Archaeological Institute of America and its agent, Eos Study Tours, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (hereinafter "Sponsors"), and the tour operator and/or its agents (collectively "Sponsors/Operator") do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities; airline, vessel, or other transportation companies; guides or guide services; local ground operators; providers or organizers of optional excursions; food service or entertainment providers; etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Sponsors/Operator are not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or of any other third party. In addition and without limitation, Sponsors/Operator are not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of force majeure; acts of God; acts of government; acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection, or revolt; bites from or attacks by animals, insects, or pests; strikes or other labor activities; criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof; sickness, illness, epidemics, pandemics, or the threat thereof; the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof; overbooking or downgrading of accommodations; mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation; or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. 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Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to substitute hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. **LUGGAGE:** Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. **PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:** All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants must be able to embark or disembark transportation vehicles, stand for extended periods, climb stairs, and step over raised thresholds all without assistance. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws, and any participant who refuses to follow protocols may be asked to leave the program with no refunds provided. **REFUNDS:** Prices quoted are based on group participation. No refunds will be made for any part of the program in which a participant chooses not to participate. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for any reason, nor to participants whose entry into any country or aboard any transportation vehicle, including airplanes and cruise ships, is delayed or denied. **TOUR CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part unless trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, in which case the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by Sponsors/Operator, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Sponsors/Operator are able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Sponsors/Operator, however, shall not have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing. **TRIP INSURANCE:** Sponsors/Operator strongly recommend that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Sponsors/Operator and others and covers certain expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident and damaged or lost luggage. Sponsors/Operator will send participants an application upon receipt of their reservation. **PRICES:** Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of publication and are subject to changes at any time. On all programs, even after full payment, Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, tax increases, currency fluctuations, or fuel and energy surcharges, and all such increases are to be paid to Sponsors/Operator upon notice to the participant. **FORUM AND METHODOLOGY FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** Any dispute or claim which refers or relates to this contract, any literature related to the trip, or the trip itself shall be litigated solely and exclusively in and for courts in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive and procedural New Hampshire law, and for this limited purpose, the parties agree to exclusive venue and personal jurisdiction therein. At the participant's option, however, in lieu of litigation, Sponsors/Operator will agree to binding arbitration in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive, but not procedural, New Hampshire law, pursuant to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. In any such arbitration, the arbitrator, and not any federal, state, or local court or agency, shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. **U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT & CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL:** Both the Centers for Disease Control and U.S. State Department publish and update important country-specific information for travelers. We strongly recommend that you review them. They can presently be found at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> and <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>. **ASSUMPTION OF RISK:** Participants agree to fully accept all known and unknown risks, including the potential risk of exposure to respiratory illnesses or other illnesses, viruses, diseases, or conditions. Participants understand and agree to hold Sponsors/Operator, their officers, vendors and suppliers harmless and not liable for any real or perceived symptoms of any disease, virus, illness, or condition, nor for exacerbating any existing symptoms of any illness, virus, disease or condition, quarantine requirements, disability, and other short-term and long-term health effects, including death. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Participants should not purchase airline tickets prior to receiving their final payment invoice so as to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. If, due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend (an) additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any participant at any time. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person it judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders, or third parties, or who is determined to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel. **APPEARING IN PHOTOS:** Photos from AIA Tours' trips may be posted on photo-sharing web sites or on social networking sites. Your likeness may appear in some photos or videos, posted either by other travelers or tour lecturers/guides, and the circulation of the materials could be worldwide. Trip photos may also be selected to appear in future AIA Tours promotions; no compensation is available for appearing in a trip photo used for promotional purposes. **ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:** By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and accepts the terms contained in these Terms and Conditions, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Binding Arbitration Agreement.