Iran
March 21 to April 5, 2017

“This trip helped me see this amazing country in person and understand it further and in its modern context. It was as though it ‘came alive,’ like something in two dimensions transforming to three dimensions. It had a profound impact on me both intellectually and emotionally. I will not likely forget it.”

—Judith Keyani, Iran, 2016
EW COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD SPARK THE IMAGINATION—or create misconceptions—in the minds of Americans as does Iran. In the past eight years, Stanford has led scores of educational travelers to this cultural and historical gem, and time and again, they return with stories of the country’s amazing sights and of the Iranian people’s incredible warmth and hospitality. “Eye-opening,” “extraordinary,” “humbling” and “not to be missed” are just some of the glowing terms Stanford travelers have used to describe this exceptional destination. Join us and faculty leader Gail Lapidus as we delve deep into a country that is at once full of—and ever on the verge of making—history!
Dr. Gail Lapidus, a senior fellow emerita at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and a professor, by courtesy, of political science, has had a longstanding interest in the history, culture and politics of the Eurasian region. A frequent traveler to the now independent countries that once formed part of the Soviet Union and a more recent traveler to Iran, she has led a number of Stanford trips across the region, along the silk road, and through the Caucasus and Central Asia. Professor Lapidus’ immense fascination with Iran stems from its rich history, the splendor of its architectural monuments and the influence that Iran’s refined culture has had over a wide region. In addition to these unique aspects, she will focus on the geo-strategic importance of Iran today as well as the economic and political forces shaping the development of one of the greatest empires of the ancient world.

- At Stanford: senior fellow emerita, Freeman Spogli institute for International Studies; professor, by courtesy, of political science
- At UC-Berkeley: professor of political science; director, Center for Slavic and East European Studies, 1976–1994
- Head of the UC-Berkeley/Stanford program in Soviet and post-Soviet studies
- Former president, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies
- Member, board of trustees, the World Affairs Council of Northern California and the European University of St. Petersburg
- BA, Radcliffe College; MA and PhD, Harvard University
Itinerary

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 21 & 22
U.S. / Dubai, UAE
Depart on an overnight flight from the U.S. to Dubai, and upon arrival on Wednesday transfer to our hotel. RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK HOTEL

Thursday, March 23
Dubai
This morning walk outside our hotel and admire the skyscrapers towering above the wooden abras (taxi boats) that still ply the waters of the Dubai Creek. Board a traditional abra and cross the creek to the Dubai Museum. Continue through the Bastakia neighborhood before enjoying a private lunch at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding, where we’ll hear an excellent introduction to Islam before ending the day at the Al Fahid Fort. This evening gather for an introductory lecture and briefing about Iran followed by a welcome reception and dinner on a private cruise aboard a traditional dhow (sailing boat). RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK HOTEL (B,L,D)

Friday, March 24
Dubai / Tehran, Iran
This morning board a commercial flight to Tehran. Upon arrival in Iran's vibrant capital city, transfer to our centrally located hotel, enjoying a coach tour along the way. This evening gather for a casual dinner at our hotel. ESPINAS HOTEL (B,L,D)

Saturday, March 25
Tehran
Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Tehran, concentrating on its excellent museums and historic sites. Visit the Archaeological Museum filled with treasures from Persepolis, including a 6th-century B.C.E. relief of Darius the Great. After lunch at a local restaurant, view the Iranian crown jewels stored in the basement vault of the Bank Melli Iran. The collection features the world’s largest uncut diamond as well as the famed Peacock Throne. End the day with a special visit to the Aaran Gallery, one of Tehran’s most important contemporary art galleries, and meet with the gallery owner and local artists for a discussion on Iran’s modern art scene. Enjoy dinner at a traditional local restaurant. ESPINAS HOTEL (B,L,D)

Sunday, March 26
Tehran / Kashan
This morning we will meet with representatives from the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, an organization founded to safeguard Iran’s delicate and sacred natural environment and wildlife. Next we visit the Golestan Palace, also known as the “Palace of Flowers,” with its spectacular mirror work before enjoying lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon we drive three hours to Kashan. SARAYE AMERIHA BOUTIQUE HOTEL or MANOUCHEHRI HOTEL (B,L,D)

Monday, March 27
Kashan
Begin our exploration of Kashan with a visit to the Tabatabei House, a traditional house built in the early 1880s that’s renowned for its mirror and stained glass work. Continue to the Abbasian House, a traditional home built in the 18th century and featuring six courtyards decorated with intricate plaster and mirror work. After lunch visit an amazing underground city that spreads under the city of Nushabad at a depth of from 15 to 60 feet. The subterranean city, a masterpiece of ancient architecture, consists of a labyrinth of many corridors and rooms that can be accessed from various discrete locations aboveground. End the day at the Kashan Bazaar, the center of trade in the city for almost 800 years. SARAYE AMERIHA BOUTIQUE HOTEL or MANOUCHEHRI HOTEL (B,L,D)
Tuesday, March 28

Kashan / Isfahan

Before departing Kashan visit the historical Garden of Fin, which was begun in the early 16th century during the Safavid period and is kept alive with water from the Sulaimanieh Spring. Continue on for two-and-a-half hours to Isfahan and stop for lunch upon arrival. After lunch, visit the Friday Mosque with its tiled iwans (halls) and vaulted ceilings showcasing spectacular Persian architecture stretching from the 11th to the 18th centuries. Check in to our hotel, a converted caravanserai, and dine there tonight with our group. ABBASI HOTEL (B,L,D)

Wednesday & Thursday, March 29 & 30

Isfahan

Enjoy two full days to explore this beautiful city, Iran’s capital from 1598 to 1722. Begin in the Maydan-e Shah, or Royal Square, stopping at the exquisitely tiled Lotfallah Mosque, the Ali Qapu Palace and the towering portal of the Shah Mosque. Visit the bustling bazaar and view three of the five bridges that cross the Zayandehrud River, including the beautiful two-story Khaju Bridge. ABBASI HOTEL (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)

Friday, March 31

Isfahan / Yazd

This morning depart Isfahan and drive three-and-a-half hours to Na’in, an important trade center and geographical center of Iran. Enjoy lunch in Na’in before continuing another two-and-a-half hours to Yazd. DAD HOTEL (B,L,D)

Saturday, April 1

Yazd

Spend the day exploring Yazd, once a major stop on the caravan routes to Central Asia and India and home to some of the finest examples of traditional Persian architecture. Learn about a unique style of residential desert architecture when we visit Dowlat-Abad House with its enormous domes that act as protective roofs for deep-water tanks. Continue to the Water Museum, located in a restored mansion, and discover the history of qanats, the underground water channels that Persians have used for more than 2,000 years to irrigate their crops and supply drinking water. After lunch at a local hotel, learn about the area’s Zoroastrian history and visit the Atashkadeh, a fire temple whose sacred flame is said to have remained burning since 470 C.E. Enjoy dinner at a local café where many of Yazd’s young professionals come to eat and socialize. DAD HOTEL (B,L,D)

Sunday, April 2

Yazd / Persepolis / Shiraz

Depart Yazd and travel by road all morning to Persepolis, the city begun by Darius I in the 6th century B.C.E. and destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 B.C.E. Examine this archaeological wonder’s major ruins, including the Gate of All Nations, the Hall of a Hundred Columns and the Treasury. After lunch at a local restaurant, end our extraordinary day amid ancient ruins at nearby Naqsh-e Rustam with its elaborately carved tombs before finally arriving in Shiraz, where we savor dinner at a local restaurant. HOMA HOTEL (B,L,D)

Monday, April 3

Shiraz

Spend today exploring Shiraz, including the Fars Museum, the elegant Nasir-ol-Molik Mosque and the citadel of Arg-e Karim Khan. After lunch at a delightful local restaurant, visit the tomb of Hafez, a famous Persian poet whose works have been celebrated for centuries around the world. Dinner this evening is at a traditional local restaurant. HOMA HOTEL (B,L,D)
Tuesday, April 4  
**Shiraz / Dubai, UAE**  
Depart Shiraz on a commercial flight bound for Dubai, arriving in the late morning and transferring to our hotel. This afternoon is at leisure before rejoining our group for a wrap-up lecture and discussion followed by a festive farewell reception and dinner. RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK HOTEL (B,L,D)

Wednesday, April 5  
**Dubai / U.S.**  
Depart this morning for flights back home. (B)

**What to Expect**

Past travelers report that Iranians are very curious about, and extremely welcoming of, American tourists. Travel in Iran does require an open mind and a sense of adventure, and all participants are expected to adhere to local customs and laws, details of which will be sent to registered travelers. Women in Iran, for instance, must wear a headscarf and loose-fitting clothing that fully covers the arms and legs, and alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited.

We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy, with some long travel days. Drive times range from five to eight hours, including rest stops. Daily excursions may involve one to three miles of walking, often on uneven terrain, such as at large archaeological sites or in older city quarters with uneven or unpaved streets. In many instances, stairs are unavailable or lack handrails, and most buildings do not have elevators. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Information

Dates
March 21 to April 5, 2017 (16 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 34 participants. Single accommodations are limited, please call for availability.

Cost*
$10,295 per person, double occupancy
$12,295 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

Included
- 14 nights of best-available hotel accommodations
- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 13 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions in Dubai
- Visa fees (expedited fees are not included) in Iran for U.S. citizens
- Internal flights from Dubai to Tehran on 3/24 and from Shiraz to Dubai on 4/4
- Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and wait staff for all group activities
- All tours as described in the itinerary
- Airport transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included
- International and domestic airfare
- Passport and/or visa fees for non-U.S. citizens
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost, unless specified as included above. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Emirates Airlines between San Francisco and Dubai is approximately $1,010 as of May 2016 and is subject to change without notice.
Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space on this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?iran2017. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations and Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the member’s price. A person traveling as a guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in May 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Stanford Travel/Study is a program of the Stanford Alumni Association