MOSQUES AND MONUMENTS OF PERSIA

March 9 to 25, 2020

a program of the stanford alumni association
Few countries in the world spark the imagination—or create misconceptions—in the minds of Americans as much as Iran. In the past 10 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 Allen Weiner, JD ’89, as we delve deep into a country that is at once full of—and ever on the verge of making—history.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

MEET with local contemporary artists at the Aaran Gallery in Tehran, and learn about modern art movements.

STROLL through peaceful gardens where Sufi poets meditated in medieval times, and marvel at the tiled mosques and squares of Isfahan.

PONDER the past amid the ruins of legendary Persepolis, Darius I’s ceremonial capital and one of the best-preserved sites remaining from the ancient world.
Faculty Leader

**ALLEN S. WEINER, JD ’89**, is a senior lecturer in law at Stanford Law School, where he serves as director of the Stanford Program on International and Comparative Law and as co-director of the Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation. A scholar of international law, his research and teaching focus on security issues (the law governing the use of force and the laws of war), international criminal law, and international conflict resolution. His scholarship is deeply informed by experience; he practiced international law in the U.S. Department of State for more than a decade advising government policymakers, negotiating international agreements, and representing the United States in litigation before international courts and tribunals, including the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal established after the Iranian revolution.

Much of Weiner’s work on international security and conflict resolution issues is centered on the Middle East region, where Iran plays a major role. “My interest in Iran began during my days working in the State Department and continues to inform my current academic work. Iran is the home of one the world’s great civilizations and has been at the center of a number of pivotal events in world affairs in recent decades.” During this program, he looks forward discussing U.S.-Iranian relations since the Iranian revolution and contemporary foreign policy and international security issues in the Middle East.

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**“Allen was fabulous! He was knowledgeable and such a wonderful presenter that he made a very complicated subject understandable.”**

PATRICIA MALONEY, ’55, ISRAEL: PAST AND PRESENT, 2017

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**SIGN UP ONLINE:** alumni.stanford.edu/trip?iran2020
**OR BY PHONE:** (650) 725-1093
Itinerary

Please note that the exact order of the itinerary may vary.

MONDAY & TUESDAY, MARCH 9 & 10
U.S. / DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Depart on overnight flights from the U.S. to Dubai, and transfer to our hotel. RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
DUBAI
Awaken amongst the skyscrapers of Dubai and board one of the traditional abras (taxi boats) to cross the creek to the Bastakia neighborhood. This evening gather for an introductory lecture and briefing about Iran, followed by a welcome reception and dinner. RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK HOTEL (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12
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 of the city along the way. ESPINAS HOTEL (B,L,D)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 13 & 14
TEHRAN
Experience two full days taking in the city of Tehran. On Friday, experience millennia of art history, beginning first with a visit to the National Museum to see its ancient artifacts from the 6th century, and concluding with a special visit to the Aaran Gallery—one of Tehran’s most important contemporary art galleries. Meet with the gallery owner and local artists for a discussion on Iran’s modern art scene. On Saturday drive to the northern tip of the city to visit the Niavaran Palace and museum, a monumental complex built for Mohammad Reza Shah. ESPINAS HOTEL (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)

SUNDAY, MARCH 15
TEHRAN / KASHAN
Visit the Golestan Palace, also known as the “Palace of Flowers,” with its spectacular mirror work. On our drive to Kashan, stop at the historical Garden of Fin. Begun in the early 16th century, it is still kept alive today with water from the Sulaianineh Spring. MANOUCHEHRI HOTEL (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 16
KASHAN
Begin exploring Kashan with a visit to the Tabatabai House, renowned for its mirror and stained glass work. Continue to the 18th-century Abbasian House, which features six courtyards decorated with intricate plaster and mirror work. After lunch visit an amazing underground metropolis that spreads under the city of Nushabad at a depth of 15 to 60 feet. End the day at the Kashan Bazaar, the center of trade in Nushabad for almost 800 years. MANOUCHEHRI HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
ISFAHAN
After departing Kashan, stop at Abyaneh—a beautiful historic village at the foot of the Karkass Mountain to learn about traditional architectural styles (all using the iconic red clay), and other living traditions in the ancient city. Continue to Hasht Behesht, one of Isfahan’s two surviving Safavid pavilions, and view the stunning interior that was once covered with mirrored mosaics. ABBASI HOTEL (B,L,D)
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, MARCH 18 & 19

ISFAHAN
Take two full days to explore Isfahan, Iran’s capital city from 1598 to 1722. Begin in the Maydan-e Shah, or Royal Square, to see the exquisitely tilled Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, Ali Qapu Palace and the towering portal of the Shah Mosque. Visit Isfahan’s bazaar and view three of the five bridges that cross the Zayendehrud River, including the beautiful two-story Khaju Bridge. Thursday is the first day of the Persian New Year, Nowrouz, symbolizing a fresh start for Iranians. Witness the festivities in the streets, with traditions dating back to the 6th century B.C.E. ABBASI HOTEL (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

YAZD
This morning depart for the drive to Yazd, stopping for lunch in Na’in, an important trade hub and geographical center of Iran. DAD HOTEL (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

YAZD
Today tour Yazd, once a major stop on the caravan routes to Central Asia and India. Learn about a unique style of residential desert architecture when we visit Dowlat-Abad House. 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. After lunch, visit the Friday Mosque with its tiled iwans (halls) and vaulted ceilings showcasing spectacular Persian architecture which spans from the 11th to the 18th century. Enjoy dinner at a local cafe where many of Yazd’s young professionals come to eat and socialize. DAD HOTEL (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

PERSEPOLIS / SHIRAZ
Depart Yazd and travel by road to Persepolis, the city begun by the third Achaemenid king of the Persian Empire, Darius I, in the 6th century B.C.E. and destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 B.C.E. After lunch at a local restaurant, end our extraordinary day amid ancient ruins at nearby Naqsh-e Rustam with its elaborately carved tombs before arriving in Shiraz. HOMA HOTEL (B,L,D)

MONDAY, MARCH 23

SHIRAZ
Spend today viewing Shiraz, including passing by the Pars Museum and the ornately tiled Nasir-ol-Molk. Visit the tomb of Hafez, the famous Persian poet whose works have been celebrated around the world for centuries. HOMA HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES / DUBAI
Depart Shiraz on a flight bound for Sharjah in the UAE, located a short drive from Dubai. This afternoon is at leisure before we gather for a wrap-up lecture and discussion followed by a festive farewell reception and dinner. RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK HOTEL (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

DUBAI / U.S.
Depart this morning for flights back home to the U.S. (B)
Past travelers say that Iranians are extremely welcoming of American tourists. Travel in Iran requires 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. All women in Iran, for instance, must wear a headscarf and loose-fitting clothing that fully covers the arms and legs. Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. In accordance with our group visa, travelers on this program must participate in all scheduled activities as outlined in our itinerary.

Due to current politics and local restrictions, the faculty leader will be giving lectures exclusively before and after the program, in Dubai. In Iran, our local guide, who is extremely knowledgeable in history, archaeology and local customs, will provide insight at every stop on our itinerary, but will not discuss current politics and other sensitive matters.

Visa authorizations are at the discretion of the Iranian government, and it is possible for anyone to be denied entry into Iran. Travelers who do not have a U.S. passport may have a different visa process. Also, if you are traveling as an unmarried couple and/or are Iranian American, please call our office for more information.

For any concerns about travel to Iran, please contact our office to speak with an experienced staff member.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve your space. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?iran2020 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. 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 & 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 Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

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, motor coach, 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 that passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in July 2019 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
“I am very pleased that Stanford has continued to organize trips to Iran. This is one of the world’s most important destinations. Having such a trip is an extraordinarily valuable service to the wider Stanford community.”

SCOTT KILNER, ’74, IRAN, 2019