IRAN
SUITCASE SEMINAR
Mosques and Monuments of Persia
April 1 to 17, 2011

a program of the stanford alumni association
Few countries in the world spark the imaginations—or misconceptions—of Americans as does Iran. In the past five years, Stanford has sent numerous groups 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,” “humbling,” “extraordinary” and “not-to-be-missed” are just some of the positive words Stanford travelers have used to describe this exceptional destination. Join us in 2011 as former U.S. Ambassador Tom Simons takes us deep into a country that is at once full of incredible history and always on the verge of making it. We hope you join us.

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

**Highlights**

**View** priceless archaeological treasures, including the Iranian crown jewels and a collection of rare miniatures, in the museums of Tehran.

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

**Walk** among the ruins of legendary Persepolis, Darius I’s stronghold and one of the best-preserved sites remaining from the ancient world.
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 1 & 2 DEPART U.S. / TEHRAN, IRAN
Depart on an overnight flight to Iran, arriving late Saturday evening, and transfer to our hotel. LALEH HOTEL

SUNDAY & MONDAY, APRIL 3 & 4 TEHRAN
Enjoy two full days in this vibrant capital city, concentrating on its excellent museums. Visit the Archaeological Museum with its fine treasures from Persepolis; the Reza Abbasi Museum, with its dazzling array of Persian miniatures; and the Bank Milli Iran that exhibits the precious Iranian crown jewels. LALEH HOTEL (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)

TUESDAY, APRIL 5 TEHRAN / MASHHAD
Fly to Mashhad, a holy city and place of pilgrimage for Shi’ite Muslims from around the world. Pending permission, visit the shrine complex of the tomb of Imam Reza, who died in the 9th century, and view a rich library of manuscripts and handwritten books. HOMA HOTEL MASHHAD (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 MASHHAD / TUS
Take a daytrip to Tus, the birthplace of Ferdowsi, one of Iran’s most famous poets. Visit his mausoleum and the museum that houses a copy of his epic manuscript Shahnameh, weighing 160 pounds. HOMA HOTEL MASHHAD (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, APRIL 7 MASHHAD / KERMAN / RAYEN / MAHAN
Travel outside Kerman to the majestic monument of Gombad-E Jabaliye, a double-domed structure with possible Zoroastrian origins. Continue to Rayen, a preserved medieval city molded from the red clay of the surrounding desert. After lunch drive to Mahan, the final resting place of the Sufi saint and poet Shah Nematollah Vali, who died in the 15th century. PARS HOTEL (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, APRIL 8 KERMAN / RAYEN / MAHAN
Drive to Shiraz, stopping en route in Pasargard where the white limestone tomb of Cyrus the Great stands among scattered remains of gardens, palaces and temples. Continue to
Shiraz and enjoy dinner in a local restaurant. HOMA HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 12
SHIRAZ / PERSEPOLIS
Spend the morning exploring the monumental ruins at Persepolis, the city begun by Darius I in the 6th century BC and destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 BC. Examine this archaeological wonder’s major ruins, including the Gate of All Nations, the Hall of a Hundred Columns and the Treasury. Continue to nearby Naghsh E Rostam with its elaborately carved tombs. Return to Shiraz and explore the bazaar, one of the finest in Iran. HOMA HOTEL (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
SHIRAZ / ESFAHAN
Explore Shiraz, including the Fars Museum, known for its charming tiled panels and painted roof, and Narenjestan, or “Place of Oranges,” an elegant ancestral home and now the site of the Asia Institute. Travel to Esfahan and check in to our historic hotel, a converted caravanserai. ABBASI HOTEL (B,L,D)

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, APRIL 14 & 15
ESFAHAN
Enjoy two full days exploring this beautiful city, Iran’s capital from 1598 to 1722. Begin in the Maydan-e Shah, or Royal Square, stopping at the exquisitely tiled Lotfollah Mosque, the Ali Qapu Palace and the towering portal of the Shah Mosque. Visit the five bridges that cross the Zayendehrud River, including the beautiful two-story Khaju Bridge. Celebrate the end of our journey at a special farewell dinner. ABBASI HOTEL (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)

SATURDAY, APRIL 16
ESFAHAN / TEHRAN
Depart Esfahan and drive back to Tehran, stopping en route at the village of Abyaneh where we observe men and women in traditional dress and learn about the area’s agrarian practices. Return to Tehran where dayrooms are reserved until our departure late this evening. LALEH HOTEL—DAYROOMS (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, APRIL 17
TEHRAN / U.S.
Depart Tehran on late evening/early morning flights back to the U.S.

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 will be sent to registered travelers. Women must wear a headscarf and loose-fitting clothing, and alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. We consider this a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy, with some long travel days. Average drive times range from 4 to 8 hours, with rest stops. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking, often on uneven terrain, such as at large archaeological sites or in older city quarters with unpaved streets. In many instances, stairs are unavailable or do not have handrails, and most buildings do not have elevators. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
**Information**

**DATES**  
April 1 to 17, 2011 (17 days)

**SIZE**  
Limited to 35 participants

**COST**  
$7,495 per person, double occupancy  
$8,795 per person, single occupancy  
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person

**INCLUDED**  
14 nights of best-available hotel accommodations, plus use of a dayroom in Tehran on April 16  
14 breakfasts, 14 lunches and 14 dinners  
Visa fees for U.S. citizens  
Bottled water on excursions and at all group meals  
Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group services  
Internal flights within Iran  
All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary  
Airport transfers and baggage handling for participants staying at the group hotel in Tehran  
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 U.S. domestic airfare  
Passport fees and/or visa fees for non-U.S. citizens  
Immunization costs  
Meals and beverages other than those specified as included  
Private transfers  
Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance  
Excess-baggage charges  
Personal items such as email, 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. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Lufthansa or Emirates Airlines from San Francisco to Tehran is approximately $1,600 as of June 2010 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for the Iran Suitcase Seminar. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are fully 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. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

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. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Stanford alumni may become Annual ($75) or Life ($495) Members. Stanford parents, faculty, staff, interns, residents and fellows may become Installment Members ($90 down, $115/ year for four years) or Life Members ($495). Nonalumni may become Life Affiliates (one-time fee, $650). Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit www.stanfordalumni.org/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, 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 tourunless 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 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 nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2010 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.
Faculty Leader

THOMAS W. SIMONS, JR., is a visiting scholar at Harvard University and a consulting professor at Stanford University. During his 35-year Foreign Service career, Professor Simons focused on East-West relations, culminating with his appointment as U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan in 1996. Since then he has taught international and modern Islamic history at both Stanford and Harvard.

“Iran is amazing as a node of culture and civilization,” says Simons, “and we will see many sites that carry enormous historic and religious significance. But Iran is also enthralling as a society gripped in the coils of modernization, with a population paradoxically very friendly toward Americans despite—or because of—government hostility.” During our program, Professor Simons will discuss Iran’s complex history, from its ancient and classic heritage to the Islamic Revolution and its future.

- Consulting professor, Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University
- Visiting scholar, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University
- Author of Islam in a Globalizing World

Reservoir Form

Iran Suitcase Seminar

April 1 to 17, 2011

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.

☐ OR I plan to share accommodations with:

OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Here is my deposit of $_______ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s).

☐ Enclosed is my check
  (payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

☐ Charge my deposit to my:
  ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD #

EXPIRATION DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?iran2011. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
“I’ve gone on many trips, but this was absolutely the most eye-opening journey I’ve ever taken. [Nothing] prepared me for how warmly we would be received by the people of Iran. It was a fabulous experience!”

DEIRDRE HEGARTY, ’87, IRAN SUITCASE SEMINAR, 2010