

## IRAN

Even extensive media coverage does not suffice to explain Iran's politics, society, and culture: fear of the "Mullah State" lingers. However, a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran introduces us to a heterogeneous, modern, ever-changing multi-ethnic state, whose proud population is far from being uncritical of its regime. Iranian women, who are very present in public life, in universities, and on the job market but underrepresented in politics, are particularly ready to challenge the system.



Iran's view of itself as a regional power is based on memories of the glorious Persian civilization, which easily outdid Europe. Relics of the Persian Empire, which once reached from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indus River, still inspire admiration today.

Iran's recent history is marked by the 1979 revolution that led to the overthrow of the Pahlavi dynasty and the founding of the Islamic Republic.

Iran’s self-image explains its active foreign policy in the Middle East: The country seeks to influence power struggles in Lebanon and engages militarily in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.

Stretching through several climate zones, Iran boasts a huge variety of flora and fauna. The mixed forests in the mountainous north and in the nature reserves in the country’s interior, where cheetahs run, are well worth visiting.

## Unsere Highlights

### Shiraz

The city of Iran’s national poets, Hafez und Saadi, with its relaxed, famously hospitable people is the perfect place to begin our trip. Here, lovely gardens offer shade from the noon heat. Shiraz boasts numerous attractions such as the poets’ tombs and the Shah-e Cheragh Shrine so beloved by Shia pilgrims.

### Yazd

The oasis city with its subterranean canals is the home of Iran’s Zoroastrian community. Particularly memorable are its central temple complex and site of Shia “Ashura” processions, and the traditional fitness studio, the “Zurkhane.”

### Isfahan

The city of Isfahan hosts innumerable architectural treasures of the Safavid period. Colorful mosques and palaces surround the Naqsh-e Jahan, one of the world’s most beautiful public squares. We meet the people of Isfahan in its bustling bazaar and on the pedestrian bridges that lead across the Zayanderud River to the Armenian quarter.

### Teheran

Iran’s political and economic center, Teheran, the city of the revolution, is a modern metropolis, a Moloch. We spend our time touring the city on the lookout for signs of its turbulent recent past and current challenges.

### The mountains

Numerous massive mountain ranges cross Iran, with dozens of peaks rising more than 4,000 meters above sea level. Some rugged and bare, others covered with thick forests, Iran’s mountains invite us to hike and ski.

### Encounters

We seek to understand contemporary Iran through conversations with artists, students, politicians, academics, and representatives of religious minorities.

### The deserts

Salt flats and endless stretches of sand dunes: Iran has a fascinating desert landscape that we’ll also visit to savor its silent starlit nights.

### Useful country-specific information

| Health & vaccination   |
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| <p>No special vaccinations are needed for a stay in Iran. Medical facilities in Teheran have a good standard and guarantee a basic level of medical care in other areas of the country. In order to prevent cases of diarrhea, however, we recommend to avoid drinking tap water.</p> <p>When it comes to the <b>Corona virus</b> (COVID-19), we follow the recommendations made by the <a href="#">German Federal Foreign Office</a> as well as the local authorities and the German Embassy on site. In case of any change of the health situation, the tour might be subject to according changes we will inform you about as soon as possible.</p> |
| Language   |
| <p>The official language is Persian. While the alphabet is almost identical to the Arabic one, both languages have different linguistic roots. English is lingua franca and will serve you well while traveling.</p>   |
| Local currency   |
| <p>The Iranian Rial currently is the official currency. For the time being, it can only be exchanged inside the country. You will therefore have to take your entire money in cash (Euros or US Dollars) with you into the country, and it will be exchanged after arriving in Iran. This is standard procedure and has not caused any problems in the past.</p> <p>It is NOT yet possible to do withdraw money or pay with debit or credit cards, or any other international means of financial transaction.</p>  |
| Security   |

Although Iran is deemed a very safe tourist country, security issues still plays a big role.

In planning out tours, we follow the recommendations and statements issued by the German Federal Foreign Office. Our route only leads us through areas deemed safe by the Office. While doing so, we keep close contact with the German Embassy and local authorities on the ground. In case of any change of the security situation, the tour route might be subject to according changes.

#### Visa

Although it is by now possible to receive a visa upon arrival at the airport, we will apply for the visa ahead of the tour. This will minimize potential risks, and keep us safe from stress and time issue.

Visa regulations might change at any time. If so, we will inform you in time before the tour start. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any Israeli stamps in your passport, and/or do not wish to travel with your German passport.

For general information on our tours please click [here](#)

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