

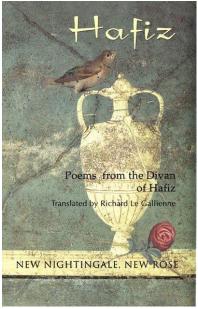
# From Rumi to Hafez: A Cultural Journey Across Iran

Friendly Iran -13-day Iran Tour

**Tabriz-Shiraz** 











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# Day 1 – October 1 | Arrival in Tabriz

Travelers arrive in Tabriz, a historic city that has long connected Anatolia to Iran. The air feels fresh, the pace calm, and the culture familiar yet new. Tabriz is the perfect starting point for entering Iran after Konya—a city shaped by poets, thinkers, and travelers. The day is gentle, allowing time to rest, walk, and slowly absorb the sounds and colors of the city.

# Day 2 – October 2 | Tabriz to Khoy – Visiting the Tomb of Shams Tabrizi

On this day, the journey takes a meaningful turn. Travelers leave Tabriz for a day trip to Khoy, a quiet city near the Turkish border, home to the tomb of Shams Tabrizi. This visit is deeply symbolic. Shams was not only Rumi's teacher, but the spark that transformed him from a scholar into a poet of love and mysticism.

#### Day 3 – October 3 | Flight from Tabriz to Tehran

In the morning, travelers take a domestic flight to Tehran. The capital is energetic and modern, yet deeply layered with history. The contrast between mountains, busy streets, museums, and cafés makes Tehran a strong introduction to contemporary Iran. The day ends with an evening walk or rest, preparing for the classic cultural route ahead.

# Day 4 – October 4 | Tehran City Experience

Tehran is explored through its cultural heart: palaces, museums, and neighborhoods where tradition and modern life exist side by side. From quiet museum halls to lively streets, this day offers insight into Iran's recent history and daily life. The city feels intense, but also surprisingly warm and human.

# Day 5 – October 5 | Tehran to Kashan

The journey continues south toward Kashan, a city known for elegance and calm. As the landscape changes, the air becomes drier and warmer. Kashan welcomes visitors with historic houses, peaceful courtyards, and soft desert light. The silence here feels meaningful, almost poetic, like a pause between verses.

# Day 6 – October 6 | Kashan to Isfahan

Leaving Kashan, the road leads to Isfahan, one of the most beautiful cities in Iran. Upon arrival, the city's harmony becomes clear—wide squares, graceful bridges, and carefully designed spaces. Isfahan feels like a living poem written in stone, water, and light.

# Day 7 – October 7 | Isfahan in Full Color

A full day in Isfahan allows travelers to truly absorb its beauty. Walking across historic bridges, sitting in grand squares, and exploring tiled mosques creates a sensory experience of color, echoing sounds, and slow movement. Isfahan is not rushed; it invites you to look, listen, and stay present.



#### Day 8 – October 8 | Isfahan to Yazd

The route moves deeper into the desert toward Yazd. This ancient city feels quiet, spiritual, and deeply connected to time. Windcatchers rise above mud-brick houses, and narrow alleys lead to hidden courtyards. Yazd's atmosphere is still and reflective, perfect for understanding Iran's inner rhythm.

# Day 9 - October 9 | Yazd and Alexander's Prison

In Yazd, travelers visit historic sites including Alexander's Prison, a place mentioned in Persian literary memory and associated with hardship, exile, and reflection. The silence of its walls and the soft desert light create a space for thought. This day connects poetry with place, words with lived experience.

#### Day 10 – October 10 | Yazd to Shiraz

The journey continues south to Shiraz, the city of gardens, poetry, and soft evenings. As you arrive, the atmosphere changes. The air feels gentler, and life moves with a quiet smile. Shiraz prepares travelers emotionally for the final chapter of the journey.

#### Day 11 – October 11 | Shiraz, City of Poetry

This day is about feeling Shiraz rather than rushing through it. Gardens, historical sites, and relaxed streets set the mood. The scent of orange blossoms, the sound of water, and the warm evening light make Shiraz feel intimate and poetic—like the perfect setting for Hafez's words.

# Day 12 - October 12 | Hafez Day in Shiraz

This is the heart of the journey. On October 12 (20 Mehr), travelers visit Hafezieh, the tomb of Hafez, on his official remembrance day. Locals gather, poems are read aloud, and the space fills with emotion and respect. Standing among people who still speak to Hafez as a living voice is a powerful cultural experience—quiet, human, and unforgettable.

# Day 13 – October 13 | Departure from Shiraz

The journey ends with a departure flight from Shiraz. After nearly two weeks of poetry, history, movement, and reflection, travelers leave Iran carrying not just photos, but feelings, sounds, and verses that stay long after the trip ends.