

Persepolis



of Shiraz where we have a stay of two nights.

**Day 13:** Today has been set aside for a sight seeing visit to Persepolis and the world-famous King's Tomb. Persepolis means Persian City and is situated near the modern city of Shiraz. Persepolis was developed mainly by Dariush I The Great (500 B.C.) and turned into a modern city with running tap water, drainage systems, postal service and highways connecting it to other cities of the Persian empire. Birds are few here but include a colony of Little Swifts. In the afternoon we visit Pasargade, the capital of Cyrus the Great (559-530 BC) and also his last resting place.

**Day 14:** Morning visit to Bamu National Park where we have an opportunity to observe Black-tailed Gazelles. Birds we may see include Bimaculated Lark, Streaked Scrub Warbler, Desert and Mourning Wheatears. Travel back to Shiraz

for a farewell lunch. (For clients returning to London, a flight to Tehran from Shiraz to connect with a flight to Heathrow. Arrival is on the following morning).

### Extension:

After lunch an excursion to the wetland complex of Dasht-e-Arzhan. Our main interest is observing Dalmatian Pelican, Great Spotted Eagle, Ruddy Shelduck, Marbled and White-headed Ducks, Glossy Ibis and Eurasian Spoonbills. Transfer to Kazeroon for the night.

**Day 15:** Morning visit to the oak woods near Kazeroon. Birds present include Syrian Woodpecker, endemic sub-species of Blue and Sombre Tits, Variable Wheatear, Plain Leaf Warbler, Upcher's Warbler and other woodland species. In the afternoon a visit to the lakes at Parishan for Black-necked Grebe, Little Bittern, Pygmy Cormorant, Purple Swamphen, European Bee-eater, Moustached Warbler and Woodchat Shrike. Two nights at Kazeroon.

**Day 16:** After breakfast we head to Dugonbadaan, stopping at an oak wood for Barred and Eastern Orphean Warblers. Late afternoon birding on the pools of Bandar-e-Mahshahr for Spur-winged and White-tailed lapwings, Temminck's Stint, Marsh Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Whiskered Terns. Night at Bandar-e-Mahshahr.

**Day 17:** Boat trip into the Shadegan Marshes with chances of locating African Darter and Sacred Ibis which find an Asiatic outpost here. Our main target species is the range-restricted Basra Reed Warbler. The marshes are a traditional stop-off point for Red-necked Phalaropes and other waders and water-birds. Transfer to Susangerd for the night.

**Day 18:** Morning excursion to Jarayeh and Moshemshiae-Ramezan, another important wetland area of Khuzestan. The area has a high density of birds and we should find Goliath Heron, Pied and White-breasted Kingfishers, Eurasian Turtle Dove, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Dead Sea Sparrow and Iraq Babbler. In the afternoon, we drive to Chogha Zanbil and visit a Zigurat en route (a type of pyramid dating from Mesopotamian times). Night in Ahvaz.

**Day 19:** This morning we visit areas along the Karkheh River which is a major breeding area for the enigmatic Grey Hypocolius and two regional specialties: Mesopotamian Crow and Ménétriés's Warbler. Later, we have a flight to the historic city of Isfahan with its colourful bazaars, mosques and Main Square.

**Day 20:** Morning sightseeing in Isfahan followed by an internal flight to Tehran and a connecting flight back to London where arrival is on the following morning.

**Tour Price London/London: £3295**

**Khuzestan extension: £1195**

**Tour Price Tehran/Tehran £2785**

**Single room: £350**

**Single room: £120**

**Deposit: £300**

This holiday is fully inclusive of international and internal flights, accommodation and meals, transport (minibus and 4x4), guidance and taxes

**Not included:** visa to enter Iran, drinks, insurance and items of a personal nature, departure taxes and any relevant fuel surcharges.

Accommodation is basic at Jask, Kazeroon and Susangerd with shared dormitories. All other hotels are of a reasonable standard with facilities. Iranian cuisine is mainly meat based although fish is available on the gulf coast. Walking is mainly easy through desert habitats and woodlands although in the Elburz Mountains it is on inclines and at altitude. Please note no alcohol is allowed in Iran or can be imported into the country.

**Important:** It is still necessary for visiting women and men to follow dress codes whilst in public places. For women this includes a head scarf, trousers and a lightweight, long-sleeved dress or coat in sombre colours or beige. For men this includes trousers (no shorts allowed).