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“The 10 Big Myths About Touring Iran”

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I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and thank you for requesting this report.

My name is Steve Kutay, and I've spent the last several years helping people just like you, take private, custom tours to Iran.

Scattered throughout our website is information that attempts to negate much of the false and/or inaccurate information that Americans have been exposed to when it comes to touring Iran.

In order to attempt to set the record straight I have written up a list of 10 “myths” on this subject. I apologize for picking 10 myths, as opposed to 8 or 9 or 11, but 10 of anything always seems the best way to get to attract attention.

Myth # 1 Americans are not allowed into Iran as tourists.

This is the “biggie”. There are absolutely NO restrictions on Americans visiting Iran as tourists, neither from the American nor the Iranian side.

Myth # 2 Iran is not safe for Americans.

This too is not true. Iran is actually one of the safest countries in the world for Americans to travel.

Compared to major tourist spots such as France, Spain or almost any city in the United States itself, Iran is incredibly safe. Also, there is virtually no street crime in Iran.

Myth # 3 Americans are not popular or not welcome in Iran.

Nothing could be more untrue. I myself, someone who has visited over 80 countries, have never felt more popular or liked as I was in Iran.

I have never been anywhere where the local people were more hospitable and generous as they were in Iran. And most people are interested in conversing with Americans. In fact, once people hear that you are American, and not European, your stock goes way up.

Myth # 4 Iran does not have good hotels for tourists.

This is also a myth. Actually, Iran has some of the most beautiful hotels in the world today. I would say that the Shiraz Grand Hotel in Shiraz, near Persepolis, is probably the most beautiful hotel I have ever stayed at.

But it is also true that Iran does not have as many of these luxury hotels as other countries which are more fully developed for tourism.

For that reason, we try to book people as far in advance as possible in order to get them into the best hotels, especially during the high tourist season of Spring and Fall.

Myth # 5 Iran makes women cover themselves up and gives them a hard time in general.

Woman (and men) must dress "modestly" – no shorts, short skirts, tight clothing, etc. And women must wear a cover around half their hair when out in public. That's all there is to it.

So, maybe not as liberal a dressing code as Europe or U.S. but no really too onerous either. As far as women being hassled on the streets by men, it does not happen.

Myth # 6 Iran does not have good infrastructure.

Iran is a huge country, around 2 1/2 times the size of Texas. But it is linked by a large network of 4-lane divided highways with very little traffic once you are out of the cities (which can have lots of traffic).

In addition, there is a big domestic air network, which can get you to almost anywhere in the country within an hour or 2.

For example, Tehran to Shiraz is around a 1-hour flight. Our tours often include a domestic flight and the cost of those flights is included in the price of the tour.

Myth # 7 Iran does not have very good food.

Iran has very good food, especially if you like fruits and vegetables. The meat choices can be slightly limited, especially in some of the more out-of-the-way places, but the food is generally fresh and well cooked.

For some strange reason, Iran has the best ice cream I have had anywhere in the world. One place, a road stop on the main Tehran-Tabriz highway, had 62 flavors.

They also have plenty of good tea if you are a tea drinker. But we do advise people to bring their own coffee since they may only get Nescafe in some places.

Myth # 8 The tourist season is very short.

While it is true that the most popular times to visit Iran are fall and spring, Iran can be visited almost any month of the year.

In round terms, if you compare it to Arizona in summer, it is going to be very hot (but dry) in the summer months. And the winter can be cold, especially in the North. This can be a plus if you want to ski, however.

However, the one time we advise people not to go is during Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, which runs for around 2 weeks beginning March 21 or thereabouts. During that period, because of big domestic travel, hotel rates go up around 40%.

Myth # 9 Aside from Persepolis there is not much to see in Iran.

This, of course, is completely untrue. Iran boasts 19 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (including Persepolis) and there is a great deal to see.

Most of our tour itineraries take in the most important of the World Heritage Sites, but since our tours are custom-made you can take in as many of them as you have time for.

Iran is an ancient country and an ancient civilization and there is a great deal to see. Plus, there is good skiing, hiking, fishing and hunting available.

Myth # 10 Jewish people are not welcome in Iran & are not allowed to visit.

Iran does not grant a tourist visa to anyone with an Israeli stamp on their passport, but only in the 12 months before entry into Iran.

Other than that, there are no restrictions. Although it is small, Iran has the second largest Jewish population in the Middle East.

You will be able to visit synagogues, attend Friday night services and even visit the tombs of Esther and Mordechai in Hamadan (where the Rabbi collects fountain pens).

Some additional myths.

It's hard to get a visa for Iran. Not really. You do need to get a visa, but it's just a question of filling out some simple forms. Not too onerous and easier than Russia or China, for example.

You can't drink alcohol in Iran.

This is not a myth. We don't advise that you drink any alcohol while in Iran.

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Accelerate Your Success by Selecting Your Tour Company Wisely

What if you could find an Iran tour company that helps you get what you need to create a wonderful travel experience – from help with getting visas; to custom tour itineraries and travel plans; to finding the best in local cuisines; to getting luxury hotel accommodations?

What if you could find a tour company that treats you with professionalism and with respect for your busy schedule and hard-earned money?

What if you could find a tour company that answers all your questions about traveling in Iran, about the people and the best places to visit.

If you are looking for a tour company like that then you have come to the right place.

The Advantages of Traveling with Us

Unlike many other travel companies, tours from Iran Luxury Travel offers you several unique advantages:

Small, customized tours. We offer private tours for as few as two people (one couple!). Since there's no large tour group to set the itinerary, you can choose when you want to leave, how long you want to stay and what you want to see.

No cancellations. Some travel companies will cancel the trip if not enough people sign up for their tour group. Not us! When you book your tour with us, you can rest assured knowing you will go even if you two are the only ones on the tour.

Complete concierge service. We offer concierge service on your trip, from beginning to end, airport to airport. When you arrive in Tehran, your English-speaking guide will meet you there and stay with you until you depart for home.

Luxury accommodations. You'll stay in the best hotels available in each city you visit. Often, that means 4-star and 5-star hotels. Your guide uses a driver with a private vehicle (not a bus).

The best prices. You have no reason to travel in a group when you can travel on your own for less-than-group prices. Our custom-made, private tours for as few as two people start at \$2995 per person. Our tour prices may be thousands of dollars lower than other travel companies' group rates!

Bring a group of six; you go for free. If you can bring together a group of six other people to go to Iran with you, then you can go for free. Our tours actually get less expensive per person with larger groups, so invite your friends, family or organization associates.

Our key advantage is our flexibility and affordability. The greatest advantage of traveling to Iran with us is having your own private tour. You're not subject to a fixed schedule of a large tour; in fact, you can modify your itinerary to suit your desires.

Your only limit is how long you decide to stay. Once on the ground, you can stop when and where you want — to take photographs or just to stretch your legs. You can more easily meet and mingle with Iranians on our tours.

Since most flights arrive either late at night or early in the morning, you can tailor the early part of your tour so you can rest up from your flight. Some travelers may want to squeeze in as much as possible, while others may decide to ease into the tour. Choose what's best for you.

The Iran Luxury Travel Difference

As an American-owned company, we only book tours to Iran. It's not just our specialty; it's all we do!

We've stayed at or inspected almost every hotel in our itineraries. We offer them to you because we know you will find them as luxurious as we did. Our advantages translate into a superior trip with ease and comfort.

You can take advantage of our personal experience in Iran. We can advise you what to bring with you and what to expect when you go. Need help designing your own tour?

You can trust our first-hand experience and knowledge to direct you to the must-see sites, such as Isfahan and Shiraz, as well as to more off-the-beaten-track areas of the country. It all depends on your curiosity and sense of adventure.

We think that you'll be surprised at just how easy it can be booking a tour with us! We look forward to introducing you to the people, beauty and wonders of Iran that can only be found while traveling.

Go See the Beauty and History of Ancient Persia for Yourself!

- Visit Famous World Heritage Sites.
- Private Luxury Tours at Group Tour Prices.
- Stay at Luxury Hotels, Enjoy Local Cuisines.
- No US restrictions - Travel Any Time You'd Like.

Got Questions? Want More Information on Traveling in Iran? We invite you to call us at 1-984-202-5618 for a FREE phone consultation. We are always happy to answer any of your questions and help you to plan the trip of your dreams.

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Iran Luxury Tours Itineraries

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How to Book a Tour to Iran

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