

VIP TOURS of IRAN



کشف ایران با ما

CONNECTITALIA - NZ

<https://www.connectitalia-nz.com>



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ABOUT CONNECTITALIA-NZ LTD

Our company's mission is to promote greater liaison between Italy and New Zealand, reflecting the different but complementary backgrounds of the company's two directors, Beniamino Petrosino and Anne Scragg. Our principal focus is planning and escorting exclusive small group tours in Italy offering a cultural experience with a difference. This tour, however, is something different! The Treasures of Iran Tour is designed for travellers who have never visited Iran and for travellers who have previously been to Iran and want to go again! Visitors to Iran comment on the friendliness and hospitality of the local people, the magnificence of the places they have seen and the unforgettable experience they have had there. Connectitalia-NZ has asked Mohammad Ramezani, and Mina Davar, native Iranians to escort small groups for us on an amazing journey through their homeland. With Mohammad or Mina and a local guide as our escorts and a local driver, we will travel in air-conditioned comfort in our own transport, stay in first class accommodation and enjoy an itinerary that allows us to see and enjoy Iran's best-known treasures. This special Connectitalia-NZ tour offers travellers the opportunity of a lifetime.

OUR IRANIAN AMBASSADORS and ESCORTS

Mina Davar



"I am so excited Connectitalia-NZ Ltd has asked me to escort tours to my beautiful homeland, Iran. I am greatly looking forward to accompanying you to some unique places where we will see many of the most magnificent treasures of Persia's 3000 year old history and culture."

Mina Davar is an Australian citizen who lives in Sydney. After leaving Iran in 2010, Mina completed her Master's Degree in Computer Science at the University of Wollongong in New South Wales. She has since spent some years working in IT companies in Australia. Her passion is to travel around the world discovering new places and meeting people from different cultures. Connectitalia-NZ Ltd is delighted Mina has agreed to represent us in Australia and to escort our tours to Iran to enjoy the treasures of ancient and modern Persia.

Mohammad Ramezani



"I am very excited about the opportunity to escort tours to Iran for Connectitalia-NZ Ltd. I am passionate about better understanding of cultures all around the world and introducing my country to people from other countries. Travel to a country like Iran is all about interesting adventures."

"We will stay in first class accommodation and travel in style from Tehran to Shiraz visiting spectacular archaeological sites and seeing some stunning Islamic art and architecture. We will stroll through world-renowned gardens and exotic bazaars and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of Iran's people. I do hope you will join me for the experience of a lifetime."

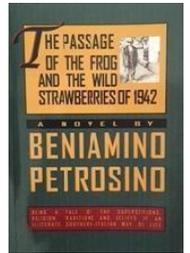
Dr. Mohammad Ramezani is a lecturer in environmental engineering at Ara Institute in Christchurch-NZ. Mohammad was born and grew up in Iran and obtained his first engineering degree at the University of Tehran. He moved to Australia in 2010, where he obtained his doctoral qualification and taught at the University of Wollongong before settling in New Zealand. Connectitalia-NZ Ltd is delighted Mohammad has agreed to escort our tours to Iran to enjoy the treasures of ancient and modern Persia.

VACANZE ITALIANE – Come with us!

Beniamino Petrosino



I am the founder of CONNECTITALIA-NZ. I came from Italy to live in New Zealand in the 1980's and have worked as a chef, restaurateur and consultant in the hospitality industry in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and the United States of America. I have taught Italian in schools and privately and also English to refugees. In 2003, Hazard Press published my novel "The Passage of the Frog and the Wild Strawberries of 1942" set in the Mezzogiorno regions of Italy where I grew up and it would give me great pleasure to introduce you to this magical land and its people.



In late 2015 I met Anne Scragg when she became one of my Italian language students. In 2016 we ran a successful cultural programme in Christchurch showcasing many special Italian foods and wines and introducing our guests to delightful Italian locations off the beaten track. Now Anne and I take our guests to see the enchanting places we have talked about and ensure they have a cultural experience like no other. Our future plan is to secure a home in Italy so you will even be able to put down your luggage and forget about it!

Anne Scragg



I initially trained as a lawyer and worked in private practice for some years. I had a few years off work while my family was young and then returned to work as an adjudicator and mediator. Over time I became involved in designing and establishing specialist dispute resolution schemes in the public and private sectors. In 2015, I retired from a senior management role with the intention of doing something entirely different. One day my husband came in from the letterbox with one of Beniamino's business cards and I thought Italian language lessons might be just what I needed!

I have been to Italy several times and have loved every visit. I am confident I know what non-Italians need and want when travelling and I want to share my passion for Italy with others. I also want to show our guests from other countries the treasures that my homeland, New Zealand, has to offer and would be delighted to work with you to plan your trip through the land of the Lord of the Rings.

Exclusive Tours of Italy

"Over the last few years we have got together to bring people a genuine glimpse into Italian culture and customs. Now our intent is to take you there for an experience unlike any other."

For any queries email
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The Treasures of Iran with Mohammad or Mina



The Treasures of Iran - 12 days (11 nights)

NZ\$7,178pp (single supplement may apply)

This price may change if fewer than 10 people register for the tour or if there are significant changes to currency exchange rates. The final price will be settled prior to confirmation of the tour and before any payment is requested.

On this tour, you will:

- Walk in the footsteps of Darius, Xerxes and Alexander the Great at Persepolis
- Travel in comfort with your Iranian escort, a local guide and our own local driver
- Enjoy luxury accommodation in fabulous locations
- Stroll around ancient bazaars selling rugs, spices, antique copper artefacts and local jewellery
- Marvel at exquisite architecture including towering Minarets, ancient wind towers, palaces and pavilions
- Visit the Zoroastrian holy site Meybod Chak Chak high on a mountain overlooking the desert
- See some of the most magnificently decorated Mosques
- Visit world renowned gardens, squares and other UNESCO World Heritage sites
- Visit a caravanserai along an ancient trade route
- NOT have a dull moment and MOST IMPORTANTLY have fun! - 😊😊

The Treasures of Iran

Tour Outline:

Start date: 11 April 2020

End date: 22 April 2020

Please note that dates may change

Day 1 TEHRAN

Our tour starts immediately we arrive at Tehran International Airport regardless of whether we are arriving separately or in a group. We will be collected at the airport and transferred to our luxurious hotel in the city. The



rest of the day will be ours to rest or do some independent sightseeing. Our Iranian escort will be happy to suggest some options for us.



Some of us might like to visit the **National Museum of Iran**, comprising the **Museum of Ancient Iran** and the **Museum of the Islamic Era**. We can also dine at Milad tower's restaurant and see Tehran from 315 m high.

Day 2 TEHRAN

Our driver will collect us from the hotel and take us to the **Golestan Palace**.

This World Heritage site is one of the oldest historic monuments in the city of Tehran, consisting of gardens, royal buildings, and collections of Iranian and European treasures from the 18th and 19th centuries. This will be followed by a visit to the **Jewellery Museum** where the famous all-diamond Naderi throne and the Iranian Crown Jewels are on display. We will spend the night again in Tehran.



Day 3 TEHRAN to KASHAN

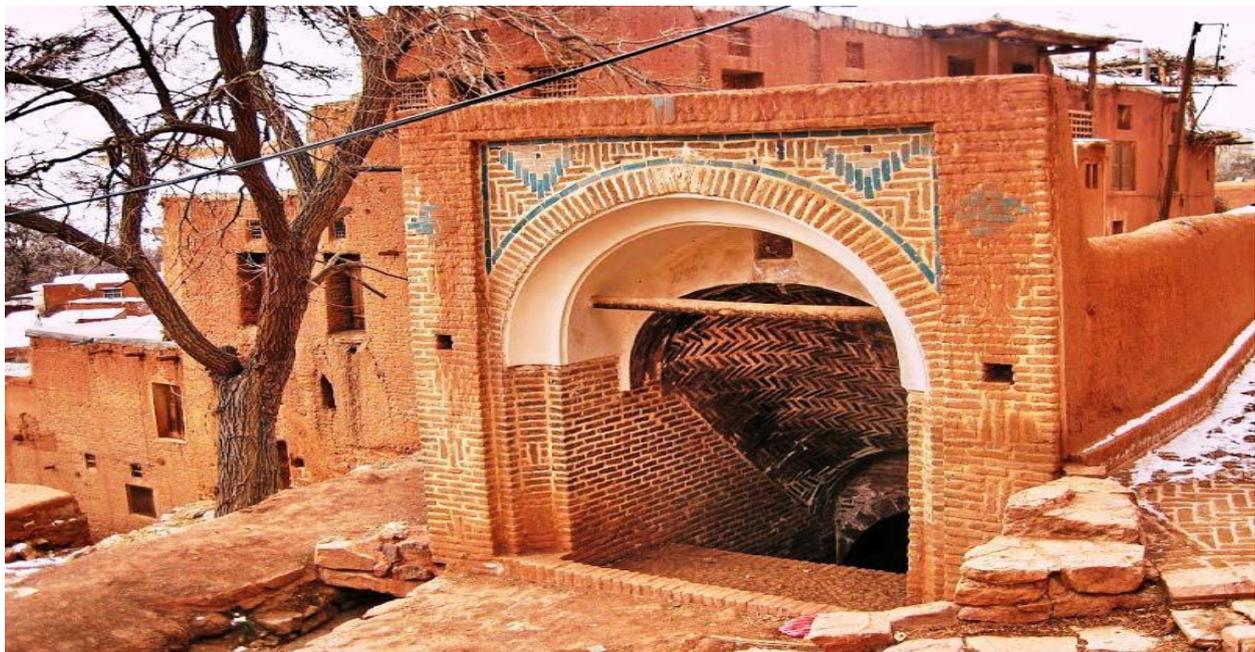
We will depart Tehran with our driver for the ancient city of Kashan. In Kashan we will visit **Borujerdi House** with its ancient wind towers, the exquisite 16th Century **Sultan MirAhmad Bathhouse** and the world-famous **Fin-Garden** of Shah Abbas, one of the nine Persian gardens registered on the UNESCO world heritage list.



By some accounts, Kashan was the origin of the three wise men who followed the star that guided them to Bethlehem to witness the birth of Jesus. Whether this is true or not, the attribution of Kashan as their original home is evidence of the city's prestige at the time the story was recorded. We will stay here overnight.

Day 4 KASHAN to ISFAHAN

Our driver will collect us for our drive to Isfahan. On the way we will see some fascinating places such as the ancient **Abyaneh Village** also known as the Red Village because of its distinctive red houses and soil, where age-



old traditions persist. We will also visit the exquisitely decorated **Natanz Jamia Mosque**. Our hotel in Isfahan will be our home for tonight and the next two nights.

Day 5 ISFAHAN

On our first day in Isfahan we will be taken to see some of the finest architectural treasures from the time of Shah Abbas. The **Aali Qapu Palace**, **Imam Mosque** and **Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque** are located together in one majestic complex. The grandeur of the Palace is inspiring and the Imam Mosque's seven-coloured mosaic tiles and calligraphic inscription are breath-taking. The Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque is one of the best-known architectural treasures in Iran and it is quite simply stunning.



We will return to our hotel at night knowing that we have seen some of the finest Islamic buildings in the world.

Day 6 ISFAHAN

Today we will be driven to **Chehel Sotoun**, a pavilion in the middle of a park at the far end of a long pool, built by Shah Abbas II for entertainment and receptions. The 20 slender, ribbed wooden pillars of the building rise to a superb wooden ceiling with crossbeams and exquisite inlay work.



We will visit **Naqshe Jahan Square**, possibly the most famous attraction in Isfahan.



This UNESCO World Heritage site is in fact one of the most famous squares in the world with formal fountains and exquisite gardens in its centre.

Another important structure we will see is **Khajou Bridge**, a fully functioning bridge and weir which also functions as a building and a place for public meetings. This majestic long structure is decorated with paintings and tile-works.

Sadly, tonight is our last night in Isfahan.

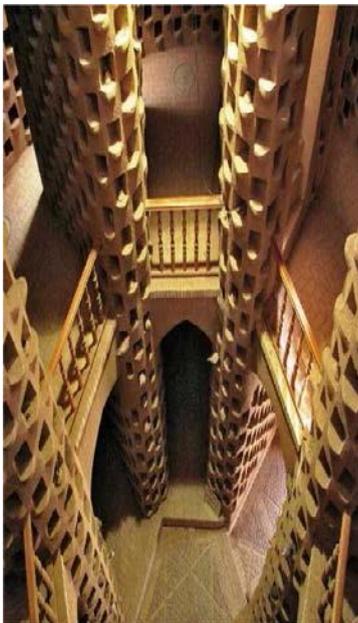
Day 7 ISFAHAN to YAZD



Today our driver will take us eastward to the historic city of Yazd, close to the Spice and Silk Roads. It was described by Marco Polo as “the noble city of Yazd” and has been home to Zoroastrians over the ages.

We will stay here for two nights. While we are in this ancient city, we will visit the grand **Jamia Mosque** with its famous turquoise tiled portal and two lofty minarets, the **Amir Chakhmaq** complex and **Water Museum**.

Day 8 YAZD



Today we will be taken from Yazd to see the mud brick fort **Narin Castle**, which was built over 2000 years ago. We will also visit the Zoroastrian holy site ancient



Meybod Chak Chak, in a small village high up on a mountain as well as the ancient ice-house **Meybod Yakhchal**. This was an ancient type of evaporative cooler built in the 1st Century BCE to create ice in the winter and store it in the summer in the desert. Not far away, we will see the famous roadside inn **Shah Abbasi Caravanserai**. Caravanserais supported the flow of commerce, information and people along trade routes such as the Silk Road through Asia, North Africa and south-eastern Europe.

Tonight, will be our last night in Yazd.

Day 9 YAZD to PERSEPOLIS to SHIRAZ



We make our way today to the **Tomb of Cyrus, Pasargad**. Pasargad was the dynastic capital of the vast **Achamenid Empire** which extended from the eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Hindus River in India and it remains an outstanding archaeological site. From Pasargad we travel to what for many on the tour will be a real highlight – **Persepolis**. The very name of this magnificent UNESCO World Heritage site conjures up the names of the great kings **Darius** and **Xerxes** and of course of **Alexander the Great**. Persepolis was the ceremonial capital of the Achamenid Empire dating back to 515BCE. Its buildings included military quarters, the treasury and reception halls for the King. History is all around us here.

Day 10 SHIRAZ



Today we will see the huge museum **Arg e Karimkhan** which resembles a medieval fortress and **Vakil Mosque**, a stunning example of Islamic architecture. We will also stroll through one of the most famous and traditional bazaars of Iran, the **Vakil Bazaar** with its beautiful courtyards, bath houses and old shops.

Day 11 SHIRAZ

Our driver will collect us this morning for our visit to the glorious **Pink Mosque Nasir al Mulk** where light and worship intertwine. From sunrise, colours dance like whirling dervishes reflecting on the ground, walls, the arches and the towering spires in a spectacular display.



Another stop will be the famous **Eram Garden**, another UNESCO World Heritage site and named after one of the four gardens of Paradise described in the Koran. Shiraz is one of the oldest cities of ancient Persia and is known in Iran today as the city of poets, literature and gardens.



Unfortunately, tonight will be our last night in this wonderful 6000-year-old city.

Day 12 DEPART SHIRAZ

THE END OF OUR TOUR



Our driver will take us to Shiraz airport for our flight connections.



Tour inclusions

- All accommodation costs sharing a double or twin room including breakfasts. Note - a single supplement may apply for single travellers wanting their own room. We will discuss this with you prior to confirmation. All accommodation will be of a very high standard
- All tour travel costs including de-luxe coach or minibus transport and associated charges such as fuel, tolls, taxes, with local drivers
- Daily sightseeing
- Airport transfers
- One group dinner
- Local guides as needed

Tour exclusions

- Meals and beverages other than those included
- Room service meals and mini bar refreshments
- Telephone/internet charges
- Gratuities
- Individual sightseeing not undertaken as part of the tour
- Expenses incurred on sightseeing trips other than transport costs and entrances
- **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**
WE DO NOT ARRANGE TRAVEL INSURANCE.
COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE IS
COMPULSORY IN IRAN!

VIP Tour of IRAN
Booking essential!



For any queries email
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