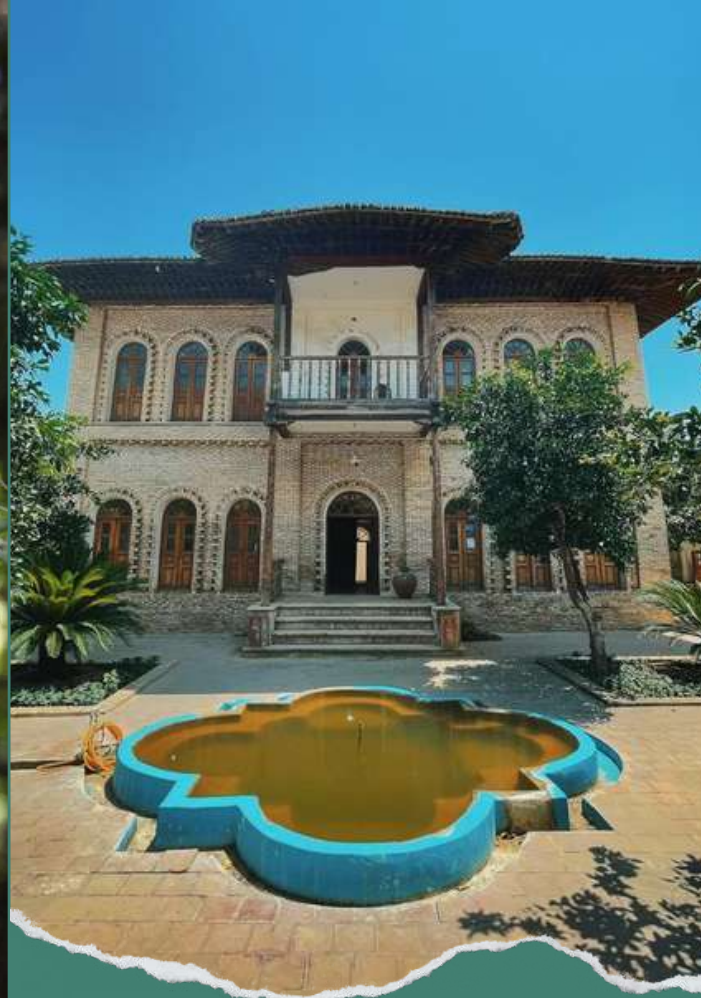




HYRCANIAN FORESTS

Experience the Ancient Forests
Surviving since the Ice Age

(f5-day tour)



This tour takes you to the ancient forests surviving since the Ice Age and transports you into the traditional rural life of Northern Iran. Arrival in Gorgan, the capital city of Golestan by catching Tehran-Gorgan train through the historical railway and stations dating back to World War II, a mixture of oriental nature, history, tradition and culture.



Leave Nothing
But
Footprints



Like a scarf around the neck of a beautiful woman, the Hyrcanian forests are stretched on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea, from the east to the west of the north of Iran. Travelling to these exceptional and ancient broad-leaved forests means travelling to one of the most remarkable World Heritage properties dating back to 25 to 50 million years. When talking about travelling to the World Heritage properties, we usually feel much more responsibility to protect our heritage.



The only way we, as people all around the world, can protect these natural World Heritage properties, is to support local people who are living close to these sites. But, how? Through a responsible travel, we not only visit the heritage sites, we also stay in local eco-lodges, we eat delicious traditional foods prepared by locals, help them in their daily life if we like, listen to their stories about the advantages and disadvantages of living close to a world heritage property, buy their handicrafts if we need.

As responsible visitors, we must minimize negative economic, environmental, and social impacts, generating greater economic benefits for local people, conserving natural and cultural heritage, being respectful of different cultures and identities. Let's all contribute to make tourism more responsible and sustainable!

Highlights: Hyrcanian forests, Golestan Province, Ziarat village, Gorgan, Zarringol Rural District, Balajadeh, Shamoushak





We will visit:

- Ziarat Village tour
- Handicrafts workshops
- Ziarat waterfall

Duration: 5h & 30 mins including lunch time



- Arrival in Gorgan by train. Day 1 starts with travel to Ziarat village and breakfast en route in Shahab hotel located in the Naharkhoran forest to Ziarat Village.
- Visiting the historical centre of the Ziarat village to see the local traditional architecture and carpet weaving, handicraft workshops and fabric weaving
- Lunch at Ziarat hotel where we will also stay overnight
- Visit Ziarat waterfall and have a short tea-break and a walk in the forest nearby

DAY I: ZIARAT VILLAGE

The old summer village of Ziarat lies on the south of Gorgan. Its eye-catching nature, kind people, unique views, clean weather, rural houses and camping opportunities in an amazing area attract those who are in love with nature. Although it is a summer village, you can travel there in all seasons and use its beautiful nature and scenery. Its people are so kind; they produce unique local dairy products and bread that cannot be missed when travelling there. There are light and heavy hiking trails in the heart of Hyrcanian nature that satisfy everyone with any physical ability.

DAY 2: GORGAN

Historical Esterabad, nowadays called Gorgan, was the seat of Qajar dynasty, one of the late dynasties of Iran. This historical city is located on the slopes of the Hyrcanian forests. It owes its reputation to the forests lying on the south, historical texture at the heart of the city, and the vast plain on the north. Walking in this city means travelling to the heart of history and watching how buildings were in 1000 years ago.



We will visit:

- Naharkhoran forest
- Alangdarreh forest
- Historical Esterabad city tour

*Duration: 8h & 30 mins
including lunch time*

- A short walk towards the South of the Naharkhoran forest park where we can see a breathtaking view of the mountains which becomes dotted with various shade of orange and red during the fall season and are covered in snow during winters
- Visit the Hyrcanian forest park in open electric vehicles and learn about its biodiversity
- Lunch at a restaurant near the historic city centre and tour of the centre
- Visiting the traditional houses in the old city centre, the local bazaar and the main mosque built around 1000 years ago
- Travel to Kaboudwal Ecotourism Resort located near Aliabad for overnight stay
- Located in the village of Kordabad, the lodge has an orchard, a poultry farm, sheep and horses. We will have local dinner and relax in the cosy ambience of a rural home





We will visit:

- Kaboodwal waterfall
- Beekeeping farm
- Handicraft workshops of Siahroodbar
- Habitat of yew trees (a UNESCO site)

Duration: 9h including lunch time and a short rest



DAY 3: ZARRIN GOL RURAL DISTRICT

Zarrin Gol rural district is a vast valley located in east Alborz Mountain Range, formed million years ago. Little by little, people settled in different parts of this valley and formed different settlements. Today, there are eight villages in this area and it has turned into a beautiful rural area that can be found in few places in Iran. From the start of the road, the unique scenery takes the breath, from the rice fields, agricultural lands, fish ponds and beekeeping farms to the unique scenery of the soaring heights of the Hyrcanian forests.



- Early-morning two-kilometre trek that includes a visit to a lake, the forest and the Kabudwal waterfall, said to resemble the Bigar waterfall in Romania.
- Return to eco-lodge and visit to Aliabad and the beekeeping farm of Zarin Gol village and lake en route to the Silahrudbar village
- Overnight stay at Sorkhdar ecolodge- a home away from home. Listen to stories narrated by the owner, Mr. Koohsari, a former hunter who changed into a protector of animals and the forest and now promotes the preservation of the natural environment, its flora and fauna
- Visiting Siah Rudbar village and learning about the local culture, handicrafts, yarns and fabrics woven and produced with traditional tools and local honey and dairy products. An afternoon walk in the Hyrcanian forest and a talk on its flora and fauna will be followed by a traditional dinner in the Sorkhdar eco-lodge.

DAY 4: VILLAGES OF BALAJADEH AND SHAMOUSHAK

Travelling to Golestan province? you shouldn't miss these two villages. By walking in both villages you get acquainted with rural lifestyle, architecture, habits, jobs, and etc. people kindly invite you to their homes and warmly host you and talk to you as if you are their family. You can also arrive at the jungles by a very short walk and enjoy nature.



- Travel and walk in the Balajadeh village to visit the traditional wooden architecture, a handicraft workshop, an organic farm with rice plantations.
- Travel to Shamoushk village for a traditional lunch in the Teymouri eco-lodge.
- A short trek in the Shamoushak forest and return to the ecolodge for tea and rest



We will visit:

- Handicraft workshops of Balajaddeh
- The country's old and historic architectures
- Shamoushak forest

Duration: 9h & 30 mins including lunch time and a short rest





DAY 5: SHAMOUSHAK VILLAGE

- After a delicious local organic breakfast, we will go fishing in the lake. Post-lunch transfer to the airport

We will visit:

-Fishing tour

Duration: 3 & 30 mins



Important information to know before visit:

- This is a group tour package
- You may have shared rooms at the eco-lodges
- You can get Iran visa on your arrival at the airport
- Your passport must be valid for at least six months
- This package includes slight mountain trekking, so bring appropriate stuff like shoes etc.
- You should have your money in cash
- Our destination manager is in Iran preparing this tour, so you can enjoy your trip.

What is included:

- Transfers to/from airports, railway stations, hotels, etc.
- Domestic flights
- Train tickets
- All transportation with driver and fuel
- English speaking guide
- Interpreter
- Accommodations
- All breakfasts, lunches & dinners
- All entry fees and rentals
- Best hotels, eco-lodges and restaurants

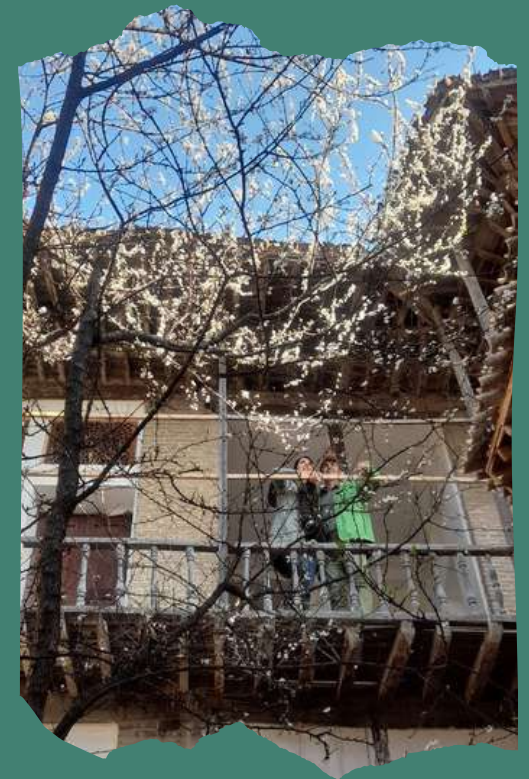


What is not included:

- Visa fee
- Personal travel insurance
- Tips and other gratuities
- Personal expenses
- International flights

Rate seasons 2023-2024

Rate	Spring & Autumn	Summer & Winter
Price per person	From 462 €	From 420 €
Group booking	From 440 €	From 399 €
Children under 12	From 440 €	From 399 €



Booking and cancellation conditions

To book this fascinating tour, you can email us at mptresponsibletourism@gmail.com and put in your request. We will respond with a formal proposal through which you can book the package by simply filling out a contract form including prices, payment schedule and booking conditions. Normally, we confirm the availability of the tour within a 24-48-hour period. Later, vouchers, details of services and invoice will be sent to you via email one week prior to the first date of your trip. Please note that our tour is sold as a package, so we cannot refund you for the services that you do not want to use.



In case of cancellation, the rates are as follows:

- More than 60 days: only 45 Euro administrative fees per person
- From 60 to 30 days: 20% of the total cost
- From 29 to 15 days: 30% of the total cost
- From 15 to 7 days: 50% of the total cost
- Less than 7 days or no show: 100% non-refundable



This publication has been co-funded by the European Union Directorate General International Partnerships. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Marefat Pardis Toos- Iran and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



Where to find us:

Tour operator:

Ms. Saber

Address:

Sabergasht tour and travel agency, at the corner of 30th Edalat, Valiasr Street, Gorgan, Iran

Tel:

00981732352976

Marefat Pardis Toos Central Office

CEO:

Mr. Kashiri

Address:

No.384, between 40th and 42nd Sanabad, Sanabad, Mashhad, Iran.

Tel:

00985138785592

00989155027505

E-mail:

mptresponsibletourism@gmail.com

Website:

www.sustainabletourismiran.eu

