

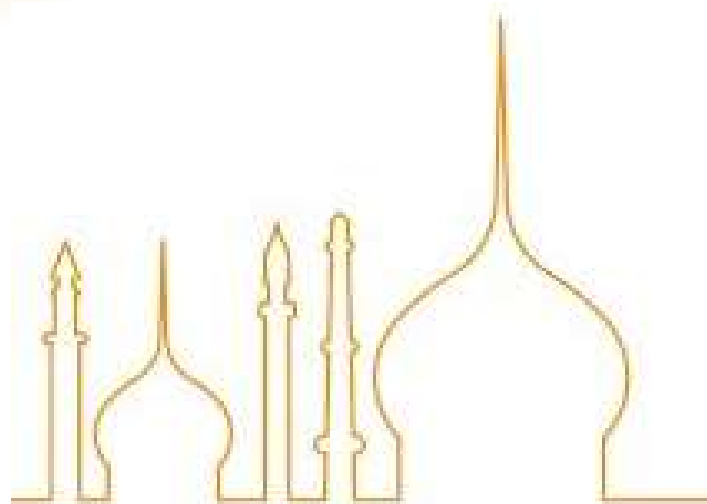


THE SILK ROAD

a travel to

legendary Iran

4 nights and 5 days



The Silk Road, the ancient highway of exchanging merchandise, tradition and literature, has fascinated people all around the world to step in the way that their grandfathers went through. Now, we plan to travel to the heart of the oriental traditions and cities to see what our grandfathers experienced on their travels through the Silk Road.

About The Silk Road tour package

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!

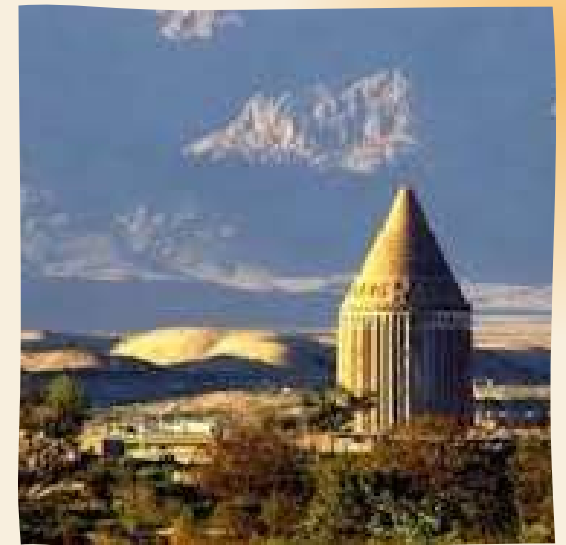
In line with the goals of sustainable and responsible tourism, this project decided to develop a tour package to introduce less-known but charming destinations to make a memorable experience for both the visitors and the hosts.



Along with observing the standards of sustainable and responsible tourism, richness of the history, culture, and handicrafts of the destinations was very important for the members of this project. Accordingly, our team members traveled to some obsessively chosen destinations to evaluate their attractions, local cultures, and handicrafts.

Finally, the team came up with some appealing tour packages, one of which is The Silk Road. It is a 3-night and 4-day program in Khorasan Razavi province where routed a branch of the historic Silk Road. This interesting visit includes the cities of Torbat-e-Heydarieh, Gonabad, Kharv, and Mashhad.

Highlights: Khorasan Razavi province, Torbat-e-Heydarieh, Gonabad, Kharv, Mashhad



Day 1: Torbat-e-Heydarieh

Well-known as the world's Saffron capital, Torbat-e-Heydarieh attracts many tourists each year to visit the growth place of the world's most expensive spice. To see what the old merchants experienced, we start our Silk Road tour from this fertile city.

We will visit:

- saffron factory
- Caravanserai Tabasi
- Namad kubi process

Duration: 7 hours including lunch time



The first day of the Silk Road tour starts with a meet and greet breakfast in Mashhad. Then the group departs from Mashhad towards Torbat-e-Heydarieh where our visits start. Before noon, a *saffron factory* will be visited where the precious product is analyzed, quoted, packaged and sold. Since the best saffron of the world is grown in this city, we will visit the factory to become familiarized with the process of saffron production as well as how the local knowledge of growing this valuable spice has been industrialized. The next visit of the day will be *Caravanserai Tabasi* after lunch. As the name reveals, it is a historical caravanserai which date back to 1600 and includes different parts such as Ivans, chambers, barns and etc.

During the visit we will also visit Torbat-e-Heydarieh anthropological museum which is a part of this caravanserai. The program continues by seeing *Namad kubi process* (the process of preparing felt) in local workshops and visiting a group of local artisans who create objects by sheep's wool compressed with soap and communicating with them. The day will be concluded by a delicious dinner and comfortable stay at Khoshneshin ecolodge.



Day 2: Gonabad

Interested to know how ancient people supplied and conducted water in deserts? Then, Gonabad and its world heritage aqueduct site is a must see.



The group will leave Torbat-e-Heydarieh to Gonabad after breakfast. The first visit of the day will be Qanat Baladeh; still in operation since the times of the Sassanians. It irrigates arid soils and gives a mountainous and grey landscape the green fertility of plants. After lunch, the group will visit Jame Mosque of the khrazmishahian period with the two-ivan typology and the Nojume Madrasa, an ancient center of astronomical studies. Then, We will continue to the village of Riab and visit its historic center and Qasbeh aqueduct, the deepest and oldest Qanat in the world dating back to 2500 years ago, registered as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The day will be concluded by dinner and overnight in Qavamieh Riyab ecolodge, a traditional house with a courtyard.



We will visit:

- Qanat Baladeh
- Jame Mosque
- Nojume Madrasa
- historic center and the Qasbeh aqueduct



Duration: 8 hours including lunch time



Day 3: Kharv

The beautiful region of Kharv is also called the land of legendary gardens, green valleys and overflowing rivers. By waking in its alleys, you feel as if you are walking in the history.



We will visit:

- Tower-mausoleum of Robat-e-Sang
- Sang Bast caravanserai
- Karv city Tour

Duration: 7 hours including lunch time

After breakfast, the group will depart for Kharv. On the way we will visit the Tower-mausoleum of Robat-e-Sang, which was the lighthouse of the ancient caravans on the silk road and the nearby Sang Bast caravanserai dating back to the 10th century. Lunch will be served at Kharv Village, a village near Mashhad that has maintained its traditional culture, surrounded by spontaneous nature in a mountainous landscape. Citizens are dedicated to agriculture and the production of dried fruit, such as dried prunes, apricots and peaches, which are left under the Sun after being peeled. The dinner will be served and the night will be spent at Zak Boutique Hotel.



Day 4: Mashhad

Visiting Mashhad means visiting one of the most magnificent structures of Iranian-Islamic architecture that you should not miss.



We will visit:

- Hammam of Mehdi Gholi Beik
- Mausoleum of Imam Reza
- Tavakoli house
- Darougheh house
- Bazaar Reza

Duration: 9 hours including lunch time

After breakfast, the group will leave Kharv towards Mashhad. In Mashhad, the first visit of the day will be Hammam of Mehdi Gholi Beik, which has been converted into an anthropological museum. It is very unique in paintings on the walls and the dome. Then, the group will visit the Mausoleum of Imam Reza, the second Muslim sanctuary after Mecca as well as a brief visit of the courtyards that make up the Eram. The third visit before lunch will be Tavakoli House. After lunch, we will continue our visits to Darougheh house, consisting of traditional architecture that survived from the urban changes that took place in the last thirty years in Mashhad. We will conclude our tour by walking in Bazaar Reza and buying souvenirs.



Day 5: Shandiz

One of the most popular tourist areas of Khorasan that any tourist has at least tried it once. When you enter Shandiz, you will see tall trees and rivers that double the charm of this beautiful town and make it very spectacular. beside its nature, people visit Shandiz to test its local cuisine.



We will:

- Taste the local cuisine
- Walk the in neighborhood

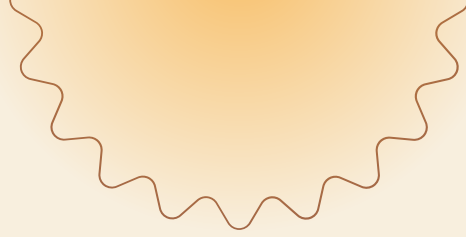
Duration: 8 hours and 30 minutes



After breakfast, we will travel to Shandiz, a summer village where is well-known for its local restaurants. For lunch, Shishlik kebab which is now a tangible heritage of Iran is served. Then, we will walk in the neighborhood to enjoy the mountainous nature of the village and talk to locals.

After a short walk, we stop at a local cafe for to drink tea and take a rest. Finally, we travel to Mashhad for the return flight in the evening





What is included:

- Transfers to/from airport, hotels, etc.
- Domestic flights
- All transportations 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:

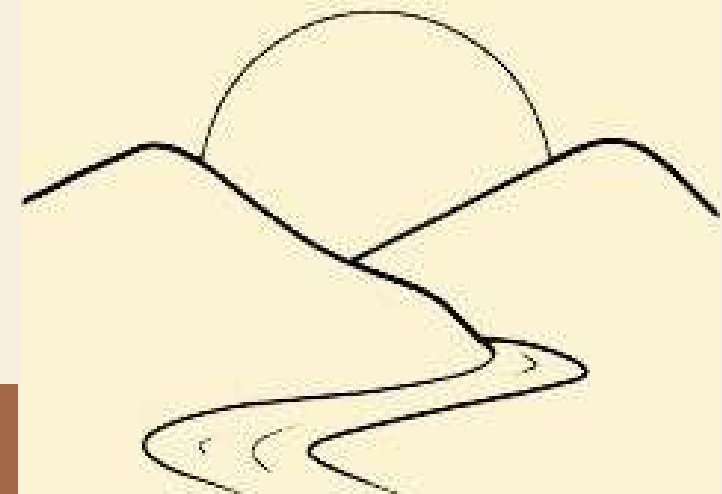
- Visa fee
- Personal travel insurance
- Tips and other gratuities
- Personal expenses
- International flights

Rate seasons 2023-2024

Rate	Summer & Winter	Spring & Autumn
Per person	From 506 €	From 556 €
Group booking	From 480 €	From 506 €
Children under 12	From 480 €	From 506 €

Booking and cancellation conditions and fees

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

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 a light mountain trekking, so bring appropriate stuff like shoes and etc.
- You should have your money in cash
- Our destination manager is in Iran preparing this tour, so you can enjoy your trip.



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