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Lonely Planet Iran (Country Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Lonely Planet Iran
Pause on the Grand Stairway at Persepolis and imagine trumpeters heralding your arrival
Indulge in rosewater ice cream as you stroll between centuries-old bridges in Esfahan
Believe it when you see it: check out the world's most unexpected ski resorts
Rent a room with a view in a mountain village and watch life unfold as it has for centuries
In This Guide:
Two authors, five months of on-the-ground research, 379 invitations to tea
Packed with tips for overlanders, women, and solo travelers
Incorporates Farsi words and script throughout
Get up-to-the-minute info from other travelers on the Iran branch of the Thorn Tree: lonelyplanet.com

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lonely Planet, like your passport, should always be kept close.' --Denver Post, January 2008

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This guide added immeasurably to my just-completed & thoroughly enjoyable three-week visit to Iran. As the authors stress in the opening chapters, Western perceptions of Iran are largely based on government propaganda, ours as well as Iran's. They also point out the huge differences between public and private life. For example, alcohol may be government banned, but it is available for anyone who really wants it. The Iranians are warm, friendly, and most of them do not hesitate to tell us "We love you! We love America!" Getting free of effusive schoolgirls--high school and university--who want to take our photos, can be difficult. I missed a mosque & a couple of old homes in Natanz because of this entrapment! November was

an ideal month, perfect weather throughout the country including sunshine in Tabriz and the Caspian Sea region which can be bitterly cold in the winter. I didn't like having to wear the hijab in public, but this and no access to ATMs were small prices to pay for an invaluable experience. Burke and Elliott's Lonely Planet Iran makes both an ideal introduction to a visit and encapsulates everything one wants to remember about various sites from Persepolis to the flourishing bazaars in every city. I would encourage everyone, especially Americans, to visit Iran. Ignorance on both sides is a problem that can be dispelled by first-hand experience.

I've used over 20 Lonely Planet guides, of widely varying quality. The 2008 Iran guide is one of the very best I've used, from historic background information to feet-on-the-ground travel pragmatics.* The maps are excellent. There are multiple maps of the largest cities and there are very helpful detailed maps of key sites such as Persepolis or the Haram-e Razavi shrine in Mashhad.* There is thorough background information on culture, history and religion which helped me understand the country and the sites better. The general tone is benign and factual.* The hotel and restaurant guides seem accurate and pragmatic. I had to trudge around a number of hotels in Tehran while searching for a room and the Lonely Planet descriptions seemed consistently on the mark.* The specific coverage of cities and historic sites, and the suggested walking tours were helpful and accurate.* There is copious and (allowing for the vagaries of the bus companies) accurate information on train and bus schedules, travel times and costs. I often saw other travelers consulting various editions of this guide in Iran. It seems to have become the standard. It deserves it!

This book tells about The Real Iran - not the Iran that most Americans think they know, but what the reality is. Sadly, these views are billions of miles apart. I used this Lonely Planet book - A Lonely Planet Iran (Country Guide) as a guide for my 12-day trip through Iran in December 2009 and affirm that the information in it is very, very accurate. It demolishes the many myths that exist about these incredibly welcoming people. The distinction is that there is a vast difference between the Iranian PEOPLE and their GOVERNMENT. Many, many PEOPLE hate their government, love Americans, are not anti-Jewish, do not want war or a nuclear bomb and live in a unexpectedly open and safe environment. There seems to be absolutely no danger for tourists. Indeed, my wife and other women in our small group of nine walked around the street at nighttime alone and with no hesitation. Iranians learn English in high school; consequently, many people are exceptionally fluent and all seem to love to talk with visitors, especially the few Americans who visit their country. All this and more can be learned from reading this book. Even those not personally going to Iran, this book

can educate us all to what Iran is really like. It suggests that were it not for Iran's theocratic government, that our two countries could easily be friends. That's really something to think about. John V. R. Bull Philadelphia, Pa.

Useful travel info

Very useful!

Up to Lonely Planet's standard. Very informative.

I found this guide book to be interesting and and certainly would use if I ever get to Iran. It is not too heavy and ideal for one's backpack. Photos are also nice.

An absolute must for travelling in Iran Great background history and lots of info on main attractions. Culture, religion, food also explained.

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