

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION BY VISITORS TO IRAN.

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1. How many days we have to enter Iran from visa stamp?
You have 90 days from visa stamp date and 30 days to stay in Iran once you enter Iran.
2. When can we do Online Check in?
You can go online 24 hours before flight and choose your seat and meal.
3. Do we need any vaccination?
No you don't need any vaccination for Iran.
4. Do we need any Insurance?
Yes, you will need insurance for medical but many Insurance companies will not cover Iran so its best to check small print. Other option is to take insurance policy from Iran as soon as you land there.
5. Sim card needed: You can get Iran Sim card for tourist from Tehran or Mashhad Airport by giving them your passport copy and take with you an unlocked phone from your origin country and make sure other network sims work in it.
6. How to get Iran currency?
You can check the current rate of conversion on this website: www.xe.com and type in £100 convert to Iran Riyal. For example, today the rate is £1= 45000 Riyal.
7. How does Riyal and Tuman work in Iran?
The official currency of Iran is Riyal and the minimum currency note has 5000 riyal note but in the market they call it Tuman. To convert Riyal to Tuman all you have to do is remove the last Zero from the note and it becomes Tuman. Ex. The 5000 riyal is 500 Tuman and £1 is 4500 Tuman. Tuman is an unofficial currency name most common in the market.
8. How much currency we are allowed to take with us?
If you are travelling to a country outside the European Union (EU), you will need to declare any sums of cash of 10,000 Euro or more

(or the equivalent in another currency) to HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

9. What is the time difference in Iran from GMT?



Time Zone

IRST (Iran Standard Time)
UTC/GMT +3:30 hours



DST starts

22 Mar 2017
Forward 1 hour



DST ends

22 Sep 2017
Back 1 hour

10. What is the dialing code?
0098.
11. What is the expected time to come out of Tehran Airport?
Approx. around 1 to 2 hours. As soon as you come out of Aircraft Best to rush to Immigration desk and there is no que system. Join The foreign country Que.
11. Who is coming to pick me from Airport?
If you have reserved the hotel or whole Package through Alavi Tours our Guide will have a show card" Alavi Tours" at the nominated Airport.
12. Where can I pray Salat?
Every Airport in Iran and Train station or Coach station has a prayer area.
13. Can I change my money @ airport?
Yes, you can but the rate will not be favorable.

14. How far is Qum city from Tehran Imam Khomeini Airport?
It is 90 mins drive to your hotel in Qum.
15. How far is Tehran City?
Expect 1-hour drive to most areas in Tehran even Mehrabad Airport.
16. What is the best time to land in Iran?
The best time to land and check in your hotel at mid-day 1200. If you check in before this time you will need to pay previous night money which the hotel has to reserve for you and your family.
17. How much will the 7-year-old child will pay?
The rate of child is below 6 years and over 6 years' age will be treated as a full rate paying child and will get a bed but below 6 years' child if needed discount let them share the parents bed if you wish. Child is sharing a bed they will pay half of ground package. Discount from Airline will be available below 12 years of age for the child ticket as long as they don't turn 12 during their journey.
18. Which is our partner hotel in Qum?
Our 3-star partner hotel is Al Zahra or Tashrifat hotel. Our 4-star partner hotel is Qum International. Food served there is full board.
19. What Ziyaraat is available in Qum?
The first day when you arrive in Qum after landing Tehran Airport you will be taken by our spiritual guide to Haram Syeda Fatima Masoumeh Qum. Second day we will give you a guided tour to Imam Zadeh and other Important Ziyaraat of Qum which are mentioned in the Iran guide which is available on our website. Third day we take you to shopping, and Kohe Khizr (Khizr Mountain) and Masjid Jamkaran. Imam Zamana Masjid to perform Amaal and Dua e Tawassul. Check out 4th day and drive to Tehran for Ziyaraat of Imam Khomeini and Shah Abdul Azim. Fly to Mashad and guided tour of Mashad. One day Naishapour and Turqaba Ziyaraat. Also Khawaja Aba Salt.
20. What language our guide/ Alim will speak?
We have a multi lingual Guide for your assistance. Our alim speaks Urdu and English.
21. How to prepare for Pilgrimage?
You should read few books and read on line or read our Etiquettes of Ziyaraat available on our website: www.alavitavel.com.
22. Where to buy books in English in Qum?
Best place to buy books is from Ansarian bookshop. om the shops
23. What to buy from Qum?
We recommend you buy Sohan e Qum special sweet from Qum but not from the shops near the Haram. If you join our group, ask

our guide to help you buy the best from Sohan Mohammed Saednia. Also when we stop for breakfast at the Service station you can buy from there on the way to Tehran.

24. What to see in Tehran?

You can see mainly Milad tower in North Tehran, Bazar Buzurg Tehran, Shah Palace and Museum.

25. How long is flight from Tehran to Mashad?

It is 1 hour 10 mins flight time.

26. Is train recommended to travel?

No if you are used to English Toilet as none are available during the 9- hour fast train from Tehran to Mashad. Other overnight train is 13 hours. Although good food and sight-seeing and stops for namaz at any station when there is time for Salat. All get down for prayer.

27. Which is our partner hotel in Mashad?

Hotel Bushra in Sarshour Bazar as 4-star open buffet Hotel and Hotel Idrees or Hotel Noor as a 3-star hotel.

28. Where do we go in Mashad?

Please read our Itinerary on our website, Iran guide you will find out about our itinerary.

29. What to buy from Mashad?

You can buy Saffron, dry fruit and Firoza stone from Mashad or Naishapour.

30. What is in Naishapour?

It is 2-hour drive from Mashad each way to Naishapour. There you will be taken to Qadam Gah (Foot Print) of Imam Reza a.s. the 8th Imam of Shia Islam like the footprint of Prophet Ibrahim in Mecca. Near there he performed a miracle and he knocked the earth for water which was scarce in that area. By the Grace of Allah the Water started to flow since his time till now that water is still gushing till today and you can take a strong empty bottle for your sick patients to get cure. After that you will be taken to Imam Zadeh, Bibi Shatita and shopping of turquoise stone Firoza where there is a mine in Naishapour.

31. What is in Haram of Imam Reza a.s.?

The Shrine of Imam Reza a.s., 4 Museums inside Haram(Carpet, Quran, Central Museum, Life of Iran and Astan e Quds investments Museum. This is the trust charity owned by Imam Reza a.s. which is the second richest after the Government of Iran. Library and graveyard

32. What is the facilities inside Haram for Urdu speaking Zawwar or Pak Indo origin?

There is Room no. 40 opens at 0900 daily except Friday and

Public Holidays. You will enjoy going in this room. You will be given Haram Awareness lecture in Urdu for 40 minutes which is worth listening and it will increase your knowledge and Amazing facts. Try to go in this room on your first day or second day. After this lecture you will be given paper to write your name and country so they can use it in raffle prize draw and you will be given a gift. After that they take you to Quran Museum where you will be allowed to enter free of charge and see Quran written by 3 Imams own handwriting. Location of this room. If you will enter from Bab Raza door of Imam Reza then go on your right and when you see a big Arch go inside that and turn 2nd left and go straight and it's on your last left.

Next gathering in Room 40 is at 3 pm. Now there will be Question and Answer session, prize draw and a short film on Haram imam Reza a.s. and free entry to Central Museum.

At Maghreb there will be jamaat prayer in Rawaq Kauser, Quran recitation and Dua e Kumail if Tuesday or Dua e Kumail if Thursday. Then there will be Majlis daily and then prize draw and Ziyaraat of Imam Reza a.s. Direction; If entering from the door of Imam Reza (Bab Al Reza) inside the courtyard, walk towards your left and go straight towards the other courtyard Kauser. Do not enter in that courtyard but on your right you will see a room called "Rawaq e Kauser". You will pass that big Arch for room 40 but do not enter in that. After the Majlis here you can register yourself for the meal token to eat as a guest of Haram of Imam Reza a.s. which you get only once in your trip. Register your name on first night with staff of Haram in blue uniform named brother Ali or Shehzad. Next day they will ask you to come to room 40 and also come in Rawaq Kauser at Zuhur Prayer where you will get the token for restaurant. This is free of charge service.

33. What are the facilities for Arabic speaking Zawwar?
If you enter from Bab Jawad (Imam Jawad door) go straight and turn left at the end towards Sehn e Ghadeer. Here you will be able to get jamaat salat (congregational) prayer. There will be all programmes in Arabic and I enjoy during Mahe Ramadhan when there is all duas in Arabic after Isha prayer etc.
34. What is in Rawaq e Ghadeer?
Before Fajr Salaat Zawwar que up from 3 am morning to enter this room and at Azan time they close the door for new zavar to enter. After Fajr salat they distribute the fresh flowers which were on the zareeh of Imam Reza the night before they make small packets

and give one zaer each packet. The benefit of this flower is any married women who is not able to become mother if she eats this there is chance of being pregnant by the will of Allah.

35. Distance of our hotels to Haram?

In Qum it is 3 minutes and in Mashad 4 minutes to reach the courtyard not the Zareeh, because from Courtyard to Zareeh is another 10 mins walk.

36. What to pay in hotel for services used?

Laundry, phone calls, minibar in room, any food ordered in room you are responsible to pay. 3 meals are free in your package in restaurant.

37. What are the timings of Food in hotel?

The Breakfast is from 0800 to 1000. Lunch is from 1300 to 1500. Dinner is from 2000 to 2200. Please stick to these timings.

38. Where can I go for treatment?

Ask our guide or Hotel reception will guide you.

39. Qibla direction in hotel room?

The arrow towards Mecca for Qibla is stuck on your room ceiling.

40. Salat is Qasr (half) or not?

If you are staying less than 10 days in any city your namaz is Qasr.

41. What is in Turqaba? **CHILDREN ENTERTAINMENT**:

Ice cream pistachio, Syed Yasir and Syed Nasir two real brothers of Imam Reza and their sister is in Qum Syeda Fatima Masoumeh. Water Park largest and best in Iran is Mashad Khoroshantel; 05135144000. www.mojhayekhoroshan.ir

42. Who is Khawaja Aba Salt?

He was the close friend of Imam Reza and shared his secrets.

43. How far is Mashad Airport?

30 minutes' drive and 3-hour reporting time for international flight but 2 hour reporting for domestic flight. In Dec and Jan Turkish Airline will cancel the flight due to bad weather in Istanbul. Due to snow.

44. Do we take Alim from UK in our group?

Not usually but we use local Alim to create local employment.

45. If you are stopped at Airport on your return?

If you are stopped about going to Iran basically they know about our pilgrimage so please reply that it is our Pilgrimage we have to go and they will let you go.