

Visit Friendly Iran
as if April 8, 2010

News from Serious Travelers

Our first welcome was even before we arrived by a couple young men in the boarding area for our flight from Istanbul to Tehran. They wanted a picture of our group (with them). Nice welcome! GE

I've now received an email from a gentleman on the same flight:
Dear Gwen

During your flight from Istanbul to Tehran , i was the person who was able to read your mind if you remember ..!!! (just kidding / make you a quick remind)
I would like to invite you and American Friends for dinner or lunch in one of the best Cholo Kabab restaurant during your stay in Tehran .
if my invitation is accepted please inform me and let me know when you are back in Tehran .
have a safe journey and enjoy the defernces of Iran .

Regards
Babak
0912 140 24 88

The Iranian people have been a highlight of this trip for many of us. We have been made to feel very welcome here, perhaps because they are not so overwhelmed with tourists as are so many of the countries we've all visited. Here we ask to photograph people and their families and are usually invited to pose for them as both of us take pictures. We may have a language barrier, but this quickly disappears as we join with each other. There is a fairly widespread knowledge of English, however. We have also met many Iranians with family members in the United States and some have lived in the US or traveled to the US.

Are we safe here? Absolutely. We have a better sense of personal safety here than in many areas in the western hemisphere. Iranians are famous for their hospitality (in spite of the hostage crisis that occurred before most of today's Iranians were born).

We visited several museums in Tehran and also the homes or palaces (now museums) of former kings and shahs (mostly 19th to 20th centuries).

The ladies in our group follow hijab and wear scarves, and they've found a large variety of scarves in the markets. Women here approach hijab with a variety of colorful scarves or black chadors (the long light robes). Temperatures have been in the upper 70s and low 80s with only a brief shower late one day in Kerman.

The food has been excellent and served in large quantities, with lots of yogurt (with various herb flavors), salads, kebabs, and fine vegetarian salads or heavy sauces.

We started in Tehran and then on Tuesday flew to Kerman in the southeast. This is a high desert area somewhat like that of our southwest. We are now in our tour bus enroute to Shiraz, passing through two mountain ranges and more desert areas.

Since our group is composed of veteran travelers, we all have tales to share of our past experiences and it's a good opportunity to ask about travel to countries we may not yet have visited. David

Amazing experience to date with the people in each town. I feel silly having had any trepidations before the trip now that we have experienced such a warm and incredible reception. Some of the photos may not be as interesting to you as the others she will send in as they are of people on the trip and groups we met. This is just a group email which our leader is sending. It is her first attempt to see if a group email will work. Hope to share more exotic shots of the incredible sites to which they have treated us next time. Hugs, Jan and Doug

Just have to second David's comments about the friendly people. Five of us women were able to swim in the hotel pool yesterday after complaining that all the good time periods seemed to be for the men. The attendant was busy selling us bathing caps (Speedo) so we could enter the pool. (Men do not need bathing caps.) While we were visiting in the shallow end of the pool, a young woman came over to speak to us. She is a university student majoring in English, hoping to be a professor. Like others we have met, she said, "I love Americans." Then there was the giggly law student that spoke with us as we left the Friday Mosque in Kerman. Also a young woman. Our bus driver and his helper have been setting up tea parties for us when no suitable facility is handy. The dates they offered us – provided by our guide Bahman - are wonderful. Also eat a fig or chew on a pistachio nut and think of us. The bus is nearly at our next stop: hunting lodge from the 5th century AD. – Retta/Jim

This is an amazing experience for me. Every day the beauty of the place and its people are absolutely amazing. Our guide and our group leader are so very are exceptional in all aspects. I wish most of us Americans could experience this. You will hear more from us in the days ahead. Love, Sultan.

We're having a great time. Don't let anyone tell you not to come to Iran. It's a great place to visit. –Phoebe

Hello Jared how are you doing I am in IRAN and I am doing an okay time There are no m 16 teens or A.K. 47 s . I had a long trip but I got here safely so see you when I get back l.a. .

An amazing place!! The welcome has been gracious and genuine everywhere we've been. Wish you could experience it. Xo Pat & Ken

To see a few pictures of our group.....
Go to Kodak photo Gallery. Set up your own account (email address and password). It's free. Enjoy!