

Iran



Tabriz
World Heritage-listed bazaar

Alamut Valley
Hike among the Castles of the Assassins

Mashhad
Shrine of Imam Reza, Iran's holiest site

Tehran
Modern Iran – galleries, cafes, restaurants

Garmeh
Desert oasis with memorable homestay

Kaluts
Camp among 10-storey sandcastles

Qeshm Island
Sleepy Bandari villages, amazing geology

Howraman
Kurdish hospitality, secluded mountain villages

Takht-e Soleiman
Lonely, windswept Zoroastrian temple complex

Kashan
Low-key town with exquisite old mansions

Choqa Zanbil
Incredible 3000-year-old ziggurat

Esfahan
Majestic Safavid capital – a must-see

Yazd
Desert city with romantic traditional hotels

Shiraz
The heartland Persian culture

Persepolis
Ruined but still glorious Achaemenid capital