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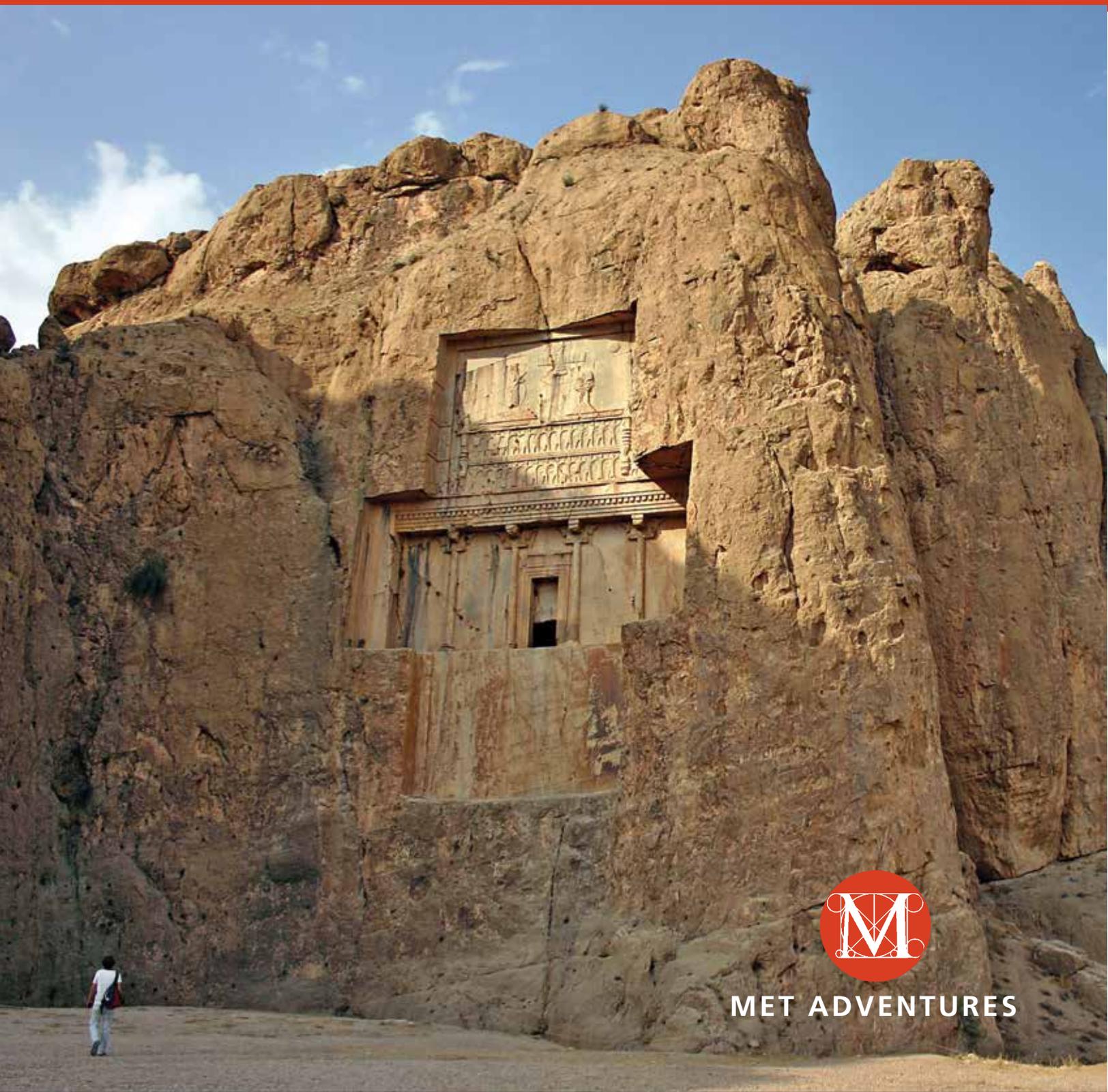
THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

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♦ **ICONIC IRAN** ♦

*A Journey Through Persia*

October 20 to November 5, 2016



**MET ADVENTURES**

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# THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

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For over two-and-a-half millennia, many powerful dynasties, empires, and religions have left their imprint on the land of Persia, where monuments, carvings, and paintings abound. Today's Iran offers a legacy of impressive UNESCO-designated World Heritage Sites, ranging from ancient Persepolis, the vast ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire built by Darius and destroyed by Alexander, to the lavish Golestan Palace complex, dating from the 18th to early 20th century. During an extraordinary journey across Iran, discover ten of these World Heritage Sites and experience the country's legendary hospitality.

We are delighted that Christopher Lightfoot, Curator of Greek and Roman Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, will be leading this Met Adventures program. An expert on Roman art and archaeology, Dr. Lightfoot also has an in-depth knowledge of the history of Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanian Iran.

We hope you will join us on this remarkable program, as we travel through millennia and across exceptionally beautiful landscapes.

## TRAVELING WITH YOU



**Christopher Lightfoot**, is a Curator in the Department of Greek and Roman Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. He specializes in numismatics, ancient glass, and Roman minor arts. Educated at the University of Oxford, he earned his

doctoral degree in Ancient History, focusing on the Roman-Persian wars of the 4th century AD before joining the British Museum in 1982. After moving to the Met in 1999, Dr. Lightfoot oversaw the day-to-day management of the reinstallation of the New Greek and Roman Galleries that opened in April 2007. He also curated the exhibition *The Roman Mosaic from Lod, Israel*, recently on view at the Met and *Ennion: Master of Roman Glass* in early 2015. In addition to his numerous academic publications, Dr. Lightfoot has translated many Turkish books and articles into English, as well as regularly publishing and lecturing in Turkish himself. ♦

## TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ Visits to ten UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Chogha Zanbil, one of the few remaining ziggurats outside of Mesopotamia; Susa, one of the most important cities of the ancient Near East; and the tomb of Cyrus the Great at Pasargadae
- ♦ The museums of Tehran, including the National Museum, the newly reopened Islamic Era Museum, and the spectacular Jewels Museum
- ♦ Isfahan, with its splendid Friday Mosque and breathtaking square, Maidan-e Naghsh-e Jahan
- ♦ A full day in Persepolis, the ceremonial city founded by Darius the Great



MET ADVENTURES

## ◆ ICONIC IRAN ◆

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### TEHRAN

*Sunday, October 23*

Depart this morning for the Golestan Palace complex\*, dating from the 18th to early 20th century. Visit the Marble Hall and the Hall of Mirrors, used as a coronation room, and stroll the garden to see the ornate tile-covered walls. After lunch, visit the Carpet Museum where a fine array of carpets from ancient to contemporary is on display. Then explore the Glass Museum, housed in an elegant mansion from the Qajar period.

### TEHRAN ◆ KERMANSHAH

*Monday, October 24*

A morning flight takes us west to Kermanshah, in the heart of the Zagros mountains. Continue to the Parsian Hotel for lunch and check-in. In the afternoon visit the site of Taq-i Bustan, whose extraordinary bas reliefs exalt Sassanian kings. Carved along an ancient Silk Road mountain pass, these well-preserved reliefs display epic hunting scenes and ceremonial coronations. Dinner is at the hotel.

### DEPARTURE

*Thursday, October 20*

Depart the U.S.A. on an overnight flight to Iran via Dubai.

### DUBAI, U.A.E ◆ TEHRAN, IRAN

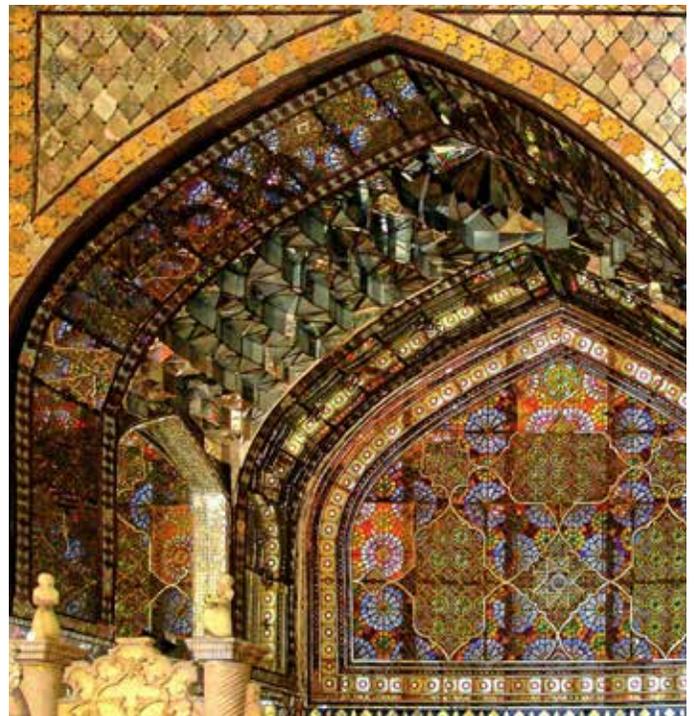
*Friday, October 21*

Arrive in Dubai this morning and connect with an afternoon flight to Tehran. Following evening arrival in Tehran, transfer to the centrally located Hotel Espinas.

### TEHRAN

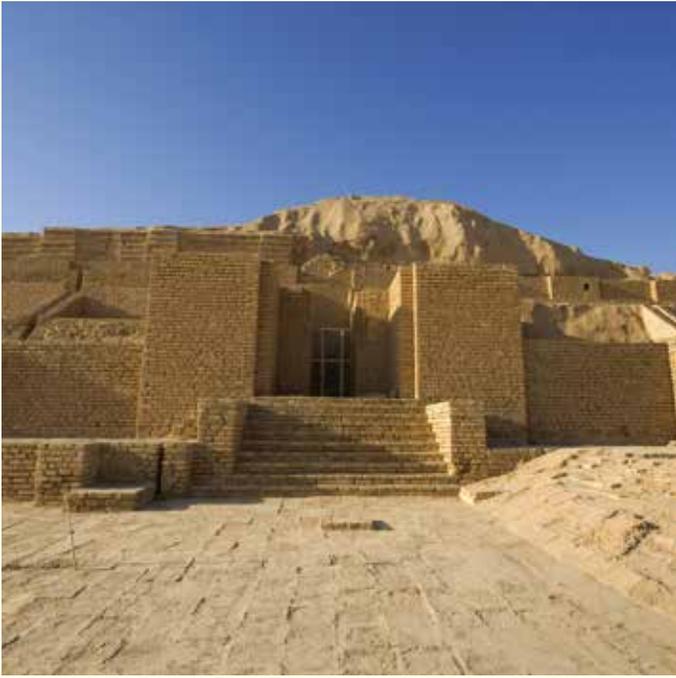
*Saturday, October 22*

Today begins at the National Museum to view the collection of pre-historic and ancient artifacts. Continue to the newly reopened and beautifully renovated Islamic Era Museum. After lunch, drive to the Jewels Museum, housed in the vaults of the Central Bank of Iran, displaying one of the most dazzling collections in the world, including the legendary Peacock Throne. Gather this evening for welcome remarks by Christopher Lightfoot, followed by dinner.



*Marble Hall, Tehran*

Photo by Armin Hage



*Ziggurat, Chogha Zanbil*

**KERMANSHAH**  
*Tuesday, October 25*

Depart for Bisotun\* to view the bas-relief and cuneiform inscription ordered by Darius the Great and strategically located along an ancient trade route. Written in three languages, the text documents Darius' divine connection, his conquests, and his re-establishment of the Persian Empire in 521 B.C. Continue to Kangavar and the Temple of Anahita. The temple's Hellenistic characteristics represent architectural influences that appeared in Persia after the conquest of Alexander the Great. Return to Kermanshah for a walk in the lively Grand Bazaar. *(Approximate driving distance today = 185 km)*

**KERMANSHAH ♦ AHWAZ**  
*Wednesday, October 26*

A full day's drive takes us through beautiful landscapes to Ahwaz, stopping en route to see the ancient Pol-e Dokhtar, or "Bridge of the Daughter," part of the Persian Royal Road. Arrive in Ahwaz in the early evening for dinner and check-in at the Fajr Hotel. *(Approximate driving distance today = 500km)*

**AHWAZ**  
*Thursday, October 27*

Drive to Chogha Zanbil\*, dating from 1250 B.C. and one of the few remaining ziggurats outside of Mesopotamia. At ancient Susa\* explore the remains of the Achaemenid palace built during the reign of Darius I. After lunch, see the fascinating Sassanian water mills of Shustar\*, on the river Karun. Return to Ahwaz in time for dinner. *(Approximate driving distance today = 360km)*

**AHWAZ ♦ SHIRAZ**  
*Friday, October 28*

Depart this morning for Shiraz, stopping to visit the site of Bishapur, the third-century hunting palace of the Sassanian king Shapur. See the reliefs celebrating his victories over the Roman armies. Following lunch, continue through dramatic mountain scenery and descend into the valley towards Shiraz. Check into the Hotel Homa in the early evening. Dinner is at the hotel. *(Approximate driving distance today = 572km)*

**SHIRAZ**  
*Saturday, October 29*

This morning discover the celebrated gardens of this "city of roses and nightingales." Admire Eram Garden before visits to the pink-tiled 19th-century Nasir al-Mulk Mosque and the Qajar-period Naranjestan Palace. After lunch, see the 18th-century citadel of Arg-e Karim Khan, the elegant Pars Museum, and the Atiq (Old) Mosque, Masjid-i Vakil. Conclude the day at the colorful Vakil Bazaar of Shiraz.

**SHIRAZ ♦ PERSEPOLIS**  
*Sunday, October 30*

Once the center of the Persian Empire, Persepolis was one of the most important sites of the ancient world. Explore the remains of the palaces of Darius the Great, Xerxes, and Artaxerxes. Continue to Naghsh-é Rajab, a nearby grotto with Sassanian reliefs. At the fascinating necropolis of Naghsh-é Rostam, see the Royal Tombs and the Ka'bé Zardosht "fire temple." Return to Shiraz to stroll in the lovely Musalla Gardens, site of the tomb of Iran's greatest lyric poet, Hafez. Dinner is at the hotel. *(Approximate driving distance today = 120km)*



*Eram Garden, Shiraz*

Photo by Iran's Window



## SHIRAZ ♦ ISFAHAN

Monday, October 31

Following breakfast, depart for Isfahan, stopping at Pasargadae\* to explore the ruins of the capital, palaces, and majestic tomb of Cyrus the Great. After lunch, stop to view the castle and caravanserai ruins at Izad Khast. Arrive in Isfahan for check-in and dinner at the elegant Hotel Abbasi. (Approximate driving distance today = 500km)



Angel painting in the Cathedral of Vank, Isfahan

## ISFAHAN

Tuesday, November 1

Isfahan, the 17th-century capital of the Safavid Dynasty, is referred to as Nesf-e Jahan, or “Half of the World.” Explore the magnificent Friday Mosque considered a museum of a thousand years of Persian religious architecture. In the Armenian Quarter, discover the Cathedral of Vank\* and the nearby museum. Following lunch, visit the Palace of Chehel Sotun, built by Shah Abbas II in the 17th century. Twenty wooden columns reflected in the garden pool give the palace its name, “The Palace of Forty Columns.” Then see three of the famous eleven bridges of Isfahan. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

## ISFAHAN

Wednesday, November 2

Depart the hotel on foot for the intricate, 17th-century Hasht Behesht pavilion, set amongst tree-lined alleys, a reflecting pool, and water rills. Continue to the breathtaking square, Maidan-e Naghsh-e Jahan.\* The *maidan* (town square), is flanked by the Ali-Qapu Palace with its royal balcony, from where the kings watched polo games below, and two of the world’s greatest mosques with their splendid tilework: the Sheikh Lotfollah and the Masjid-i Imam\*. Conclude at the Qeisarieh Bazaar with time to browse the hundreds of shops displaying the arts and handicrafts for which Isfahan is famous.

## ISFAHAN ♦ TEHRAN

Thursday, November 3

On today’s drive to Tehran, stop in Natanz to visit the 12th-century Masjed-e Jame, built with a four *iwan* (an open, vaulted space) courtyard plan. Continue to Kashan and the historic garden of Fin, first planted during the Safavid period and expanded by the Zand and Qajar monarchs. We will also visit Tabatabai House, a 19th-century merchant residence with a beautiful stucco dome and inlaid mirror work, and some of the finest examples of existing *badgirs* (wind-catchers). Arrive in Tehran in the late afternoon and transfer to the Hotel Espinas. (Approximate driving distance today = 470km)

## TEHRAN ♦ DUBAI

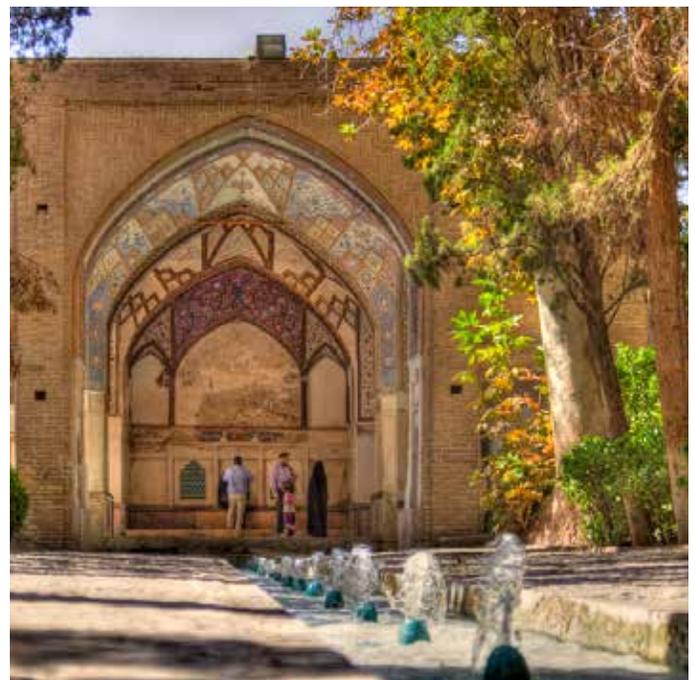
Friday, November 4

Drive to fashionable northern Tehran for a visit to Niavaran Palace complex, set among the foothills of the Alborz Mountains. See the former Pahlavi residences and tour the museum of paintings and artifacts collected by Farah Diba, the last Empress of Iran. Return to central Tehran for lunch. This afternoon, visit the Reza Abbasi Museum, whose galleries include ceramics, important finds in gold and silver, and masterpieces of classical Persian manuscript painting. Following an early dinner, transfer to Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Airport and the flight to Dubai.

## DUBAI ♦ U.S.A.

Wednesday, November 5

Depart on a very early morning flight from Dubai to the U.S.A., arriving the morning of the same day. ♦



Fin Garden, Kashan

Photo by Erwin Bolwicht



Photo by Hadi Nikkhah



Water mills of Shustar

Photo by Dan



Vakil Bazaar, Shiraz

**PROGRAM RATE \$9,995**  
**(per person, double occupancy)**  
**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1,175**

**RATE INCLUDES**

- ◆ Fourteen nights hotel accommodations, as per itinerary
- ◆ Breakfast daily, fourteen lunches, and fourteen dinners. Bottled water and coffee / tea
- ◆ Airport / hotel group transfers and portorage
- ◆ Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- ◆ Escorted sightseeing by motorcoach and entrance fees for visits
- ◆ Taxes, service, and gratuities to guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATE** International airfare; passport and visa fees; personal items and expenses; airport transfers for those not on group flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

**THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART**

**MET ADVENTURES ♦ Iconic Iran: A Journey Through Persia ♦ October 20 to November 5, 2016**  
**RESERVATION APPLICATION**

To reserve a place, please return this form along with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

**FORM OF PAYMENT**

- Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*)
- Credit card (may be used for deposit only)

Names in full as on passports. Please print.

Name on Credit Card

Credit Card Number

Address

3- or 4-Digit Security Code

Expiration Date

City

State

Zip

Each participant must sign below. This is an active tour and I/we confirm that I/we am/are in good health and physically able to participate in the trip's program. I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program. I/We agree to full payment by check or wire transfer 150 days prior to departure.

Telephone (Home)

(Business)

Fax

E-mail

Signature (Required)

Date

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

I wish to share a room with

- Double
- Twin
- Single (with a supplement of \$1,175)

Signature (Required)

Date

For additional information, please contact *Academic Arrangements Abroad*

Telephone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944 ♦ Fax: 212-344-7493 ♦ E-mail: [met@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:met@arrangementsabroad.com) ♦ [www.metmuseum.org/travel](http://www.metmuseum.org/travel)

## A NOTE ABOUT TRAVEL IN IRAN

Driving is often the most efficient way to access the cities and villages we will visit. Long drives are to be expected during this program, however the remarkably varied landscapes of Iran will offer a scenic panorama along the way.

Iranian people are warm and hospitable towards visitors. They enjoy engaging foreigners in English conversation and are especially curious about life in America.

Certain rules of dress and conduct are strictly observed in Iran and all trip participants are expected to adhere to local laws and customs.

Women are required to cover their heads with a scarf whenever outside the privacy of their hotel room and to wear loose clothing that covers their arms and legs. Loose trousers or a long skirt, with a top that reaches mid-thigh, are recommended. Except for shorts, which are discouraged, men may wear the same clothes as when traveling in any western country—although we suggest you leave your ties at home! (Ties are rarely seen and never necessary.)

Alcohol is forbidden at all times.

After a brief period of adjustment to these regulations, western travelers should feel quite comfortable and at ease.

**AIRFARE** Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements for this program, including specially negotiated group airfare when available, suggested group flights, or your own individual requests, for a processing fee of \$40 per person. Complete details will be provided in your confirmation mailing.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE** \$2,000 per person, payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Balance due by check, 150 days prior to departure.

**HEALTH** This is an active program and all participants must be in good health. **This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces, climbing stairs without handrails at locations that are not handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation.**

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Photographs or, in some cases, videotapes of participants of Travel with the Met trips may be used for educational and promotional purposes by The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**INSURANCE** TRIP CANCELLATION / EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION / BAGGAGE / ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. AAA will send an insurance application upon receipt of reservation and deposit, although you may select any insurer of your choice.

**CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS** The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met) and AAA. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect at time of brochure printing and are subject to change without notice. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are not permitted.

**RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE** The participation of the Met is limited to educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, the Met and/or their agents assume no responsibility or

liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will AAA or the Met and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. AAA is not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or the Met. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. The AAA and the Met reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA or the Met to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

**CANCELLATION POLICY** AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; communication expenses; development and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a \$350 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; the Met shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 150 and 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of the program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure. NOTE: Neither AAA nor the Met shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA or the Met, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon payment of the deposit to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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Cover: A Royal Tomb at Naghsh-é Rostam