Smith Travel Presents

IRAN PAST AND PRESENT:
The Splendor of an Ancient Civilization

November 5 – 16, 2016
Dear Smith Alumnae and Friends,

Last year, prior to the historic meetings in Vienna between Iran and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, Germany and the European Union, I was privileged to have had the chance to travel through Iran. It was a remarkable and eye opening journey and I am grateful to have experienced the country and its culture first hand. What I saw was a welcoming people everywhere I went, remarkable and breathtaking historical and cultural sites, magnificent Persian gardens, incredibly knowledgeable guides but, most of all, a nation that was hopeful for its future. It was this very positive experience that encouraged me to offer this journey in 2016 to our alumnae.

Together with our Smith Lecturer, Professor Scott Bradbury and our national guide Mr. Amin Badakshan, we will explore a country that has witnessed more than ten thousand years of history, where the teachings of great mystics, philosophers and poets alike are treasured and will be continued for generations to come. Iran offers a panorama of spectacular physical beauty - it is surrounded by the snow capped Zagros and Elborz Mountains and stretches from the shores of the Caspian Sea to the great desert oasis towns and on to the fishing villages of the Persian Gulf. Thousands of minarets and domes glistening in the sun bear witness to the splendor of Islamic architecture!

I hope you will join us on this program. To make your reservation, please call Smith Travel toll free at 800-225-2029. The group size is limited to just fifteen travelers.

With warm regards,

Elizabeth Bigwood, Director of Travel and Education  
Office of Alumnae Relations, Smith College

Smith Lecturer

This tour will be accompanied by Scott Bradbury, Professor of Classical Languages and Literatures, specializing in the history of the Later Roman Empire, particularly the Greek East, and in ancient religions. At Smith, he teaches courses in Greek and Latin at all levels, Classical Mythology, Western Classics from Homer to Dante, and, with a colleague in Geosciences, a summer seminar in Greece entitled ‘Greek History and Archaeology in their Geological Context’. He served twice as Director of Smith’s Junior Year in Florence and has traveled extensively with students and alumnae in Italy, Greece, Turkey and Egypt. His current book project, supported by a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities, is a social history based on the correspondence of Libanius of Antioch (A.D. 314-393), a noted teacher, writer, and public speaker. His wife, Nancy, who will also accompany the group, is a Smith alumna and Professor of English at Smith.
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Tour Costs: $6,980
For more information on this journey, please contact the Smith Travel office at (800) 225-2029 or alumtravel@smith.edu

DAY 1 | NOVEMBER 5 | TEHRAN
Arrive in Tehran. Many flights from Europe, Istanbul or other cities in the Middle East will arrive late at night or in the early morning hours. You should arrive anytime between the evening of November 4th and the very early morning on November 5th. Afternoon sightseeing will include visits to the Golestan Palace, the former residence of the 19th and 20th century Qajar Kings of Iran and the city’s famous National Jewelry Treasury which houses one of the world’s most precious jewelry collections. Lloyd’s of London declared it an impossible task to estimate the value of the collection! Espinas Hotel (B,L,D)

DAY 2 | NOVEMBER 6 | TEHRAN
A tour of the National Museum provides an in-depth view into the immense history of the country. From here we will head to Northern Tehran, the more affluent area of the city, and will stop at Nyavaran Palace, the former home of the Shah of Iran. Just up the street, we will have time to see Tajrish Bazaar, a fruit and vegetable market for the local residents before we continue on to Darband, one of the most northern points of the city that marks the starting point for the day hikers. The ambience is laid back and we will enjoy a traditional lunch in one of the many restaurants. The day concludes with magnificent views of the city and surrounding mountains from the top of Milan Tower. Espinas Hotel (B,L,D)

DAY 3 | NOVEMBER 7 | KASHAN
We leave the capital behind and head for the charming city of Kashan, an enthralling oasis town with a historic bazaar and home to the beautiful Fin Garden. It is featured on UNESCO’s World Heritage list of Iranian gardens as a prime example of the classic Persian Garden form. Manoucheri House (B,L,D)

DAY 4 | NOVEMBER 8 | YAZD
As we travel towards Yazd, we will stop en route at the lovely small desert towns of Natanz and Na’in. These ancient settlements have served as important crossroads on the trade routes since the Sassanid Empire. Then, driving across the Great Salt Desert, the city of Yazd will appear in the distance. It emerges like a phoenix from the ashes and is a place to wander and get lost in time. Yazd is home to the Zoroastrians, once the religion of the Persian Empire that may have been the world’s first monotheistic faith and to the Fire Temple that houses the “Eternal Flame” said to have been burning since about 470 A.D. Moshir Garden Hotel (B,L,D)

DAY 5 | NOVEMBER 9 | YAZD
It takes a full day to explore this ancient city starting at the Towers of Silence, once a burial ground where the vultures would dispose of the dead. Other sites on today’s tour include the Fire Temple, Bagh-e Dolat Abad, once a residence of Persian regent Karim Khan Zand where Iran’s loftiest wind tower can be found, the Friday Mosque which is the tallest in the country and of course a walk through the old town lined with its small mud houses. A dance and drumming performance of “Zoorkhaneh” awaits this evening! Moshir Garden Hotel (B,L,D)

DAY 6 | NOVEMBER 10 | SHIRAZ
Our next destination is Shiraz, known as the heartland of Persian culture and the City of Roses, City of Love and City of Gardens. En route, we will stop to see the tomb of Cyrus the Great. Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales and poetry. It is home to the graves of the famous poets of Hafez and Sa’di. Both are major pilgrimage sites for Iranians. One of the highlights of the trip is an evening visit to the Holy Shrine of Shah-e-Cheragh, the brother of Iman Reza. The tomb of this 9th-century martyr draws thousands of pilgrims annually. Once the sun sets the courtyard is lit up as we enter the actual shrine covered with over one million glass mirror pieces. Homa Hotel (B,L,D)
DAY 7 | NOVEMBER 11 | SHIRAZ
This morning we will see some of the city’s most important and most magnificent sites beginning at the “Garden of Paradise” a UNESCO World Heritage site. Next we will visit the 19th-century pink tiled Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque, considered one of the most elegant and most photographed mosques in Iran and the tombs of Hafez and Sa’di. Hafez, Iran’s great master of Persian lyric poetry was born in Shiraz, lived all his life here, sang its praises and was finally buried in a garden named after him. His final resting place is visited by a steady stream of local people. Every Iranian can recite his poetry by heart! *Homa Hotel (B,L,D)*

DAY 8 | NOVEMBER 12 | ESFAHAN
We rise early to see the majestic ruins of Persepolis, the old ceremonial capital of the Achaemenian Empire. Many consider it to be one of the most beautiful archaeological sites in the world. It was once the center of the Great Persian Empire. During this time, in the spring of each year, the ruler and his court would gather here to receive the tributes of subject nations and to re-establish order for the coming year. Persepolis was eventually conquered by Alexander the Great in 330 B.C. Before we continue on our journey to Esfahan we will also visit Naghsh-E Rostam which is said to contain the tombs of Darius the Great, Xerxes, Artaxerxes, and Darius II. Late arrival in Esfahan this evening. *Abbasi Hotel (B,L,D)*

DAYS 9 - 10 | NOVEMBER 13 - 14 | ESFAHAN (MASHHAD)
A famous Persian proverb says “Esfahan is half of the World”... to many it is the most beautiful city in the Islamic world and is often referred to as the “Jewel of Persia”. It is a city of exquisite blue tiled mosques, a sprawling bazaar, wonderful fountains, fairy tale bridges and lovely green river shores. Over the next two days we will have a chance to spend time at Imam Square surrounded by buildings from the Safavid era, the Armenian Quarter that serves Esfahan’s Christian community, the grandiose Imam Mosque, the Palace of the Forty Columns, the Friday Mosque, a landmark in the evolution of Iranian sacred architecture and of course the Grand Bazaar that surrounds the square. In the evening of November 14th we will take a flight to Mashhad. *Abbasi Hotel/Homa Hotel (B,L,D)*

DAY 11 | NOVEMBER 15 | MASHHAD
Mashhad is Iran’s holiest and second largest city and is home to the massive Shrine of Imam Reza, commemorating the 817 A.D. martyrdom of Shia Islam’s eighth Imam. Twenty million pilgrims converge here every year to pay their respects. Witnessing this gathering is a moving experience and many travelers consider a visit to the shrine to be one of the most unforgettable experiences. You will find a warm welcome by the pilgrims who are happy to see you! *Homa Hotel (B,L,D)*

DAY 12 | NOVEMBER 16 | TEHRAN
Several airlines offer flights out of Mashhad, including Turkish Airlines and Emirate Airlines. You will be transferred to the airport in time for your departure flight. If you are traveling on an airline that departs out of Tehran, you will fly back to Tehran where a hotel room will be made available.

NOTE: Airfare between Mashhad and Tehran as well as accommodations in Tehran on November 16th are included. Travelers departing directly from Mashhad will receive a credit for these unused services.

A WORD ABOUT TRAVEL IN IRAN: All female travelers must dress modestly (fully covered - no skirts or short sleeve shirts) and are required to wear a headscarf at all times. You do not need to wear a full chador. All sightseeing in Iran must be accompanied by a guide at all times. U.S. travelers are not allowed to independently walk, take public transportation or a taxi anywhere in Iran. Visits to private homes are not permitted. Alcohol is not available in Iran and cannot be brought into the country. These rules are strictly enforced within Iran! If you have a recent Israeli stamp in your passport, you will need to apply for a second or new passport in order to obtain the Iranian visa.

HOTELS AND FLIGHTS: Hotels and flight times are subject to change.

RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY
*Please note that space is limited to just fifteen travelers on this departure. There are few single rooms available. We encourage you to reserve your space as soon as possible.*

*All registration forms and deposits must be sent to Smith Travel, AASC, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. you may also fax your registration to (413) 585 2015. Feel free to contact Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or alumtrav@smith.edu with any questions.*
Please sign up through the following options:
*Mail your deposit with this form to Smith Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. Checks should be made payable to Authentic Asia Tours and Travel.
*Fax this form with completed credit card information to Smith Travel at (413) 585-2015.

Enclosed is my/our check for $_________ ($750 per person), payable to “Authentic Asia”, to reserve _________ place(s) on Smith Travel’s Trip Through Iran, November 5-16, 2016. Or, charge my/our deposit of $_________ ($750 per person) to my/our:

- MASTERCARD ☐
- VISA ☐
- AMEX ☐
- CARD NUMBER ____________________________ EXP. DATE _______ SECURITY CODE ___________

CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE ____________________________________________

BILLING ADDRESS ___________________________________________________

NAME (as in passport) ____________________________ DATE OF BIRTH ____________

NAME (as in passport) ____________________________ DATE OF BIRTH ____________

MAILING ADDRESS ____________________________________________ CITY ____________ STATE ____ ZIP ____________

PHONE (home) ____________________________ PHONE (cell) ____________________________

EMAIL ________________________________________ FAX ____________________________

ACCOMMODATIONS ☐ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ($______) ☐ SINGLE OCCUPANCY (plus $______)  

WAIVER OF LIABILITY: By signing below I/we acknowledge and comply with the Terms and Conditions and Responsibilities stated in this brochure (both parties must sign and date).

SIGNATURE ___________________________________________________________________________ DATE ____________

SIGNATURE ___________________________________________________________________________ DATE ____________
Single Room Supplement $1,190

Included in Program Cost – Educational program of lectures and discussions by Professor Scott Bradbury of Smith College. Accommodations as listed, all flights in economy class within Iran, all meals, beverages such as bottled water, soft drinks, tea and coffee, all sightseeing and entrance fees as listed, service of a national guide, an Authentic Asia tour escort, all gratuities for included tours and meals, visa approval, visa fee, airport transfers in Tehran and Mashhad, comprehensive pre-departure materials.

Not Included – International airfare in and out of Iran, trip insurance, items of a purely personal nature such as excess baggage fees, telephone/facsimile charges, medical fees, laundry and hotel room service.

Terms and Conditions – Payment Schedule: A deposit of $750 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour.

Payments – Checks should be made payable to AUTHENTIC ASIA Tours and Travel. All credit card charges will be processed by Authentic Asia Tours and Travel.

Registration Forms – All registration forms must be sent to Smith Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063.

Cancellations & Refunds – The tour deposit of $750 is non-refundable. The final invoice will be sent 90 days prior to departure and payment is due upon receipt. The following cancellation fees will apply:

If a written cancellation is received 90 to 75 days prior to departure 50% of the trip price will be refunded.

If a written cancellation is received 74 to 60 days prior to departure 25% of the trip price will be refunded.

No refunds will be issued if the written cancellation is received less than 60 days prior to departure. No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced, or for leaving the tour early. No refunds shall be issued for missed, meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services. Insurance is highly recommended. You will receive travel insurance information from Smith Travel with your confirmation letter.

Eligibility – These trips are designed for alumnae of Smith College and accompanying members of their immediate families. Space permitting, a participating alumna may bring a non-Smith friend or couple. For further information about the trip please call Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or e-mail alumtrav@smith.edu.

Responsibility – Tour participants assume the responsibility to select a tour that is appropriate for his or her abilities, health, and interests. Tour participant acknowledges that all travelers must be accompanied by the Iranian national guide at all times and that no visits to private home are permitted throughout the tour.

Authentic Asia acts only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus, and ship lines or owners or contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts, or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Authentic Asia nor any of its subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury or illness, damage to person or property, loss, delay, or irregularity caused by persons not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus, and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics, government restrictions, criminal or negligent acts of others, weather, or any other circumstances over which Authentic Asia has no control. Authentic Asia is not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participant as a result of the above-mentioned causes.

Tour Participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these Terms and Conditions and signifies acceptance of, and consents to all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, when registering for, or making payments on this tour.