a program of the stanford alumni association

Margaret Ann Charnas, '80, Cuba for Women, 2014

Beyond the Veil

Iran for Women

BEYOND THE VEIL

October 3 to 16, 2017
As the importance of Iran continues to grow in the 21st century in relationship to the world economy and its resources, the importance of Iranian women and their roles in this future also grows. Join Middle East expert Patricia Nabti, ’70, MA ’71, on our unique, first-time exploration into the lives of the women of Iran who, despite their portrayal in the western media, are making great strides. Earlier this year, Iran’s president, Hassan Rouhani, tweeted that 17 women will be part of the country’s new parliament—just three less than the number of women in the U.S. Senate. In Rio this summer, Kimia Alizadeh claimed a bronze in taekwondo, the first-ever Olympic medal won by an Iranian woman, and Iranian female architects are winning major awards. There couldn’t be a more exciting time to meet with women here. We’ll also talk with leaders, educators, artisans and everyday citizens, in addition to exploring the rich historical sites of Iran’s ancient Persian Empire. Join us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**CONVERSE** with women from all walks of life, such as art collector Nazila Noebashari, who owns the Aaran Gallery in Tehran.

**DISCOVER** this country whose vast ancient empire once stretched from the Indus River in the east to Egypt in the west.

**STROLL** through the picturesque gardens of Kashan, view the turquoise-tiled mosques of Isfahan and explore the golden ruins of Persepolis.

LOTFAHLE MOSQUE, ISFAHAN
"I loved the opportunity to travel and meet with such amazing women. We have more in common than we sometimes realize."

Karen Hagedorn, MS '88, PhD '93, Jordan Women's Seminar, 2009

Faculty Leader

Cultural anthropologist Patricia Nabti, '70, MA '71, has taught at the American University of Beirut and returns to Stanford almost every year to teach a course in its Continuing Studies program. She has lived in Lebanon for 23 years and has traveled to 18 of the 22 countries of the Arab world as a researcher, lecturer and consultant. She has been a lecturer on more than a dozen Stanford Travel/Study trips throughout the Middle East, many with her husband, Dr. Michel Nabti, and she was the lecturer on Travel/Study’s first all-women trip to Jordan in 2009. During this program she will be lecturing on the relationship between women in Islam and women in the Muslim world, the Shia-Sunni split, and the legacy of Abraham: a comparative overview of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

- Founder and director, Learning to CARE Institute, a social enterprise specializing in all aspects of volunteerism based in Beirut and serving the broader Arab region
- Co-founder and executive director, Volunteer for Lebanon

Sign up online: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?iranwomen2017
Or by phone: (650) 725-1093
The program below is not the final program, which will be sent out about 30 days prior to departure and will include a full listing of all the women with whom we’ll meet.

**TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 & 4**

**U.S. / DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights and upon arrival in Dubai on Wednesday transfer to our hotel, RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK HOTEL.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5**

**DUBAI**

This morning meet with a female speaker who will address the issues of Islam and women. Afterwards, walk outside our hotel to admire the skyscrapers towering above the wooden abras (taxi boats) that still ply the waters of Dubai Creek. Board a traditional abra and cross the creek to tour the Dubai Museum. Continue through the Bastakia neighborhood before enjoying a private lunch at the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding, where we’ll hear an excellent introduction to Islam. After concluding our day at the Al Fahid Fort, gather for an introductory lecture and briefing about Iran followed by a welcome reception and dinner on a private cruise aboard a traditional dhow (sailing boat). RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK HOTEL (B,L,D)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6**

**DUBAI / TEHRAN, IRAN**

This morning depart Dubai on a commercial flight to Tehran. Upon arrival in Iran’s vibrant capital city, transfer to our centrally located hotel, enjoying a coach tour along the way. This evening gather for a casual dinner at our hotel. ESPINAS HOTEL (B,L,D)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7**

**TEHRAN**

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Tehran that focuses on its excellent museums and historic sites. Visit the Archaeological Museum filled with treasures from Persepolis, including a 6th-century-B.C.E. relief of Darius the Great. After lunch at a local restaurant, view the Iranian crown jewels stored in the basement vault of the Bank Melli Iran. The collection features the world’s largest uncut diamond as well as the famed Peacock Throne. End the day with a special visit to the Aaran Gallery, one of Tehran’s most important contemporary art galleries, and meet with gallery owner Nazila Noebeshari for a discussion on the role of women in Iran. Enjoy dinner at a traditional local restaurant. ESPINAS HOTEL (B,L,D)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**

**TEHRAN**

Visit the Museum of Contemporary art and meet with a representative of the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, an organization founded to safeguard Iran’s natural environment and wildlife. ESPINAS HOTEL (B,L,D)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 9**

**TEHRAN / KASHAN**

Depart this morning for Kashan and from there drive to an amazing underground city that spreads under the city of Nushabad at a depth of from 15 to 60 feet. The subterranean city, a masterpiece of ancient architecture, consists of a labyrinth of many corridors and rooms that can be accessed from various discrete locations aboveground. Back in Kashan, stroll through the historical Garden of Fin, which was begun in the early 16th century during the Safavid period and is kept alive with water from the Sulaimanieh
Spring. Visit the Kashan Bazaar, the center of trade in the city for almost 800 years. Check into one of the two hotels where our group will be staying, one of which was initially a private home but has been restored by a woman entrepreneur with whom we’ll meet. **MANOUCHEHRI HOTEL OR AMERIHA HOUSE (B,L,D)**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10**

**KASHAN / ISFAHAN**

Begin our exploration of Kashan with a visit to the Tabatabei House, a traditional house built in the early 1880s that’s renowned for its stained glass and mirror work. Continue to the Abbasian House, a traditional home built in the 18th century that features six courtyards decorated with intricate plaster and mirror work. En route to Isfahan, stop at the traditional village of Abyaneh and meet with women in the town square before continuing to Isfahan and checking in to our hotel, a converted caravanserai. Dine there tonight with our group. **ABBASİ HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11 & 12**

**ISFAHAN**

Enjoy two full days exploring the beautiful city of Isfahan, Iran’s capital from 1598 to 1722. Begin in the Maydan-e Shah, or Royal Square, stopping at the exquisitely tiled Lotfollah Mosque, the Ali Qapu Palace and the towering portal of the Shah Mosque. Visit the bazaar and view the bridges crossing the Zayendehrud River, including the beautiful two-story Khaju Bridge. **ABBASİ HOTEL (B,L,D—BOTH DAYS)**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13**

**ISFAHAN / PERSEPOLIS / SHIRAZ**

Depart this morning for Shiraz and on the way stop in Persepolis, begun by Darius I in the 6th century B.C.E. and destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 B.C.E. Examine this archaeological wonder’s major ruins, including the Gate of All Nations, the Hall of a Hundred Columns and the Treasury. After lunch at a local restaurant, end our extraordinary day of exploration amid ancient ruins at nearby Naqsh-e Rustam with its elaborately carved tombs before finally arriving in Shiraz, where we gather for dinner at a local restaurant. **ZANDİYEH HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14**

**SHIRAZ**

Spend today exploring Shiraz, including the Fars Museum, the elegant Nasir-ol-Molik Mosque and the citadel of Arg-e Karim Khan. After lunch at a delightful local restaurant, visit the tomb of Hafez, a famous Persian poet whose works have been celebrated around the world for centuries. Dinner this evening is at a traditional local restaurant. **ZANDİYEH HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15**

**SHIRAZ / SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES / DUBAI**

Enjoy the morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for our flight back to Sharjah in the UAE, located just a short drive from Dubai. This evening, meet with fellow travelers to debrief about our time in Iran before a farewell reception and dinner. **RADISSON BLUE DERA CREEK HOTEL (B,L,D)**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**DUBAI / U.S.**

Depart this morning for flights back home. (B)
Trip Information

DATES
October 3 to 16, 2017 (14 days)

SIZE
29 participants (single accommodations limited—please call for availability)

COST *
$9,995 per person, double occupancy
$11,995 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

INCLUDED
12 nights of best-available hotel accommodations • 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 11 dinners • Welcome/farewell receptions in Dubai • Visa fees (expedited fees are not included) in Iran for U.S. citizens • Internal flights from Dubai to Tehran on 10/6 and from Shiraz to Sharjah on 10/15 • Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities • All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport fees • Visa fees for non-U.S. citizens • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

WHAT TO EXPECT
Our past travelers report that Iranians are very curious about, and extremely welcoming of, American tourists. Travel in Iran does require an open mind and a sense of adventure, and all participants are expected to adhere to local customs and laws, details of which will be sent to registered travelers. Women in Iran, for instance, must wear a headscarf and loose-fitting clothing that fully covers the arms and legs, and alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy, with some long travel days. Drive times range from five to eight hours, including rest stops. Daily excursions may involve one to three miles of walking, often on uneven terrain, such as at large archaeological sites or in older city quarters with uneven or unpaved streets. In many instances, stairs are unavailable or lack handrails, and most buildings do not have elevators. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?iranwomen2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $500 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

KHAJU BRIDGE, ISFAHAN
“It was so much fun to be with all these bright, adventurous, curious women.”

MARGARET ANN CHARNAS, ’80, CUBA FOR WOMEN, 2014