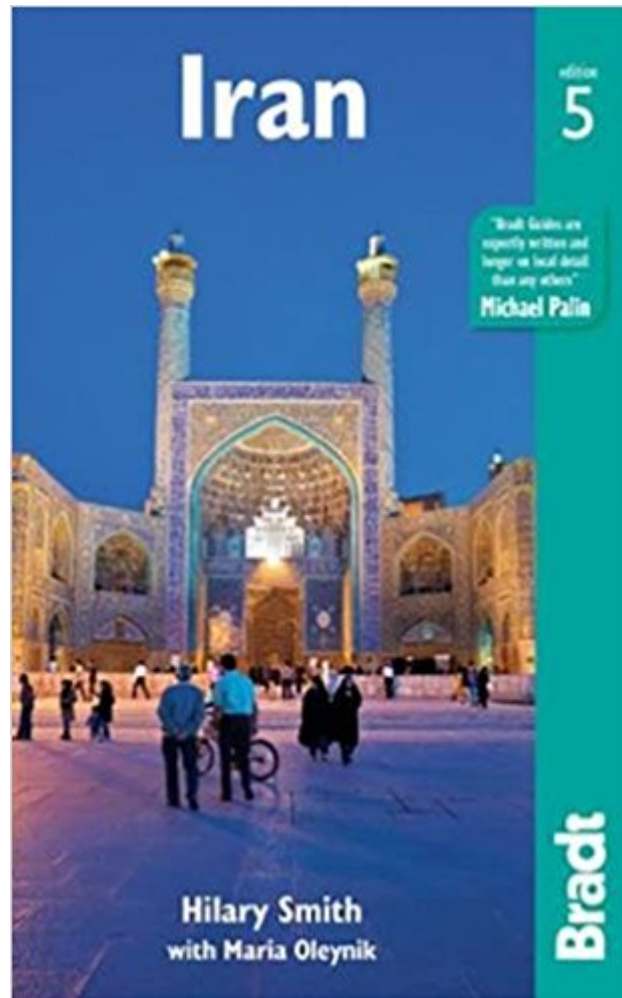




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Iran (Bradt Travel Guide Iran)



Synopsis

Now into its fifth edition, Bradt's Iran continues to provide the most detailed background, history and cultural information available when visiting this 'Jewel of Central Asia'. This new edition has been thoroughly reviewed to provide all the latest information, from updated history and cultural developments to security, language and hotel prices, plus expanded practical information for independent travellers. Food and arts, rugs and handicrafts are all covered, plus new details of skiing in Iran and recommended Iranian movies. For outdoor enthusiasts, swimming and desert and eco-tours are also included. With new direct flights to Iran now available from Europe, and a warm-hearted and welcoming people eager to meet tourists, visiting this intriguing country has never been easier. Iran's cities are packed with gilded mosques and blue-mosaic shrines built in honour of the country's greatest leaders. Its people are generous and its terrain ranges from the sands of the Persian Gulf to the Alborz Mountains in the north. The expert authors give first-hand descriptions of attractions ranging from the exquisite mosques of Esfahan and the museums and palaces of Tehran to remote, spectacular mountain hikes. New maps and up-to-date information on all the basics - hotels, restaurants, businesses and shops - help you to uncover the mysteries of ancient Persepolis, to enjoy a soak and scrub in a local hamam, or to pick up a pair of giveh slippers or a Persian rug in Kirman's bazaar. Thoroughly updated, this new edition also includes new details of 'Around Tehran', caravanserais, Nishapur, Qaleh Rudkhan and Kurdish villages on the Silk Road Trail, plus new maps of the historic bazaars of Esfahan, Yazd, Kerman and Shiraz. It has been updated by Middle East expert Maria Oleynik, who is fluent in ten languages, including Persian and Arabic

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Customer Reviews

Hilary Smith MPhil, who took over the update of the third edition, is an independent lecturer and guide with wide-ranging interests focusing particularly on the cultural history of central Asia and the Indian subcontinent. She first visited Iran in 1976 and has been returning regularly ever since. Maria Oleynik MLitt, who has updated the fourth and fifth editions, is a freelance translator fluent in ten languages, including Persian and Arabic. She has studied in Yemen, Lebanon and Egypt, and was hired to translate a biography of a Libyan politician from Arabic, whilst based in Tripoli, Libya. She has also studied Persian at the University of Esfahan and has a profound interest and knowledge of the Middle East.

I just got back from a two week trip in Iran with this guide. While it's certainly more useful than the outdated Lonely Planet, this book has its quirks. This book provided more historical insights than the guides I've hired or interacted with, especially for Persepolis, Emam Square, and the many odd religious sites such as the Armenian church in Esfahan and the Zoroastrian fire temple in Yazd. It's written in almost a narrative format, like someone's travel blog. You can almost imagine wandering around the streets of Iran reading this guide. What's lacking is the details and directions as to how to wander and perhaps a map of the route one should walk to have the tour. There also isn't any rankings as to which sights are more important to see when pressed for time. The guide makes it seem like almost everything is worth seeing and assumes the reader has unlimited time to spend wandering in Iran. Also, the names for many attractions are only in romanized Farsi pronunciations. Something like `Bagh-e Fin` would have been much more helpful if it was written as `Fin Garden - pronounced "Bagh-e Fin" (Farsi here for the taxis)`. It was a nightmare to find some of the smaller points of interests because Google isn't very helpful and the locals and taxi drivers have no idea what I'm saying. The list of hostels and budget accommodations are incomplete, especially in Tehran. A lot of hours for major attractions are assumed to be 9AM-5:00PM Sunday-Wednesday even though many do stay open later and on weekends as well. Also, ask locals or use TripAdvisor and Foursquare for restaurant recommendations. This guide lists some of the most touristy restaurants with very average food. Take this book as it is probably the closest thing to a usable travel guide but do your own research before heading on the trip. Get a SIM card so you have Google with you because the printed maps are quite hard to use.

While I prefer the format of the DK guides, this is excellent. Very recent edition spring 2017 includes much of the recent history thru 2016. Probably all you need for a trip to Iran

It covers in a superficial manner

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