

National Getaways for the Weary Trauma Surgeon; Part 5: Shiraz, the City of Gardens and Hospitality

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Received 2015 August 30; Accepted 2015 August 31

Shiraz is one of the oldest cities of ancient Persia. It is the sixth most populous city of Iran and the capital of Fars Province. It is built on a green plateau at the foot of the Zagros Mountains 1,500 meters (4,900 feet) above sea level. Shiraz is 919 kilometers (571 mi) south of Tehran (1). Shiraz is more than 4,000 years old. It was the capital of Iran about 300 years ago (2).

Shiraz is known as the city of poets, gardens, nightingales and flowers (3). There are many old gardens in Shiraz such as the Eram Garden and the Afif abad Garden. Shiraz is a center for Iranian culture and has produced a number of famous poets. Saadi and Hafez are two grand poets that lived in the 13th and 14th-century (Figures 1-3).

There are many interesting sites in Shiraz, such as Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine, Atigh Jame' Mosque, Vakil Mosque, Nasir al-Mulk Mosque, Vakil Bazaar and the Qur'an Gate. Within a relatively short driving distance from Shiraz are the ancient ruins of Persepolis, Bishapur, Pasargad, and Firouzabad. At Naqsh-e Rostam, the tombs of the Achaemenid kings can be found (Figures 4-6).



Figure 1. The Eram Garden is a Must-See in Shiraz



Figure 2. The Tomb of Saadi Shirazi, the World Renowned Poet



Figure 3. The Tomb of Hafez, the Most Beloved Poet in Iran



Figure 4. Shah Cheragh Holy Shrine, the Most Important Site of Pilgrimage Within the City of Shiraz



Figure 5. The Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque, a Great Work of Art



Figure 6. Persepolis, the Glorious Ruins of Ancient Iran

Shiraz is home to a vibrant academic community. The “Shiraz university of medical sciences” was the first university in Shiraz and was founded in 1946. Today, “Shiraz university” is the largest university in the province, and one of Iran’s best academic centers. Other major universities in or nearby Shiraz are the Islamic Azad University of Shiraz, Shiraz University of Technology, and Shiraz University of Applied Science and Technology (4).



Figure 7. The Shiraz Chamran Grand Hotel, a Luxurious Place to Stay in Shiraz



Figure 8. Hotel Shiraz, Located Over the City of Shiraz, With Over 40,000 Square Meters Foundation and 14 Floors

Five star hotels in Shiraz include: Chamran, Homa, Shiraz hotels, Pars international and Persepolis international hotels. Each have over 200 rooms with the latest standards of luxury. They provide a pleasant lasting memory in a calm and pleasing environment for guests (Figures 7-8).

Having lived in Shiraz for 7 years (1988 - 95) as a medical student, I have many happy memories. After boring days, I would come back to my dorm passing through the garden alleys; too pleasant to describe! But if I were to be asked “what is the hallmark of Shiraz?” I would have to say “its inhabitants”; as they are so kind and hospitable.

Being a trauma surgeon in Tehran, I wish to travel to Shiraz every year for recuperation. Shiraz is definitely an awesome retreat for the weary trauma surgeon to take leave and recuperate; so do not miss the chance to visit Shiraz, especially in the flowering month of April.

Acknowledgments

Great thanks to professor Mohammad Hosein Kalantar Motamedi for his editorial assistance.

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