



**“Forest to Desert On Site Workshop”
Regarding Landscape Transformation
in Iran**

Report

9-15 May 2015

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Iran is known as an interesting country for its diversity in climates, cultures and earth morphologies. In north, you can see the Hyrcanian forests lying between the foothills of Alborz Mountains and the blue skirt of Caspian Sea. In west, you can see Zagros Mountains and its Oak forests and in south, combination of sea and desert, the sunken lands of Persian Gulf. In the east, a range of high raised mountains standing high within plains and finally the very dry and hot deserts of central Iran. Kavire-Loot, one of most prominent of its kind! That is why some orientalist have referred to this country as “Seven Climates”. However in spite of these differences, what can indicate Persia is its dry and harsh climate, in which the temperature tolerance (between the coldest and warmest area) reaches even to 50C degrees. So, water and plants have become so sacred and invaluable to this culture and wherever these two elements were available, Gardens were created.



After our very first successful international tour and workshop “Taste Paradise I” in May 2013, The Cultural Landscape Association (CLA) in collaboration with Iranian Society of Landscape Professions (ISLAP) as an IFLA Member, planned to organize a specialized workshop called “From Forest to Desert” in an international level for the experts, in order to get a better global recognition for Iran’ landscape transformation and the elite to know it further. This was a unique opportunity for Landscape professionals, architects, botanists and Landscape historians to exchange information with Iranian specialist experts. The on-site workshop was organized for experts and professionals all around the globe, to visit and enjoy the landscape transformation in Iran. From Forest to Desert on-site workshop, was held on 09-15th May 2015 with 11 professional accompanying us from Polish, Germany, Italy, Austria, Amman and Turkey.



The on-site workshop was arranged to visit the cities Tehran- Gorgan City- Miankaleh Protected Area and Hyrcanian Forests- Bastam City- Damghan City- Kashan City- Abyaneh Historic Village- Isfahan City.

First day started with the “Introduction Workshop” at Main Conference Hall of Marlik Hotell, Tehran. After the workshop, the plan was to visiting the sightseeing Tehran (Grand Bazar, Golestan Palace) Exploring capital of Iran, Tehran City (Jamshidieh Park and Tajrish Sq.) at the end of the first day; depart from Tehran to Gorgan city. The second day we were in Gorgan and visit Naharkhoran Forest, Ziarat Village and Ziarat Falls, Miankaleh Peninsula, Bandar Gaz Beach, Hyrcanian Forest, Shirabad Fall, Ghorogh Forest. at the end of the second day, we departed from Gorgan to Azadshahr. the third day, was planned to visit Cloud Forest and then departed to Bastam, Shahroud city and Damghan city and visiting the sightseeing areas at that areas.



at the 4th Day our Journey continued toward Kashan through Garmsar and Ghom city. in Kashan we visit Persian Historic House, Fin Garden and Abyaneh. at the end of 5th day, we departed to Isfahan.

Isfahan was scheduled for 6th and 7th day and it has amazed our guests with its spectacular sceneries and rich history. An abundant collection of bridges, palaces, mosques and urban spaces living along historic gardens and new parks is a beautiful sight, an eye opener to Iranian culture and art which gives a different perspective of Iran; our unknown glorious land.

at the end of the 7th day, we departed to Teharn to held a conclusion meeting and finally a farewell dinner as well.





10/05/2015