



Tirgan Quick Facts

- Tirgan is the world's largest festival celebrating Iranian arts and culture.
- Tirgan's vision is to celebrate and showcase Iranian art, culture and history at its best to raise public awareness and to facilitate a cross-cultural dialogue between the Iranian community and the global community at large.
- Tirgan 2013 will be a four-day festival occurring from July 18-21, 2013 at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, Ontario.
- With over 120,000 visiting the festival in 2011, Tirgan is expected to attract over 150,000 visitors to Toronto's Harbourfront Centre in July of 2013.
- Tirgan 2013 is a multidisciplinary art and culture festival featuring a selection of over 90 features in an array of artistic disciplines including: music, dance, theatre, cinema, literature and the visual arts, in addition to interactive arts and a cooking demonstration.
- The theme of Tirgan 2013 is 'Hope' and the festival's multitude of world and Canadian premiers in traditional, contemporary, and transitional styles of dance, music, theater, literature, film, and visual arts will be inspired by this central theme.
- Ms Anousheh Ansari, the world's first self-funded female space tourist, is the Honorary Chair of Tirgan 2013 and will be in Toronto during the days of the festival. Capturing headlines around the world as the first female private space explorer in 2006, Anousheh Ansari also earned a place in history as the fourth private explorer to visit space and the first astronaut of Iranian descent.
- Mr. Babak Payami, a successful film director, writer and producer with over 15 years of experience within the film industry, is the new Artistic Director of Tirgan 2013. Mr Payami is the recipient of numerous international awards including the Best Director Award at the 2001 Venice Film Festival.
- With a budget of \$648,052.00, over 120,000 visitors, more than 70 performances by over 120 local and internationally renowned artists, and organized by 300 dedicated volunteers, Tirgan 2011 became the largest Iranian festival in the world making Tirgan Festival a true hallmark of Iranian art and culture. Dr. Reza Moridi, Member of Ontario's Provincial Parliament, was the Honorary Chair of Tirgan 2011.
- With an aim to provide an opportunity for aspiring writers and photographers to have their work recognized and assessed by renowned professionals, Tirgan 2013 once again held its short story and photography contests. A selection of the entries will be showcased at the 2013 festival and published in future programs.
- In recognition of the beautiful ancient Iranian festivity of Shab-e-Yalda (winter solstice), Tirgan celebrated this occasion on Saturday, December 22, 2012 with close to 500 guests in presence at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Vaughan, Ontario. With performances in music by Maziar Heydari, Arjang Seifzadeh, Babak Taghikhani and Solmaz Peymaei and dance performances by Azar Masoumi and Beeta Jafari, Tirgan once again amazed the audience with world class Iranian art and culture. Tirgan's Yalda



Celebration which was followed by delicious Iranian dinner and Yalda delicacies, including dried nuts and pomegranate, proved to be yet another memorable event organized by Tirgan festival.

- With the exception of 5 of the performances, all of the events of Tirgan 2013 are offered to the public free of charge.
- Tirgan offers more than just live performances and events; visitors can enjoy workshops, organized activities, galleries, delicious food, and a traditional bazaar, all of which will capture the heart and imagination of both young and old alike.
- As a family-friendly festival offering youth activities designed to engage and inform children of all ages, Tirgan aims to introduce children and youth to the beauty and brilliance inherent in Iranian art, music, culture and history. Tirgan 2013 will offer a unique opportunity for children to enjoy arts and literature and participate in educational activities.
- Tirgan is possible because of the efforts of over 300 volunteers, more than 120 artists, numerous government agencies, individual donors and corporate sponsors who all share an appreciation of Iranian art and culture.
- The festival publishes the Tirgan Magazine, a valuable source of festival information as well as an informative publication containing thought-provoking pieces about contemporary and traditional facets of Iranian art and culture. With a circulation of 10,000, Tirgan Magazine has become an iconic and collector piece of the festival.
- Tirgan provides a great opportunity to sample savory Iranian cuisine. Featuring a wide selection of Iranian dishes from sizzling kababs to basmati rice, appetizing Iranian stews, the famous Ash and Iranian sweets and confectionaries, this is certainly a part of the festival that you wouldn't want to miss.
- Tirgan's traditional bazaar features many shops that offer a range of items including adorable arts and crafts, jewellery, hand-woven Persian rugs, English and Farsi literature, exotic sweets, dried fruits, nuts, spices, and even traditional Iranian musical instruments.