IRAN
IRAN is located in the Middle-East
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Population: over 71 million
Language: Farsi
Capital: Tehran
Area: 1,648,000 km²
Major Cities...
Tehran ....
Tehran
Mount Damavand is a dormant volcano & the highest peak in Iran (Height: 5610 m)
Tehran Azadi Tower
Tehran Azadi Tower
Tehran

Azadi Soccer Stadium
Capacity 100,000
Tehran

Marble Palace
Tehran

Tehran Milad Tower
Tehran
Tehran
Tehran
Tehran
Tehran ....
Isfahan ....
Isfahan

Si-o-se Pol (Bridge of 33 Arches)
Isfahan

Si-o-se Pol (Bridge of 33 Arches)
Iṣfahān

Naqsh-e Jahan Square
Naqsh-e Jahan Square
Isfahan

Aali-Qapoo
Isfahan

Aali-Qapoo
Isfahan

Aali-Qapoo
Isfahan

Aali-Qapoo
Isfahan

Aali-Qapoo
Isfahan

Chehel Sotoun Palace Pavilion
Isfahan

Chehel Sotoun Palace Pavilion
Isfahan

Pole-Khaju Bridge
Isfahan

Pole-Khaju Bridge
Isfahan

Vank Cathedral
Isfahan

Pole-Khaju Bridge
Isfahan

Menar Jonban
Isfahan
Shiraz ....
Shiraz

Persepolis, Achaemenian Capital
Shiraz

All Nations Gate, Statue of Xerxes the Great, Persepolis, Achaemenian Capital
Shiraz

Persepolis, Achaemenian Capital
Shiraz

Persepolis, Achaemenian Capital
Shiraz

Persepolis, Achaemenian Capital
Shiraz

Persepolis Soldiers
Shiraz

Pasargad, Tomb of Cyrus the Great
Shiraz

Bagh-e Eram Palace & Gardens
Shiraz

Hafez Tomb Monument, Persian Poet (1315 – 1390)
Shiraz

Sadi Tomb, Persian Poet (1184 – 1283/1291)
Shiraz

Arge Karim Khani
Shiraz ....
Yazd ....
Yazd

A Zoroastrianism Fire Temple in Yazd
Yazd

Symbol of great Zoroastrianism God – Ahura Mazda (on top of a Fire Temple in Yazd)
Yazd

Masjed Jame
Yazd

Masjed Jame
Yazd
Yazd ....
Other Regions ....
Southern Iran

Saayeh khosh - southern Iran

White Bridge - Ahwaz,
Hamedan

Alisadr Cave
Kandovan

Iranian Cappadocia
Uromieh

Salt Lake
Kish Island

Underground Town of Kariz
History
Zoroaster (1200 BC) was a Persian prophet who founded Zoroastrianism religion and philosophy.
The Zoroastrian fire temple, Yazd, Iran
Achaemenid Empire (648–330 BC)

Persepolis
Cyrus the Great established one of the largest empires of the ancient world, the Achaemenid Empire (648–330 BC).

He allowed the people of the conquered regions to keep their own religions and customs, as also inscribed on his Cylinder.
Cyrus Cylinder was created following the Persian conquest of Babylon in 539 B.C. by the order of Cyrus the Great.

It was discovered from the main temple of Babylon in 1879.

It is now being kept at the British Museum in London.
What is so special about this clay cylinder is that it is described as ...

"the world’s first chapter of human rights"
In the chapter Cyrus says

“….. Until I am alive, I prevent unpaid, forced labor .... Everyone is free to choose a religion .... People are free to live in all regions .... No one could be penalized for his or her relatives’ faults .... I prevent slavery ....”
Darius the Great ruled 522 – 486 BC.

He held the empire at its peak, then including Egypt and parts of Greece.

He introduced a new monetary system based on silver and gold coins.
Persepolis, a.k.a Takht-e Jamshid, Parseh (Persian City)

The ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire during the Achaemenid dynasty. Situated northwest of Shiraz in Fars province.
Pasargad, Tomb of Cyrus the Great
Alexander the Great defeated Darius III and conquered the Persian empire by 331 BC.

His empire broke up shortly after his death.

It is believed that he burnt parts of Persepolis.
Sassanid Empire (224 – 651 AD)

Naqsh-e Rustam, Northwest of Persepolis
Sassanid Empire was founded by Ardashir I (224 AD)

Lasted more than 400 years until Yazdgerd III lost control of his empire in a series of invasions by Arab Caliphate. The empire's territory encompassed all of today's Iran, Iraq, Armenia, Afghanistan, eastern parts of Turkey, and parts of Syria, Pakistan, Caucasus, Central Asia and Arabia.

Sassanid Empire was the last pre-Islamic Persian Empire
Ctesiphon, Sassanid Palace (located in Iraq)
The Islamic conquest of Persia led to the end of the Sassanid Empire and the eventual decline of the Zoroastrian religion in Persia. Iranians gradually converted to Islam. However, most of the achievements of the previous Persian civilizations were not lost.
Since then, various Persian/non-Persian dynasties ruled Persia such as:

- Umayyad dynasty (651-750 AD)
- Samanids dynasty (875 – 1005 AD)
- Mongolyn dynasty (1206 – 1368)

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Muhammad ibn Zakariyā Rāzī (865 – 925 AD), known as Rhazes, was a Persian physician, alchemist and chemist, philosopher, and scholar who discovered Sulfuric Acid and Alcohol.
Abū Abdallāh Muḥammad ibn Mūsā al-Khwārizmī (780-850 AD), known as Khwarizmi, was a Persian mathematician, astronomer, astrologer, and geographer. He is considered the founder of algebra, a credit he shares with Diophantus.
Shah Ismail founded Safavid Dynasty (1501 – 1722) which was an Iranian Shia dynasty.

Safavids established the greatest Iranian empire since the Islamic conquest of Persia.
Mohammad Khan Qajar established Qajar Dynasty (1796 – 1925). He was the chief of the Qajar tribe.

Mohammad Khan Qajar
By the 17th century, European countries including Great Britain, Russia, and France had already started establishing colonial footlands in the region.

Iran as a result lost sovereignty over many of its provinces to these countries via the Treaty of Turkmenchay, the Treaty of Gulistan, and others.

The discovery of oil in 1908 by the British in Khuzestan spawned intense renewed interest in Persia by the British Empire.
The Persian Constitutional Revolution or Constitutional Revolution of Iran (Persian: مشروطیت, Mashrutiyyat) took place between 1905 and 1911.

The Shah managed to remain in power, granting a limited constitution in 1906. The revolution led to the establishment of a parliament in Persia (Iran).
Amir Kabir, Qajar Prime Minister, established the First Modern University in Iran in 1880s
Reza Shah Pahlavi established Pahlavi dynasty (1925-1979) after a military coup.

He ruled for almost 16 years until 1941 when he was forced to abdicate.

He established an authoritarian government that valued nationalism, militarism, secularism and anti-communism combined with strict censorship and state propaganda.
He introduced many socio-economic reforms. His reign brought law and order, discipline, and modern authorities - schools, trains, buses, radios, cinemas, and telephones.

His attempts for modernization has been criticized for being “too fast”.

Reza Shah Pahlavi
The British forced Reza Shah to abdicate (1941) in favour of his pro-British son Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, who ruled until 1979 when he left the country following Iran Revolution.
Mohammad Mossadegh (1882 – 1967) was the prime minister of Iran from 1951 to 1953.

He was the architect of the nationalization of the Iranian oil industry which had been under British control since 1913.
Mosaddegh was removed from power in a coup in August 1953.

Among many in the Middle-East, Mossadegh is viewed as a hero of anti-imperialism, and a victim of imperialist greed for Iran’s oil.
Iran Revolution (1979)

Mass demonstrations in Tehran (1979)

The revolution resulted in the overthrown of Pahlavi dynasty and its replacement with an Islamic republic under Ayatollah Khomeini.
Ayatollah Khomeini established Islamic Republic of Iran. He served as the supreme leader of Islamic Republic until his death in 1989.
Green Movement refers to a series of protests and demonstrations after the 2009 Iranian presidential election, in which protesters accused the government of rigging the votes and demanded the removal of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from office.
Many citizens have been killed and imprisoned since the presidential election (June 2009).
And the story continues...
Art and Culture
Iranian Miniature
Hand-knotted Persian Silk/wool Carpet
Persian Carpet

Traditional tools of the craft
Iranian Tiles
Khatam-Kari Handicrafts
Traditional Instruments
Tehran Orchestra
Traditional Music Performances
Handicraft Copper Work
Sceneries
Natural Scenery
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