TOPONYMIC FACTFILE

pcgn The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

IRAN

Country name	Iran[1]
State title	Islamic Republic of Iran[2]
Name of citizen	Iranian
Official language	Persian/Farsi (*fas*)[3]
Country name in official language(s)	ایران (Īrān)
State title in official language(s)	جمهوری اسلامی ایران (Jomhūrī-ye Eslāmī-ye Īrān)
Script	Perso-Arabic
Romanization System	[BGN/PCGN Persian Romanization System](#)
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	IR/IRN
Capital	Tehran
Capital in official language	تهران (Tehrān) [4]
Population / Area	92.87 million (UN data, 2025) / 1.65 million km²

Introduction

Iran is a large country in the Middle East. It has borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan in the west and with Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey and Iraq to the north and east. It also has coastline on the Persian Gulf, Caspian Sea and Gulf of Oman.

Geographical Names Policy and Sources

Geographical names in Iran are written in Perso-Arabic script. The Persian alphabet uses the characters of the Arabic alphabet plus four additional letters[5]). Names should be taken from official sources in Persian script and romanized using the BGN/PCGN Persian Romanization System[6]. Names sources are widely available in the form of paper maps, atlases and online. Official sources include the National Cartographic Centre (http://www.ncc.org.ir) and the National Geographical Organisation (http://www.ngo-iran.ir/ngo.htm). Commercial mapping is available from Gitashenasi Geographical and Cartographic Institute (http://www.gitashenasi.com). Iran also has a Geographic Names Database: (https://gndb.ncc.gov.ir/), available online in Persian and English (but note the Roman-script names in this database do not conform to the BGN/PCGN Romanization System, but follow Iran's Broad Transcription

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[1] The name Iran derives from *Ayryanem*, meaning land of the Aryans in Old Persian. Prior to 1935 Persia was the official name of the country used in the western world. Iranians themselves have called their country Iran for the last thousand years and in 1935 the then ruler of Iran, Reza Shah, asked the rest of the world to do the same.

[2] This has been the state title since the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and is Iran's preferred name in an international context, therefore is the only form used within the United Nations.

[3] ISO 639 language codes are provided for the languages mentioned in this Factfile.

[4] This is how Tehran is spelled in Persian. In Arabic it is spelled with a different type of T (طهران = Ţehrān)

[5] The additional letters are p (پ), ch (چ), g (گ) & zh (ژ).

[6] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5e1eeaafe5274a4f0f57553a/ROMANIZATION_OF_PERSIAN.pdf

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System[7]. The Iranian Committee for the Standardisation of Geographical Names (ICSGN) is responsible for the rules governing geographical names and promotion of their standardization. They also issue publications on toponymy and are responsible for the Iranian Geographical Names Database.

Languages

Nearly 100% of Iran's population speak Persian (also known as Farsi, Western Farsi, or Western Persian)[8], with around 60% of the population speaking Persian or one of its dialects as a first language. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran states that "the official language and script of Iran, the lingua franca of its people, is Persian. Official documents, correspondence, and texts, as well as text-books, must be in this language and script. However, the use of regional and tribal languages in the press and mass media, as well as for teaching of their literature in schools, is allowed in addition to Persian."

Persian is an Indo-Iranian language, a sub-group of Indo-European languages and as such its grammar shares many features with contemporary European languages. The history of the Persian language can be divided into three distinct periods, which are usually referred to as Old, Middle, and New (Modern) Persian. In the past, several different alphabets have been used to write Persian but the Islamic conquest of Persia, which began in 633 CE, marked the beginning of the modern period in the history of Persian language and literature, when Persian began to adopt many words from Arabic and began to be written using a modified version of the Arabic alphabet[9]. Article 16 of the Iranian Constitution addresses the subject of the Arabic language, which is the language of Islam, the official state religion of Iran. It states that "Since the language of the Quran and Islamic texts and teachings is Arabic, and since Persian literature is thoroughly permeated by this language, it must be taught after elementary level, in all classes of secondary school and in all areas of study." Arabic is also one of the seven recognised regional languages in Iran.

<div align="center">

Recognised Regional Languages of Iran[10]

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Language	ISO 639 language code	Classification of Language	Script	Approximate Number of Speakers	Main Areas language is spoken[11]
Arabic	ara	Semitic	Arabic	1,400,000	Along South coast, by nomads in Fārs and several South-Central provinces and along the Shatt al Arab, on the border with Iraq.
Azeri[12]	aze	Western Turkic	Perso-Arabic & Roman	11,200,000	North West Iran, Āžarbāyjān-e Gharbī, Āžarbāyjān-e Sharqī, Ardabīl, Zanjān, part of Markazī province, and districts of Tehrān and Fārs Province.

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[7] https://www.eki.ee/wgrs/rom1_fa.htm

[8] The ISO 639-3 name for this language is Persian, and the ISO 639-3 code is fas.

[9] http://www.omniglot.com/writing/persian.htm

[10] There are numerous other languages spoken by smaller numbers of people, which do not have the status of recognised regional language.

[11] Due to population movement speakers of these regional languages are found outside these main areas.

[12] This language is often also called Azerbaijani.

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Language	ISO 639 language code	Classification of Language	Script	Approximate Number of Speakers	Main Areas language is spoken[11]
Baluchi	bcc & bgn	North West Iranian	Perso-Arabic	856,000	Eastern Iran, principally Sīstān va Balūchestān
Gilaki	glk	North West Iranian, Caspian	Perso-Arabic	3,270,000	Gīlān
Kurdish (Sorani & Kurmanji)	kur	Indo-Iranian	Modified Arabic & Roman	6,600,000	Mainly northwest Iran but also some northeastern provinces: Kordestān, Kermānshāh, Khorāsān, Māzandarān and Īlām
Luri/Lori	lrc & luz	South West Iranian	Perso-Arabic	2,100,000	Primarily in the southwest: in the provinces of Lorestān, Khūzestān, Kohgīlūyeh va Bowyer Aḥmad, Chahār Maḥāl va Bakhtīārī and some areas of Hamadān, Markazī, Fārs and Īlām
Mazandar-ani	mzn	North West Iranian, Caspian	Perso-Arabic	3,270,000	Northern Iran, near the Caspian Sea, Southern half of Māzandarān.

Inventory of Characters (and their Unicode encodings[13])

The BGN/PCGN Persian Romanization System contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Upper case character	Unicode encoding	Lower case character	Unicode encoding
Á	00C1	á	00E1
Ā	0100	ā	0101
Ḩ	1E28	ḩ	1E29
Ī	012A	ī	012B
S̄	0053+0304*	s̄	0073+0304*
Ş	015E	ş	015F
Ţ	0162	ţ	0163
Ẕ	1E94	ẕ	1E95
Z̧	005A+0327*	z̧	007A+0327*
Z̄	005A+0304*	z̄	007A+0304*
'	2018/02BB	'	2019/02BC

* There is no single Unicode encoding for these letter-diacritic combinations.

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[13] See www.unicode.org

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Map of Iran

Map produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

Territorial and Toponymic Disputes

1. Gulf Islands

Iran administers three islands in the Persian Gulf which are claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE). PCGN recommends using the Conventional names for these islands on UK products and mapping.

Conventional Name	Arabic Language Name	Persian Language Name	Location
Abu Musa	Jazīrat Abū Mūsá	Jazīreh-ye Abū Mūsá	25° 52' 30" N 055° 01' 48" E
Greater Tunb	Jazīrat Ţunb al Kubrá	Jazīreh-ye Tonb-e Bozorg	26° 15' 50" N 055° 18' 18" E
Lesser Tunb	Jazīrat Ţunb aş Şughrá	Jazīreh-ye Tonb-e Kūchak	26° 14' 31" N 055° 08' 50" E

2. Shatt al Arab

The river formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and the Tigris is known in Arabic as Shaţţ al 'Arab (شط العرب) and in Persian as Arvand Rūd (اروند رود). The southern end of the river, which flows into the Persian Gulf constitutes the border between Iraq and Iran. Control of the waterway and its use as a border

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have long been a source of contention between the Iranian and Iraqi states and their predecessors. PCGN recommends using the conventional English language spelling Shatt al Arab for most general purposes, although on larger-scale cartographic products, the name can be shown in its appropriate local form on each side of the river.

3. Persian Gulf
PCGN recommends using the name Persian Gulf on UK products, as this has long been considered the English-language conventional name for this body of water, which is a high seas feature, extending beyond the territorial limits of any recognized sovereignty. The Arabian Gulf is an English-language version of the name applied by Arabs to this body of water and should not be used.[14] In UK English this feature is often referred to as The Gulf and this more neutral name can be used when it is clear that it refers to this body of water.[15]

<u>Administrative structure[16]</u>

Iran is divided into 31 provinces (*ostān*) at first-order administrative level (ADM1). These are sub-divided into counties (*shahrestān*) at ADM2 level, which are further sub-divided into districts (*bakhsh*) at ADM3 level. Each province has an administrative centre (*markaz*) and is administered by a Governor-General (*ostāndār*), whose area of responsibility is known as an *ostāndārī*. Similarly, each *shahrestān* has a governor, or *farmāndār*, whose area of responsibility is known as a *farmāndārī*. A *bakhsh* is administered by a *bakhshdār*.

As Iran's population increases, new provinces have been created. In 2004, Khorāsān was divided into 3 new provinces (Khorāsān-e Raẕavī, Khorāsān-e Jonūbī and Khorāsān-e Shomālī). More recently in June 2010, Alborz province was created from 3 counties (Karaj, Sāvojbolāgh & Naẕarābād), which had been part of Tehrān province.

Provinces of Iran:

1. Alborz (36° 00' 40" N 050° 48' 34" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic Script	البرز
Long form name	Ostān-e Alborz
Long form name in Perso-Arabic Script	استان البرز
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-30
Administrative centre	Karaj (35° 50' 08" N 051° 00' 37" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	کرج
Provincial Website	https://www.alborz.ir/

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[14] The Arabic language name for this body of water is Al Khalīj al 'Arabī (الخليج العربي) and the Persian language name is Khalīj-e Fārs (خليج فارس).

[15] In North America the term "The Gulf" may also be used to refer to the Gulf of Mexico.

[16] For further details on Iran's administrative structure, see PCGN's paper on *The Administrative Structure of Iran*.

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2. Ardabīl (38° 30' 00" N 048° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	اردبیل
Long form name	Ostān-e Ardabīl
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان اردبیل
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-24
Administrative centre	Ardabīl (38° 14' 59" N 048° 17' 36" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	اردبیل
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-ar.ir/
Variant spellings or names	Ardebil, Erdebil

3. Āžarbāyjān-e Gharbī (37° 40' 00" N 045° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	آذربایجان غربی
Long form name	Ostān-e Āžarbāyjān-e Gharbī
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان آذربایجان غربی
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-04
Administrative centre	Orūmīyeh (37° 33' 19" N 045° 04' 21" E)
Variant spellings of administrative centre	Orumieh, Urmia
Administrative centre in Arabic Script	ارومیه
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-ag.gov.ir/
Variant spellings or names	West Azerbaijan

4. Āžarbāyjān-e Sharqī (38° 00' 00" N 046° 45' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	آذربایجان شرقی
Long form name	Ostān-e Āžarbāyjān-e Sharqī
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان آذربایجان شرقی
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-03
Administrative centre	Tabrīz (38° 04' 48" N 046° 17' 31" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	تبریز
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-as.ir
Variant spellings or names	East Azerbaijan

5. Būshehr[17] (28° 45' 00" N 051° 30' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic Script	بوشهر
Long form name	Būshehr
Long form name in Perso-Arabic Script	استان بوشهر
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-18
Administrative centre	Bandar-e Būshehr (28° 58' 06" N 050° 50' 19" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	بندر بوشهر
Provincial Website	http://ostb.ir/

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[17] The islands of Fārsī and Khārk (sometimes seen romanized as Khārg) in the Persian Gulf are administered as part of Būshehr province.

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6. Chahār Maḥāl va Bakhtīārī (32° 10' 00" N 050° 45' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	چهار محال و بختیاری
Long form name	Ostān-e Chahār Maḥāl va Bakhtīārī
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان چهار محال و بختیاری
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-14
Administrative centre	Shahr-e Kord (32° 19' 32" N 050° 51' 52" E)
Variant spelling of administrative centre	Shahr Kurd
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	شهر کرد
Provincial Website	https://www.ostan-chb.ir/

7. Eşfahān (33° 00' 00" N 052° 10' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	اصفهان
Long form name	Ostān-e Eşfahān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان اصفهان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-10
Administrative centre	Eşfahān (32° 39' 26" N 051° 40' 39" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	اصفهان
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-es.ir/
Variant spellings or names	Isfahan

8. Fārs (29° 00' 00" N 053° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	فارس
Long form name	Ostān-e Fārs
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان فارس
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-07
Administrative centre	Shīrāz (29° 36' 13" N 052° 32' 20" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	شیراز
Provincial Website	http://www.farsp.ir/

9. Gīlān 37° 10' 00" N 049° 30' 00" E

Name in Perso-Arabic script	گیلان
Long form name	Ostān-e Gīlān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان گیلان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-01
Administrative centre	Rasht (37° 16' 51" N 049° 34' 59" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	رشت
Provincial Website	www.gilan.ir

10. Golestān (37° 15' 00" N 055° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	گلستان
Long form name	Ostān-e Golestān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان گلستان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-27
Administrative centre	Gorgān (36° 50' 19" N 054° 26' 05" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	گرگان
Provincial Website	https://golestanp.ir/

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11. Hamadān (34° 50' 00" N 048° 35' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	همدان
Long form name	Ostān-e Hamadān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان همدان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-13
Administrative centre	Hamadān (34° 47' 57" N 048° 30' 52" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	همدان
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-hm.ir
Variant spellings or names	Hamedan

12. Hormozgān[18] (27° 45' 00" N 056° 30' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	هرمزگان
Long form name	Ostān-e Hormozgān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان هرمزگان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-22
Administrative centre	Bandar 'Abbās (27° 11' 11" N 056° 16' 51" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	بندر عباس
Official Website	http://www.hormozgan.ir/

13. Īlām (33° 10' 00" N 047° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic Script	ایلام
Long form name	Ostān-e Īlām
Long form name in Perso-Arabic Script	استان ایلام
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-16
Administrative centre	Īlām (33° 38' 15" N 046° 25' 22" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	ایلام
Provincial Website	http://www.portal-il.ir/
Variant spellings or names	Elam

14. Kermān (29° 45' 00" N 057° 15' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	کرمان
Long form name	Ostān-e Kermān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان کرمان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-08
Administrative centre	Kermān (30° 17' 00" N 057° 04' 44" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	کرمان
Provincial Website	http://gov.kr.ir/

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[18] The following islands in the Persian Gulf are administered as part of Hormozgān province: Kīsh, Qeshm, Hormoz, Forūr-e-Bozorg, Forūr-e Kūchak, Hengām, Hendūrābī, Lāvān, Sīrī, Lārak, Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb (These last 3 are claimed by the United Arab Emirates; see page 4).

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15. Kermānshāh (34° 25' 00" N 046° 45' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	کرمانشاه
Long form name	Ostān-e Kermānshāh
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان کرمانشاه
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-05
Administrative centre	Kermānshāh (34° 18' 51" N 047° 03' 54" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	کرمانشاه
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-ks.ir/

16. Khorāsān-e Jonūbī[19] (32° 30' 00" N 059° 30' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	خراسان جنوبی
Long form name	Ostān-e Khorāsān Jonūbī
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان خراسان جنوبی
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-29
Administrative centre	Bīrjand (32° 51' 59" N 059° 13' 16" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	بیرجند
Provincial Website	http://www.sko.ir/
Variant spellings or names	South Khorasan

17. Khorāsān-e Raẕavī (35° 15' 00" N 059° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	خراسان رضوی
Long form name	Ostān-e Khorāsān-e Raẕavī
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان خراسان رضوی
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-09
Administrative centre	Mashhad[20] (36° 17' 49" N 059° 36' 22" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	مشهد
Provincial Website	http://www.khorasan.ir/

18. Khorāsān-e Shomālī (37° 30' 00" N 057° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	خراسان شمالی
Long form name	Ostān-e Khorāsān-e Shomālī
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان خراسان شمالی
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-28
Administrative centre	Bojnūrd (37° 28' 29" N 057° 19' 45" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	بجنورد
Provincial Website	www.nkhorasan.ir/
Variant spellings or names	North Khorasan

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[19] The name Khorāsān is derived from Middle Persian meaning "land where the sun rises".
[20] Mashhad means *"The Place of Martyrdom"* in Persian. It is the second largest city in Iran and one of the holiest cities in the Shia Muslim world.

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19. Khūzestān (31° 30' 00" N 049° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	خوزستان
Long form name	Ostān-e Khūzestān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان خوزستان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-06
Administrative centre	Ahvāz (31° 19' 13" N 048° 40' 09" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	اهواز
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-kz.ir/

20. Kohgīlūyeh va Bowyer Aḥmad (30° 50' 00" N 050° 40' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	کهگیلویه و بویر احمد
Long form name	Ostān-e Kohgīlūyeh va Bowyer Aḥmad
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان کهگیلویه و بویر احمد
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-17
Administrative centre	Yāsūj (30° 40' 06" N 051° 35' 17" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	یاسوج
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-kb.ir/
Variant spellings or names	Kohkiluyeh and Buyer Ahmad

21. Kordestān[21] (35° 40' 00" N 047° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	کردستان
Long form name	Ostān-e Kordestān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان کردستان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-12
Administrative centre	Sanandaj (35° 18' 52" N 046° 59' 32" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	سنندج
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-kd.ir/
Variant spellings or names	Kurdestan, Kurdistan

22. Lorestān (33° 30' 00" N 048° 30' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	لرستان
Long form name	Ostān-e Lorestān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان لرستان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-15
Administrative centre	Khorramābād (33° 29' 16" N 048° 21' 21" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	خرم آباد
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-lr.ir/
Variant spellings or names	Luristan

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[21] Kordestān means Land of the Kurds in Persian.

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23. Markazī[22] (34° 20' 00" N 049° 50' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	مرکزی
Long form name	Ostān-e Markazī
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان مرکزی
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-00
Administrative centre	Arāk (34° 05' 30" N 049° 41' 21" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	اراک
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-mr.ir/

24. Māzandarān (36° 15' 00" N 052° 20' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	مازندران
Long form name	Ostān-e Māzandarān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان مازندران
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-02
Administrative centre	Sārī (36° 33' 47" N 053° 03' 23" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	ساری
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-mz.ir/

25. Qazvīn (36° 00' 00" N 049° 45' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	قزوین
Long form name	Ostān-e Qazvīn
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان قزوین
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-26
Administrative centre	Qazvīn (36° 16' 47" N 050° 00' 18" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	قزوین
Provincial Website	https://ostan-qz.ir/

26. Qom (34° 45' 00" N 051° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	قم
Long form name	Ostān-e Qom
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان قم
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-25
Administrative centre	Qom[23] (34° 38' 24" N 050° 52' 35" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	قم
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-qom.ir/
Variant spellings or names	Ghom, Gom

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[22] Markazī means central in Persian.

[23] The city of Qom is considered holy by Shia Muslims. It is one of the focal centres of this religion and can be described as Iran's religious capital. Many religious institutions and seminaries are located there.

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27. Semnān (35° 30' 00" N 055° 00' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	سمنان
Long form name	Ostān-e Semnān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان سمنان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-20
Administrative centre	Semnān (35° 34' 22" N 053° 23' 50" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	سمنان
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-sm.ir/

28. Sīstān va Balūchestān[24] (28° 30' 00" N 060° 30' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	سیستان و بلوچستان
Long form name	Ostān-e Sīstān va Balūchestān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان سیستان و بلوچستان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-11
Administrative centre	Zāhedān (29° 29' 47" N 060° 51' 46" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	زاهدان
Provincial Website	http://www.sb-ostan.ir/

29. Tehrān (35° 40' 00" N 051° 25' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	تهران
Long form name	Ostān-e Tehrān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان تهران
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-23
Administrative centre	Tehrān (35° 42' 18" N 051° 25' 18" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	تهران
Provincial Website	http://www.ostan-th.ir/

30. Yazd (32° 30' 00" N 055° 35' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	یزد
Long form name	Ostān-e Yazd
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان یزد
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-21
Administrative centre	Yazd (31° 53' 50" N 054° 22' 03" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	یزد
Provincial Website	http://ostanyazd.ir

31. Zanjān (36° 30' 00" N 048° 20' 00" E)

Name in Perso-Arabic script	زنجان
Long form name	Ostān-e Zanjān
Long form name in Perso-Arabic script	استان زنجان
ISO 3166-2 subdivision code	IR-19
Administrative centre	Zanjān (36° 40' 25" N 048° 28' 43" E)
Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script	زنجان
Provincial Website	http://www.ostandari-zn.ir/

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[24] Balūchestān means land of the Baluchi people in Persian.

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Other Significant Locations[25]

PCGN Recommended Name[26]	Persian Name (Romanization)	Variant Names	English Conventional Name	Feature Type	Location
Caspian Sea	دریای خزر (Daryā-ye Khazar)	Daryā-ye Māzandarān (دریای مازندران)	Caspian Sea	Sea	42° 00' 00" N 050° 00' 00" E
Dasht-e Kavīr	دشت کویر (Dasht-e Kavīr)	Kavīr-e Namak (کویر نمک); Kavīr-e Markazī (کویر مرکزی)	Great Salt Desert	Salt desert	34° 34' 00" N 053° 23' 00" E
ʿAsalūyeh	عسلویه (ʿAsalūyeh)			Port city	27° 28' 34" N 052° 36' 27" E
Strait of Hormuz	تنگه هرمز (Tangeh-ye Hormoz)		Strait of Hormuz	Strait	26° 37' 00" N 056° 30' 00" E
Kavīr-e Lūt	کویر لوت (Kavīr-e Lūt)			Salt desert	33° 02' 47" N 058° 08' 34" E
Daryācheh-ye Orūmīyeh (Lake Urmia)	دریاچه ارومیه (Daryācheh-ye Orūmīyeh)		Lake Urmia	Lake	37° 38' 54" N 045° 36' 20" E
Gulf of Oman	دریای عمان (Daryā-ye ʿOmān)	Sea of Oman	Gulf of Oman	Sea	25° 26' 56" N 057° 47' 38" E
Reshteh-ye Kūhhā-ye Alborz	رشته کوه های البرز (Reshteh-ye Kūhhā-ye Alborz)	Kūhhā-ye Alborz (کوه های البرز)	Alborz Mountains	Mountain range	35° 57' 57" N 052° 32' 33" E
Naţanz	نطنز			PPL	33° 30' 40" N 051° 55' 05" E
Fordow	فردو	Fordo; Fordū; Shahid Ali Mohammadi Nuclear Facility (تأسیسات هستهای شهید علیمحمدی) Taʾsīsāt-e Hastehī-ye Shahīd ʿAlī Moḩammadī or Taʾsīsāt-e Hastehī-ye Fordow (تأسیسات هستهای فردو)		Nuclear facility	34° 53' 04" N 050° 59' 53" E

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[25] For details of the major cities of Iran, see PCGN's paper on *The Administrative Structure of Iran*.
[26] Some places, such as maritime features, may have other names in other languages.

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Useful references[27]

- BBC Country Profile: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-14541327 (no longer updated)
- Fars News (semi-official news agency providing news in English & Persian): https://www.farsnews.ir/en/
- For information of the languages of Iran: www.ethnologue.com, www.omniglot.com
- Gitashenasi Geographical and Cartographic Institute: http://www.gitashenasi.com
- International Organisation for Standards (ISO): www.iso.org
- Iran's National Cartographic Centre: http://www.ncc.gov.ir
- Iranian Geographic Names Database: https://gndb.ncc.gov.ir
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): https://www.iso.org/obp/ui
- National Geographical Organization of Iran: http://www.ngo-iran.ir/
- NGA Geographic Names Server: https://geonames.nga.mil/geonames/GNSHome/index.html
- PCGN paper: Iran: Religion, Nationalism and Toponymy, June 2003: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20140402150947/http://www.pcgn.org.uk/Iran%20-%20Religion,%20Nationalism%20and%20Toponymy%20-%202003.pdf
- The World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/iran/
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- Unicode Consortium: www.unicode.org
- US BGN Iran Geographic Names Standardization Policy: https://geonames.nga.mil/geonames/GNSSearch/GNSDocs/policies/Iran_Country_Policy_Webversion_Mar2024_Update.pdf
- US Library of Congress Country Study: https://www.loc.gov/item/2008011784/

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[27] At the time of writing many Iranian websites are inaccessible

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