

# IRAN

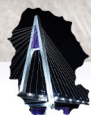
## Magazine



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## ● About the Magazine

This magazine aims to introduce Iran, its history, and its culture through student written articles. Each issue focuses on a specific theme, allowing readers to gain a deep understanding of Iran's traditions and social norms. The articles seek to raise cultural awareness, encourage the discovery of new outlooks, challenge personal biases and stereotypes, and foster appreciation of diversity.

To achieve these goals, students from Esfarayen University of Technology, with varying levels of English proficiency, contribute articles that reflect their individual perspectives on different aspects of their country. In order to preserve student's voices, writing styles, and viewpoints, the instructor lightly edits the articles to improve accuracy and address linguistic and related issues. Through this collaborative process, students are inspired to develop their writing skills, creativity, and confidence while engaging with their culture in a thoughtful and nuanced way.

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# AHVAZ

○ Amir Arsalan Hatami

## A Cultural, Historical, and Industrial Hub of Southwest Iran:

Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan Province, is a historic city in southern Iran shaped by the flow of the Karun River. With the river running through its center, the city has grown around its banks, creating a lively atmosphere that blends nature with urban life.

Because of its strategic location, Ahvaz has become an important industrial and economic hub. Many of Iran's major oil, gas, and steel facilities operate in this region, making the city a crucial part of the country's energy and manufacturing sectors.

The city is known for its cultural diversity. Arab, Bakhtiari, Lur, and Dezfuli communities all live side by side, giving Ahvaz a unique cultural character. This mix can be seen in the city's traditions, languages, music, and especially its food.

Ahvaz is often called the "city of bridges."

Several well-known bridges cross the Karun River and link the eastern and western districts. Among the most iconic are the White Bridge, the Black Bridge, Naderi Bridge, Ghadir Bridge, and the Eighth Bridge — each offering its own beautiful view of the river, especially during sunset.

One of the city's most vibrant places is the Lashkarabad neighborhood, famous for its traditional Arab street food and lively nightlife. The streets are filled with the aroma of kebabs, falafel, and spices, making it a favorite destination for both locals and visitors.

Other notable attractions include Abdolhamid Bazaar, the Karun riverside walkway, Island Park, and the ancient city of Susa, located a short distance away.

Above all, Ahvaz is known for the warmth of its people. Friendly and full of energy, they welcome every visitor with genuine hospitality and a strong sense of community.



# BIJAR

○ Mohammad Veysmoradi

Bijar is a city in Kurdistan Province in western Iran. It is the capital of Bijar County. Most people in Bijar speak Kurdish. Some people speak Azeri. Bijar is in the mountains. It is cold and high. Its height is between 1,940 and 2,030 meters above sea level. Because of this, people call it «The Roof of Iran.» Bijar has special land and different cultures. It is an important part of Iran's history.

## Historical and Cultural Roots

- Ancient Origins: Bijar is an ancient city. People lived there 5,000 years ago. There is an old place called Qamchoqay Fortress. It was used by the Medians, Parthians, and Sassanids.
- Safavid Legacy: In the 15th century, Bijar was a small village. It was part of the Safavid Kingdom. Shah Ismail I was the king at that time.
- Strategic Importance: In World War I, soldiers from Russia, Britain, and the Ottoman Empire came to Bijar.

## Artistic Heritage

- Bijar Rugs: Bijar is famous for its carpets. People call them «Iron Rugs» because they are strong. The carpets have beautiful colors and designs.
- Craftsmanship: Carpet weaving is not only for earning money. It is also part of the culture. Families teach their children how to make carpets.

## Kurdish Identity and Traditions

- Language and Music: People in Bijar speak Kurdish. They love Kurdish music and dancing.
- Festivals and Customs: People celebrate Nowruz (New Year) with special clothes, music, and big meals with family and friends.

## Natural and Architectural Beauty

- Landscape: Bijar has mountains and valleys. The nature is very beautiful.
- Architecture: There are old buildings and mosques in Bijar. They show Islamic and Kurdish styles.

## Local Foods

- Halva Sohani: A sweet made with flour, sugar, and saffron, popular as a gift.
- Nan Shirmal (Bijar Milk Bread): A special type of sweet bread unique to Bijar.
- Pickles: Various kinds of homemade pickles that are part of the local culinary tradition.

# BOJNURD

○ Amir Torabi



Bojnurd, or as the people of North Khorasan nowadays call it, the «Little Paris»:

Why is Bojnurd called: « Little Paris »?

Based on documents and images held by the Shadlou family, this nickname for the city of Bojnurd emerged after Yarmohammad Khan Shadlou (Sardar Mofakham) traveled to Europe, particularly Paris. He drew inspiration from that city to design his government residence. By employing French engineers and architects to plan and construct the building and surrounding streets, create gardens and waterways around it, and incorporate recreational and welfare facilities throughout the complex, he applied the architectural style of modern Parisian buildings and natural features. As a result, the engineers delivered to him, just as Sardar had hoped, a “Little Paris” version of Bojnurd.

## GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

Bojnurd is the largest city in northern Khorasan and the capital of it. Bordering Turkmenistan to the north, and from the northeast to the southeast with the cities of Shirvan and Esfaryen, and from the southwest to the northwest with Jajarm, Ashkhaneh, and Raz.

## HISTORY

Human settlement in the Bojnurd region dates back to millennia before Christ. Its name appears in ancient historical texts as «Bijangard» meaning «built by Bijan» (a hero from the Persian epic, Shahnameh). Throughout history, the city has witnessed various ruling dynasties, including the Parthians, Sassanids, and in the Islamic era, the Buyids, Seljuks, and Khwarazmians. During the Qajar period, Bojnurd gained significant importance as the center of the Shadlu tribe, with magnificent mansions such as the Mofakham Mansion built during this time.

## HISTORICAL AND RECREATIONAL PLACES

Bojnurd is home to numerous attractions, some of the most prominent being:

### Mofakham Mansion

The largest and most prominent historical monument in Bojnurd, dating back to the Qajar era, which also houses the provincial Museum of Anthropology.

## Besh Qardash

It is one of the historical, natural, and tourist attractions of Bojnord. In Khorasani Turkish, its name means «Five Brothers.» This site was registered as one of Iran's national heritage sites on December 2001, 31.

## PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE

The Bojnordi Persian dialect is a variety of Persian spoken by the Persian speaking people of Bojnord County. The origin of this dialect is Khorasani Persian, but its prosody and loanwords have been influenced by Kurdish Kurmanjî and Khorasani Turkish. The Bojnordi dialect is close to the Quchani dialect. But overall, most of its people speak Persian with the Bojnordi accent, Kurmanji, and Turkmen.

## CLIMATE

This county has mountainous areas and high plateaus in most of its parts. As a result, intense cold prevails over this city in winter. In summer, this county also experiences relatively hot days. Therefore, Bojnord County experiences a wide range of temperature variations.

## CONCLUSION

With its eventful history, pleasant climate, linguistic diversity, and numerous historical and natural attractions, Bojnurd is a captivating and lesser-known destination for domestic and international tourists. It is a treasure trove that enchants every visitor with its rich culture and mesmerizing nature.

# ESFARAYEN

○ Mohammad Mohabbati

My hometown;

Esfarayen is a small city with a calm, simple look, but when you look deeper, you find a historical city with many hidden layers of beauty!

This city is located in North Khorasan, in northeast Iran, between many beautiful mountains, with a calm atmosphere, where nature, daily life, and deep history have together created a peaceful and attractive identity.



One of the most important manifestations of Esfarayen's nature is Saluk and Sarigol National Parks; these two protected areas, only a few kilometers away from the city, are truly beautiful.

These parks, with so many green fields, stunning valleys, and tall mountains, are among the most beautiful natural places in northeast Iran.

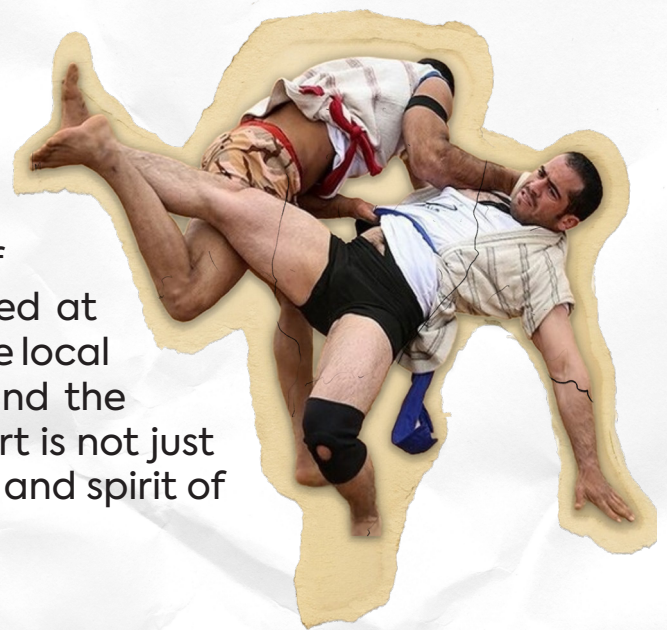
There are many animal species living in these two parks, like urial, Persian wild goat, Eurasian wild pig, rams, grey wolves, rare birds, striped hyena, wild cat, Pallas's cat, and the Persian leopard.

Because of this, these two parks are so important! Clean air, the silence of the mountains, and their plant diversity have made Saluk and Sarigol lovely and famous places for photographers and nature lovers.

Along with its breathtaking natural beauty, Esfarayen has a long and rich history. Historic Belqeis Castle is the city's most historic site, dating back to the Sassanid era and the early years of Islam. The remaining walls and towers of this castle are like windows through which we can see the history of Esfarayen! Walking among the remaining pieces of this castle gives you an interesting feel of the past.

However, what gives life to Esfarayen is the daily life of its people and the city's calm atmosphere. Simple streets, small markets called "Bazar", old neighborhoods, and warm, friendly people are all part of this city's identity. Summer evenings are often cool and delightful. Parks and sidewalks are places where Iranian families gather. For many people, nature around the city and family gatherings are more than just fun! They are part of their lifestyle.

One of the unique features of Esfarayen is its traditional and popular sport, wrestling with a Chukha. This sport, which combines strength, skill, and speed, has been part of the city's culture for years and is performed at local festivals and ceremonies. Watching the local wrestlers, the excitement of the people, and the sense of social solidarity show that this sport is not just a competition, but a symbol of the identity and spirit of people.



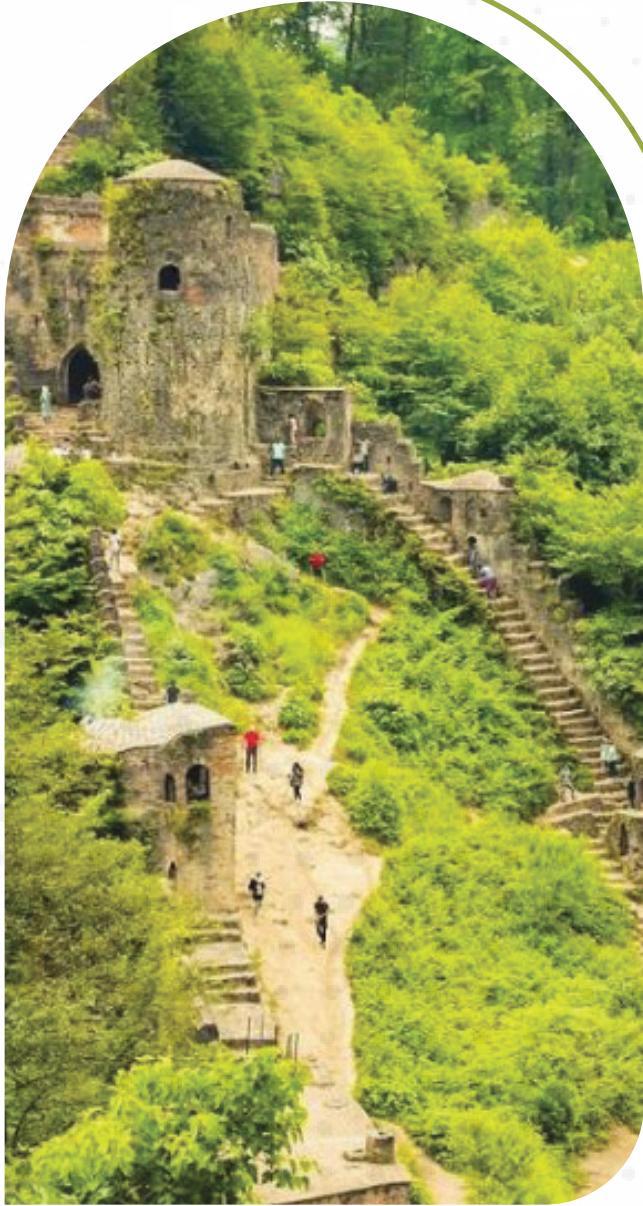
Esfarayen, like all cities in Iran, has different ethnic groups. One of the most famous groups in Esfarayen is the Kurdish Kormanji people. This group, like every other group, has its own unique traditional clothing, especially for women. Women's dresses are very colorful and bright, with intense red tones! This style of clothing is part of their culture.

Kormanj men's clothing is also bright and colorful. Nowadays, they usually wear these clothes at wedding ceremonies.

In total, maybe Esfarayen, at first impression, is not very big and populated, but the combination of natural landscapes, rich history, and friendly people would make remarkable memories for you; a city that will slowly reveal itself to you if you have the chance to see it.

# GILAN

○ Elahe Soleymani Shoulami



Guilan Province is located in the north of Iran, and its capital is Rasht. Guilan has many beautiful, fertile mountains. It's a rainy area with a humid, temperate climate.

### **Culture and Traditions**

Guilan has a lot of historical heritage and structures like Rudkhan Castle. Most people in Gilan speak the Gilaki and Talysh languages. Local costumes, folk dances, and traditional instruments are still being used in some villages in Guilan. People of Guilan are known for their hospitality and their culture.

### **Handicrafts and Traditional Arts**

Basket weaving using rice stems, kilim weaving, jajim, and traditional carpets are some crafts made from local materials with patterns inspired by nature in Guilan.

### **Local Cuisine of Gilan**

Mirza Ghasemi, Baghala Ghatogh, Torsh Kebab, Torsh Tareh, Alu-Mosamma, and Gilani Fesenjan are local cuisines of Guilan. People in Guilan usually use garlic in their food. Famous souvenirs in Guilan are Fuman cookies, Rudbar olives, Lahijan tea, and homemade preserves.

### **Tourist Attractions**

Masuleh is a stepped village with unique architecture. Rudkhan Castle is a historical Castle and has a long stairway to reach it. Lahijan is famous for tea plantations, Sheytan Kooch hill, and waterfalls. Masal and Shanderman, Chamkhaleh, Kiashahr, and Rasht Grand Bazaar are also other natural and cultural attractions in Guilan.

# ISFAHAN

○ Ayda Imanifar



At first sight, everyone becomes curious about its title. Seriously, what makes this city deserve the name “Half of the World”? I was curious too, so I did some research — and these are my final findings: With nearly six thousand years of historical heritage and countless ancient monuments, Isfahan truly earns its famous title. Its impressive cultural background, original local architecture, and remarkable artworks are strong reasons why it is known as “Half of the World.”

Isfahan has many other features that make it unique and unforgettable. From ancient relics to a wide variety of traditional handicrafts, the city has preserved valuable treasures for centuries, passing them down as a priceless inheritance.

### **| Isfahan’s ancient mosques include:**

- Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque
- Jame Mosque of Isfahan
- Imam Mosque
- Ardestan Jame Mosque
- Zavareh Jame Mosque

There are also important Zoroastrian temples and several historic churches, showing the city’s cultural and religious diversity.

Hakoup Church is the first church that the Armenians built in Jolfa, Isfahan. However, the most famous historical church in Jolfa, in terms of architecture and decoration, is Saint Surp Church, widely known as Vank Cathedral.

The most important one, though, is the famous Bedkhem (Bethlehem) Church, located next to Maryam Church in Jolfa Square.

The Koh-e Sangi Fire Temple (Atashgah of Isfahan) and the ancient Niasar Fire Temple are also among the most well known fire temples of the Isfahan region.



The historical palaces of Isfahan, with their unique architecture, are among the city's most remarkable attractions. Among them are Chehel Sotoun Palace, the Hasht Behesht Mansion, and the Ali Qapu Palace.

Among the magnificent gardens of Isfahan Province, one of the most notable is the Fin Garden in Kashan. It holds special importance for its landscaping and irrigation system and is considered one of Iran's most valuable cultural and tourism sites:

Chahar Bagh is also a vast and beautiful complex made up of several historic gardens. Among the old minarets with unique architecture in Isfahan Province, the most famous is the Monar Jonban (Shaking Minarets). The most remarkable feature of this structure is that when one minaret is shaken, the other one—and even parts of the building—begin to vibrate as well.

The Golpayegan Minaret is another notable example and is one of the tallest minarets from the Seljuk era.

Other historical minarets of the province include Ziyar, Sarban, Ali, Gar, Sin, Rahravan, Barsian, Chehel Dokhtar, Dar alDiyafeh, and Dardasht Minarets each showcasing unique examples of architectural design and decorative art.

Among its spectacular bridges, the most famous are the Si-o-se-pol (Thirty-Three Bridge) and the Khaju Bridge.

For tourists, it is very important to learn about all of Isfahan's attractions and explore them carefully. It is also highly recommended to try the city's local foods, such as Beryani and Khoresh Mast, while exploring the city. Goshfil and Doogh are among Isfahan's most famous local snacks.



## **Other famous local dishes of Isfahan include:**

Ash-e Sholeh Qalamkar  
Halim Bademjan  
Kaleh Joosh  
Baghala Zard (also known as Khorasgan)  
Ash-e Somaq  
Kaleh Joosh (a traditional dish of Isfahan's nomadic tribes)  
Sarganjeshki  
Kookoo Qandi  
Ash-e Mash and Ghomri  
Yakhneh Torsh  
Mash va Zardak  
Oomaj (made with vinegar and beetroot)  
Nokhod Ab  
Kufteh Berenji  
Halim-e Shir

These dishes are highly valued and considered traditional specialties of the city.

**Souvenirs of Isfahan:** Gaz and Polaki Gaz is a traditional sweet made from gaz angabin (a type of natural sap), sugar, nuts such as pistachios, almonds, hazelnuts, or walnuts, egg whites, and rosewater. No artificial chemicals are used in its production. Isfahan produces the finest Gaz, with a history of over 450 years. The city is the largest and most renowned producer of Gaz in Iran, accounting for about %90 of the country's production. Known as the "White Gold of Isfahan," Gaz is often given as a special gift on domestic and international occasions.

Polaki is another famous souvenir from Isfahan. This crispy and delicious sweet comes in various flavors and colors, including saffron, coconut, lemon, sesame, and ginger, and is usually enjoyed with tea.

Other notable souvenirs of Isfahan include traditional handicrafts, especially Khatam (marquetry) and Mina (enamel) frames, Ghalamkari (printed fabric), and various engraved metalworks.

The traditional economy of Isfahan Province is largely based on handicrafts, including carpet weaving, silk weaving, metal engraving (Ghalamzani), wood carving (Monabat), brocade weaving (Zari), marquetry (Khatam), wirework (Melliyeh), miniature painting, pottery, enamel work (Mina), metalwork, Persian rugs, turquoise inlay (Firoozeh Koobi), silverwork, tile making, printed fabric (Ghalamkari), embroidery, and sequin embroidery.

These beautiful crafts not only represent the rich artistic heritage of Isfahan but also play an important role in the province's thriving tourism industry today.

Finally, Isfahan also offers fresh and clean water sources. When traveling to this city, visitors can enjoy them in various parts of the province.

# KASHAN

○ Masoome Efati



Is it possible to love a city from a thousand kilometers away? Yeah, I love Kashan, a city in the middle of the desert with a lot of history. Honestly, I love the sunshine and patterns of Kashan, while I sit in Tabatabayi house and the sunlight shines on my face through the colored glass, or as I walk through Soweigh Bazar in Kashan and feel the beauty and history, or while I inhale the air in Finn's garden.



I also love traditional and famous Festivals, like the Rose water Festival in the spring, which begins early in the morning with the sunrise. People wake up to pick pink Persian roses and prepare to make their syrup.

Kashan's hand-woven carpets are among the world's masterpieces that introduce Iran to the world.

In addition, Kashan is recognized by UNESCO as the World City of Architecture.



# MASHHAD

○ Ayda Roozbe | Sajede Moosavi



Mashhad is the second biggest city in Iran. It is the capital of Khorasan-e Razavi province. More than 3.5 million people live here. Every year, more than 30 million people come to Mashhad. Most of them come to visit the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS). He is the eighth Shia Imam.

### Short History

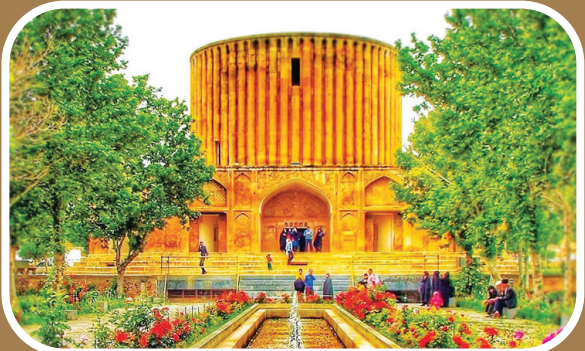
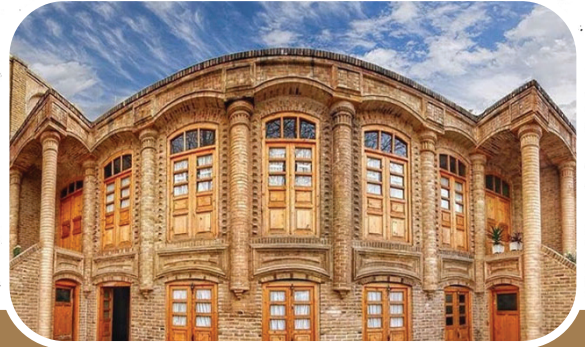
A long time ago, this place was only a small village. Its name was Noghhan. In 818, Imam Reza (AS) arrived here from Medina. Someone gave him poison, and he died. People made a small shrine for him. Later, in the Mongol time, they built a beautiful gold dome. In the Safavid time (about 500 years ago), Mashhad became very important. For some years, it was the capital of Iran. The kings made the shrine bigger and more beautiful.

### Famous Places to Visit

- The Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS) – the most important and beautiful place. The gold dome is very big.
- Tomb of Ferdowsi in Tus – Ferdowsi wrote the famous book Shahnameh.
- Nader Shah Tomb in Naderi Garden – Nader Shah was a strong king. The new tomb was made in 1963 by Hooshang Seyhoun. There is a big statue: Nader on a horse and three soldiers behind him. A small museum is there too.
- Darougheh House – a very old and beautiful house. It was built in 1911. A Russian man made it. It has a big yard, a blue pool, nice windows, and a fireplace. Now it is a museum and café. You can drink tea or coffee there.
- Koh Sangi Park – a big park on a hill. You can see the whole city from the top.
- Astan Quds Razavi Museum – it has many old books and beautiful things.
- Sarzamin Mojhaye Abi – the biggest indoor water park in the Middle East.

### Universities

Mashhad has many universities. The biggest and oldest is Ferdowsi University of Mashhad. It started in 1949. More than 25,000 students study there. It is perfect in chemistry, math, and Persian literature. Many famous writers and teachers graduated from this university.



## Factories

There are big factories around the city:

- Behdad
- makes juice and snacks
- Minoo Shargh
- makes chocolate and biscuits
- Mah volt
- makes milk, cheese, and yoghurt



- Binaloud Cement Factory
- a very big cement factory
- Medicine factories and car part factories

## Souvenirs

People love to buy:

- Beautiful Mashhad carpets
- Saffron (red and expensive)
- Nabat (rock candy)
- Dried fruits and nuts
- Turquoise rings
- Shah Maqsood prayer beads

## Why We Love Mashhad?

Mashhad is not only a holy city. It is like a small Iran. In the morning, you can pray in the shrine. At noon, you can take photos near the Nader Shah statue. In the afternoon, you can drink coffee in Darougheh House. At night, you can walk in Koh Sangi Park or go shopping. Mashhad has a rich history, holy places, big universities, and new factories. Everyone can find something good here. That is why we are very happy to live in Mashhad!

# NEYSHABUR

○ Amir Mohammad Gholampoor



Neyshabur is one of the biggest cities of Khorasan Razavi Province, located in the northeast of Iran. This monumental city is located in a fertile plain in the foothills of Binalud Mountain.

Neyshabur was founded during the Sassanid period, probably by Shapur I. But it experienced its golden age after the advent of Islam. During this time, it flourished in various aspects, such as commerce, science, and culture. As a result of the passage of the Silk Road, having a turquoise mine, which is called heavenly gem and of high quality, having fertile plains for planting, and having some handicrafts such as carpet weaving, made it a major economic center. In this era, mystics and intelligentsia emerged, particularly Khayyam (poet, mathematician, astronomer) and Attar of Neyshabur (scholar of Sufism, poet). This caused significant scientific and cultural developments.

Throughout history, Neyshabur has been affected by numerous natural and human made disasters. So devastating were the Mongol invasions in the 13th century and the major earthquakes that followed that this city was largely destroyed and drifted far from its former peak.

The historical monuments of Neyshabur include the Tomb of Khayyam, the covered bazaar, which has survived from the Safavid era, and the Shah Abbas Caravanserai, built during the Safavid period and now used as a museum and handicraft exhibition.





Additionally, the National Garden of Neyshabur and the Amin Islamic Mansion are notable monuments. The preservation of these monuments reflects the city's rich cultural heritage. Heritage and historical significance.

In modern times, Neyshabur, like other Iranian cities, faces challenges such as water scarcity. The city's expansion is being carried out without harming historical monuments while offering numerous tourist opportunities; however, it lacks sufficient infrastructure and requires significant investment.

Finally, Neyshabur is one of the unique, amazing, ancient cities with a rich culture since the Sasanian era and has had a large number of different positive features, such as poets and a turquoise mine, although it has lost many opportunities to grow.

# SHANDIZ

○ Reyhane Tayebi



**W**here I come from is located 15 kilometers northwest of Mashhad, somewhere called Shandiz.

Before the Mongol invasion of Iran, the city was like a castle. If you take a look at aerial footage of the town, you will realize its vague shape. So many changes have happened, but the whole structure is still maintained.

In addition, the old name of the town was Shahān Dej, from which the word Dej was obtained.

Then, after years, it turned into Shandiz. This is one of the historical stories of the town.

For more, I recommend that you take a seat and hear the rest of the stories told by the old people there.



# SHIRVAN

○ Ali Nazarzadeh

Shirvan is located in the north-east of Iran, East of North Khorasan. This city is one of the oldest and historical cities, and it dates back to 5000 BC. Archaeologists found some graves, valuable things, and old villages here.

Its religion is Islam, and the entrance is a statue of Imam Ali. Over time, Shirvan has been damaged by natural disasters and has been rebuilt in modern ways.



Shirvan has nice weather in all seasons. The population of this city is about 160,000 people, and they have local art, food, ceremonies, etc. At special events or other times, you can visit the city's attractions.

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مجمع آموزش عالی فنی و مهندسی اسفراين  
وزارت علوم، تحقیقات و فناوری

