

Turcophone Iran

[Turcophone](#) populated villages by Iranian counties and districts (SCI/MJC 1986, published by [CNRS](#) in 2012/2013)^[1]

The term **Turcophone Iran** or **Turks of Iran** typically applies to [Iranian Azerbaijan](#), [Fars Province](#) ([Qashqai](#) nomads) and northern [Khorasan](#). The [Azerbaijanis](#), who inhabit the [Âzerbâyjân](#) provinces, form the vast majority of these Turkish-speaking Iranians: between 20 and 25% of the total population. Because of their large numbers in big cities, like [Tabriz](#) and especially in [Tehran](#) and its surrounding region, these languages are dominant in only 12% of the rural cantons ([dehestân](#)). Turkish-speaking areas are often very homogeneous (more than 90% of Turkish-speaking villages in the same [dehestân](#)) in [Âzerbâyjân](#) and in the [Turkmen steppe](#). Because of the great dispersion of Turkish villages in the [Zagros mountains](#), [Fars](#) region and northern [Khorasan](#) since the mid-nineteenth century, the Turkish-speaking population gradually mixed with [Kurdish](#) and [Persian](#)-speakers, especially in [Tehran](#) and suburban cities such as [Karaj](#), [Eslâmshahr](#) and [Qarchak](#). The Turkish-speaking population in Iran is the result of a long history that began in the eleventh century with the invasion of Iran by the [Saljuki Turks](#) and lasted to the long ruling Turkic-speaking tribes such as the [Safavids](#) (1501-1736) who founded modern Iran in the sixteenth century and the [Qajars](#) (1786-1923).^[2]

Among the Turkish-speaking population of Iran, Azerbaijanis are the least proficient in Persian.^[3] The Turkish composition of [Tehran](#) is estimated from about one-third to over half of the city's population.^[4] This ratio, of around 6-7 million people, places [Tehran](#) in the first place among the densest Turkish habitation in Iran.^[5] Azerbaijanis alone comprised at least one-third of Iran's population in 1850. It is likely that this proportion has continued to increase as Iranian Azerbaijanis exhibit greater fertility in rural areas.^[4]

List of Turkish-speaking tribes in Iran

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Turkic peoples of Iran	Language	Religion and Sub-ethnic groups
		Muslim (Shia)
Iranian Azerbaijanis	Azerbaijani language (and its dialects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shahsevan• Karadaghis• Bichaghchi• Terkeme• Padars

- [Tribes of Karadagh](#)
 - [Tokhmaqlu](#), Beghdillu, Illyaskhanlu, Bayburdlu, Qaradaghlu

Khorasani Turks	Khorasani Turkic language	Muslim (Shia)
Iranian Turkmen	Turkmen language	Muslim (Sunni)
		Muslim (Shia)
Qizilbash people	Turkic language	• Afshars • Nafar • Qajar • Bayat • Qarapaqs • Aynallu • Ayrum
Khalaj people	Khalaj language	Muslim (Shia)
		Muslim (Shia)
Qashqai people	Qashqai language	• Aghajari tribe

Qashqai Turkish nomads in Iran

Turkish nomads in Iran (Qashqai)

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The Qashqai is one of the largest and most famous tribal confederacies in Iran, composed of settled, semi-settled, and pastoral nomadic communities. In the 1982 [census](#), around 200,000 members of the Qashqai were recorded. According to other sources, the Qashqai consisted of 30,000 families in 1980, which corresponded to about 400,000 people. The international linguistic compendium of the [Summer Institute of Linguistics \(SIL\)](#) "[Ethnologue](#)" estimated their number at 1.5 million in 1997.^[6] According to the 2015 census, the total number of the Qashqai ethnic group was given between 1.6 and 2.5 million.^{[7][8]}

Related pages

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- [Turkic peoples](#)

References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

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2. [↑ SOCIÉTÉ: "Turkish-speaking villages" - CNRS 2014 - UMR 7528 Iranian and Indian Worlds](#)
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4. [↑ 4.0 4.1](#) Brenda Shaffer (2002): *Borders and Brethren: Iran and the Challenge of Azerbaijani Identity*, in: Belfer Center Studies in International Security, [Harvard University](#), [MIT Press](#), p.224
5. [↑](#) Jean-Paul Roux (2000): *Histoire des Turcs* - [Fayard](#), p.462
6. [↑ Kashkay](#), in *Ethnologue - Languages of the World* (Webarchiv)
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8. [↑](#) Muhittin Çelik, Hüseyin Gökçe (2021): *Kaşkayların Türk Kültürü İçerisindeki Yeri* [The Position of Qashqais in Turkish Culture], Journal of Oghuz Turkish Studies, [doi:10.52817/oguztad.980646](#)

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