

Iran

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Persian (Farsi)

Population: 88,000,000

Currency: Iranian Rial (IRR)

Area: 1,648,000

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Persepolis', 'writeup': 'Ancient ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, showcasing impressive ruins and reliefs.'}
- {'name': 'Naqsh-e Jahan Square', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site in Isfahan, known for its stunning Safavid-era architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Golestan Palace', 'writeup': 'Historic royal complex in Tehran, blending Persian art and architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Azadi Tower', 'writeup': 'Iconic monument in Tehran symbolizing modern Iran.'}
- {'name': 'Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque', 'writeup': 'Famous mosque in Isfahan noted for its intricate tile work and dome.'}

Head of State / Government:

Ebrahim Raisi (President as of 2024)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Nowruz', 'writeup': 'Persian New Year celebrated at the spring equinox with family gatherings and traditional rituals.'}
- {'name': 'Yalda Night', 'writeup': 'Winter solstice celebration marking the longest night of the year with poetry and fruit.'}
- {'name': 'Chaharshanbe Suri', 'writeup': 'Festival of fire held on the eve of the last Wednesday before Nowruz to ward off evil spirits.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Iranian cuisine features rice dishes like chelow kabab, stews such as ghormeh sabzi, and a variety of herbs, nuts, and fruits, reflecting regional diversity and rich culinary traditions.

Brief History:

Iran, historically known as Persia, has a civilization dating back thousands of years. It was home to powerful empires like the Achaemenid and Sassanian. The 20th century saw the Pahlavi dynasty, followed by the 1979 Islamic Revolution establishing the current Islamic Republic.

Important People:

- Cyrus the Great - Founder of the Achaemenid Empire
- Rumi - Renowned Persian poet and mystic
- Omar Khayyam - Mathematician, astronomer, and poet

- Ayatollah Khomeini - Leader of the 1979 Islamic Revolution
- Shirin Ebadi - Nobel Peace Prize laureate and human rights activist

Current Conflicts:

Iran faces regional tensions involving its nuclear program, proxy conflicts in the Middle East, and strained relations with the United States and some neighboring countries.

Youtube Links:

- Iran Travel Guide - Top Places to Visit in Iran
- History of Iran - From Ancient Persia to Modern Day
- Iranian Culture and Traditions Explained
- Iranian Cuisine - Traditional Foods You Must Try
- Current Political Situation in Iran - Explained