

## IRAN

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Country name                         | Iran <sup>1</sup>                                    |
| State title                          | Islamic Republic of Iran <sup>2</sup>                |
| Name of citizen                      | Iranian  |
| Official language                    | Persian/Farsi ( <i>fas</i> ) <sup>3</sup>            |
| 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                  | <a href="#">BGN/PCGN Persian Romanization System</a> |
| ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)      | IR/IRN   |
| Capital                              | Tehran   |
| Capital in official language         | تهران (Tehrān) <sup>4</sup>                          |

### 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

Geographical names in Iran are written in Perso-Arabic script. The Persian alphabet uses the characters of the Arabic alphabet plus four additional letters<sup>5</sup>). Names should be taken from official sources in Persian script and romanized using the BGN/PCGN Persian Romanization System<sup>6</sup>. 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

<sup>1</sup> The name Iran derives from *Aryānē*, 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> ISO 639 language codes are provided for the languages mentioned in this Factfile.

<sup>4</sup> This is how Tehran is spelled in Persian. In Arabic it is spelled with a different type of T (طهران = Tehrān)

<sup>5</sup> The additional letters are p (پ), ch (چ), g (گ) & zh (ژ).

<sup>6</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5e1eeafe5274a4f0f57553a/ROMANIZATION\\_OF\\_PERSIAN.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5e1eeafe5274a4f0f57553a/ROMANIZATION_OF_PERSIAN.pdf)

System<sup>7</sup>. 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)<sup>8</sup>, 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<sup>9</sup>. 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.

**Recognised Regional Languages of Iran<sup>10</sup>**

| Language            | ISO 639 language code | Classification of Language | Script               | Approximate Number of Speakers | Main Areas language is spoken <sup>11</sup>  |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 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 <sup>12</sup> | aze                   | Western Turkic             | Perso-Arabic & Roman | 11,200,000                     | North West Iran, Āzarbāyjān-e Gharbī, Āzarbāyjān-e Sharqī, Ardabīl, Zanjān, part of Markazī province, and districts of Tehrān and Fārs Province. |

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.eki.ee/wgrs/rom1\\_fa.htm](https://www.eki.ee/wgrs/rom1_fa.htm)

<sup>8</sup> The ISO 639-3 name for this language is Persian, and the ISO 639-3 code is fas.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/persian.htm>

<sup>10</sup> There are numerous other languages spoken by smaller numbers of people, which do not have the status of recognised regional language.

<sup>11</sup> Due to population movement speakers of these regional languages are found outside these main areas.

<sup>12</sup> This language is often also called Azerbaijani.

| Language                    | ISO 639 language code | Classification of Language  | Script                  | Approximate Number of Speakers | Main Areas language is spoken <sup>11</sup>   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 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 North West Iran but also some North Eastern provinces: Kordestān, Kermānshāh, Khorāsān, Māzandarān and Īlām  |
| Luri/Lori                   | lrc & luz             | South West Iranian          | Perso-Arabic            | 2,100,000                      | Primarily in the South West: 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<sup>13</sup>)

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 |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Ā                    | 00C1             | ā                    | 00E1             |
| Ă                    | 0100             | ă                    | 0101             |
| Ĥ                    | 1E28             | ĥ                    | 1E29             |
| Ī                    | 012A             | ī                    | 012B             |
| Š                    | 0053+0304*       | š                    | 0073+0304*       |
| Ş                    | 015E             | ş                    | 015F             |
| Ț                    | 0162             | ț                    | 0163             |
| Ū                    | 016A             | ū                    | 016B             |
| Ẓ                    | 1E94             | ẓ                    | 1E95             |
| Ẕ                    | 005A+0327*       | ẕ                    | 007A+0327*       |
| Ẓ                    | 005A+0304*       | ẓ                    | 007A+0304*       |
| ‘                    | 2018/02BB        | ’                    | 2019/02BC        |

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

<sup>13</sup> See [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org)

## 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 Ṭunb al Kubrá  | Jazīreh-ye Tonb-e Bozorg | 26° 15' 50" N 055° 18' 18" E |
| Lesser Tunb       | Jazīrat Ṭunb aş Şuġhrá | 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 Shaṭṭ 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

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.<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup>

### **Administrative structure**<sup>16</sup>

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 Razavī, Khorāsān-e Jonūbī and Khorāsān-e Shomālī). More recently in June 2010, Alborz province was created from 3 counties (Karaj, Sāvojbolāgh & Naẓarābād), 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                           | <a href="https://www.alborz.ir/">https://www.alborz.ir/</a> |

<sup>14</sup> 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 (خلیج فارس).

<sup>15</sup> In North America the term “The Gulf” may also be used to refer to the Gulf of Mexico.

<sup>16</sup> For further details on Iran's administrative structure, see PCGN's paper on *The Administrative Structure of Iran*.

**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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-ar.ir/">http://www.ostan-ar.ir/</a> |
| Variant spellings or names                   | Ardebil, Erdebil  |

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Name in Perso-Arabic script                | آذربایجان غربی  |
| Long form name                             | Ostān-e Āzarbāyjān-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                         | <a href="http://www.ostan-ag.gov.ir/">http://www.ostan-ag.gov.ir/</a> |
| Variant spellings or names                 | West Azerbaijan   |

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Name in Perso-Arabic script                  | آذربایجان شرقی  |
| Long form name                               | Ostān-e Āzarbāyjān-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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-as.ir">http://www.ostan-as.ir</a> |
| Variant spellings or names                   | East Azerbaijan   |

**5. Būshehr<sup>17</sup> (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<br>(28° 58' 06" N 050° 50' 19" E) |
| Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script | بندر بوشهر   |
| Provincial Website                           | <a href="http://ostb.ir/">http://ostb.ir/</a>      |

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

**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                           | <a href="https://www.ostan-chb.ir/">https://www.ostan-chb.ir/</a> |

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Name in Perso-Arabic script                  | اصفهان  |
| Long form name                               | Ostān-e Eṣfahān   |
| Long form name in Perso-Arabic script        | استان اصفهان  |
| ISO 3166-2 subdivision code                  | IR-10   |
| Administrative centre                        | Eṣfahān (32° 39' 26" N 051° 40' 39" E)                        |
| Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script | اصفهان  |
| Provincial Website                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-es.ir/">http://www.ostan-es.ir/</a> |
| 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                           | <a href="http://www.farsp.ir/">http://www.farsp.ir/</a> |

**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                           | <a href="http://www.gilan.ir">www.gilan.ir</a> |

**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                           | <a href="https://golestanp.ir/">https://golestanp.ir/</a> |

**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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-hm.ir">http://www.ostan-hm.ir</a> |
| Variant spellings or names                   | Hamedan   |

**12. Hormozgān<sup>18</sup>** (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                             | <a href="http://www.hormozgan.ir/">http://www.hormozgan.ir/</a> |

**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                           | <a href="http://www.portal-il.ir/">http://www.portal-il.ir/</a> |
| 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                           | <a href="http://gov.kr.ir/">http://gov.kr.ir/</a> |

<sup>18</sup> 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).



**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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-ks.ir/">http://www.ostan-ks.ir/</a> |

**16. Khorāsān-e Jonūbī<sup>19</sup>** (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                           | <a href="http://www.sko.ir/">http://www.sko.ir/</a> |
| Variant spellings or names                   | South Khorasan                                      |

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

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

**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                           | <a href="http://www.nkhorasan.ir/">www.nkhorasan.ir/</a> |
| Variant spellings or names                   | North Khorasan   |

<sup>19</sup> The name Khorāsān is derived from Middle Persian meaning "land where the sun rises".

<sup>20</sup> 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.

**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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-kz.ir/">http://www.ostan-kz.ir/</a> |

**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 | ياسوج   |
| Provincial Website                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-kb.ir/">http://www.ostan-kb.ir/</a> |
| Variant spellings or names                   | Kohkiluyeh and Buyer Ahmad                                    |

**21. Kordestān<sup>21</sup>** (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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-kd.ir/">http://www.ostan-kd.ir/</a> |
| 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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-lr.ir/">http://www.ostan-lr.ir/</a> |
| Variant spellings or names                   | Luristan  |

<sup>21</sup> Kordestān means Land of the Kurds in Persian.

## **23. Markazī<sup>22</sup> (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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-mr.ir/">http://www.ostan-mr.ir/</a> |

## **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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-mz.ir/">http://www.ostan-mz.ir/</a> |

## **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                           | <a href="https://ostan-qz.ir/">https://ostan-qz.ir/</a> |

## **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 <sup>23</sup> (34° 38' 24" N 050° 52' 35" E)                |
| Administrative centre in Perso-Arabic Script | قم  |
| Provincial Website                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-qom.ir/">http://www.ostan-qom.ir/</a> |
| Variant spellings or names                   | Ghom, Gom   |

<sup>22</sup> Markazī means central in Persian.

<sup>23</sup> 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.

**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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-sm.ir/">http://www.ostan-sm.ir/</a> |

**28. Sīstān va Balūchestān<sup>24</sup>** (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                           | <a href="http://www.sb-ostan.ir/">http://www.sb-ostan.ir/</a> |

**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                           | <a href="http://www.ostan-th.ir/">http://www.ostan-th.ir/</a> |

**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                           | <a href="http://ostanyazd.ir">http://ostanyazd.ir</a> |

**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                           | <a href="http://www.ostandari-zn.ir/">http://www.ostandari-zn.ir/</a> |

<sup>24</sup> Balūchestān means land of the Baluchi people in Persian.

## **Other Significant Locations<sup>25</sup>**

| PCGN Recommended Name <sup>26</sup> | Persian Name (Romanization)                        | Variant Names   | English Conventional Name | Feature Type   | Location                        |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Caspian Sea                         | دریای خزر<br>(Daryā-ye Khazar)                     | Daryā-ye Māzandarān<br>(دریای مازندران)                         | Caspian Sea               | Sea            | 42° 00' 00" N<br>050° 00' 00" E |
| Dasht-e Kavīr                       | دشت کویر<br>(Dasht-e Kavīr)                        | Kavīr-e Namak<br>(کویر نمک);<br>Kavīr-e Markazī<br>(کویر مرکزی) | Great Salt Desert         | Salt desert    | 34° 34' 00" N<br>053° 23' 00" E |
| ‘Asalūyeh                           | عسلویه<br>(‘Asalūyeh)                              |   |                           | Port city      | 27° 28' 34" N<br>052° 36' 27" E |
| Strait of Hormuz                    | تنگه هرمز<br>(Tangeh-ye Hormoz)                    |   | Strait of Hormuz          | Strait         | 26° 37' 00" N<br>056° 30' 00" E |
| Kavīr-e Lūt                         | کویر لوت<br>(Kavīr-e Lūt)                          |   |                           | Salt desert    | 33° 02' 47" N<br>058° 08' 34" E |
| Daryācheh-ye Orūmīyeh (Lake Urmia)  | دریاچه ارومیه<br>(Daryācheh-ye Orūmīyeh)           |   | Lake Urmia                | Lake           | 37° 38' 54" N<br>045° 36' 20" E |
| Gulf of Oman                        | دریای عمان<br>(Daryā-ye ‘Omān)                     | Sea of Oman   | Gulf of Oman              | Sea            | 25° 26' 56" N<br>057° 47' 38" E |
| Reshteh-ye Kūhhā-ye Alborz          | رشته کوه های البرز<br>(Reshteh-ye Kūhhā-ye Alborz) | Kūhhā-ye Alborz<br>(کوه های البرز)                              | Alborz Mountains          | Mountain range | 35° 57' 57" N<br>052° 32' 33" E |
| Naţanz                              | نطنز   |   |                           | PPL            | 33° 30' 40" N<br>051° 55' 05" E |

<sup>25</sup> For details of the major cities of Iran, see PCGN’s paper on *The Administrative Structure of Iran*.

<sup>26</sup> Some places, such as maritime features, may have other names in other languages.

| PCGN Recommended Name <sup>26</sup> | Persian Name (Romanization) | Variant Names   | English Conventional Name | Feature Type     | Location                        |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fordow                              | فردو                        | Fordo; Fordū;<br>Shahid Ali<br>Mohammadi<br>Nuclear Facility<br>(تأسیسات هسته‌ای)<br>شهید علی محمدی<br>Ta'sīsāt-e<br>Hastehī-ye<br>Shahīd 'Alī<br>Moḥammadī<br>or<br>Ta'sīsāt-e<br>Hastehī-ye<br>Fordow (تأسیسات<br>هسته‌ای فردو) |                           | Nuclear facility | 34° 53' 04" N<br>050° 59' 53" E |

## Useful references<sup>27</sup>

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- Gitashenasi Geographical and Cartographic Institute: <http://www.gitashenasi.com>
- International Organisation for Standards (ISO): [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)
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<sup>27</sup> At the time of writing many Iranian websites are inaccessible