

60th Anniversary of Iranian
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8 Historic and Cultural Sites Inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage List

Meidane Emam (Naghshe Jahan), Isfahan (1979)



Built by Shah Abbas I the Great at the beginning of the 17th century, and bordered on all sides by monumental buildings linked by a series of two-storeyed arcades, the site is known for the Royal Mosque, the Mosque of Sheykh Lotfollah, the magnificent Portico of Qaysariyyeh and the 15th-century Timurid palace. They are an impressive testimony to the level of social and cultural life in Persia during the Safavid era.



- **Persepolis (1979)**

Founded by Darius I in 518 B.C., Persepolis was the capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It was built on an immense half-artificial, half-natural terrace, where the king of kings created an impressive palace complex inspired by Mesopotamian models. The importance and quality of the monumental ruins make it a unique archaeological site.



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- **Tchogh Zanbil (1979)**

The ruins of the holy city of the Kingdom of Elam, surrounded by three huge concentric walls, are found at Tchogha Zanbil. Founded in 1250 B.C., the city remained unfinished after it was invaded by Ashurbanipal, as shown by the thousands of unused bricks left at the site.



• Takht-e-Soleyman (2003)

The archaeological site of Takht-e Soleyman, in north-western Iran, is situated in a valley set in a volcanic mountain region. The site includes the principal Zoroastrian sanctuary partly rebuilt in the Ilkhanid (Mongol) period (13th century) as well as a temple of the Sasanian period (6th and 7th centuries) dedicated to Anahita. The site has important symbolic significance. The designs of the fire temple, the palace and the general layout have strongly influenced the development of Islamic architecture.



- **Bam and its cultural landscape (2004-2007)**

Bam is situated in a desert environment on the southern edge of the Iranian high plateau. The origins of Bam can be traced back to the Achaemenid period (6th to 4th centuries BC). Its heyday was from the 7th to 11th centuries, being at the crossroads of important trade routes and known for the production of silk and cotton garments. The existence of life in the oasis was based on the underground irrigation canals, the qanāts, of which Bam has preserved some of the earliest evidence in Iran. Arg-e Bam is the most representative example of a fortified medieval town built in vernacular technique using mud layers (*Chineh*).



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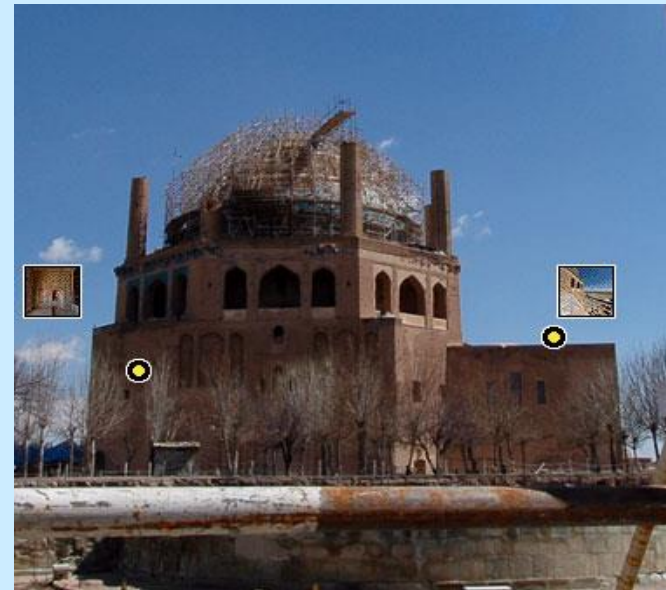
- **Pasargadae (2004)**

Pasargadae was the first dynastic capital of the Achaemenid Empire, founded by Cyrus II the Great, in Pars, homeland of the Persians, in the 6th century BC. Its palaces, gardens and the mausoleum of Cyrus are outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization. Particularly noteworthy vestiges in the 160-ha site include: the Mausoleum of Cyrus II; Tall-e Takht, a fortified terrace; and a royal ensemble of gatehouse, audience hall, residential palace and gardens. Pasargadae was the capital of the first great multicultural empire in Western Asia. Spanning the Eastern Mediterranean and Egypt to the Hindus River, it is considered to be the first empire that respected the cultural diversity of its different peoples. This was reflected in Achaemenid architecture, a synthetic representation of different cultures.



•Soltaniyeh (2004)

The mausoleum of Oljaytu was constructed in 1302–12 in the city of Soltaniyeh, the capital of the Ilkhanid dynasty, which was founded by the Mongols. Situated in the province of Zanjan, Soltaniyeh is one of the outstanding examples of the achievements of Persian architecture and a key monument in the development of its Islamic architecture. The octagonal building is crowned with a 50 m tall dome covered in turquoise-blue faience and surrounded by eight slender minarets. It is the earliest existing example of the double-shelled dome in Iran. The mausoleum's interior decoration is also outstanding and scholars such as A.U. Pope have described the building as 'anticipating the Taj Mahal'.



- **Bisotun (2006)**

- Bisotun is located along the ancient trade route linking the Iranian high plateau with Mesopotamia and features remains from the prehistoric times to the Median, Achaemenid, Sassanian, and Ilkhanid periods. The principal monument of this archaeological site is the bas-relief and cuneiform inscription ordered by Darius I, The Great, when he rose to the throne of the Persian Empire, 521 BC. The bas-relief portrays Darius holding a bow, as a sign of sovereignty, and treading on the chest of a figure who lies on his back before him. According to legend, the figure represents Gaumata, the Median Magus and pretender to the throne whose assassination led to Darius's rise to power. Below and around the bas-reliefs, there are ca. 1,200 lines of inscriptions telling the story of the battles Darius waged in 521-520 BC against the governors who attempted to take apart the Empire founded by Cyrus.



9 Inscribed Biosphere Reserves:



- **Arasbaran:**
- **Date of Inscription : 1976**
- This biosphere reserve situated in the north of Iran
- Arasbaran is the territory of about 23,500 nomads who are mainly living in the buffer and transition zones (2000).
- Economic activities in the biosphere reserve are mainly agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, apiculture, handicrafts and tourism, but business activities can also be found in urbanized areas
- **Major ecosystem type** Mixed mountain and highland systems
- **Total area** 72,460 hectares



- [Arjan](#)
- **Date of Inscription : 1976**
- The Arjan Biosphere Reserve is situated in the Zagros Mountains
- 54,400 people live in villages whereas 5,500 people lived as nomads
- Main problems of the biosphere reserve stem from land use changes for agricultural use, groundwater depletion, overgrazing and illegal hunting and fishing. Therefore, raising public awareness and the revision of license rights is a main task in the Arjan Biosphere Reserve
- **Major ecosystem type** Mixed mountain and highland systems
- **Total area** 52,800hectares



- Geno
- **Date of Inscription : 1976**
- The Geno Biosphere Reserve is situated in the very south of the Zagros Mountains close to the Persian Gulf and the Hara Biosphere Reserve.
- **Major ecosystem type** : Cold-winter deserts and semi-deserts
- ***Total area 27500 hectares***



- **GOLESTAN**
- **Date of Inscription : 1976**
- Golestan Biosphere Reserve is located in the northern part of Iran at the border to Turkmenistan.
- Major ecosystem type :Mixed mountain and highland systems Total area 91,875 hectares Biodiversity Flora, methodologies, wildlife

- **HARA**
- **Date of Inscription: 1976**
- Hara Biosphere Reserve is located in the south of Iran in the Straits of Khuran between Qeshm Island and the Persian Gulf.
- **Major ecosystem type:** Warm deserts and semi-deserts including mangrove
- **Total area** 85,686 hectares



- **KAVIR**
- **Date of Inscription : 1976**
- The Kavir Biosphere Reserve is located – together with the Touran biosphere reserve - in the Anatolian Iranian Desert.
- **Major ecosystem type** :Cold-winter deserts and semi-deserts
- **Total area** 420,000 hectares





- **LAKE OROMEEH**
- **Date of Inscription : 1976**
- This biosphere reserve is located at Lake Oromeeh in the north of Iran and belongs to the Caucasus-Iranian Highlands
- **Major ecosystem type:** Mixed mountain and highland systems with freshwater lakes
- **Total area** 463,600 hectares



- **MIANKALEH**
- **Date of Inscription : 1976**
- The Miankaleh Biosphere Reserve is located at the south-eastern part of the Caspian Sea
- 250 bird species
- **Major ecosystem type:** Freshwater wetlands
- **Total Areas** 68800hectares



- **Touran**
- **Date of Inscription : 1976**
- Located in the Anatolian Iran deserts, the Touran Biosphere Reserve represents well the vegetation of arid and semi-arid deserts
- **Major ecosystem type** :Cold-winter deserts and semi-deserts
- **Total area** 1,470,640 hectares

Thank You

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