



Country Profile: Iran

Iran is a constitutional Islamic republic with a theocratic system of government where ultimate political authority is vested in a religious scholar, the Supreme Leader. Shia Islam is the official religion of Iran, and Islamic law is the basis of the authority of the state. The Iranian Constitution guarantees freedom of worship to Jews, Christians and Zoroastrians, though they are sometimes the subject of discrimination and repression. The workweek in Iran is Saturday through Thursday; however, many government offices and private companies are closed on Thursdays. Friday is the day of rest when all establishments are closed. Offices in Iran are generally open to the public during the morning hours only. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Iran for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Country Name:	Iran
Continent:	Asia (Middle East)
Capital City:	Tehran
Boundary Countries:	Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	None at this time
Main Cities:	Tehran, Chabahar, Yazd, Bandar, 'Abbas, Mashad, Tabriz, Now Shahr, Qom, Shiraz, Bushehr, Ahvaz
Country Size:	1.648 million sq km
Population:	65,397,521

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Persian and Persian dialects 58%, Turkic and Turkic dialects 26%, Kurdish 9%, Luri 2%, Balochi 1%, Arabic 1%, Turkish 1%, other 2%.
Currency:	Iranian Rial (IRR)
Predominant Religions:	Muslim 98% (Shi'a 89%, Sunni 9%), other (includes Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, and Baha'i) 2%
National Holidays:	Republic Day, 1 April (1979)
Economic Status:	Iran's economy is marked by a bloated, inefficient state sector, over reliance on the oil sector, and statist policies that create major distortions throughout. Most economic activity is controlled by the state.
Security:	Islamic Republic of Iran Regular Forces (Artesh): Ground Forces, Navy, Air Force of the Military of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Niru-ye Hava'i-ye Artesh-e Jomhuri-ye Eslami-ye Iran; includes air defense); Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (Sepah-e Pasdaran-e Enqelab-e Eslami, IRGC): Ground Forces, Navy, Air Force, Qods Force (special operations), and Basij Force (Popular Mobilization Army); Law Enforcement Forces
US Presence:	The Embassy of Switzerland serves as the protecting power for US interests in Iran. The U.S. Embassy in Tehran Embassy of Switzerland Foreign Interests Section No. 39, Shahid Mousavi (Golestan 5th) Corner of Paidarfard St. (ex-Amir Ebrahimi St.) Pasdaran, Tehran Telephone: (202) 485-7600

Major Airports:	Airports: 321, Airports w/paved runways: 129 Tehran – Mehrabad International Airport (THR/OIII) Tehran Airport, Iran, Head Office Building, Tehran, IRAN Tel: +98 (0)21 6693 0934 Fax: +98 (0)21 6693 0934 E-mail: mitllc@emirates.net.ae Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +98 (0)21 646 7589 Fax: +98 (0)21 959028
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