

Best places in Iran to visit in winter

Iran is a country of four seasons. Every season exists and can be felt.

There are many different climates in the country. It is great to visit Iran during the winter, whether you like it ice cold or warm. For those who like to travel in mild weather, the southern and central parts of Iran are desirable destinations, iranontour.com wrote.

Winter in Iran has many gifts for snow lovers in the cold and mountainous regions, where they can enjoy skiing and throwing snowballs.

Winter in Iran

In Iran, winter shows different faces depending on the climate of the region. In some places it may go wild, while in other places it may be gentle and breezy. It can be said that winter in Iran has four different manifestations depending on the locality.

Cold and mountainous regions

A Siberian winter rules in the cold and mountainous regions of Iran. If you like skiing, such places are heavenly. Alborz Province (close to Tehran) is a good place for such wintertime activity. It's important to bring warm clothing. East and West Azarbaijan, Ardebil, Alborz, Kurdistan, and Qazvin provinces are prototypes of such Iranian winter.

Humid and moderate climates

Winter in Iran's humid and moderate climates has a different reputa-



Ardebil, northwestern province of Ardebil
ito.org



Javaherdeh, northern province of Mazandaran
ito.org



Qeshm, southern province of Hormuzgan
bazarebours.com



Yazd, central province of Yazd
rasekhoon.net

tion. Humid and moderate climates include provinces on the shore of the Caspian Sea. It's mostly rainy and cold. At times it can be snowy, but snow is not the rule. The weather in such regions

is cold, but not very cold. The sky is usually full of clouds, while sunny days are rare.

Hot and dry regions

Winter in Iran's hot and dry regions is mild. Iran's

winter in such places is not too cold, but it is colder than other seasons. Some days it can be rainy and even snowy in these regions, but the average type of weather in such places is sunny. The

weather is usually colder in the early mornings, yet around noon it is usually warm and mild. The majority of Iranian cities such as Yazd, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Kerman are of this type.

Hot and humid cities

In southern Iran, where warm-blooded people live in beautiful ports and on islands, the Iranian winter is very different from other parts. The winter in such places is another name

for spring. The weather is so mild that at times you can go out in a t-shirt. Such places are great to visit in winter, for the weather is so mild and you won't drown in perspiration when you go out.

Early towns in Iran

Iran is a country extraordinarily rich in natural resources of copper, lead and silver, as well as metamorphic rocks and semi-precious stone. Thus, it is not surprising that people in this region developed an early interest in these resources and started developing new technologies to exploit them, focusing especially on copper and silver.

These new materials quickly turned out to be coveted trade goods that were distributed even to distant areas by means of an emerging trade network. These long-distance contacts constitute one of the most important factors in Iranian history, since they established contact to the peoples of the Central-Asian steppes and the Afghan mountains, as well as the inhabitants of the oasis cultures along the Indus, Euphrates and Tigris, and the newly discovered culture on the Halil Rud. The emergence of a series of trade centres marks the beginning of a new international era, the "Era of Exchange", as the French archaeologist Pierre Amiet termed it.



The south mound of Tappeh Sialk, Isfahan Province

The origin of the famous historic trade routes, the Silk Road and the King's Road, stems from this network of trade routes that developed during the third to fourth millennium BCE "Era of Exchange". These roads connect-

ed the emerging urban centres of southwestern Iran and Mesopotamia with the raw material deposits on the plateau and further east.

They followed the winding valleys of the Zagros into the highlands and to the edge of

the big desert of Dasht-e Kavir and then went along its fringe or crossed it. Thus, the carnelian sources in Eastern Iran and Pakistan, the lapis lazuli mines in Badakhshan/Afghanistan, Tajikistan and the Chagai mountains of Pakistan, and the

rich copper and silver deposits of the Central Iranian Plateau and especially the Kerman Province could be reached. Since the 4th millennium BCE, the Persian Gulf had also become accessible through maritime trade.

This era of exchange had a significant impact on the Iranian cultures.

The processing of the new materials required specialists and completely new professions emerged. The new technologies were improved successively and the long-distance trade called for new methods of information management. Small villages evolved into towns and cities with craftsmen's quarters, central markets, trade stations, an administration and temples. The consequences of these changes were so dramatic, that the famous prehistorian Gordon Childe coined the term "Urban Revolution" to describe them. This evolution reached its first culmination at the beginning of the third millennium BCE with the emergence of the Proto-Elamite culture. The term "Pro-

to-Elamite" can be traced back to the epigrapher A. Scheil who used it to describe the glyphs of an archaic writing system, which is thought to be the precursor of the later Elamite script.

Archaeological sites

Sedentary villages existed in Iran since Neolithic times. As a rule, they were situated along the fringes of the limited fertile land and tended to be inhabited over a long period of time. When the mud-brick houses of a settlement were abandoned, new buildings were erected over the ruins of the old houses. That way – layer by layer – small mounds were formed, which are known under their Persian name *tappeh*. Important sites consist of a cluster of these mounds, rather than a single one. The archaeological investigation of the succession of layers in these *tappehs* allows the definition of local and regional cultural sequences, that each bear the name of the excavated settlement and its corresponding building phase.

The above is a lightly edited version of part of a chapter entitled, 'Early Towns in Iran', from a book entitled, 'Persian Antiques Splendor', edited by T. Stollner, R. Slotta, and A. Vatandoust, published by German Mining Museum. The photo was taken from the book.