

Tehran History



Tehran (**Persian**: تهران *Tehrān* pronounced [teħɾɒːn]), in languages with Latin characters often *Teheran*, **is the capital of Iran and Tehran Province**. With a population of 8,429,807;^[3] it is also Iran's largest urban area and city, one of the largest cities in Western Asia, and is the 21st largest city in the world.

Tehran is the centre of most Iranian industries including automotive, electrical, military, weaponry, textiles, sugar, cement, and chemical. Tehran is also a leading centre for the sale of carpets and furniture. There is an oil refinery located south of the city.^[4]

In the 20th century, Tehran was subject to mass-migration of people from all around Iran. Tehran has a diverse range of peoples, cultures and religions, notably a sizable Armenian community. **Contemporary Tehran is a modern city featuring many tall structures**, of which the Azadi (Freedom) Tower and the Milad Tower have come to be symbols of Tehran itself

The origin of the name Tehran is unknown.^[12] Tehran was well known as a village in the 9th century, but was less well-known than the city of Rhages (Ray) which was flourishing nearby in the early era. In the 13th century, following the destruction of Ray by Mongols, many of its inhabitants escaped to Tehran.

Tehran became a residence of the Safavid rulers in the 17th century. Tahmasp I built a bazaar and a wall around the city, but it somewhat fell out of favor after Abbas I turned sick when he was passing the city to go to a war with the Uzbeks.

In the early of 18th century, Karim Khan Zand ordered a palace, and a government office to be built in Tehran, possibly to declare the city his capital, but later moved his government to Shiraz. Tehran finally became the capital of Iran in 1795, when the Qajar king Agha Mohammad Khan was crowned in the city. It remains the capital to this day.

In the 1960s and 70's Tehran was rapidly developing under the reign of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. Modern Buildings altered the face of Tehran and ambitious projects were envisioned for the following decades.