

Iran

Iran is a country in Western Asia and borders Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkmenistan, as well as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey and Iraq. Its strategic position near the Persian Gulf has made it an important country throughout history

Iran's population is approximately 86.6 million in 2022 and education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 11

Kebab is the most popular food in Iran as well as morasa polo, which literally means "jewelled rice". This is a kind of rice with tiny pieces of fruit and all kinds of seeds and nuts shining like jewels on it.

Khoresh-e ghormeh sabzi is sometimes referred to as the national dish of Iran. It is a tangy and citrusy slow-cooked stew (khoresht) made with herbs, red kidney beans and lamb chunks

Zoolbia is a sweet, crunchy Iranian fritter typically served alongside a cup of tea. The sweet fritter consists of corn starch, yogurt, and flour that is lightly fermented, added to a squeeze bottle, and deep-fried in hot oil.

Hot black tea (Chaiee) is the most common Iranian hot drink used by almost all Iranians. Iranians are used to start the day with a cup of bitter or sweetened Persian tea alongside their breakfast.

Orchestral and pop music is popular in Iran and is not subject to the restrictions that Rap music still receives. The yearly Fajr Arts Festival showcases some of the new and most popular artists now living in Iran that gain global recognition for their art.



Although Persian (Farsi) is the predominant and official language of Iran, a number of languages and dialects are spoken, including Indo-European, Altaic, and Afro-Asiatic.

When Iranians greet each other, they take their time and converse about general things. The most common greeting is "salaam" (hello). Greetings may involve a handshake with the right hand only.

Men and women will generally shake hands if the female outstretches her hand first and the man is willing to reciprocate the gesture.

Most of the reasons given by Iranian migrants for seeking asylum were related to human rights violations, the most common being a desire for religious freedom and freedom of speech. Others said it was because they wanted to give their children and families a better life.

Boats are driven by Iranian fishermen, whose boats have been stolen by smugglers to enable the journeys. The smugglers allow the fishermen to board the boats free of charge. Iranians are paying smugglers anywhere between 2,000 and 20,000 Euros



The colours of the Iranian flag are traditional, with green representing the Islamic religion, white depicting peace and courage symbolised by the colour red. At the top and the bottom of the flag, there are 22 inscriptions of Allahu Akbar meaning “God is Great”.



Popular Iranian celebrations include:

- Nowruz (Persian New Year)
- Kashan Rosewater Festival
- Chaharshanbe Suri (on the eve of the last Wednesday before Nowruz)
- Sizdeh Bedar (the final day of Nowruz)
 - Ashura
 - Tasua
- Saffron Harvest (the world's most expensive spice used in Persian cooking)
- Yalda (the longest night of the year and is renowned as a victory of light over darkness and of good over evil)

Iranians give gifts at various social occasions such as returning from a trip or if someone achieves a major success in their personal or business life

Under law adopted in 1983, four years after Iran's Islamic revolution, all women, regardless of faith or nationality, must conceal their hair with a headscarf in public and wear loose fitting trousers under their coats. Long dresses and skirts are also often worn by women during the summer and are accepted; however, they mustn't be see-through.

As for men, they wear collarless white shirts and long cloaks, secured around the middle by a cummerbund. Trousers must be long and sleeveless shirts are forbidden. However, t-shirts are accepted.