

# Semnan Province



Location of Semnān within Iran

**Semnan Province** (Persian: استان سمنان, *Ostān-e Semnān*) is one of the 31 provinces of Iran. It is in the north of the country, and its center is **Semnan**. The province of Semnan covers an area of 96,816 square kilometers and stretches along the **Alborz** mountain range and borders to **Dasht-e Kavir** desert in its southern parts.

The province was put as part of **Region 1** upon the division of the provinces into **5 regions** solely for coordination and development purposes on June 22, 2014

Counties of the province include **Semnan**, **Aradan**, **Damghan**, **Shahrud**, **Mehdishahr**, **Meyami**, **Sorkheh**, **Garmsar**, and **Shahmirzad** county. In 1996, the province had a population of about 501,000 (631,218 in 2011 <sup>[2]</sup>), and in 2005 Semnan city (the capital of the province) had a population of 119,778, and the city of Shahrud, which accounts for being the largest city of this province, had a population of 231,831

## Geography

The province is divided into two parts: a mountainous region, and the plains at the foot of the mountains. The former offers a scope for recreational activities as well as being a source for minerals, whereas the latter encompasses some ancient cities of Iran as one of the capitals of the **Parthian** empire was located there. In Semnan, people have local language with special words and slang. the base of this language which it derived from is Pahlavi language the ancient language form Parthian.

Neighbours are in the north **Golestan**, **Mazandaran**, at the west **Tehran**, **Qom**, at the South **Isfahan** and at the East **Khorasan-e Razavi**.

### Abr forest

This forest lies in the central province of Semnan, near its border with Golestan Province. It is one of the oldest forests in Iran which is a remnant of the third geological age. The Iranian

Roads Ministry's decision to build a road through the forest sparked widespread protests last year

The environmentalists, backed by the country's media, began a wide campaign against the ministry's decision, which finally led the Prosecutor General to order a halt in the construction of the road.

## Administrative divisions



This section's **factual accuracy** may be compromised due to **out-of-date information**. Please update this article to reflect recent events or newly available information.

| Map | Shahrestan | Map Key | Bakhsh                | Center     |
|-----|------------|---------|-----------------------|------------|
|     | Damghan    | D<br>a  | Central<br>Amir Abad  | Damghan    |
|     | Garmsar    | G<br>e  | Central<br>Eyvanak ey | Garmsar    |
|     | Aradan     | a       | Central               | Aradan     |
|     | Mehdishahr | m<br>,  | Central<br>Shahmirzad | Mehdishahr |

|  |   |           |           |         |  |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|---------|--|
|  | Semnan  | <b>S</b>  | Central   | Semnan  |  |
|  |   | <b>s</b>  | Sorkheh   | Sorkheh |  |
|  | Sorkheh   |           |           |         |  |
|  | Shahrud   | <b>Sh</b> | Central   | Shahrud |  |
|  |   | <b>bd</b> | Biarjmand |         |  |
|  |   | <b>m</b>  | Bastam    |         |  |
|  |   | <b>bm</b> | Mayami    | Mayami  |  |
|  | Mayami  |           |           |         |  |
|  | Neighbor Provinces: <b>E:</b> Esfahan, <b>G:</b> Golestan, <b>M:</b> Mazandaran, <b>NKh:</b> North Khorasan, <b>Q:</b> Qom, <b>RKh:</b> Razavi Khorasan, <b>T:</b> Tehran, <b>Y:</b> Yazd |           |           |         |  |

## History

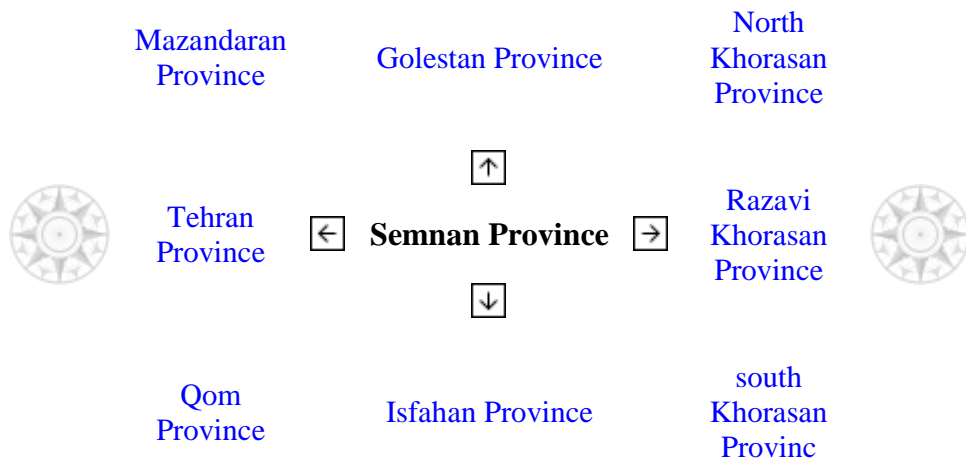
Semnan can be divided into sixteen sectors from the old days of [Avesta](#). During the [Medes](#) and [Achaemenid](#) periods, it accounted for being one of the largest provinces of the empire, and today it roughly corresponds to the borders of the ancient region of [Parthia](#).

During the Islamic era, Semnan was part of the historical region of *Gomess* or *Komesh*, and the [Silk Road](#) paved its way from the midst of this region. Needless to say, the province was witness to numerous wars.

The Cultural Historical Heritage Organization of Iran lists 470 sites of historical and cultural heritage such as palaces, forts, castles, [caravansarais](#), [ab anbars](#), and [badgirs](#), in Semnan. In addition to these there are various religious and sacred places as well.

## Orbital launch site

On occasion of the 10th anniversary of the 1998 [Kwangmyongsong 1](#) satellite launch attempt, program conducted by North Korea in close cooperation with Iran and [Pakistan](#), the [Iranian Space Agency](#) has proceeded with its own test. According to practice also observed by [North Korea](#), Iranian authorities announced to their Chinese allies on August 16, 2008 the imminent launch of a satellite. On August 17, 2008 on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Shiites' 12th Imam [Hazrat Mahdi](#), Iran proceeded as preannounced with the second test launch of a three stages [Safir](#) SLV from a site [35°14'5"N 53°55'15"E](#) south of [Semnan](#) in the northern part of the [Dasht-e-Kavir desert](#). Reza Taghizadeh, head of the Iranian Aerospace Organization, told state television "The Safir (Ambassador) satellite carrier was launched today and for the first time we successfully launched a dummy satellite into orbit". As reported in late 2009 and early 2010, a new, larger launch pad was under construction at [35°15'30"N 53°57'17"E](#)



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