

THE GOLD MINE



A Glance at Zarghan city Fars province, IRAN

*Mohammad Hossein Sadeghi
Hodhod Publication*

In The Name of Allah
The Compassionate, the Merciful

The Gold Mine
A Glance at Zarghan city
Fars province, IRAN

By:

Mohammad Hossein Sadeghi

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Our precious pearls

Loving homeland is an innate and natural charisma, because the land upon which one lives carries wishes, aims, emotions and all of his past memories. So, loving birthplace is one of the best divine loves which is higher than patriotism. This idea can be applied to the love of homeland and all of its samples and manifestations; therefore we love Zarghan because it is a part of IRAN and ancient Pars and also The World, and it is our duty to introduce our birthplace and native land to our dear valued guests as a religious responsibility and as a sincerely reception.

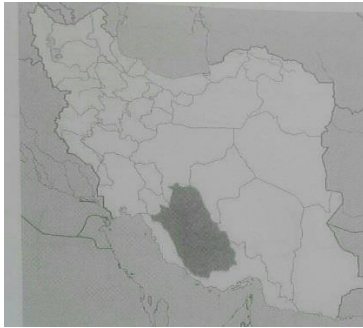
Those tourists who choose IRAN for sight-seeing are really wise, intelligent and cultural persons. We know our distinguished guests and welcome their arrival humbly. Those who prefer The Great IRAN to visit really choose the Golden Anthology of truth and virtues to overview, because their peaceful and fastidious hearts have chosen the glorious aspirations, pleasant sincerity, enliven values and graceful pure emotions.

We know our precious pearls and our honest and valued guests who are fond of peace and seek for a wellspring of a kind of Utopia (with a peaceful coexistence, law obedience, social discipline, humanistic art and literature).

We appreciate and welcome our dear guests who have chosen Iran and like to visit our ancient cities such as: Shiraz, Isfahan, Persepolis and also our ancient city: Zarghn of Fars.

Let's take a quick tour to Zarghan and previously accept our truthfully Thanks for your emotional attention:

A Glance at Zarghan/5



IRAN



Fars Province



Shiraz - Persepolis Road and location of Zarghan

Characteristics

Location / Population

Zarghan is located in Fars Province, (south-west of Iran) in the highway of Shiraz- Persepolis, with a distance of 25 kilometers from both sides and about 900 kilometers to Tehran. As most of Iranian cities, the language of Zarghan is Farsi (Persian with a southern accent) and its religion is Islam (Shia).

Zarghan's population is more than thirty thousands (in the city) and about forty thousands in suburb. It is noticeable that the non-living population who come to Zarghan for industrial and educational duties and other public services is about 22 thousands per day.

Iranian official subdivisions

To better understand Iranian official subdivisions the following short explanation may be helpful:

In Iran, each province consists of several counties (Persian: *shahrestān*), and each county (*shahrestan*) has one or more districts (Persian: *bakhsh*). A *bakhsh* usually consists of tens of villages with a central city. So a *bakhsh* is a type of administrative division in Iran. While sometimes translated as county, it is more accurately translated as "district" as they are similar to a township in the United States or a district in England.

Each district is governed and managed by *Bakhshdar* who is the head of *Bakhshdari* office, while each city is managed by Mayor who is selected by The Islamic Council of City whose members are elected by people. The year of establishment of Zarghan district (*Bakhshdari*) is 1317 (1938), Municipality is 1318 (1939) and governor's office (*farmandari*) is 1398 (2019). The county of Zarghan has two cities: Zarghan and Lapuee.

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Zarghan is an area of 826.5 hectares

Longitude: 52.42.58.1, Latitude: 29.457.22.7

Height from sea level: 1596 meters

Zarghan has a moderate climate with regular seasons.

During the past decades the migrating Turk tribes have settled in Zarghan and because of this settlement, zarghan has also a Ghashghae Turk population whose language is Turkish and Persian.

Zarghan has two residential sections: the old part of Zarghan is near the mountain and the new part is in the plain ground near the highway of Shiraz- Persepolis - Isfahan.

Etymology

The word “zarghan” is a combination of two words: zar + ghan. Zar in Farsi language means: Gold, And “ghan” is the Arabic form of “Kan” which means: mine ; so Zarghan means “The Mine of Gold” And this is the historical name of our city : Zarghan.

Although there hasn't been any Mine in this city, its name may be referred to its natural properties and geographical aspects and fertilized soil. It is mentionable that there are four places in Iran with the name of Zarghan one of which and the biggest one is our city.

Zarghoon is an ancient Farsi word that means: a green and flourishing place. This name is currently used in daily conversations by people, but its official name is Zarghan. It is important to say that the consonants GH (غ and ق) cannot be correctly pronounced by English speakers and some other nationalities.

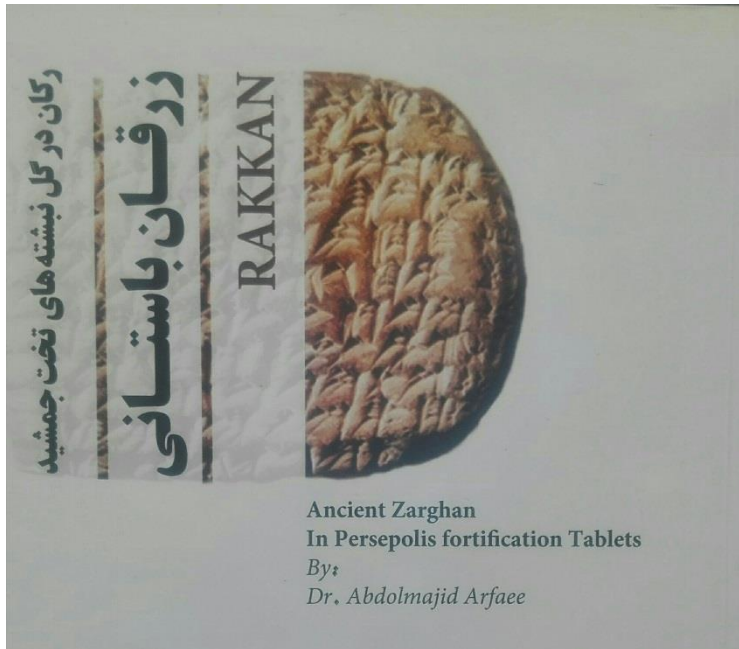
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The other ancient names of Zarghan are Zargan, zarkan and zargoan and may be written in English as: zarqan, zargan, but its official name is Zarghan.

Honorable past history

Zarghan in Achaemenid Empire

The earliest reference to Zarghan, as RAKKAN is on Bistoon Inscription and some Elamite clay tablets dated to 500 BC.



Bistoon Inscription

The text of this inscription was engraved in the breast of the Bistoon Mountain in Kermanshah province 522 BC by order of Darius, The Great. These texts relate to his triumphant wars one of which occurred in Zarghan. The Bistoon impression is an

A Glance at Zarghan/9

epigraph in three languages, named as, the ancient Parsi, Elamite and a Babylonian dialect.

According to professor Arfaee researches, the ancient name of zarghan "Rakkan" is mentioned in the Bistoon impression. In addition, the word "Rakkan" is repeated about 49 times in Persepolis fortification tablets which are the largest collection of ancient Persian cuneiform administrative texts, written between 506 and 497 BCE. They are very important sources for the study of the administration of the Achaemenid Empire and geographical cities of ancient civilization of Pars.

Post Islamic era

According to Iran History, two great, victorious and important wars happened in zarghan, one of them about 1200 years ago between Amroleyth Saffari and one of the Arab governors named Ahmad ibnabdolaziz And the second one between King Nader Afshar and one of the Afgan aggresseros named: Ashraf Afgan, and both wars ended with Iranian victories.

Little India

Besides agricultural productions and cattle raising, Zarghan had been a significant city for medical and surgery services, religious training schools, weaving: textile, rug, carpets centers, gun and gunpowder manufacturing, oil-pressing, soap making, tanning, shoe making, felt making... And because of these potentials and plenty of welfares productions and services, Zarghan had been a great local market for neighbor cities and villages and also nomad tribes, so it was known as Little India.

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In Islamic Revolution and Holy Defence

Zarghan was among the first cities which joined the Islamic revolution movements and had many outstanding activities before the victory of revolution. The small strict of Zarghan has offered 3 martyrs during revolution and 250 martyrs during 8 years of Imposed War and Holy Defense, about 100 tombs are in Nassimi graveyard in Zarghan and others are in villages.

Books and trip records

Many books and essays are written about Zarghan's culture, dialect, history, proverbs, tales and folkloric literature. In addition, some of tourists who traveled to Iran and visited our city have written their opinions about Zarghan in their books and records of trip.

Old sections of Zarghan

The old part of Zarghan has three residential sections: Lora or Mahall-e-Heydar, mahall-e-Miyan or Valli-ye-Asr and Jolahgoon or Mahall-e-Imam sajjad, each section has a public bath, a mosque and a Hosseyniyeh (or Mahdiyeh, or Zeynabiyeh). These are public places for religious purposes. Nowadays the public bath of mahall-e-Miyan is only available and the other bathes are closed because of destruction.

The people of Zarghan have endowed many gardens, houses and stores to local mosques (and other holy places) for their cultural expenses and religious programs.

Heydar Zarghani

It is remarkable that the name of Mahall-e-Heydar is taken from the name of Heydar Zarghani, one of the brave comrades of Lotfalikhan Zand, who was defeated and killed by Aga Mohammad Khan, the

founder of Ghajar destiny. Heydar Zarghani was also killed in a war in the city of Bam, in Kerman province about 220 years ago.

Taaziyah in Zarghan

Zarghan is a traditional city and has many distinctive traditions especially in religious aspects. One of the most traditional ceremonies of zarghan is Taaziyah performance. Taaziyah is a melodious tragic Drama especially concerning Imam Hossein (A.S.) and



his family and faithful comrades and their Martyrdom in Karbala at the year of 61 hegira. All of the dialogues and monologues of Taziyah are of passion poems and are recited as sorrowful songs with traditional music instruments Saz and Naghareh. (Two native music instruments).

Zarghan has three hosseyniehs (meaning: the house of Imam Hossein) in which the ceremonies of Taziye are held in month of Mohrrams and also may be used as a place for other religious programs.

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What make Zarghan distinguished from the similar ceremonies of IRAN is the vast tents of these places. Each tent is about 450 square meters and 150 Kilograms weight, supported by 4 tall piles of 15 meters height. These tents are elevated on 27th of Thee Al-Hijja¹ and are brought down on 15th of Moharram every year.

The Modern Zarghan

Industry

Zarghan is an industrial city of Fars province and about 24 percent of Fars industries are located in it, accordingly Zarghan is one of the richest Iranian cities.

Agriculture and modern cattle raising

Furthermore, Zarghan is distinctively important for its farming and modern cattle raising, so it is one of the main producers of meat and agriculture products in the south parts of Iran.

Another famous and important product of Zarghan is Grape that traditionally produced in dry farming method (without watering) in an area of 3000 hectares with about one million grape trees. The grape of Zarghan is very sweet and delicious. Two of the most important exports of Zarghan are raisin and Verjuice.

Town planning and urban green space

The city of Zarghan has one of the best town planning and architecture. Its urban green space is

1 - Thee Al-Hijja is the last and Moharram is the first Arabic month of year

about 64 hectares, Zarghan has several beautiful and equipped public great parks so it is one of the most beautiful cities in Iran. Zarghan's per capita green space is about 18.6%, obviously over the international scales.

Scientific and cultural aspects

Zarghan has two universities: Islamic Azad University with 5000 students and Payam-e-noor with 2000 students.

The Sarv Cultural Center (Farhangsara-ye-Sarv) is a municipally created public space for cultural advancement in Zarghan. This center with over 500 students of Art and literature has many various programs, especially in poetry, writing, photography, designing, Drama, English learning, computers, music, handicraft arts and astronomy. Zarghan has many poets, writers, artists and designers. Most of Zarghanians are educated and some of them live in west countries.

Sports

Some of the sportsmen (and women) of Zarghan have national and global sport Medals in fields of wrestling, weight lifting, gymnastics, running, power lifting and other sports.

Other potentials of Zarghan

Zarghan with Flourishing economic activities and its valuable potentials has a major role in self-efficiency. Some of them are listed below:

Refinery and chemical industries

Milk and dairy products company

The biggest chicken production center of the Fars province

Artificial insemination center for domestic animals

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The production center of Improved Seeds and young ornamental and fruit trees and greenhouse productions

The largest and the most important agricultural research center of the Province

Horse riding and training center

The construction of the largest apartment complexes

Implementation of the Rail Station plan (dock and passenger gates) and the intersection of the Trans-Iranian Railways

Passing the Urban Train of Shiraz – Persepolis near Zarghan, before long

Growing of safe and unsafe industries and employment

The safest water resources and the most fertilized soil

Zarghan Airport, for aviation training and rental aircrafts



Zarghan's Day Commemoration

And finally, the 20th of Ordibehesht (10th of May) is Zarghan's Day. At this day, a various social and cultural programs and activities is carried out by Zarghanians and official departments.

Social values

It is important to note that Zarghan is one of the safest cities in IRAN and has the minimum rate of crimes and social misbehavior according to official records.



Although the geographical position is one of the main vital factor of Zarghan's improvement, the noticeable characteristic and beneficial manner of Zarghanians is another important feature, because they are beneficent, diligent and law-abiding and public-spirited people and have an extraordinary stamina in their life and works, for instance, they have established many schools, mosques, sports ground, hospital and other non-profit public centers and also charity institutions. The people of zarghan principally are not careless and indifferent to their Fate and their common social interests.

Cultural Heritage possessions

Registered historical and ancient works

According to documents and statistics of cultural heritage organization of IRAN, there are 56 registered ancient works in Zarghan, some of them are:

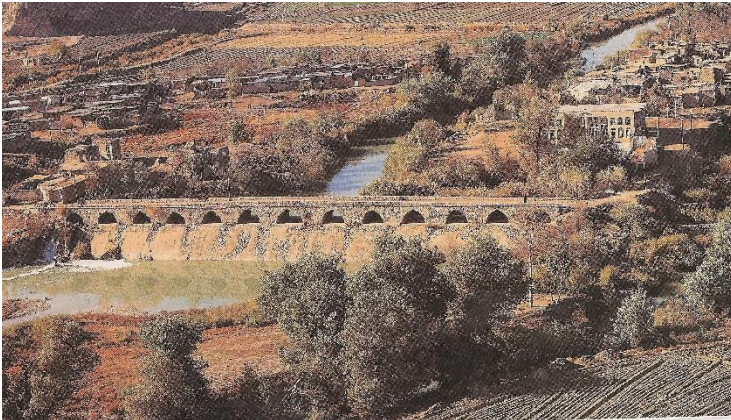
No.	Name	Registration code	Oldness
1	Houz mahi Qanat	20811	post Islamic era
2	Sayyed nassimi cemetery	20912	8th century (Hegira)
3	Zoorkhane (ancient sports place)	20908	Ghajariyeh
4	Zarghan cemetery	16140	?
5	Zaki khani Caravanserai	16040	Zandiyeh
6	Vaghefi's house	20906	Ghajariyeh
7	Public Bath of Mahale-ye-miyan	20907	Ghajariyeh
8	Shahzade ghasem cemetery Area	20758	Parthian – Sassanid

In addition to these eight works, there are 48 registered ancient works (including some caves, hills, bathes, qanats, bridges, cemeteries and old buildings in the villages of Zarghan one of which is Band-e-Amir Dam with a global reputation (its registration code is 902) except these historical and ancient works there hadn't remained any other structures due to destructive floods and wars in zarghan

Sight-seeing places of Zarghan:

Band-e-Amair Dam, Vaghefi,s house, the Tents of Hosseyniyeh(s) of Zarghan Only in Moharram Month, Hammam-e-miyan (the middle public bathe) , Zoorkhaneh (a place for ancient Iranian sports), Sabats (Passages with vaulted ceiling) , Nassimi mausoleum, national restricted wild life zone of Bamoo , zarghan qanats, houz-e-mahi and Zaki Khani Caravanserai².

Band-e-Amir



One of the most important villages of Zarghan is Band-e-Amir in the north-east of the Zarghan Mountain, and across the Korr River. Band-e-Amir as a very fortified dam and bridge is an important monument of the early centuries of Islam, related to the Azododoleh-ye-Daylami period. (About 1100 years ago).

2 - A caravanserai is a roadside inn built for men, goods and animals along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world. It is especially known to be linked with the trade routes along the former Silk Roads

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Thomas Moore, the Irish great poet has a romantic and nostalgic poem about it in his book named *Lalerokh* (tulip face). It is 15 kilometers from Zarghan to the village of Band-e-Amir; the starting point is the bridge near the Zarghan Mountain and the holy shrine of Imamzadeh Ghasem.

Houz-e-mahi and Showparaki

There are many aqueducts in Zarghan dated back to old civilization of Iran; two of them are called *houz-e-mahi* (the pool of fishes) and *Showparaki* (the nest of Bats). These ruined wells belong to pre-Islamic era. Zarghan has 8 qanat³ chains, the most well-known



chain is Mortaza Ali's Qanats which consists of 52 wells, the depth of first well is about 45 and the last one is about 12 meters. The underground length of this Qanat chain is about 2300 meters in a meandering route.

3 - A qanāt is a water management system used to provide a reliable supply of water for human settlements

A Glance at Zarghan/19

There are three of these holy springs (the pool of fishes) in Fars province one of which is near the tomb of great Iranian poet, Saadi Shirazi, in Shiraz

Sayyed Imadoddin Nassimi

The tomb of Sayyed Imadoddin Nassimi (or Nessimi) is in Zarghan. He is one of the famous mystic poets of Iran and Islam who martyred about 650 years ago. It's also said that his grave is in the city of Aleppo (Halab) in Syria. The 600th anniversary of Nessimi's birthday

was celebrated worldwide by UNESCO, and representatives from all countries took part in the celebrations held both in Azerbaijan and Moscow. UNESCO named the year 1973 as international year of Nasimi in gratitude for his humanitarian thoughts and also because of his endeavors and horrible martyrdom.



Sayyed Imadoldin Nasimi is one of the free-hearted poets and mystics of 9th century of hegira. There is no common opinion about the date of birth, place of birth, date of martyrdom and his place of burial. Based on some researches, he was martyred in 820 to 840 of solar year and a part of his body was buried in Zarghan of Fars.

The mausoleum and monument of Sayyed Imadodin Nasimi and his mother and brother's tomb

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(Sayyed Nasroldin) have been the shrine of people for centuries in Zarghan.

He has a lot of poems in Persian and Turkish languages.

Bamoo National Park



Bamoo National Park with about 48000 hectares area is one the most important protected wild zones of Fars Province which is located near Zarghan. The main native animals of this park are mountain wild goat, ram, wolf, fox, Leopard and many kinds of birds.

Holy shrines



There are three holy shrines in Zarghan, one of them is in the city, (called Shahzadeh Ghasem) at the beginning point of Zarghan Mountain, exactly at the west side of Shiraz-Persepolis highway, after the entrance bridge of Zarghan; and the other two shrines are in the villages of Zarghan.

Artificial Forest park

The largest artificial Forest park of Fars Province with 250 hectares is located in Zarghan, near the Petroleum Refinery.

Zoo

The largest zoo of the province, with a diversity of wild animals and birds is in Zarghan, in the highway of Shiraz- Persepolis.

Weaving Rush mat workshops



Weaving rush mat is an old handicraft in Zarghan. Rush is a kind of grass like water plants, its dried tall stems are used to weave straw mats. A big workshop of mat weaving is behind the Zarghan Mountain, about 2 kilometers from the Shrine in the highway.

Other handicrafts

The current handicrafts of Zarghan are Rug, Carpet and kilim weaving, Ceramics, Blacksmithing, Woodcrafts, straw weaving, Giveh making (giveh is a cotton thread shoes), and Halva Ardeh.

Zarghan, the Island of Halva Ardeh

One of the most famous and delicious gift of Zarghan is its Traditional halvah Ardeh.

Ardeh is taken from Sesame seeds (konjed in Farsi Language) in the form of paste, usually sweetened with sugar, honey or syrup of grape or date.



Halva varieties:

Konjedi (with sesame on both sides of it), Shekari (made with sugar), Keshi (elastic). Traditional halvah is made with sesame, but many regional recipes use semolina, pistachio or walnut.

Ardeh or Sesame butter

Sesame butter is a food paste made from ground roasted sesame seeds, and is mainly used with syrup or date. Traditionally, sesame butter was made with millstones, which create smooth sesame butter that can be considered as unprocessed raw food, while modern manufacturers often use grinding machines that overheat the seeds.

Important Telephone numbers:

Police: 110

Fire department: 125

EMS (emergency medical system): 115

Farmandari (governor's office): 07124222211

Municipality: 07124223030

Travelers guide and translator:

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We hope you have a good time in our country and city, we are very happy and thankful if you send us your memories and comments to www.hodhodiran.ir

With gratitude

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