

Semnan is a city in and capital of Semnan Province, Iran. At the 2006 census, its population was 124,999, in 36,298 families.

Semnan is located in the central northern portion of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The city of Semnan is a beautiful and unique municipality filled with recreational activities, historical and religious sites, festivals, gardens and parks, colleges and universities, and Semnani culture. The city serves as the cultural and political capital of the Semnan Province.

Geography

The city of Semnan is situated at 1,138 meters above sea level just south of the foothills of the Alborz Mountains, bordering the Kavir Desert to the south of the city. However, the Golrudbar river, which begins to the north of Shahmirzad, and other creeks have historically provided a reliable supply of water for a civil establishment; irrigation methods since ancient times have allowed the people of Semnan to drink clean water, to raise livestock such as cattle and sheep, and to adopt agricultural practices. Unlike modern day Tehran, the city of Semnan is relatively flat.

Climate

Semnan has a four-season climate, similar to that of Tehran, but with more extremes. Summers tend to be very hot and dry with average daytime temperatures hovering around 37 °C. Summertime thunderstorms are common; though often do not bring much rainfall. Meanwhile, the winters are cold and gusty, and occasionally wet. Semnan does witness snowfall, and the median amount of precipitation hovers around 232 millimeters. The average number of icy and below freezing days per year in Semnan is roughly 48 days according to Iranian Meteorology reports. The autumn and spring seasons are merely transitional seasons.

Post-Islamic Era

After the Muslim conquest of Persia, the religion of Islam was established within the city of Semnan. Though, unlike modern day Semnan, the people of the city originally practiced Sunni Islam, similar to the rest of early Islamic Persia. However, the institution of Sunni Islam did not last very long. The Alavids of Tabaristan had established a Shi'a Islamic emirate and upon conquering Semnan, brought the Zaidi Shi'a sect of Islam.