



Persepolis and Pasargadae

One of the most famous historical sites of Iran is definitely Persepolis.

Persepolis was constructed by the Persian king of kings Darius I Achaemenid. It was a center for a lot of celebrations and festivals. There are seven palaces in Persepolis and more than 3000 reliefs, including the relief of Farvabar, soldiers and lions.

Pasargadae was the capital of ancient Persia. It was founded by Cyrus the Great.

- They are both listed in UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- They are two of the oldest structures on the planet. They date back to 2,500 years ago.
- Persepolis is a Greek name. It means "the city of the Persians."
- The largest and most magnificent building in Persepolis is the **Apadana**. Darius started building it and Xerxes finished it. It took 30 years to complete.
- There were 72 pillars in Apadana palace but sadly these days only 14 of them are left.
- Darius I built the greatest palace at Persepolis on the western side of platform. This palace was called the Apadana.
- Pasargadae's most magnificent building is the tomb of Cyrus the Great. He was one of the greatest Iranian emperors. His empire included the modern Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Armenia, **Kuwait, Syria, Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and parts of Egypt.**
- Sadly, Cyrus Cylinder was taken away and is now kept at the British museum.
- After a battle between Darius III and Alexander of Macedon, the army of Alexander took the Persepolis and set it on fire. Sadly, the fire burnt and damaged a lot of the valuable parts of the palaces.



Azadi Tower

In 1966, 24-year-old architecture student Hossein Amanat won a competition to design a building to celebrate the 2,500th anniversary of the Persian Empire. It is now one of the most important symbols of Tehran.

If you take the stairs or elevator to the top, you can see several hexagonal windows set around the upper level which give an amazing view of Tehran.

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