

# Semnan

*The Land of historical events and edifices  
The Province which was cut by the Silk Road*

## Introduction

The province of Semnan with an area of 96816 sqkm is bordered from east by the province of Khorasan, from north Mazandaran and Golestan provinces, from west, Tehran and Qom provinces. The township of the province include: Semnan, Damghan, Shahrood and Garmzar. The center of province, Semnan, with 100000 population is located 220 km from Tehran and distance with interna-

tional waters of Persian Gulf and Caspian sea in turn is 1600 and 200 kms. This province include 4 townships, 12 districts, 16 cities and 28 villages.

### Population:

According to the latest statistic in 2001, population of the province are estimated to 558,000 persons that 73.5 percent were in urban area and 26.5 percent were rural dwellers.

### Historical geography:

Semnan province was one of sixteen divided of Avesta in the ancient era whole of the duration for government of Medes and Achaemenid. This province accounted as one of the biggest state for Partians. This state had good development in Sasanian era.

Semnan after the periods of Islam was a part of historical regions of Ghomes or Komesh

and this province was witness the wars, defeats and victories in the past.

**Handicrafts:**

Most important handicrafts of the province are:

Gilim (Short napped) woven coarse, Ceramic, Felt, Baked pottery, Wood Works, Carpet, Woven Burlap, Woven Works, Napped, Woven, Designed Nipken, Chint Woven.



**Pirealamdar Tower**

**Souvenirs:**

Damghan pistachio, Sponge Cake, Verjuice, Shahrood Grape, Tea Bread (mixed bread with milk and Komaj ), Shahmirzad Walnut, Dairy products (cream, butter, honey), Pomegranate, Melon, Figs, Dried Apricots, Plums of Shahmirzad Apricots, Engraved Table, Silk and Woven Carpet.

**Local Foods:**

Kinds of Soup, Potage, Kufteh (Baked and mixed rice and meat), Ghormeh Sabzy Stew (Vegetable Stew with meat).

**Infrastructural Facilities:**

The transit Highways which connect Europe, Iran, and Asian countries that pass through this province. Play an important role as connecting bridges between the northern and central & southern provinces of Iran and the Sea ports of the Persian Gulf, an active network of railways, post, telecommunication services, and center of universities are among the potential and advantages of the Seman province.

**Towns**

**Damghan**

The distance of this city from Tehran is about 335 km and is located in the center of the province. The historical monuments in this town are the Tarikhaneh mosque, Jame mosque, Emamzadeh seyed jafar complex, Peer-e-Alamdar old market in the center of the city and the historical and pleasure site of Cheshmeh Ali with 35 km from north of this town and the tower Mehmandoust in 15 km of south Estern Damghan caravansary. The Amirieh is another visual place near Damghan township that have been as a part of this township and have several monument.

**Shahrood**

This township lie east of the Semnan province. Shahrood is located in a far reaching and green space which is containing

of Shahrood, Bastam, Kalateh khij, Mojen and Mayami cities.

The distance between Shahrood and Tehran is 400 km.

The most important monument of this town are the Jame mosque,



**Tarikhaneh Mosque**

Sheikh Ali Akbar mosque, Agh mosque, chain Takyeh mosque, Shahrood market, public bathroom and anthropology museum.

About the other ancient and theosophical places in this township could be mentioned the historical Bastam complex, scientific school of Shahrokh-yeh, Jame mosque and kashaneh town and famous theosophist grave Bayazid Bastami and Sheikh Abulhasan Kharaghani.

This township beside these

have the Mayami, Dehmolla, Miandasht and Abass Abad caravansaray, Fromad jame mosque.

Each of them have a special characterica in historical and agriculture point of view.

Meanwhile the good weather and luxuriant forest of Abr, along forest and protected region of Tooran is the another

### Garmsar

This township is located in the west of the province. It's limited from north to Firooz Kooch and Damavand from west to Varamin and Qom, from south to the desert of Esfahan province. Garmsar is located in southern



**Arg e Semnan**

range of Alborz mountain a vast field that irrigation by Hableh river, this township are included Garmsar, Eivanekay and Aradan city and it's historical monument.

### Semnan:

It has been built in from north towards southern part in a vast field with heavy slope and include the cities of Semnan, Mahdishar, Shahmirzad and Sorkheh.

The city of Semnan is limited in east by Garmsar and west by Damghan city from north to

Mazandran province and Firooz kooch.

From south by kavir desert. This city is located on route of Tehran to Khorasan province both on the road and railway network. There are some historical monuments in this city such as:

Jame mosque, Hazrat bath(museum), Emam mosque, Arg gate, Sheikh Alaodolleh covered market, Noshirvani and shah Abbasi ahovan carvansaraies, Lasgard and Sarou Citaldel and Prophet tomb.

In the north part of this city Mahdishahr and Shahmirzad town are located which are countered as a significant producer of meat and dairy green land with cool and fresh weather that the other mentioned city have on their own.

### Jame Mosque of Seman:

Jame mosque of Semnan is one of the oldest historical monuments from Islamic era and indicator of growth and genius agriculture art near people of this city.

According to historical text it belongs to the 10th a.d century primitive building of this mosque belongs to the Islamic era which was extended in Saljugh, Ilkhani and Teymoori dynasties. This monuments include several agriculture spaces such as courtyard, large porch, western chamber and 3 prayers halls (northern, southern and eastern).



The large porch with high of 21m is an artistic from khajeh Shams -al din- Ali Balicheh Semnani who was Shahrokh Teymoorie's minister.

### Minaret of Jame mosque:

It is one of the most fascinating minarets of Semnan province, which is located on the northern part of jame mosque.

The length of this minaret from the ground is 31.2 m and there are an inscription that from the roof is 2 m high which have been decorated by kufic script and very beautiful bricks.

### Arg gate ( Darvazeh arg ):

This gate way is located at the cross road of Ayatollah Taleghani and Sheikh Fazlolah Nouri street in Semnan. is one of the historical, beautiful and worthwhile monuments of Semnan. The gate way of Arg has been established during the seign of Naseredin shah Ghajar.

The original building of the gate has been built by bricks with the hight of over 7 m. one



**Hazrat Bathhouse**

of outstanding part of this historical building is the significant door way which the historical legendary fight between Ros-tam and white demon depicting with pieces of seven colored tiles. The doors of the gate –way has made by thick planks with iron spikes.

**Pehneh and Hazrat bath:**

This bath is located between jame mosque and Emamzade-Yahya in Semnan, this bath have been built in 1445 A.D in the reign of Abol Qassem Barber Khan the king of Teimoorid monarchy under the order of his minister KhajehGhiyas-ed-din Bahram. During the reign of Mozafaredin shah in the year of 1881 A.D and under the order

of Haj Molla Ali Hakim Elahi delid with for repair and reconstruction of this building. one of the most important things of this bath is the beautiful doorway with tile works on it and on the upper side a poetical inscription in nastaligh script with professional and masterly had written.

**Lasjerd Shah Abbasi’s Caravansaray:**

This Caravansaray is located in the village of Lasjerd in Semnan and it’s building related to Shah Abbas Safavid I era.

This Caravansaray has two porches that are surrounded with 24 chambers around it. The two porches are in west and east side of the building and connected to the chambers.

**Saroo Castle of Semnan:**

These castle are located 10 km northeast of Semnan in a mountainous region of sarro and during the time some parts of north castle have been destroyed and is empty of resident.

South castle apparently have been 3 store that the first was for castles the second was for residence of peasantry and their families an the third one was contain of temple,bathroom and pantry for the residence of soldiers and great persons of castle.

**Historical Complex Of Bastam:**

The city of Bastam is located in 6 km from north of Shahrood with the care of historical books, according with saying this city in many times ago was the center of Qomes state.

Historical complex of Bastam include several historical monuments that each of them have it’s explain and chronical for itself and in a word the historical and valuable complex of Bastam is like key fruit in the heart of baked bricks in this city.

**Bayazid tomb:**

This tomb is located in the northern part of Emamzadeh Mohammad in Bastam city.

The tomb of this great Gnostic is very simple and without any trim. It seems never any structure like the great person made on it.

On his gravestone is a slab of marble that some saying from Emam Ali (AS) engraving on it.

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### Cheldokhtar Tower

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### Bastam - Abanbar

### The minaret of Bastam historical complex:

The historical brick spire of Bastam complex is located and enclosed to eastern side of the Bayazid mosque. According to kufic brick coping on the spire, it is made in year of 1593 A.D

### Jame Mosque of Bastam:

Not far from away to historical complex of Bastam and in the southern part of it Jame moque are located that it is a building from the seign of (Qazan Khan) era and it's agriculture belongs to the years of 1279-1258 A.D This mosque have two inscriptions on it that one of them have been written by it's founder in the time of making and the other when the time of (Fath Ali shah Qajar) era while repairing.

### Tower of Kashaneh Bastam:

This tower is located to east southern of jame mosque to Bastam Shahrood city the high of this tower from the inner part is 24 m and the outer part 20 m. That the outer shape of this tower is triacontahedral in the west eastern angle of this tower the phrase of ( in the name of God ) have written with beautiful thoulth script on a brick. Same orientalist believe this building is a relic from ( Qazan Khan Moghol) the original name was (Qazaneh) and during the time change to it's originate name(Kashaneh).



### Ebn Yamin Froumady tomb

### Ebn-E-Yamin Froumady tomb:

At the end of Froumad village a very beautiful building could be seen that is Ebn -e -Yamin tomb ( the great persian poemer) his date of birth was 1284 A.D.

### Sheikh Abolhassan Khara-ghani tomb:

The tomb of this famous poemer is located on the top of a hill in north of Kharaghan parts

from 24 km from Shahrood and the green space around this tomb give a special holiness to the tomb.

**Abbas Abad caravansaray:**

This caravansaray is located in village of Abbas Abad Shahrood and belongs to the Safavid era This caravansaray have 4 balcony and 32 chamber in front of center yard.

**Miandasht caravansaray:**

In the village of Miandasht three caravansaray exist, which are called altogether Shah Abbas Caravansaray one of this caravansary have been built in the first Shah Abbas era and 2 other have been built later. The used material in all of them is brick.

**Damghan Jame mosque:**

This mosque have located in the front of Haj Fath Ali’s school in Damghan. This mosque are included two-row columns that on the top of each column, round brick ceiling are exist. The founder of this mosque was Mirza Mohammad Khan Sepah-



**Cheshme Ali**

salar Damghani.

This mosque include two nocturnal prayers area that one of them located in the east and the



**Toghrol Tower**

other is in the west part.

East nocturnal pray part have been repaired recently and the west one was built again completely.

**Tarikhaneh mosque, Damghan:**

The building of this mosque is located in southern west of the city and is one of the most important which remained from the primitive Islamic centuries in Iran, someone believe the date of building this mosque goes back to the end of 2th century A.D. The name of this mosque consist of two words, the first one (tray) with meaning of (GOD) that it is a Turkish word. The mosque’s plan consist of onc gaudy yard that toward the Qeblah a hall with columns and the other three sides a series of porch are exist.

At the present time the columns’s hall have 7 vertical spout and 3 horizontal spout and the middle spout are higher than side and include the altar.

**Cheshmeh Ali:**

The spring situated 35 km from north of Damghan. During the regin of Agh Mohammad Khan and Fath Ali Shah very beautiful building have been built in Cheshmeh Ali Damghan the building of Cheshmeh Ali consist of two part one of them is related to the agriculture of Safavid era that was a guarding house which have been built by sun dried bricks and was in use during the Agh Mohammad Khan era. And the other is a two stories bricks building that have stone foundation and located into a nature lake and it’s related to the Fath Ali Shah era.



**Shah Soleiman Carvansaray**

**Other edifices are:**

- Chehel-Dokhtar dome Damghan
- Shah Abbasi caravansary
- Caravanseray's Dehnamak
- Bahram-e-Gou r edifice Building complex of siah kooh –e- Garmsar:
- Darband cave of Mahdishahr

**Shahmirzad:**

Shahmirzad is located 24 km to the north of Semnan. This town with natural and unique attraction is one of interesting regions of the Tourism.

The most important characteristic of this town is the pleasant and cool weather during the spring and summer season.

The natural and green landscape of Shahmirzad and have been surrounding in the mountains and proper climates and all of effective to the growth of cold region trees especially wal-

nut tree, all in all to cause the Shahmirzad being considered as an important walnut pole of Iran by FAO. The big walnut garden of Shahmirzad is an area about seven million m<sup>2</sup>.

**Cobblestone Silk Road:**

The caravans in their way of Isfahan – Sary high way and after passing of caravansary of Bahram's edifice confronted to the slough's, and salt lands of south Garmsar, so that with construction of cobblestone road with length 35 km and width 5 m, caravans reached them with easiest and fastest way to the next resort place.

This road still is stable and strength in the heart of Kavir with wishes to visit of world travelers and Iran visitors again.

Tooran Biospheric Nature Reserve

**Animal Distribution:**

With the care of ecosystem

diversity and plant coverage: to above mentioned region is relatively rich and in some species is one of the kind. This region have two important vertebrate animals population such as mammals and birds, which the explain for each of them would come to follow:

The Iranian Zebra is very much look likes donkey from the family of equiate. which the color on the top of the body is a mix of light brown and yellowish gray color and belly is white. they live in pasture and hilly desert and steppe.

The only and the best natural place for living of this important species is the Tooran biospheric nature reserve.

The duration life of this animal is estimated forty years and have not natural enemy but limitation for habitat water and prey is the most important reason of decrease their population number.

**Semnan Chamber of Commerce Industries and Mines:**

SECCIM is one of the 30 regional chambers was established in the year 1996 development of regional trade and industries. This Chamber is one of most active regional Chambers. Thanks to the Semnan's reach resources geographical positions and hard working people, ...

The Chamber has more than 400 active members.