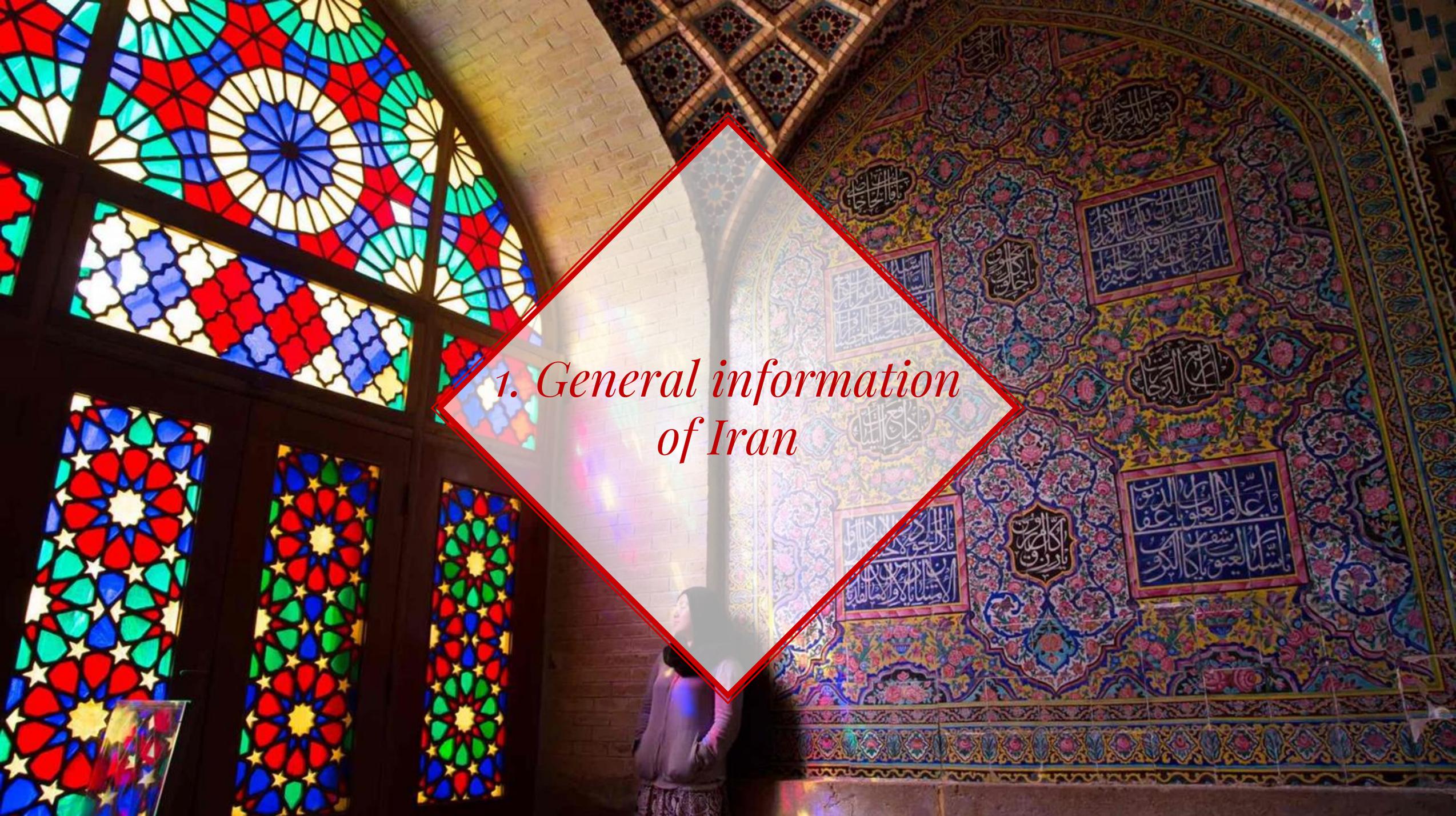
The background image shows the interior of a mosque, likely the Great Mosque of Samarra. It features a series of tall, slender columns with a distinctive ribbed or fluted design. The columns are arranged in a perspective that leads the eye towards a central point. The arches between the columns are filled with intricate geometric and floral tilework in shades of blue, green, and gold. A young child in a yellow shirt and dark shorts is running through the colonnade in the lower center of the frame, adding a sense of scale and movement to the scene. The lighting is warm and directional, highlighting the textures of the stone and the details of the tilework.

*Iran and the
Belt and Road
History and Prospects*

*Dr. Mehdi Fakheri
Consul General of Iran
Hong Kong and Macau*



*1. General information
of Iran*



Islamic Republic of Iran

- ◆ Political system
- ◆ Economic Structure
- ◆ Social life
- ◆ Foreign Policy
- ◆ Trade relations
- ◆ Belt and Road



General Information on Iran

Geography

Crossroad of Asia-Europe-Africa, located in West Asia, bordering with 15 countries, Caspian Sea in the north and Persian Gulf in the south.

Natural resources

Top world gas resources and world 3rd oil resources

Ethnic mosaic

Fars, Turks, Kurds, Arabs, Baluchs

Agriculture

Top world producer of pistachios, saffron and dates

Industry

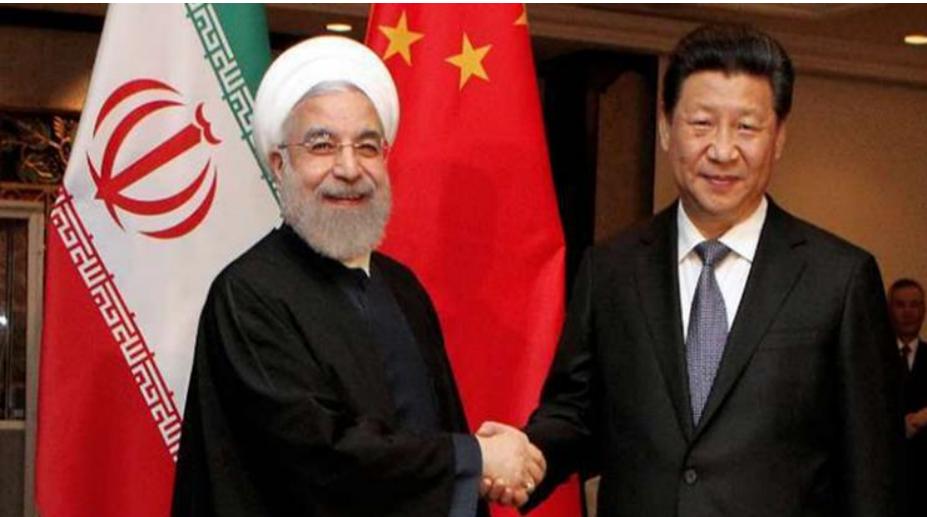
Energy sector, car industry, nanotechnology, IT

Religion

92% Shia, 7% Sunni, 1% others (Zoroastrians, Christians, Jews)



Foreign Policy





1.648.000 SKM

Territory

82 M, 47% under 30

Population

165 B/USD

Foreign trade (2014)

810 B/USD, 17th economy of the world

GDP(2016)

Political System

- ◆ From monarchy to presidential-parliamentary republic
- ◆ 9th parliamentarian election in 2016 and 12th presidential election tomorrow
- ◆ Non aligned foreign policy
- ◆ Regional integration Vs cleavage
- ◆ Political parties
- ◆ Civil society



Economic Structure

- ◆ Five Year Economic Plans
- ◆ Public, private and cooperative sectors
- ◆ Oil and its political economy
- ◆ Integration in global trade
- ◆ Membership in WTO
- ◆ Average custom duty 22%
- ◆ Average tax income 25% urban area, tax holidays in rural area and 4% tax in free ports
- ◆ Trade and investment opportunities



Foreign Trade

- ◆ Comparative advantage
- ◆ Main exports and imports
- ◆ Trade partners
- ◆ Trade diversion
- ◆ Foreign Direct Investment
- ◆ Tourism



Map of Iran's Free Trade Industrial Zones and Special Economic Zones



Banking and Stock Market

- ◆ Public and private banks
- ◆ Islamic banking
- ◆ Future market
- ◆ Insurance sector
- ◆ One of the most profitable stock markets and bonds
- ◆ Sanction challenges for financial sector
- ◆ Alternative banking



Belt and Road Initiative

- ◆ President Xi's trip to Iran in 2016 and 17 agreements
- ◆ John Tsang delegation to Tehran: MOU on Economic Cooperation and IPPA
- ◆ BRI evolving concept
- ◆ Food security
- ◆ Infrastructure projects
- ◆ Energy and industry
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Environment and sustainable development
- ◆ IT related services
- ◆ Cultural and academic cooperation



Food safety and security

- ◆ The importance of food security in BRI countries
- ◆ The concept of Halal food in Muslim BRI countries
- ◆ Development of food and drug standards
- ◆ Iran- HK- China trade in food products
- ◆ Investment projects in food sector



Infrastructure projects

- ◆ Expansion of Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz airports
- ◆ Modernization of Bandar Abbas and Chabahar port
- ◆ Downstream energy projects in Assaluyeh
- ◆ Petrochemical complexes
- ◆ LNG export plants



Transportation

- ◆ Aircrafts for civil aviation
- ◆ High speed trains from Tehran to Mashad, Isfahan, Shiraz and Tabriz
- ◆ Expansion of rail network
- ◆ Metro development in all major cities
- ◆ Tender for 630 metro wagons
- ◆ Shipbuilding and repairing projects in the Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea





Legal System

- ◆ The Constitution, Civil Code and property right
- ◆ Establishment of a company in Iran
- ◆ Labor Law, Taxing system, Insurance
- ◆ Trade dispute resolution
- ◆ Free ports and special economic zones





2. Iranian culture

Culture and Society

- ◆ Ethnic, racial and religious mosaic
- ◆ Cultural identity and integrity
- ◆ Social cleavages
- ◆ Philosophers: Avecena, Mollasadra, Allameh Tabtabaie, M>T> Jafari
- ◆ Persian literature (Sadegh Hedayat, Samad Behrangui, Jalal Al- Ahmad, Simin Daneshvar, Ali Shariati)
- ◆ Role of Science and technology



University and activities

- ◆ Free of charge tertiary education in public universities
- ◆ More than 250 public and private academic institutions
- ◆ 62% female students
- ◆ Foreign students in Iran
- ◆ Iranian students and scholars in Hong Kong and China
- ◆ Exchange programs and the trip of HK universities'



Love for Poetry and Music

- ◆ Barbed and Nakisa, ancient musicians
- ◆ Shajarian, Nazeri and Parisa 20th Cen.,
- ◆ Aghili and Ghorbani in XXI



Love for Poetry and Music (Cont'd)

Zachariah Razi,
Chemist and poet;
Khwarizmi,
astrologer and poet
(7th Cen.)



Rudaky,
founder of
Persian poetry
(9th Cen.)

Sa'adi sage
and poet
Golestan and
Bustan (12th
Cen.)



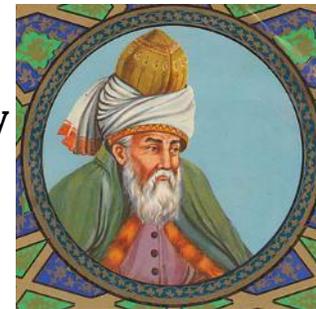
Hafiz (14th Cen.) *“What is the root of all these words? One thing: Love. But a love so deep and sweet it needed to express itself with scents, sounds, colours that never before existed.”*



Firdausi, reviver of Persian language in Shahnameh (10th Cen.) *“How shall a man escape from that which is written? How shall he flee from his destiny. – from “Shahnameh””*



Mowlavi and Shams-e-Tabriz founders of mystic and Sufi poetry (13th Cen.)



Malekol Shoara, Iraj Mirza (19th Cen.)



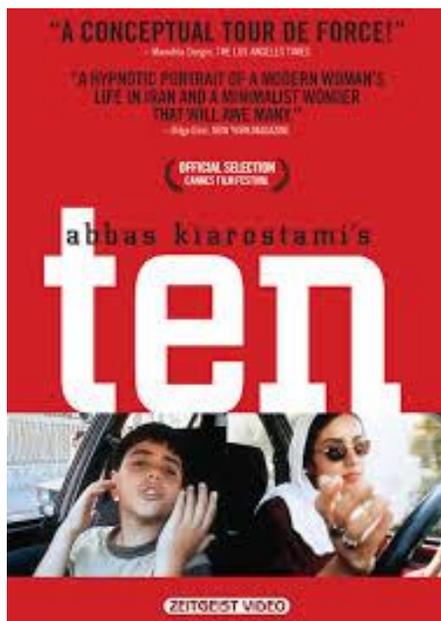
Cinematography-Well-known Directors and Movies

- Abbas Kia Rostami

(Close-up, Where is the friend's home?, Ten)

Trailer for Ten:

<http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x4jny2w>



- Asghar Farhadi

(About Elli, A Separation, The Past, The Salesman)

Trailer for A Separation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58Onuy5USTc>

Trailer for The Salesman:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKN5PBVLN8>



- Bahram Beizai

(Bashu, Killing Mad Dogs, Travellers)

- Dariush Mehrjoui

(The Cow, Hamoun, The Pear Tree)

- Ebrahim Hatami Kia

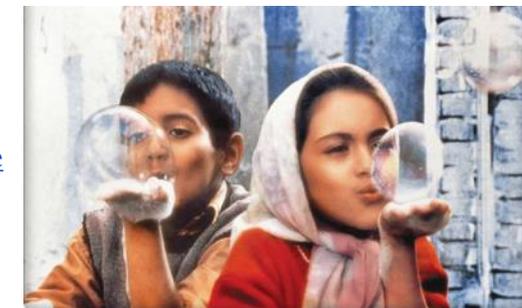
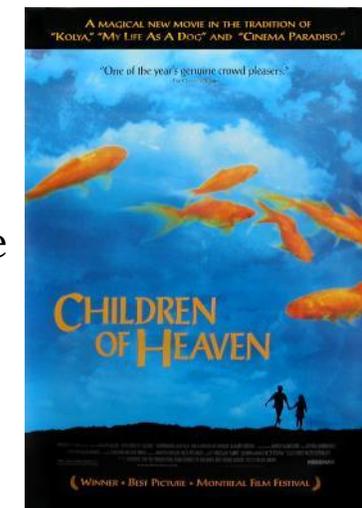
(The Mother, Glass Agency, From Karkheh to Karun)

- Jafar Panahi

(White Balloon, Children of Heaven, Taxi)

Trailer for Children's Heaven:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqxvZeQsVzY>



Sport

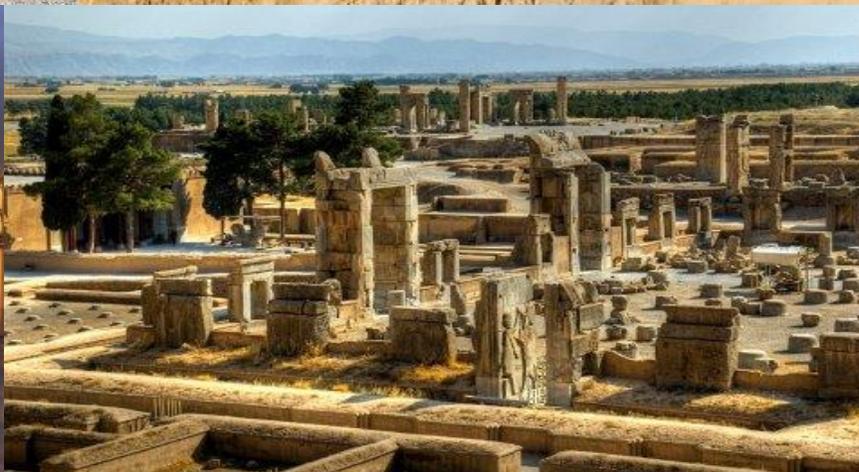
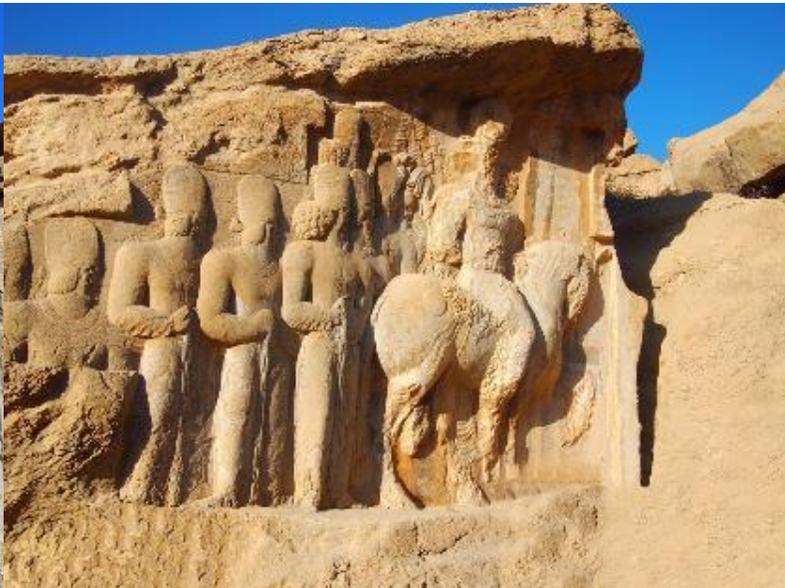
- ◆ World Champion in wrestling, weight lifting, rock climbing, karate
- ◆ Word No. 2 in Greco-roman wrestling
- ◆ Top world 3 in Taekwondo
- ◆ Top world 1 in female Wushu
- ◆ Asian champions of wrestling, Volleyball, football, weight lifting





3. Tourism-Cities in Iran

Historical Places



Nature of Iran- Eco-tourism



Religious Tourism

- ◆ Mashad
- ◆ Ghom
- ◆ Shiraz
- ◆ Rey



Health Tourism

- ◆ Affordable and attractive cost of treatments
- ◆ High level of professionalism and quality
- ◆ Video: Iran cashing in on medical tourism



“

Conclusion

- ◆ *Iran is an ancient civilization and a rich culture to interact with*
- ◆ *After several challenging years, the Iranian economy is opening up and welcomes investment and finance from Hong Kong and mainland China*
- ◆ *Belt and Road Initiative is an opportunity to expand socio-economic relations among developing countries*
- ◆ *BRI could become sustainable if all member countries are taken on board and contribute to make it an international organization*



Thank you!

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