



Ramsar, Iran

Ramsar (Persian: رامسر^[a]) is a city in the Central District of Ramsar County, Mazandaran province, Iran, serving as capital of both the county and the district.^[5]

History

In 1971, Ramsar hosted the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, also known as the **Convention on Wetlands**. This international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of designated wetlands (which under the treaty are known as Ramsar sites) was signed in and named after the city of Ramsar.^[6]

Overview

Ramsar lies on the Caspian Sea. It was also known as Sakhtsar in the past. The climate of Ramsar is hot and humid in summer and mild in winter. The proximity of the forest and the sea in this city attracts tourists in all seasons. Ramsar has an airport. The city of Ramsar was a small village in western Mazandaran until the Qajar period, and during the first Pahlavi period, with the rule of Reza Shah and with the support of the government, it became a beautiful city with many tourist facilities.

Ramsar is the westernmost county and city in Mazandaran. It borders the Caspian Sea to the north, Rudsar county of Gilan province to the west, Qazvin Province to the south, and Tonekabon to the east.

Ramsar

Persian: رامسر

City



Motto: The Paradise on Earth (Behesht-e rooy-e Zamin)



Location of Ramsar in Iran



Ramsar (Caspian Sea)

Coordinates: [36°55′21″N 50°38′35″E](#)^[1]

Country	Iran
Province	Mazandaran
County	Ramsar
District	Central

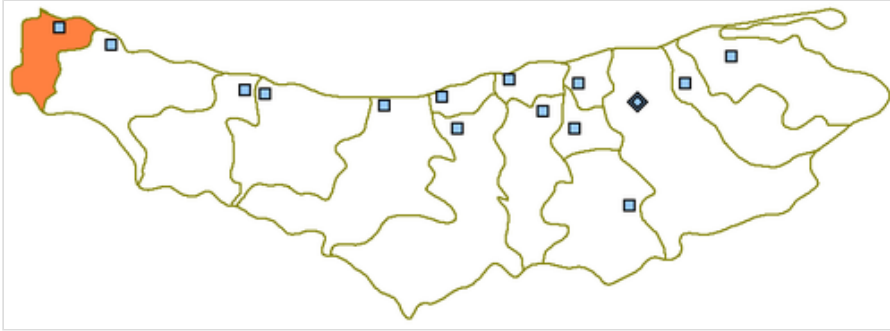
Government	
• Mayor (Šahrdār)	Ali Aminishad ^[2]

Elevation	−21 m (−69 ft)
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Population (2016) ^[3]	
• Total	35,997

Time zone	UTC+3:30 (IRST)
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Website	www.sh-ramsar.ir/%20Sh-Ramsar.ir (http://www.sh-ramsar.ir/%20Sh-Ramsar.ir)
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Map showing position of Ramsar county as well as Ramsar city in Mazandaran province

Demographics

Language and ethnicity

The Gilaks form the majority of the city's population. Their dialect of Gilaki is similar to that found in eastern Gilan and belongs to the Eastern or Bie-Pish branch.^{[7][8][9]}

Population

At the time of the 2006 National Census, the city's population was 31,659 in 9,241 households.^[10] The following census in 2011 counted 32,294 people in 10,432 households.^[11] The 2016 census measured the population of the city as 35,997 people in 12,153 households.^[3]

Geography

Climate

Ramsar has a humid subtropical climate (Köppen: *Cfa*, Trewartha: *Cf*), with warm, humid summers and cool, damp winters. Ramsar is the cloudiest city in Iran, as well as one of the cloudiest cities of this latitude, with annual sunshine of around 1582 hours. Northern Iran, as well as most portions of Iran, is separated by mountains. As a result, the air in Tehran is very dry. When driving to Ramsar from Tehran, one drives up the mountains until arriving at a tunnel. On passing through this tunnel and coming out the other side, the environment is very different; it is more humid and green due to moisture from the Caspian Sea, and this abundance of mist and rain is part of the attraction for tourists from the desert zones of Iran.^[12]

Climate data for Ramsar (1955–2010, records 1955-2020)													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	31.0 (87.8)	28.4 (83.1)	36.8 (98.2)	37.0 (98.6)	34.4 (93.9)	38.0 (100.4)	35.6 (96.1)	35.6 (96.1)	35.2 (95.4)	37.0 (98.6)	32.0 (89.6)	29.0 (84.2)	38.0 (100.4)
Mean daily maximum °C (°F)	10.9 (51.6)	10.6 (51.1)	11.9 (53.4)	16.4 (61.5)	21.4 (70.5)	25.9 (78.6)	28.6 (83.5)	28.8 (83.8)	25.8 (78.4)	21.8 (71.2)	17.3 (63.1)	13.5 (56.3)	19.4 (66.9)
Daily mean °C (°F)	7.4 (45.3)	7.3 (45.1)	9.1 (48.4)	13.3 (55.9)	18.2 (64.8)	22.6 (72.7)	25.2 (77.4)	25.4 (77.7)	22.7 (72.9)	18.4 (65.1)	13.7 (56.7)	9.8 (49.6)	16.1 (61.0)
Mean daily minimum °C (°F)	4.0 (39.2)	4.1 (39.4)	6.3 (43.3)	10.1 (50.2)	14.9 (58.8)	19.2 (66.6)	21.7 (71.1)	22.0 (71.6)	19.5 (67.1)	15.1 (59.2)	10.1 (50.2)	6.1 (43.0)	12.8 (55.0)
Record low °C (°F)	−10.0 (14.0)	−6.0 (21.2)	−3.0 (26.6)	0.0 (32.0)	5.0 (41.0)	9.0 (48.2)	10.8 (51.4)	16.0 (60.8)	10.0 (50.0)	5.0 (41.0)	−1.2 (29.8)	−2.0 (28.4)	−10.0 (14.0)
Average precipitation mm (inches)	78.4 (3.09)	73.5 (2.89)	85.2 (3.35)	53.3 (2.10)	46.1 (1.81)	57.9 (2.28)	38.0 (1.50)	65.4 (2.57)	161.5 (6.36)	260.2 (10.24)	177.4 (6.98)	109.3 (4.30)	1,206.2 (47.47)
Average precipitation days (≥ 1.0 mm)	9.0	8.7	11.0	8.3	7.3	4.9	3.9	6.6	8.6	11.6	9.2	8.8	97.9
Average snowy days	0.8	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.6
Average relative humidity (%)	84	85	87	86	84	81	79	81	84	85	84	84	84
Average dew point °C (°F)	4.9 (40.8)	4.8 (40.6)	7.1 (44.8)	10.8 (51.4)	15.8 (60.4)	19.3 (66.7)	21.4 (70.5)	21.8 (71.2)	19.7 (67.5)	15.8 (60.4)	10.5 (50.9)	6.8 (44.2)	13.2 (55.8)
Mean monthly sunshine hours	105.6	97.1	92.7	119.7	165.5	189.6	188.9	168.7	126.1	119.1	111.1	98.2	1,582.3
Source 1: IRIMO ^[13] (records) ^{[14][15]}													
Source 2: NOAA(dew point 1991-2020) ^[16]													

Radioactivity

Ramsar's Talesh Mahalleh district is the most radioactive inhabited area known on Earth, due to nearby hot springs and building materials originating from them.^[17] A combined population of 2,000 residents from this district and other high radiation neighborhoods receive an average radiation dose of 10 mSv per year, ten times more than the ICRP-recommended limit for exposure to the public from artificial sources.^[18]

Record levels were found in a house where the effective radiation dose due to external radiation was 131 mSv/a, and the committed dose from radon was 72 mSv/a.^[19] This unique case is over 80 times higher than the world average background radiation.



Two survey meters show dose rates of 142 and 143 $\mu\text{Sv/h}$ on contact with a bedroom wall.

One of the most commonly used models of radiation-induced cancer posits that the risk rises linearly with dose at a rate of 5% per Sv.^[20] If this linear no-threshold model is correct, it should be possible to observe an increased incidence of cancer in Ramsar through careful long-term studies currently underway.^[18] Early anecdotal evidence from local doctors and preliminary cytogenetic studies suggested that there may be no such harmful effect, and possibly even a radio-adaptive effect.^[21] More recent epidemiological data show a slightly reduced lung cancer rate^[22] and non-significantly elevated morbidity, but the small size of the population (only 1800 inhabitants in the high-background areas) will require a longer monitoring period to draw definitive conclusions.^[23]

Furthermore, there are questions regarding possible non-cancer effects of the radiation background. An Iranian study has shown that people in the area have a significantly higher expression of CD69 gene and also a higher incidence of stable and unstable chromosomal aberrations.^[24] Chromosomal aberrations have been found in other studies.^[25] Pending further study, the potential health risks had moved scientists in 2001–02 to call for relocation of the residents and regulatory control of new construction.^{[26][27]}

The radioactivity is due to the local geology. Underground water dissolves radium in uraniferous igneous rock and carries it to the surface through at least nine known hot springs.^[21] These are used as spas by locals and tourists. Some of the radium precipitates into travertine, a form of limestone, and the rest diffuses into the soil, where it is absorbed by crops and mixes with drinking water. Residents have unknowingly used the radioactive limestone as a building material for their homes. The stone irradiates the inhabitants and generates radon gas which is usually seen to promote lung cancer. Crops contribute 72 µSv/yr to a critical group of 50 residents.^[28]

Environmental protection

The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 160 contracting parties to the convention, with 1920 wetland sites, totaling 1,680,000 square kilometres (650,000 sq mi), designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Presently, there are 160 contracting parties, up from 119 in 2000 and from 18 initial signatory nations in 1971.^[29] Signatories meet every three years as the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), the first held in Cagliari, Italy, in 1980. Amendments to the original convention have been agreed to in Paris (in 1982) and Regina, Canada (in 1987).^[30]

Tourism

Ramsar is a popular sea resort for Iranian tourists. The town also offers hot springs, the green forests of the Alborz Mountains, the vacation palace of the last Shah, and the Hotel Ramsar. Twenty-seven kilometres (17 mi) south of Ramsar and 2,700 metres (8,900 ft) above sea level in the Alborz mountains is Javaher Deh village, which is an important tourist attraction in Ramsar county. The road from Ramsar to Javaher Deh connects the city to Safarood forest park.^[31]



The front yard of the old hotel of Ramsar in 1973

Twin towns and sister cities

Ramsar is twinned with:

-  Puerto Montt, Chile (Since 28 January 2009)
-  Al Wakrah, Qatar (Since 14 June 2010)
-  Shiraz, Iran (Since 9 January 2013)

Notable people

- Mohammad Reza Khalatbari (b. 1983) - Football player

- Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei (b. 1960) - Politician
- Hossein Khalatbari (1949-1985) - Iranian fighter pilot
- Elika Abdolrazzaghi (b. 1979) - Cinema, stage and TV actress
- Mohammad-Ali Taskhiri (1948-2020) - Iranian cleric and diplomat
- Rahim Ebadi (b. 1957) - Politician

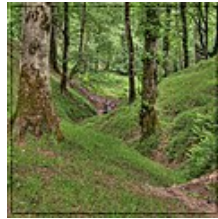
Gallery



The Old Hotel of
Ramsar



The desk of
Mohammad Reza
Shah



Dalikhani Forest



Marble palace in
Ramsar



Ramsar Hotel



Javaher Deh



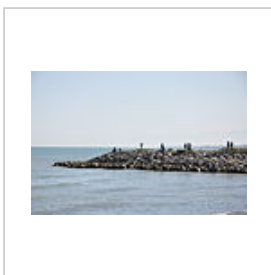
A walkway in front of
the old hotel



Dalikhani Forest



A palace in Ramsar



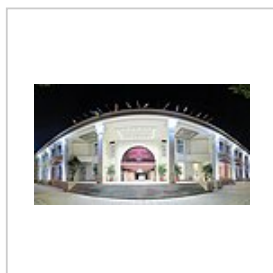
Ramsar Caspian coast



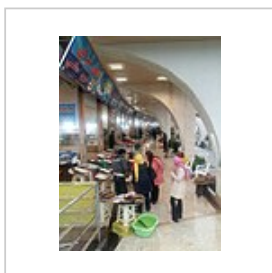
Ramsar Bridge



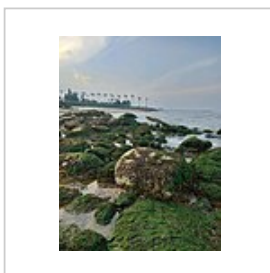
Ramsar Bazaar



Ramsar International Shopping



Ramsar Fish Market



Ramsar seaside

See also

- [Rejuvenation \(aging\)](#)
- [Background radiation](#)
- [Banana equivalent dose](#)
- [History of Iran](#)
- [Tourism in Iran](#)
- [International rankings of Iran](#)
- [Chalus](#)

 [Iran portal](#)

Notes

- a. Also [romanized](#) as **Rámsar**; also known as **Ránsar**; formerly **Sakht Sar**^[4]

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External links

- Ramsar's tourism (<http://www.irantour.org/Iran/city/RAMSAR.html>) Archived (<https://archive.today/201205>

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- Ramsar's radioactivity (http://www.ecolo.org/documents/documents_in_english/ramsar-natural-radioactivity/ramsar.html)
 - Photos of Ramsar (Permission to use and copy these photos is hereby granted provided the above copyright notice appears in all the copies and modified versions of photos.) (http://www.intercaspian.com/photobank/ir/mazandaran/pb_mazandaran1.html)
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