

Ali Mousavi (dir.). The Archaeological Gazetteer of Iran. An Online Encyclopedia of Iranian Archaeological Sites

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Ali Mousavi (dir.). *The Archaeological Gazetteer of Iran. An Online Encyclopedia of Iranian Archaeological Sites*. Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World, UCLA, 2021–
<https://irangazetteer.humspace.ucla.edu/>

- 1 Launched in the spring of 2021, the project is directed by Ali Mousavi (UCLA-Pourdavoud Center for the Study of the Iranian World), with the support of Rahim Shayegan, Professor of Iranian and Director of the Pourdavoud Center, and Marissa Stevens, Assistant Director of the Pourdavoud Center. The project benefits from an Advisory Board and an International Scientific Committee of specialists for each of the major periods (see the list in the “About us” section, “Scientific Committees” tab). This website aims to identify and describe the archaeological sites of Iran between prehistory and the 14th century AD. It also includes some archaeological sites outside the present-day borders of Iran that were important in a province included in one of the Iranian empires (e.g. Achaemenid Ain Manawir in Upper Egypt). Whether it is a large excavated site (e.g. Bishapur) or a series of rock burial niches studied without fieldwork, each entry follows the same structure: name, location, geographical coordinates, history and description, archaeological work or study, maps and drawings, illustrations, and bibliography in foreign languages and in Persian. Depending on the information available and the importance of the site, some entries have several pages and several illustrations, while others are very brief.

- 2 This very remarkable project will become more interesting as more entries are added. By the end of 2022, the Gazetteer had almost 100 entries and will increase by several dozens in the current year. The interactive map displays the distribution of the sites already inventoried. Another interest to be underlined is the diversity of the authors of the entries, from all countries, including of course several Iranian archaeologists working in the country, according to the work they have carried out or are currently carrying out. The participation of Iranian archaeologists makes it possible to keep the bibliography up to date and to include publications in Persian.
 - 3 Another very useful tool is the direct access to digitized publications, currently more than 100, including many articles in Persian, old or new, in journals and collective works published in Iran, which are often not very accessible outside Iran. The site also lists a dozen or so online resources, some of which are well known to professionals and students alike.
 - 4 We wish this website every success and hope that it will quickly become a unique, indispensable and lively source of information on Iranian archaeology and its latest results.
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