

Iranian World

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The Last Lions of Bakhtiyaris

The word 'Bakhtiyari' currently means the region and the people, which represent the majority of the nomads of Iran. The Bakhtiyari people live along the Zagros mountains in South-West Iran. They are Shi'ite Muslims and speak Lori, a south-western Iranian language. Several other tribes of this region live nearby. Bakhtiyari territory is actually found between parallel mountains which run Northwest to Southeast, the highest peak, the Zardkuh, reaches an altitude of 4548 metres.

Their summer pastures contain the country of the Farsan de Borudjen, de Lorde, d'Aligudarz, de Daran, and de Fereydunshahr.

The largest plains of their winter pastures include the Lali plain (1073km²) and the Ardika plain (2480km²).

The population of Bakhtiyari territory divided into Seven Lang (Haft Lang) and Four Lang (Chahar Lang), and including sedentary nomads, is according to the census of 1986, 1,627,000 inhabitants.

Nomadic population: 235,000

Urban population: 598,000

Rural population: 794,000

(This represents an approximate translation of the opening text for the film 'Last Lions of Bakhtiyaris'- Evangeline Tabor 2015)