

Map 92 Ecbatana-Susa

Compiled by A. Hausleiter, E.J. Keall and M. Roaf, 1997

Introduction

The area covered by the map lies in Iran—except for the top left and bottom left corners, which are in Iraq. The main feature is the band of parallel mountain ridges running from north-west to south-east (part of the Zagrus chain: see further Map 3 D2). These make it difficult to cross the mountains from the Babylonian and Elamite plains in the south-west to the desert region south of the foothills of the Alburz mountains at the top right of the map. Though impossible to mark with precision, there was nonetheless a major route through these mountains. This is the Great Khorassan Road, part of the “Silk Road,” which from prehistoric times provided a link between the Mesopotamian plains and the resources of the Iranian highlands. As early as the Parthian period, traders and diplomats used it to travel between the Near East and China. In the first century A.D., the settlements and districts along it were recorded in Isidore of Charax’s *Parthian Stations*—Chala, Karina, Kambadene, Concoabar, Ahmadian, Rhaga(i), and thence to central Asia and beyond. East of Concoabar, there were alternative routes around the Alvand mountain. Further routes ran parallel to the Zagrus ridges, leading north-west to Media Atropatene (Map 90) and south-east to Susiana and Persis (Maps 93, 94); other, more difficult routes allowed contact between Susiana and the highland areas to the north and east.

The relative emptiness of most areas of the map reflects not so much absence of ancient settlement as the lack of detailed, published archaeological survey work. It is true that the highest parts of the mountains have only ever been used as summer pastures for transhumant tribes, while the inhospitable waterless desert of central Iran (the western edge of which appears here) has never sustained more than a minimal population. It may be confidently predicted, however, that future survey in the valleys and plains between, and to the east of, the steep ridges of the Zagrus chain will identify ancient settlements—some of them in all likelihood with substantial populations, because there is certainly sufficient rainfall here for the cultivation of cereal crops.

Changes in the physical landscape since classical times have yet to be studied in great detail. The courses of the rivers in the low-lying plains have always been subject to movement, and these are discussed in the Introduction to Map 93. The extent and character of the lakes and salt-marshes in the eastern part of the map vary from season to season and from year to year.

The major cities Susa, Ecbatana and Rhaga(i) remained important from the Achaemenid to the Sasanian periods. Also marked are a few other cities which can be identified either through archaeological discoveries or through texts; the latter include Arab geographers who include information about earlier periods. Otherwise textual information about this area is sparse. It is impossible to identify most of the places mentioned by Pliny, Ptolemy and other classical authors, and there are very few indigenous inscriptions of classical date that offer any useful geographical information. Many of the names that are recorded in Greek and Latin texts seem to be erroneous.

Despite difficulties of dating, the Chahar Taq (Four Arch) monuments found in the Zagrus mountains are marked (A2–B3; note also Map 94). These buildings, which include four arches supporting a dome, are thought to have been fire-temples built by the Zoroastrian population in the Sasanian and Islamic periods. All those known are marked, even though in fact some may have been built after the rise of Islam (EncIr 4, 634–38). A further problem with several of these monuments is their remote location, which has prompted contradictory reports by travelers and archaeologists; hence the use of a hollow symbol in these instances. A similar uncertainty about dating applies to the bridges marked; they are normally assigned to the Sasanian period, but may be later.

Today, tribal groups such as the Kurds, Lurs and Bakhtiari dominate the Zagrus mountains. To locate similar tribes mentioned in ancient texts is difficult. This is partly because the tribes were (and are) transhumant, spending the winters in the lower-lying plains and the summers in the mountain pastures; partly, too, because tribal groups have often moved from one region to another; and partly because different groups are given similar names, although

in Greek and Roman texts these may in fact be merely descriptive (thus Scenitae, “tent-dwellers”). For these reasons it has proved impossible to mark names of tribes on the map.

The location and extent of different regions or districts must be regarded as approximate for the most part; for the Sasanian period, they are based on Gyselen (1989).

Directory

All place names are in Iran unless otherwise noted

Names

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
D2	Achmeta = Ecbatana Ahmadan = Ecbatana Albania = [Hulwan] Alvand/ Orontes/ Oroandes M.	CH	Kuh-i Alvand	RE Orontes 1; Herzfeld 1968, 237
D1	Amardos fl.			See Map 90
B4	Apamea		IRQ	See Map 93
A4	Archous? fl.		IRQ	See Map 93
G4	Arsakia = Rhaga(i) Aspadana/ (I)Spahan/ Gay/ Gabai? § Gabene	ACHRL	Isfahan Shahristan district	RE Gabai; RE Gabiene; Engels 1978, 77 (n. 28)
G4	<i>Ateshgah</i>	L?	in western suburbs of Isfahan	Schippmann 1971, 460-65
C2	<i>Baba Jan tepe</i> [Badra] = Deru	AC		EncIran
C2	Bagistana = <i>Bisutun</i> Bagistanus M. Baptana = <i>Bisutun</i> Bendosaboron = [Jundishapur] Beth Daraya = Deru Beth Lapat = [Jundishapur] Beth Lashpar = [Hulwan]	ACHR	Bisitun	EncIran Bisotun
C2	<i>Bisutun</i> / Bagistana/ Vastan?/ Baptana	ACHRL		RE Bagistana; Herzfeld 1968, 13-14; Gyselen 1989, 54
H1	Caspiae Portae?	CHR	near Aivaneki, Sar Darreh pass	RE Portae Caspiae; Hansman 1968, 118-19; Engels 1978, 81-83
G1	<i>Chal Tarkhan-Eshqabad</i>	L?		Kröger 1982, 201-202; Kleiss 1987a; EncIran Cal Tarkan
B3	Chala = [Hulwan] <i>Changiyeh</i> Concobar = [Kangavar]	L?		Vanden Berghe 1977, 182-84; 1984, 216
D2	<i>Deh Bozan</i>	C?H?		Huff 1989; Mousavi 1989
C2	<i>Deh-i Nol</i> <i>Sakavand</i>	C?H?		EncIran Deh-e Now; Huff 1999
C2	Denabaran/ Dinawar	H?R?L?	Dinavar?	EncIran Dinavar; Lushey 1996

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
A3	Deru/ Beth Daraya/ [Badra]	ACHRL	Badra IRQ	Herzfeld 1968, 42 (n. 3); Fiey 1968, 42
D4	Dez/ Hithite/ Hudhud/ Koprates? fl.		IRN / IRQ	See Map 93
D4	<i>Dezful</i> [Qantara al-Rum]	RL		Le Strange 1905, 238
A1	'Diabas' / Turnat fl. Diglitis fl. = Tigris fl. Dinawar = Denabaran		IRN / IRQ	See Map 91
A2	<i>Dukkan-i Daud</i>	C?H?		EncIran Dokkan-e Dawud
D2	Ecbatana/ Hagmatana/ Achmeta/ Epiphaneia/ Ahmadan	ACHRL	Hamadan	RE Ekbatana 1 (cf. RE Apobatana); EncIran Ecbatana; Sarraf 1997
D4	Elymais/ Susiana Epiphaneia = Ecbatana Eran-asan-kar-Kavad? = <i>Harsin</i> Eran-Khurra-(kard-) Shapur? = <i>Ivan-i</i> <i>Karkheh</i> Eran-vinard-Kavad = Goyman Eulaeus? fl. = <i>Karkheh R.</i> Eulaeus? fl. = <i>Saimarreh</i> <i>R.</i> Europos = Rhaga(i)			See Map 93
D2	Gabai? = Aspadana <i>Ganj Nameh</i> Gay = Aspadana	C	rock inscription	Kent 1950, 111-13, 147-52
A2	<i>Gilan Gharbi</i>	L?		Vanden Berghe 1977, 182-84; 1984, 216
D2	<i>Godin tepe</i>	AC		Young 1974
F2	Goyman/ Kumandan/ Eran-vinard-Kavad	R?L	Qom	Gyselen 1989, 73
F3	Gurbayigan/ [Jurbadhakan]	RL	Gulpaygan	Le Strange 1905, 210
C2	Hagmatana = Ecbatana <i>Harsin</i> Eran-asan-kar-Kavad? Hithite fl. = <i>Dez R.</i> Hudhud fl. = <i>Dez R.</i>	R?L		Huff 1985; Gyselen 1989, 45-46
A2	[Hulwan]/ Valashfarr/ Beth Lashpar/ Chala/ Albania § Chalonitis	ACHRL	Sar Pol-i Zohab IRQ	IsidChar 3; Herzfeld 1968, 12; Oppenheimer 1983, 146-49
H1	Iasonius? M. (I)Spahan = Aspadana	HRL	Kuh-i Damavand	Strabo 11.13.10; Ptol. 4.2, 4.6; AmmMarc 23.6.28; EncIran Damavand

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
D4	<i>Ivan-i Karkheh</i> Eran-Khurra-(kard-) Shapur?/ Karkha de Ladan	RL		CHI 3(2), 753; Oppenheimer 1983, 77, 431-32; Gyselen 1989, 75; 1994
B2 D4	<i>Jameh Shuran</i> [Jundishapur]/ Veh-Andiyok-Shapur/ Beth Lapat/ Bendosaboron [Jurbadhakan] = Gurbayigan	CH		Levine 1987, 234-36 See Map 93
C2	Kambadene/ Kampa(n)da § Sambana	HR		IsidChar 5; RE; Herzfeld 1968, 13
C2	[Kangavar]/ Concobar	HRL	Kangavar	RE <i>Κογκοβάρα</i> ; cf. RE Bagistana; Azarnoush 1981, 82-94
B2	Karina Karkha de Ladan = <i>Ivan-i</i> <i>Karkheh</i>	H?R	Kirind	RE Karina
C4	<i>Karkheh</i> Eulaeus?/ Ula(ya)? fl.			See Map 93
E4	<i>Karun</i> Pasitigris? fl.		IRN / IRQ	See Map 93
B4	Kas(h)kar [Kermanshahan] = [Qirmisin]		IRQ	See Map 93
C3 F2	<i>Khordeh Cheshme</i> <i>Khurheh</i>	C?H?R? H?R?L?		Mousavi 1990, 169 Schippmann 1971, 424-30; Kleiss 1973, 174; 1994; Hakemi 1990
B1	<i>Khurmall</i> Syarazur?/ Siasouron?	R?L	IRQ	Le Strange 1905, 190; Safar 1974, 196-97; cf. RE <i>Σιαζούρ, τό</i>
D3	<i>Khurramabad</i> Shapur Khwast?			M. Roaf
G3	<i>Khurramdasht</i> Koprates? fl. = <i>Dez R.</i>	L?		Schippmann 1971, 445-46
D4	<i>KS126</i>	L		Wenke 1975, map 21.28
D4	<i>KS391</i> Kumandan = Goyman	L		Wenke 1975, map 21.28
B3	<i>Kushk Khainfar</i>	L?		Vanden Berghe 1977, 177-80; 1984, 215-16
G2	<i>Lang-i Rud</i> Laodicea = Nemavand	L?		Schippmann 1971, 422; Kleiss 1986
B3	Mad(aya) = Media <i>Maimeh</i>	L?		Vanden Berghe 1977, 177-78
D2	Malaver	R?L		Gyselen 1989, 53-54
H1	Mandros fl.			See Map 90
B3	Masabadan/ Massabatene	HR	Luristan / Pusht-i Kuh	Pliny, <i>NH</i> 6.134; cf. RE <i>Μασσαβατική</i>
B2	Media/ Mad(aya) Medike Pyle? = Zagrou Pylai?	ACHRL	IRN / IRQ	Oppenheimer 1983; Brown 1987
A4 C4	Mesene Mihragan Kadag		IRN / IRQ	See Map 93 Gyselen 1989, 53-54
G3	<i>Naisar</i>	L?		Schippmann 1971, 442-45; Kleiss 1989
G3	<i>Natanz</i>	L?		Schippmann 1971, 450-51; Kleiss 1977, 231-32

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
F2 D2	<i>Navish</i> Nemavand/ Laodicea/ Niphaunda	L? HRL	Nihavand	Schippmann 1971, 414-15 Strabo 11.13.6; Pliny, <i>NH</i> 6.115; Ptol. 6.2.14; Robert, <i>Hell.</i> 7, 20; Gyselen 1989, 53-54, 82-84; cf. RE <i>Νιφάινδα</i> .
G1	<i>Nizamabad</i>	L?		Kröger 1982, 148-86
	Oroandes M. = Alvand M. Orontes M. = Alvand M.			
C2	<i>Otaq-i Farhad</i> / <i>Surkhadeh</i>	C?H?		EncIran Deh-e Now
E3	Paraetacene	CHR	Luristan	RE Suppl. 10 Paraitakene 1; Le Rider 1965, 323; Oppenheimer 1983, 245-46, 311
B3	<i>Pusht-i Arisht</i>	L?		Vanden Berghe 1972, 16-17; 1977, 175-77
G1 A2	<i>Qaleh Gabri</i> <i>Qaleh-i Yazdigird</i> [Qantara al-Rum] = <i>Dezful</i>	L? RL		Kleiss 1987 Keall 1982; Boardman 1994, 86
C2	[Qirmisin]/ [Kermanshahan]	RL	Kirmanshah / Bakhtaran?	Schwarz 1896, 480
G1	Rhaga(i)/ Europos/ Arsakia/ Ray	ACHRL	Ravy	RE Raga; RE Europos 7
B2	<i>Ravansar</i> Ray = Rhaga(i)	C?H?		Calmeyer 1978
C2 B3	<i>Sahneh</i> <i>Saimarrehl</i> Eulaeus?/ Ula(ya)? fl. <i>Sakavand</i> = <i>Deh-i No</i>	C?H?		von Gall 1966, 21-23; 1974; Mousavi 1989 Hansman 1967
F1 B3	[Saveh] <i>Seh Pa Aivan</i> Seleucia ad Eulaeum = Shusha(n)	R?L L?		CHI 3(2), 767; Kleiss 1990 Vanden Berghe 1977, 184-88; 1984, 216
B4	Sella/ Silhu fl. Shapur Khwast? = <i>Khurramabad</i>		IRQ	See Map 93
D4 D4	<i>Shaur R.</i> Shusha(n)/ Susa/ Seleucia ad Eulaeum/ Shush-i er-Kar Siasouron? = <i>Khormal</i> Silhu fl. = Sella fl. Spahan = Aspadana <i>Surkhadeh</i> = <i>Otaq-i Farhad</i> Susa = Shusha(n) Susiana = Elymais Syarazur? = <i>Khormal</i>			See Map 93 See Map 93
C2 B2 A4 A4	<i>Taq-i Bustan</i> <i>Taq-i Girra</i> <i>Tell Abu Khay</i> <i>Tell Bismaya</i>	L L?	 IRQ IRQ	EncIran 2, 305; von Gall 1990 EncIran 2, 305 See Map 93 See Map 91

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
G1	<i>Tepe Mil</i>	L?		Kröger 1982, 202-203; Kleiss 1987a, 313-18
D2 B4	<i>Tepe Nush-i Jan</i> Tigris/ Diglitis fl. Turnat fl. = 'Diabas' fl. Ula(ya)? fl. = <i>Karkheh R.</i> Ula(ya)? fl. = <i>Saimarreh R.</i> Valashfarr = [Hulwan] Vastan? = <i>Bisutun</i> Veh-Andiyok-Shapur = [Jundishapur]	AC?HR?		Stronach 1978 See Map 93
B2	<i>Vindirni</i>	R?L		Kleiss 1968; 1983
B3	<i>War Pil</i>	L?		Vanden Berghe 1972, 13; 1977, 180-82
B2	Zagrou Pylai?/ Medike Pyle?	HRL	Taq-i Girra pass	RE Ζάγρου πύλαι; Herzfeld 1968, 11

Bridges

No.	Grid	Location	Period	Reference
1	A1	Pird-i Kinachan, near Halabja	R?L?	Safar 1974, 193-98
2	B1	Kowasa	R?L?	Safar 1974
3	B1	Pird-i Kurhan	R?L?	Safar 1974, 193-94
4	C2	Bisutun	L?	Calmeyer 1996
5	C3	Pol-i Ab-borde	L?	Stein 1940, 212-14; EncIran 4, 451
6	C3	Pol-i Khosro, near Shaymara	L?	Stein 1940, 191; EncIran 4, 451
7	C3	Pol-i Dukhtar, near Kashgar	L?	Stein 1940, 182-89; EncIran 4, 451
8	D3	Pol-i Khurramabad	L?	EncIran 4, 451-52; Kleiss 1994a, 249-52
9	D4	Pa-i Pol, near Ivan-i Karkheh	L	Stein 1940, 171-73; Kleiss 1974, 220; Matheson 1980, 190; Oppenheimer 1983, 77

Canals

Grid	Location	Period	Reference
D4	supplying Jundishapur		See Map 93
D4	leading to Ivan-i Karkheh	RL?	Wenke 1975, pl. I.II

Wall

Grid	Location	Period	Reference
A2	near Qaleh-i Yazdigird	RL?	Keall 1982

Unlocated Toponyms

Name	Period	Probable Location	Reference
Adrapana(n)/ Arteman?	R		IsidChar 6; cf. RE Bazigraban; cf. RE Beltra
Badake	A?H	Madaktu? Tepe Patak?	RE; RGTC 11, 160-62
Bazigraban	R	Asadabad	RE; Herzfeld 1968, 235
Daras(s)a/ Darathe	L	near Bisitun; Daras Kuh? between Onoadas and Konkovar	Ptol. 6.2.13; RE Darasa; RE Darathe
Gadamarga/ Gadamarta	H	winter camp for Antigonos, near Isfahan	RE
Herakleia	HR	near Mt. Demavand / Caspian Gates	RE25
Kissia/ Kissie Chore Bet Kussaye/ Bakusaya	ACHRL	Baksai	Herzfeld 1968, 188-90
Madaktu			RGTC 11, 160-62; de Mecquenem 1953, 9-10; de Miroschedji 1981, 174
Media Ano Mihragan-Kadag	R	E Bisitun	IsidChar 6 Gyselen 1989, 55
Onoadas Orubicaria	RL L	Orudicarta? Burujird?	ItMiller 792; RE ItMiller 796
Pharaspa			RE Pharaspa; Metzler 1977, 1057
Rapsa	RL	Karaj	ItMiller 783; RE 2
Sab(b)atha/ Sabdata Sigriane	HR		Oppenheimer 1983, 391-93; RE Sabdata Herzfeld 1968, 23; cf. RE Σιγριανή, ἡ; cf. TAVO B VI 3

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