

# Y5 – The Zagros Mountains

## The Zagros mountains

The Zagros mountains are a long mountain range in Iran, northern Iraq, and southeastern Turkey. This mountain range has a total length of 1,600 km (990 mi).

The Zagros mountain range begins in northwestern Iran and roughly follows Iran's western border while covering much of southeastern Turkey and northeastern Iraq.

From this border region, the range continues to the southeast under also the waters of the Persian Gulf. It spans the southern parts of the Armenian highland, the whole length of the western and southwestern Iranian plateau, ending at the Strait of Hormuz. The highest point is Mount Dena, at 4,409 metres (14,465 ft).

The Zagros mountain range spans the entire length of the southwestern and western Iranian plateau and eventually ends at the Strait of Hormuz. The Zagros fold, which gave rise to the Zagros mountains, was formed due to a collision between the Arabian Plate and the Eurasian plate.

The Zagros region is an integral part of oil located in the Persian Gulf as they run along its north coast. According to scientists, the tectonic history of the Zagros mountain rocks played a pivotal role in trapping petroleum underground.

Many years ago, these mountains defined the borders between Persian and Ottoman empires and the Parthian and Roman empires.

The Zagros range is primarily covered by pistachio, oak trees, steppe vegetation surrounding extensive grounds, and temperate broad-leaved forests when it comes to vegetation cover. Persian Oak is believed to be the most important one of all plant species in this ecosystem.

There are various kinds of ecosystems in the Zagros mountains, but the mountains primarily experience a semi-arid temperate climate. The high-level institutions have defined the ecosystem of the Zagros mountains as the 'Zagros Mountains forest steppe ecoregion. The Zagros mountains experience a highly arid climate during the summer, but the winter season days are extremely cold, with substantial temperature drops.

Almost half of the forest of the Zagros mountains is covered by the Persian Oak species. Many other plant species are only found in the Zagros mountains, including the likes of *Tulipa kurdica*, *Iris barnumiae*, and *Allium iranicum*.

Various kinds of mammals such as brown bears, wild goats, wolves, and leopards are spotted in significant numbers in this region. The goats found here could easily survive on dry grass, which allowed Neolithic people back in the day to farm on the foothills of this mountain. Black vultures and partridges also live in this region. Various endangered animal species such as Basra reed-warbler, Luristan newt, and the striped hyena live in this mountain region of Iran.



The Zagros mountains receive the most rainfall during the early spring and winter seasons, with average rainfall between 16-31 in (40.64-78.74 cm).

The Zagros mountains are made up of limestone and sedimentary origin. Near the mountain top, one can find paleozoic rocks along the main fault of the Zagros mountains. On both sides of the main fault are Mesozoic rocks.