N.VROUYR
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Ardabil

Iranian Azerbaijan comprehends the four Iranian provinces in the utmost upper Northwestern part of the country. At home, the Azeri speak Turkish although state-education is in Farsi. There are also minorities who speak their own languages.

Tabriz, Khoy, Heriz, Ardabil, Mianeh, Zandjan, Maraghe etc., are important weaving places but very many villages and hamlets produce a great variety of kilims and rugs.

Ardabil is a city in NW Iran. It has a rich past. The mausoleum of Sheikh Safi-ad-Din (1252–1334) is in the local mosque. He was the ancestor of the Safavid shahs who ruled the Persian Empire from 1501 till 1722. The founder of the dynasty, Shah Ismaïl I resided in Ardabil before transferring the capital to Tabriz.