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Ardabil

Ardabil is a city in NW Iran. It has a rich past. The mausoleum of Sheikh Safi-ad-Din (1252–1334) is buried 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 Ismail I resided in Ardabil before transferring the capital to Tabriz.