



## ALEXANDRIA

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**ALEXANDRIA**, general designation of cities whose foundation is credited to Alexander the Great (356-23 B.C.). Pseudo-Plutarch mentions seventy of these, which must have included purely military settlements; among those whose existence seems well attested, thirteen were in the Iranian territories. They were founded for administrative, military, or commercial purposes and most of them became important regional capitals. Some took the place of already existing towns, others were genuinely new creations. Beginning in the west, they were: *Alexandria of Susiana* (Pliny 6.138). Later renamed Antioch and later again Spassinou Charax, it was a commercial city that remained prosperous until the Sasanian period. The birthplace of the geographer Isidore of Charax, it was probably located between the Tigris and the Kārūn near present-day Korramšahr. *Alexandria of Persis* (inscription at Magnesia on the Maeander, *OGIS* N 233). Location and history unknown. *Alexandria of Margiana* (Quintus Curtius 7.10; Pliny 6.147). Capital of Margiana, i.e., the Marv region, it was destroyed by “barbarians,” rebuilt, and named Antioch (Strabo, Ptolemy, Ammianus Marcellinus); it was probably located at Giaour Tepe. *Alexandria of Ariana* (Pliny 6.16-63; Strabo 11.8-10, 15.2; Isidore of Charax 15; Ammianus Marcellinus 23.6). The capital of Ariana, identified with Herat; no archeological traces have yet been discovered. *Alexandria of Carmania* (Pliny 6.107; Ptolemy 6.8; Ammianus Marcellinus 23.6). Opinions on the question of whether it existed differ; it is perhaps to be identified with Tapa Yaḥyā. *Alexandria Prophtasia* (Strabo 11.8, 15.2; Pliny 6.61; Ammianus Marcellinus 13.6; Pseudo-Plutarch *De Alex. fort.*). Capital of Drangiana, i.e., the Sīstān region, and one of the largest cities of the Hellenistic east. It perhaps



became the capital of the eastern Parthian principality of the Surenas and is probably located at Nād-e 'Alī. *Alexandria of Sacastene* (Isidore of Charax 18; perhaps Stephanos Byzantinos 15). Its existence and location remain uncertain. *Alexandria of Arachosia* (Stephanos Byzantinos 12, "Alexandria;" Isidore of Charax 19, "Alexandropolis;" Strabo 11.8; Pliny 6.61; Ammianus Marcellinus 33.6, "City of the Arachosians"). Capital of Arachosia, located either at Ġaznī or, more probably, at old Qandahār, where the ancient ramparts were being excavated and two bilingual inscriptions of Aśoka have been discovered. *Alexandria of Bactriana* (Stephanos Byzantinos 2). Identified with Bactra, the capital of Bactriana (see [Bactria](#) and [Balk](#)). Archeological investigation of the Greek layers has been halted; only the Greek rampart could be studied. *Alexandria of the Oxus* (Ptolemy 6.12, and 6, where it is placed in Sogdiana). Formerly thought to be located at Termed, evidently it should be identified with the important archeological site of Āy Kānom. *Alexandria Eschate* or *of the Tanais* (Arrian 4.1, 3-4; Quintus Curtius 8.6; Pliny 6.49). A fortress on the Jaxartes built in twenty days as an outpost against the nomads. Appian (*Syriake* 57) attributes its foundation to Seleucus. It was probably destroyed and then rebuilt under the name Antioch; it is located in the outskirts of Leninabad in Soviet Tajikistan. *Alexandria of the Caucasus* (Arrian 3.28, 4.22; Strabo 15.2; Quintus Curtius 6.3; Diodorus Siculus 17.83; Pliny 6.62). Capital of the Paropamisadai, probably identifiable with the ancient remains at Bagrām, north of Kabul; other hypotheses are Bāmīān, Čarīkār, or Parvān. *Alexandria of Gedrosia* or *of Makarene* (Pliny 6.97; Diodorus Siculus 17.104; Quintus Curtius 9.10; Arrian 6.21-24; Strabo 15.723). Destroyed by the Arachosians and subsequently rebuilt, it is thought to be the same as Ora or Rhambakia.

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