

Persian kilim famous for amazing harmony of forms and colors



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EXCLUSIVE



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In a spring evening I went to Mostafa Khomeini Street in the southern part of Tehran. It is one of the most important and busiest streets of Tehran, which is full of shops, banks and offices. Walking along the street, my eyes fell on the beautiful and colorful kilims that were displayed in the showcases of many carpet shops, or hanging outside of them. I had never seen so many kilims, with different patterns and designs, in one place before.

A kilim is a type of woven handicraft with a smooth and lint-free surface, made of warp and weft, while, unlike Persian carpets, it does not have long piles. The thinner and finer the thread, the higher the quality of the kilim. That is why high-quality sheep's wool is used for weaving kilims. Flexibility, high durability and dyeability are among the main characteristics of the wool used for kilim production. Historical documents show that kilim weaving is a beautiful and

valuable craft dating back thousands of years. Available evidence indicates that the ancient people who settled on the Iranian Plateau and its neighboring lands raised sheep and goats and spun their wool and hair. A piece of cloth woven from goat hair about 8,000 years ago was found on the Caspian Sea shore. Some others believe that the world's oldest kilim was among the artifacts discovered in ancient Egypt. Meanwhile, remains of an old kilim were found in Anatolia Island, dating

back to 1,000 BCE. Kilim weaving is an artistic craft which is mostly done by women living in Iranian rural and nomadic areas. In the beginning, kilim was used by people not only as a floor covering but also as a means to protect their body from the cold. Some tribal people living in Afghanistan still use a kind of woolen kilim as their upper garment. The first kilims, made of wool in its own color, were very simple, with no pattern and design.

However, over time, the people saw different colors in nature and decided to dye sheep's wool and produce colorful kilims. Horizontal looms are the main tools used by nomadic people for weaving kilims. Kilim weavers, like other craftspeople of the country, reflect their feelings, emotions and moods in their artistic products. The Persian kilim is well-known for its geometric and abstract motifs and an amazing harmony of forms and colors. The beauty and uniqueness of Per-

sian kilims have caused many people to use them as decoration. Hand-woven kilims produced in rural and tribal areas of the country can be classified into several categories, based on their size, the methods and tools used for weaving them, and the place of their production. In general, the Persian kilim is a colorful nomadic carpet with regional patterns, inspired by nature and the weavers' daily lives.

Iranica Desk

Hospitable, kind, genial; these are among the characteristics of the inhabitants of Bafq; a city situated in the central Iranian province of Yazd. The city is also the hometown of well-known figures such as Vahshi Bafqi, a 16th century poet. With its rich mines, Bafq is among significant suppliers of the raw materials of steel and iron industries. Besides, the city is a top tourist destination. Here are some of the tourist attractions of the city:

Darreh Anjir Desert

Darreh Anjir Desert is the largest desert in Yazd Province, covering an area of 1,500 square kilometers. It is 75 kilometers long and 20 kilometers wide. Some 60% of Darreh Anjir Desert consists of clay soil, and 40% is covered with salt.



Darreh Anjir Desert
iraninform.com

Moghestan Desert

The Rig-e Zarin (the Golden Sand), or Moghestan, is located some 40 kilometers north of Darreh Anjir Desert. Rig-e Zarin Desert consists of sand dunes which manifest artistic

waves. It represents one of the most beautiful and amazing faces of nature between Saqand village and Bafq desert.

Baqerabad Castle

The castle was built in

three stages in the early 19th century to protect people against potential threats of bandits and help them stockpile grains. The castle has 45 rooms and two watchtowers. The castle has been listed

among the national heritage sites of Iran.

Bafq Grand Mosque

The Grand Mosque of Bafq is among historical monuments of the city dating back to the Qajar Dynasty

that ruled Iran from 1789 to 1925 CE. The mosque had also been used as a seminary.

Vahshi Bafqi's House

Kamaluddin Mohammad Vahshi Bafqi was a 16th

century Iranian poet. The residence of the late poet, known as Vahshi Bafqi's House, is a small adobe house with an area of 120 square meters. It was built in a quadrilateral shape with seven rooms. Vahshi Bafqi's House is used as a museum. Visitors enjoy hearing his poems and learning about people's traditions and lifestyles at different historical periods.

Bafq palm groves

Palm groves cover a vast area of the city and are among its tourist attractions. With over 2,400 hectares of palm trees, Bafq is a major date producer. Fall and winter is the best time for traveling to Bafq, which is also famous for its handicrafts made from the leaves and other components of palm trees.

The breathtaking beauty of Bafq



Baqerabad Castle
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Bafq Grand Mosque
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A palm grove in Bafq
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