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Anyone can find a place in Bijar to visit and enjoy

Iranica Desk

The city of Bijar, in the western province of Kurdistan, is the second highest-elevation city in Iran, after Shahrekord in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province.

Bijar is in the eastern part of Kurdistan Province, bordering Zanjan and Hamedan provinces, 145 kilometers from the provincial capital city of Sanandaj, according to IRNA.

Regarding the abundance of historical, natural and tourist attractions in Bijar, anyone can find a place in it to visit and enjoy.

Qamchoqai Castle

Qamchoqai Castle, in a village with the same name, dates back to 3,000 BCE. It has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

One of Iran's oldest inscriptions, which, according to archaeologists, are written in hieroglyphic script, was found in this castle.

The walls of the castle are 200 meters high, and only a narrow passage connects the building to the outside, through which only one person can hardly pass.

Having great historical significance, the monument was used by various tribes throughout history.

Built in an area of 5,000 square meters, the castle has numerous water tanks. It did not need defensive fortifications because it overlooked a deep valley with steep sides.

Traditional bazaar

Bijar's traditional bazaar, located in the center of the city, is the only part that remains of the city's old section. It includes a *timcheh* (a roofed and commercial space in a bazaar, dedicated to a single type of business), and a *sara* (a section that functioned as a caravanserai).

Sixteen shops of the *timcheh* have kept their old architectural style, while the others have been renovated.

Garous Garden

Dating back to the Safavid period (1501-1736 CE), Garous Garden is situated in the southern part of Bijar. It has a two-storey mansion, as well as several fountains and marble statues. The mansion is surrounded by a number of beautiful fir trees.

Salavatabad Bridge

Salavatabad Bridge, located next to a village with the same name, is 110 meters long. Made of stones and bricks, the bridge has been built over Qezel Ozan River, 15 kilometers from the Bijar-Takab Road. There is no information about the exact date of its construction, but available evidence shows that the bridge was constructed based on the Safavid architectural style. The bridge has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

Tomb of Imamzadeh Hamzeh Arab

The tomb of Imamzadeh Hamzeh Arab is among the famous historical and religious

sites of Bijar, which has been renovated with the help of charitable people. It is 10 kilometers from eastern Bijar, on a high mountain with the same name. The building over the tomb has a small room used as a resting place by pilgrims, and a main room with a domed ceiling.

Tomb of Imamzadeh Aqil

Imamzadeh Aqil Tomb, which is among the oldest remains of Kurdistan architectural structures, dates back to the early Islamic era. Decorated with brickworks, the monument has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List. Regarding its architectural style, the construction of the monument has been attributed to the Seljuq period.

Khosro-abad Mosque

Khosro-abad Mosque is a historical structure dating back to the Zand period (1751-1779 CE). Located 45 kilometers from Bijar, the mosque has small domes and no minaret. It has a summer section, a south portico, and some rooms for students and servants to rest.

Nesar Ski Resort

Nesar Ski Resort, extending in an area of 112 hectares, is among the main resorts of Kurdistan Province, located on the slopes of Nesar Mountain. It has one of the best grass ski runs of the country, which is 330 meters long, for those who love skiing in the summer.

The highest point of the resort is 2,300 meters above sea level.

International Festival of Nomadic Migration, a beginning for 'Ardebil 2023' event

Iranica Desk

The 'Ardebil 2023' event will introduce the city of Ardebil as the tourism capital of the ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) countries in the current year.

The International Festival of Nomadic Migration, to be held from April 26 to 28 in Jafarabad, which lies on the Moghan Plain, can be regarded as the beginning of this important event, according to IRNA.

With the approval of the tourism ministers of the ECO member countries in 2019, Ardebil, the capital city of the northwestern province of Ardebil, was selected as the tourism capital of the organization in 2023.

Meanwhile, a number of committees have been formed to organize the "Ardebil 2023" event. The Festival of Nomadic Migration has been held annually in the green Moghan Plain for the past nine years, in cooperation with

the locals and nomads, who will establish a number of pavilions to display their traditional handicrafts and other products.

The festival plays an important part in introducing and reviving the traditional customs and arts of the local villagers and nomads living in the region. This year's festival, which is to be held at an international level, will help familiarize people living inside and outside of the country with the cultural values, customs and traditions of the target community. A number of ministers from ECO countries, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatullah Zarghami and some provincial and local officials are expected to participate in the festival.

Although the city of Ardebil has been selected as the tourism capital of ECO countries, during the event, the provincial officials will attempt to make the best use of this opportunity to introduce the

tourism capacities and anthropological features of the other cities of the province.

Regarding the extent of the cultural, social, economic and political impact of the festival, it can help draw the attention of the public to the economic and cultural importance of the region. Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardebil is well-known for having abundant natural beauty, hospitable people, and its tradition of trade in silk and carpets.

The province is freezing in the winter and mild in the summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardebil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in the winter.

The province attracts a very large number of visitors from across the country as well as other countries including the neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan and Iraq.

