

Iran MP calls for preserving Shiraz's historical fabric



Shrine of Shah Cheragh
● safarzon.com



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EXCLUSIVE

A member of the Iranian Parliament has dismissed concerns about likely damage to historical sectors of Shiraz in the wake of a project to develop a shrine in the city. "The implementation of a project to expand the Shah Cheragh Shrine will not inflict any harm to precious historical monuments,

including a house attributed to Sa'adi," Alireza Pakfetrat told Iran Daily in an exclusive interview. Abu-Muhammad Muslih al-Din bin Abdallah Shirazi, known by his penname Sa'adi, is a renowned Persian poet who lived in the 13th century. Sa'adi's tomb is also located in his hometown Shiraz,

in Fars Province. The Shah Cheragh shrine is among major religious attractions in Iran and the largest pilgrimage site in Shiraz. It is the burial ground of two brothers of Imam Reza, the eighth Shia Imam. The holy shrine, with its beautiful architecture, tile work, and artistic mirror design, attracts

domestic and foreign tourists. Recently, the development project of the Shah Cheragh Shrine has brought to light speculations about potential damage to historical monuments in Shiraz. Pakfetrat said there are many monuments in the historical sectors of Shiraz, which

are precious in terms of their architectural features. The lawmaker called for preserving these historical monuments. He noted that the House of Sa'adi has great potential for drawing in tourists. The MP, however, said there are some ramshackle and thatched buildings in the historical textures of Shiraz which endanger people's lives. He said the municipality has to take measures to prevent potential damage. Pakfetrat said the House of Sa'adi has been registered on the country's National

Heritage List; no permission will be issued for its demolition. He said the House of Sa'adi is a building of great antiquity, which is about 700 to 800 years old. He said historical evidence and documents have proved the attribution of the building to the famous poet. The MP touched upon the architectural features of the building. "The House of Sa'adi was built based on the model of Iranian-Islamic architecture, in the form of a rectangular house with a pond, a courtyard in the center of the house and rooms in the quadrangle of the courtyard."

Pakfetrat said this house has suffered wear and tear and needs to be renovated. He said the renovation operations are currently underway. The lawmaker said the house is open to the public. He added that it can turn into one of the most visited tourist centers after it is completely renovated. Pakfetrat said the Tomb of Sa'adi is one of the most visited sites in Shiraz, adding that his house could also become an attractive destination for tourists and those who love his poems.



House of Sa'adi
● bultannews.com



Fariman, a popular tourist destination in Khorasan Razavi Province

Iranica Desk

Fariman, a city in Khorasan Razavi Province, is located two hours from the provincial capital city of Mashhad, which is home to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH), the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims.

This city is neighbor to Mashhad from the north and west, Torbat Heydariyeh and Zaveh from the south and Torbat-e Jam from the east, ISNA wrote. Thanks to its appropriate climate and strategic geographical location, Fariman is regarded as one of the main tourist destinations of the province. The city, which is located on the main road linking Mashhad to Afghanistan and Central Asian countries, produce various agricultural and horticultural crops including wheat, barely, sugar beets, tomatoes, potatoes and apples.

With an industrial township and several small and large factories and mines, Fariman is known as a city with significant economic potentials.

Natural attractions
Maragheh village, located

45 kilometers from Fariman, has a beautiful valley with a permanent river running through it. The surrounding areas, which are green and full of trees, can be a desirable destination for those interested in hiking and ecotourism. Bagh Abbas is another village which lies 17 kilometers from southern Fariman. The village has numerous natural attractions including mountains, springs, rivers and various types of fruit trees. An asphalt road has been built from Fariman to Bagh Abbas.

Zarkak Resort is an amazing natural site, which is situated 17km from Fariman. The resort, which lies between two mountains, has a green nature and numerous springs, drawing a large number of tourists and nature lovers every year. Moreover, Fariman's Shahan Garmab Thermal Spring is among the unique potable springs of the country, having therapeutic properties. A huge number of Iranian and foreign tourists travel to the area to benefit from its therapeutic effects. The



Zarkak Resort
● gardeshgari724.com



Shahan Garmab Thermal Spring
● iranhotelonline.com

thermal spring is in a village with the same name, 63km from Fariman.

Historical attractions
A public bathhouse was

built there in 1087 CE, upon the order of Soleiman, a Safavid king; fortunately, a large part of its building remains intact. Fariman Dam is an ancient



Bagh Abbas village
● dehgardi.ir



Sangbast ancient site
● iribnews.ir

historical structure, but the exact date of its construction is not known. However, some historical documents show that the dam dates back to the

Ilkhanid era (1256-1353 CE). The dam, which is 27 meters high, has a 100-meter long crown. With its surrounding green areas, it is one of the

most well-known natural sites of Fariman.

An ancient site, called Sangbast, is located in the region. It is home to the remains of several structures built by Arsalan Jazeb, the governor of Tus during the reign of Mahmoud Ghaznavi (998-1041 CE). One of the oldest brick minarets of the country and a number of monuments dating back to the early Islamic era were discovered on the site. In ancient times it was known as a place linking important historical cities including Merv, Neyshabur, Herat and Tus to each other.

Souvenirs

The most important souvenir of Fariman, sugar cubes, are produced in an old factory, to be distributed in various cities of the country. Thanks to its high quality, the sugar cubes are exported to numerous countries.

Fert-bafi (a type of traditional cloth weaving), *mo-araq-kari* (wood carving), carpet weaving and kilim weaving are among the main handicrafts of Fariman.