

Jajim-weaving art popular throughout Iran



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EXCLUSIVE

Last week, I went to see one of my friends, who had just returned from a trip to the northern part of the country. When saying goodbye, she gave me a large gift bag and said that she brought it as a souvenir for me. I was happy that she remembered me during her trip and thanked her profusely. When I opened the bag I

saw a small and colorful *jajim* wrapped in a beautiful cloth. She told me that she bought it from a handicraft shop in Alasht, a city in Mazandaran Province.

On the way back home, I was thinking that it would be a good idea to use this beautiful little multi-colored *jajim* as a wall hanging.

Jajim is a traditional Iranian rug woven in various parts of the country, especially in rural areas. *Jajim*-weaving is an art which has its own fans inside and outside the country.



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The double-sided rug is woven from colorful and delicate wool threads. The hand-woven fabric does not have lint, and it is reversible.

Jajim is woven in a large number of Iranian villages in slightly different designs, colors and sizes but with the same texture. There is also a type

of *jajim* with no patterns, which is known as "*moj jajim*".

Jajim-weaving methods are somewhat the same in various parts of Iran but the main difference is in their design, color and size.

Warp and weft are very important in the formation of all handwoven

textiles. *Jajim* patterns are geometrical, formed by the interweaving of warp and weft. A *jajim*-weaving loom is used to produce the valuable handicraft, but unlike other looms, it is placed horizontally on the ground.

The set of warps, which are denser than other

threads with varying colors, are stretched parallel to each other on the loom at a distance of a few centimeters from the ground.

The history of *jajim*-weaving is not known precisely. Since all woolen textiles wear out due to cold and heat, it is impossible to say when *jajim*-weaving began in Iran. However, since the art of textile-weaving dates back 6,500 years, it can be assumed that the age of *jajim*-weaving is not much different from that of textiles.

In the past, Iranians spread a *jajim* over a *korsi* (a low wooden table, covered with colorful quilts, with a heating device underneath), but this hand-woven fabric has various other uses now.

As one of the popular handicrafts of Iran, *jajim*-weaving is prevalent in several provinces of the country including East Azarbaijan, Ardebil, Zanjan, Kermanshah, Kurdistan, Hamedan, Lorestan, Fars and Mazandaran.

It is planned that Alasht be designated as the national city of *jajim*-weaving.

A large number of young and old women are engaged there in *jajim*-weaving as a source of livelihood.

The weavers believe this old craft was a part of the local people's identity in the past, when a *jajim*-weaving loom was found in every house.

Although a limited number of *jajim*-weaving workshops are presently active in the region, the handwoven artworks produced by the craftspeople of this region have their own fans all over Iran.

Rural attractions of Kermanshah lure tourists

Iranica Desk

Many countries around the world consider tourism a dynamic industry that can generate huge revenues and jobs and help develop their economic infrastructure. Countries that can attract more tourists are able to create more jobs.

Tourism is also inextricably linked with political and economic security. The huge presence of tourists in a country is indicative of the existence of greater security there. Experts believe the development of tourism among regional countries will lead to regional stability and, in a broader sense, will help promote global stability. Tourism is also important in

terms of social and cultural dimensions. This is because host countries can promote their language, as well as cultural and social customs through luring tourists.

Meanwhile, rural tourism is becoming more popular these days due to the potentials it offers. In the modern world, city dwellers can enjoy peace and tranquility in villages.

There are many rural regions in Iran that possess great tourism potentials. The villages in the western province of Kermanshah are among them.

The province with its high mountains, springs and amazing architecture, with a history of thousands of years, has enormous tourism potentials.

The nomadic lifestyle in the province also draws in tourists. There are dozens of hotels and guesthouses and places of residence for ecotourists in Kermanshah.

Kermanshah historical monuments

The head of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Kermanshah Province told IRNA that Kermanshah has 4,200 historical monuments, about 2,200 of which have been registered on the country's National Heritage List. Dariush Farmani added that two of them are also on the World Heritage List.

He said Kermanshah ranks third in the country in terms

of having the largest number of historical sites. The official also said, in comparison with its size, the province has the highest number of historical sites nationwide.

The Kermanshah tourism chief noted that the province has 80 exemplary tourist regions in terms of natural attractions and 14 target villages.

He said the province was chosen by the World Tourism Organization to host the international ecotourism and rural tourism event, but due to the spread of Covid-19 it was cancelled. He said Kermanshah seeks to host the event in the next two years. Farmani said marketing and advertisement play a significant role in the field of tourism.

He noted that luring tourists depends on introducing attractions of the province.

Farmani said national and international broadcasts, cyberspace, along with participation in events, conferences, and exhibitions are among ways that can introduce tourist attractions.

He said students are also trained as tourism ambassadors to introduce Kermanshah

Kermanshah rural attractions

The head of Kermanshah Tourist Guide Association told IRNA about the province's attractions.

"In the field of ecotourism, Kermanshah Province has numerous rural attractions with

pristine nature and attractive architecture which can lure many tourists in the spring," Hassan Esmaeili said.

He added, "Unique handicrafts, a variety of foods, dairy products, agricultural and livestock products, amazing historical monuments, rich religious culture and beautiful nature have provided an opportunity to visit this green province."

Esmaeili said in addition to tourism villages, the Avroman (Hawraman) region has unspoiled villages which can turn into tourism hubs.

He said there are hundreds of unique rural tourism sites in Avroman, and natural tourist attractions in other regions of Kermanshah.



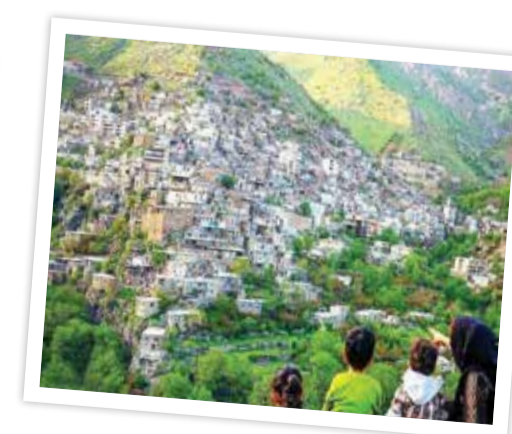
Nature of Pavah
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A tourism target village in Hawraman
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