

Khalkhal villages attractive to tourists

Iranica Desk

The city of Khalkhal, in the north-western province of Ardebil, is neighbor to East Azarbaijan, Gilan and Zanjan provinces. It is connected to Gilan Province through the Khalkhal-Asalem and Punel roads. The city's appropriate geographical location and unique climate have a significant impact on the economic, social and cultural life of its residents.

Moreover, Khalkhal, home to a variety of ethnic groups including Turks, Tats and Kurds, offers a unique example of coexistence and tolerance among people. It is known as a suitable place for carrying out anthropological and cultural studies chtn.ir wrote.

According to Ali Darvishi, head of the city's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, out of 12 tourist villages of Ardebil Province, five are located in Khalkhal.

Kazaj village

Kazaj village, 57 kilometers from Khalkhal, has unique architectural features. Moreover, its residents attach great importance to the preservation of old traditions and customs passed down through generations.

Grapes, walnuts, apples, pears, hawthorns, apricots, cherries, sour cherries, and berries are among the main crops of Kazaj village.

Darvishi noted that a large number of Iranian and foreign tourists travel to the region to visit the amazing traditional architecture of this village, which has an architecture similar to that of Massouleh in Gilan province.

He said that 12 eco lodges have been established in the village during the past six years, attracting many travelers from across Iran and the world. This helped boost the rural economy in the region and also encouraged a

number of villagers to convert their houses into accommodation units.

Referring to the implementation of the province's first pilot ecotourism plan in the village, he said that permissions have been issued for the establishment of 40 new eco lodges in the region.

Barandaq village

Barandaq is among the largest villages in the province located at the crossroads of Ardebil, East Azarbaijan and Zanjan provinces.

This village is neighbor to the pastures and slopes of Aqdagh Mountain from the north, and Qezl Ozen River from the west.

The people living in the village attach great importance to the environment and nature. On the fourth day of the Iranian month of Farvardin (March 24), which was designated as "The Clean Day of Barandaq," rural people gather to collect litter and clean the village. A variety of fruit orchards such as pomegranate, apricot, plum, peach, cherry, nectarine, pear, grape, apple, blackberry, mulberry, fig and raspberry are in the village.

Dried fruits produced in Barandaq are not only supplied to domestic markets but also exported to many foreign countries.

Most of the rural men are engaged in farming, gardening and livestock breeding, while the women are active in the fields of sock-knitting, bag-weaving, carpet-weaving, sewing, and making dairy products such as butter, yogurt, buttermilk, and cheese.

Majulan village

Majulan is another tourist village of Khalkhal, which is neighbor to Gilan Province from the north. Due to its appropriate geographical location, it has a beautiful nature and pleasant climate.

With an elevation of 3,000 meters

above sea level, the Shah Moallem peak of the village is a destination for a large number of ecotourists. The village has a large number of springs and an ice cave, which has remained untapped.

Andabil village

Andabil village, where the climatic is mostly moderate in the summer and cold in the winter, is located in the central district of Khalkhal. Due to its geographical location and special climatic condition, a winter festival with various programs such as making snowmen and cooking regional foods is held.

A river passing through the village, with a dense residential area, helps enhance the beauty of the region.

Rural houses with gable roofs and mud walls create a very beautiful landscape.

In addition to farming and livestock breeding, the rural people, especially women, are engaged in the production of various handicrafts including kilims, *jajims* (a type of traditional Iranian floor covering) and carpets.

Oak forests and raspberry bushes create a beautiful view in the village, especially in the spring, summer and autumn.

Moreover, Miradel spring, originating from a high mountain, dazzles the eyes of every viewer.

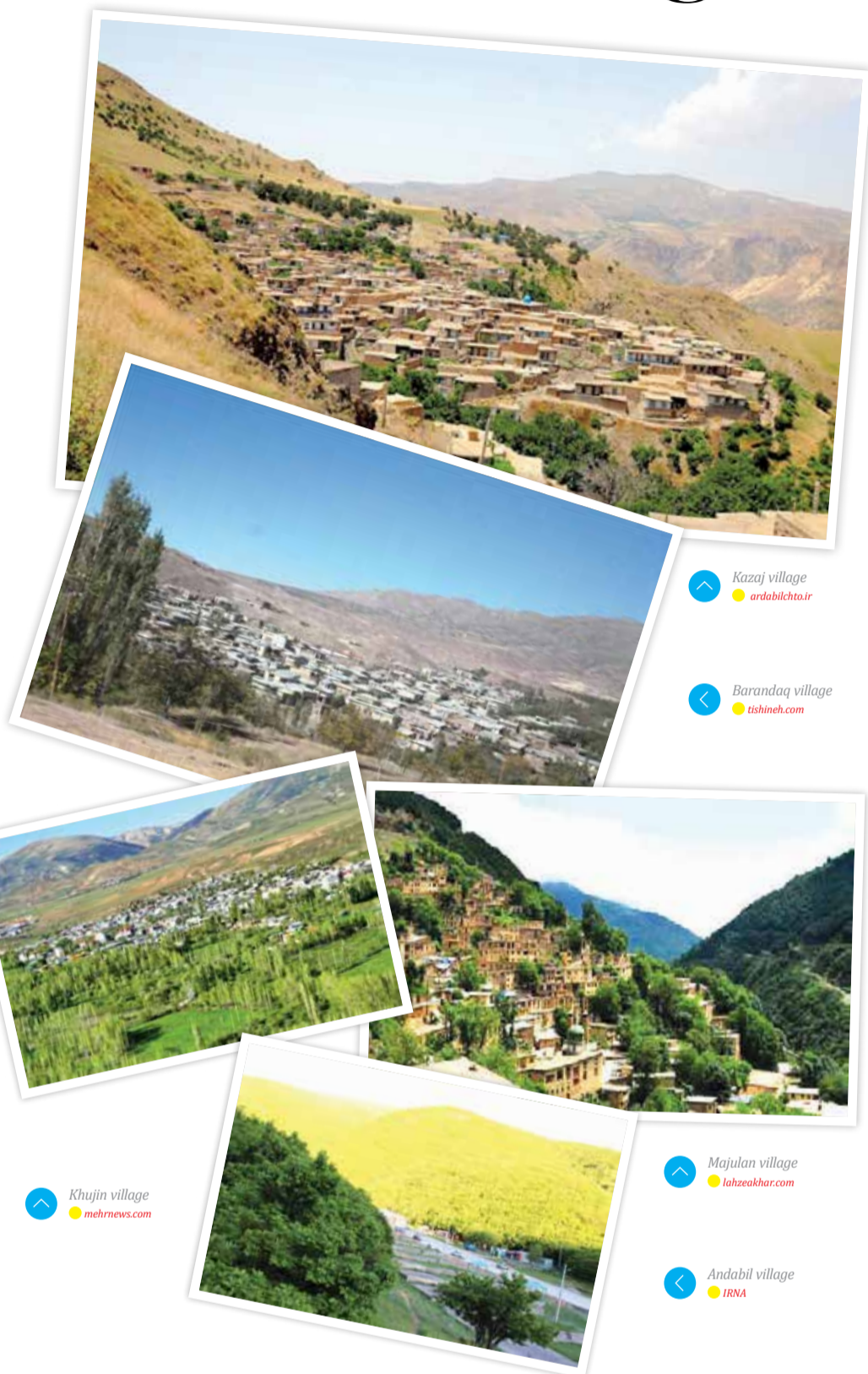
Khujin village

Khujin village, home to the amazing Aznav spring, is among the most popular tourist destinations of the province.

Access to natural water resources has caused the agricultural sector of the village to flourish.

Located on the route leading to Gilan Province, the village is near towering mountains, green forests and lush plains.

Khujin village's weather is moderate in the summer and cold in the winter.



Kazaj village
ardabilchto.ir

Barandaq village
tishneh.com

Majulan village
lahzeakhar.com

Andabil village
IRNA

Khujin village
mehnews.com

Tochal Peak, an exciting destination in Tehran

hijpersia.com

Tochal Mountain peak, with an elevation of nearly 4,000 meters, is a high point overlooking Tehran. When looking at the peak, one can imagine that the mountain stretches its neck to see the city better from above. It casts its shadow over the capital, to be a refuge for those who are tired of daily life in the city and want to rely on the peace and stability of this great peak, visitiran.ir wrote.

Tochal Peak is an attractive and exciting destination for many people.

Tochal is not only a magnificent summit, but also home to various exciting entertainment facilities that have made the resort a popular destination.

Mountaineering is one of the most common ways to enjoy Tochal. Professional mountaineers climb the peak in the early morning or

at dawn. But a number of visitors use the city lights at night, especially in the summer, to reach one of the stations of its cable car and spend the night. They camp there, rest in a sleeping bag, and then go to the peak early in the morning. The most attractive recreational facilities of Tochal Peak are its cable cabin and chairlift. Tochal cable car, launched in 1977, has seven stations. The line begins at the end of Velenjak, in the Shemiran district, three kilometers from Tajrish Square.

On the chairlift you feel you have two wings to fly over the mountains.

Tochal Peak, which is snowy for nine months of the year, has a ski resort, established in 1975. There is a ski school in the area, which prepares conditions for enthusiasts to learn this skill.

Tochal Hotel helps provide visitors with an opportunity to gain memorable experiences. However, those who are under eight and over 55 years old, pregnant women and patients with cardiovascular diseases, hypertension and diabetes and people with physical impairments are not eligible to stay in the hotel. Conquering Tochal summit is possible through multiple routes.

Tochal ski slope begins at the bottom of Tochal Peak, at 3,850 meters elevation, and ends at Tochal Hotel, at 3,550 meters elevation. This slope is 1,200 meters long; however, there is a ski lift and a chairlift available to transport skiers.

Due to the elevation of Tochal ski resort, every year it is the first in Iran to receive skiers, and is available for about eight months.



ito.org