

Fascinating museums of Shemiranat district



Military museum of Sa'dabad Complex
wikipedia.org



Darabad Museum
itto.org

Iranica Desk

Tehran is home to famous, fascinating and prestigious museums which host many tourists from around the world. Most of the museums of the Iranian capital are located in downtown areas. However, museums in the Shemiranat neighborhood in the north of the metropolis also lure visitors.

Military museum of Sa'dabad Complex

This museum features a valuable collection of military weapons in nine halls. In the first hall, there are clothes, flags, tools and military equipment related to the parade of military forces of different historical eras, IRNA wrote. In the second hall, cold weapons including swords, spears, bows, maces and shields are displayed. Military medals and insignia

of the Pahlavi era are showcased in the third hall, while equipment related to the veterans of the Iraqi-imposed war in the 1980s is exhibited in the fourth and fifth halls. Visitors can see firearms including rifles, various kinds of pistols and machine guns of historical periods in the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth halls.

Water Museum of Sa'dabad Complex

Water Museum of Sa'dabad Complex has four exhibition galleries in the main building and one exhibition gallery in the adjacent building. It features ancient and traditional techniques and instruments for supplying and distributing water. One of the sections of the museum was the special office of ousted Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (former Iranian monarch), which was used to receive officials.

It was completely renovated over 20 years ago.

Darabad Museum

Nature and Wildlife Museum of Darabad is one of the biggest museums in Iran, located in the Darabad area.

It was the residence of Shams Pahlavi, the sister of the former shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was deposed in 1979 in the wake of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. The museum has remained open to the public since then.

Visitors who enter the museum are amazed by the sculpture of an herbivorous dinosaur dating back to the Jurassic era. The museum has a two-story building and consists of different sections allocated to different species such as marine mammals, birds and butterflies. It also contains taxidermy and geology sections.

The Nature and Wildlife Museum of Darabad is the first Iranian museum which joined the World Wide Web.

Niavaran Palace Complex

The Niavaran Palace Complex, with its breathtaking architecture and decoration, is located in the northern side of Niavaran Park. This complex consists of several parts including palaces, museums and gardens. Sahebgharanieh Palace, Niavaran Palace, and Koshk-e Ahmad Shahi are three main palaces in the complex. The Jahan Nama Museum is located in the western part of Sahebgharanieh Palace. Visitors can see valuable objects from all over the world there. There is also a car museum in the complex. Visitors can see beautiful classic

cars that once belonged to the Pahlavi family. Passing through the green space of the complex, you won't miss Garden Museum of Inscriptions, which offers a chance to see replicas of brilliant engravings selected from across Iran. The museum exhibits dozens of inscription models from the historical periods of the Medes in Urartian, Assyrian, and Aramaic languages belonging to the Ahar and Sarab regions. Some of these inscriptions also pertain to the Parthian and Sassanid eras in ancient Persian, Akkadian, Elamite, Aramaic and Pahlavi languages. The history of Niavaran Palace Complex dates back nearly 300 years, when Fath-Ali Shah (the second shah of the Qajar Dynasty) ordered a summer residence to be built over the then countryside area of the capital.



Niavaran Palace Complex
apochi.com



Water Museum of Sa'dabad Complex
waterhouse.ir

Safavid Tableware



Chinese-style dish with an Islamic split-palmette motif



Bowl with a refined Chinese-style decoration in the interior

In terms of ceramic history, the latter part of the fourteenth and most of the fifteenth century are something of a mystery: A desert compared with earlier centuries with just a scatter of objects, some

wonderful, but many of poor quality, and almost no information as to where they were made. The later fifteenth and sixteenth centuries provide more material, and in particular dishes pre-

served hanging in the houses of the Caucasian town of Kubachi. Some hundreds of these were discovered excitedly by Russian collectors in the late nineteenth century, and the town was soon

stripped by antique dealers to supply the European art market. Kubachi had some fame for its production of steel weapons, and these ceramic decorations reflect its one-time prosperity.

Originally all were thought to have been made at the nearest major city of Tabriz, some 850 kilometres distant, as Kubachi was not considered big enough to support its own fine pottery industry. But distinct groups within the finds suggested a more diverse provenance, confirmed by the discovery of one dish dated 1473 and bearing the inscription 'made in Mashhad' - a distance of some 2,000 kilometres away! It is now thought that some of the pottery may have been brought back as souvenirs by pilgrims returning from the important Shi'ite shrine in Mashhad, as well as being traded more commercially over long distances. Tabriz was the capital of the new resurgent Safavid dynasty which extended its domains from the ancestral home of Ardebil on the south-western corner of the Caspian Sea to

eventually include all of modern Iran. Tabriz was their first major capital from 1501, but wars with the rival Turkish Ottoman dynasty forced a move, first to Qazvin for the second half of the sixteenth century. In 1598 the capital was moved again, this time to Isfahan in central Iran, far from the troublesome Turks. The seventeenth century, under Shah Abbas the Great and his successors, was a golden age. Isfahan - nicknamed in Persian *nesf-e jehan*, 'half the world' - became one of the greatest, most splendid and prosperous cities in the world. New building programmes provided extraordinary arrays of palaces, gardens and mosques; an extensive new bazaar and many caravanserais reflect the richness and importance of trade. Trade was conducted overland by caravans

throughout Iran, linking central Asia to the west, and sea-trade from the port of Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf linked Iran to China and Europe. As Iran became an important agent and middleman in the trading of spices, silk and porcelain, enormous wealth was generated. The prosperity and stability of seventeenth-century Safavid Isfahan is seen in ceramics in two facets: Firstly in the use of elaborate figural tilework for the decoration of the many kiosks, palaces and colleges which were built throughout the period, and secondly in the survival of plentiful grand tableware, much in Chinese taste, that were treasured and survived above ground in good condition over a long period to eventually catch the attention of European collectors in the late nineteenth century.