

Tabriz Municipality Museum Palace, a spectacular site to visit



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Tabriz, the capital city of the northwestern province of East Azarbaijan, has many historical attractions, each of which has a story hidden in its heart. It is one of the most spectacular buildings of this city that has lots of interesting works. Today we are going on a trip to this great city. But before we start, let's see why Tabriz Municipality Palace is a worthy destination, and why you should put it in your travel plans: Firstly, it is one of the most attractive and spectacular sites of Tabriz. Secondly, the architecture of the mansion is amazing in its own way, and if viewed from above, it looks like a flying eagle.

General information

Tabriz Municipality Museum is located inside a palace which dates back to 1939. The building was used as the main municipal office of Tabriz until 2007, when a ceremony was held on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first

municipality in Iran. It was then that this mansion was turned into a museum, tappersia.com reported.

Entering the museum, one will see many objects belonging to the first municipality of Tabriz. There are valuable artifacts and documents reflecting the art and culture of the people who lived in the city. A part of the museum is in the basement of the building. The museum has several halls showcasing various objects such as old cameras, carpets and calligraphy works.

The Tabriz Municipality Museum, which is the second municipality museum of the world, after the one in China, was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 1998.

Palace of Municipality

As one of the beautiful and spectacular buildings of Tabriz, the Municipality Palace was built on ruins in an abandoned cemetery, from 1935 to 1939. The project was carried out under the supervision of German en-

gineers. This mansion served as the city's municipality since the beginning of its construction. It has a clock tower, which is 31 meters high.

Every 15 minutes the clock rings rhythmically.

The clock of the building, which stands out in the central part of the city, is similar to that of the Big Ben in London. The exterior and interior parts of the building, along with its courtyard and garden, are very attractive for many tourists. They will immerse visitors in a nostalgic and pleasant feeling. The exterior of the building is carved out of stone, and its design is similar to a flying eagle.

There is a beautiful and clean environment in the southern part of this museum palace, with colorful flowers, trees, and a blue pool. The roof of the mansion is decorated with traditional Iranian motifs.

Sections

The museum has several halls, each of which showcases a

specific group of objects and documents. You can start your visit from the basement, which hosts the ticket office, the shoe museum, and the fire station museum.

From the distant past, shoes produced in Tabriz have been famous for high quality. This section of the museum displays shoes made with basic equipment.

Fire Station Hall

The first fire department of the country was established in Tabriz. In this section, you will become familiar with old fire-fighting equipment and how they worked.

Hall of Old Cameras

In this section, you will learn about the development process of cameras during the past 150 years. Most of these cameras were donated to the museum by Mohammad Ali Jadid al-Salam, a famous photographer and collector.

Document Hall

A number of historically significant books, manuscripts, documents and objects, as well as letters written by the past mayors of Tabriz, are on display in the Document Hall of the museum. There are also some pictures that narrate the contemporary history of Tabriz.

Martyrs' Hall

This section hosts photos and manuscripts of some martyrs, as well as documents showing how the Azarbaijani people resisted during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

Sound Hall

The Sound Hall showcases a private and personal collection of an artist, Hossein Sajedi. In addition, one can see various types of national, indigenous, and classical musical instruments, including *tar*, *dotar* and *setar*. This section also features various types of bells and percussions, old radios, old telephones, and other sound-related devices.

Hall of Wisdom

In the Hall of Wisdom, photographs and works of three famous figures of Tabriz, Allameh Amini, Allameh Tabatabai, and Allameh Jafari, are on display. All of them were active in the fields of mysticism, wisdom, and philosophy.

Printing Hall

This section features the first printing tools which were used in the country. It introduces the city of Tabriz as the cradle of printing in Iran.

Carpet Hall

On the second floor, there is the Carpet Hall, which is known as the most unique part of the palace. Handmade and exquisite Persian carpets are on display. Each of these carpets has a name and descriptive tag. The artworks of this hall are about 110 years old. The ninth mayor of Tabriz, Arfa al-Molk, ordered the weaving of glorious carpets, 12 of which are displayed in this section.

Natanz historical castle should be saved from oblivion



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Iranica Desk

Iran boasts hundreds of historical sites which draw a large number of tourists every year. Tarqud Castle is one of these monuments located in a suburb of the city of Natanz in Isfahan Province. Its construction dates back to the Parthian Empire (247 B.C. to 224 A.D.). The castle has an area of 30,000 square meters, with more than 400 units. The rock, on which the castle has been built, is between eight to twelve meters high. Unfortunately, it is among historical monuments that have slid into oblivion.

Historical evidence suggests that the castle had no residential use; it was used for defensive purposes. People took shelter in the fortress to save their lives when they came under attack. Two-story warehouses were built under the rooms of the castle to store supplies of food and keep sheep.

The fortress is situated adjacent to a lake with the same name, Tarqud Lake. The man-made lake made it difficult for invaders to reach the



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castle.

A cultural heritage expert told IRNA that the castle currently has private owners. Majid Nouri said women of Tarqud town are the owners of the castle. In fact, the ownership pertains to their marriage portion.

Nouri noted that the castle has been badly damaged and should be renovated.

The head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Natanz also said that the historical monument was renovated four times.

Hossein Yazdanmehr added that huge amounts of financial resources should be allocated

for the revival of the castle because it covers a large area. He said the best way to restore the historical structure is to hand it over to the private sector. He, however, said this could be a complicated process because the ownership of the castle belongs to 313 people, who have passed it on to two to three thousand heirs. Yazdanmehr said foreign and domestic investors are willing to make investments to restore the castle, adding that the ownership problems remain a major obstacle. He said the government has allocated \$25,000 for renovating the castle.