

Renovation project underway in Darband neighborhood of Tehran



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Iranica Desk

Undoubtedly, Darband neighborhood in Shemiranat County is among the most beautiful regions in Tehran. A few travelers arriving in Tehran from other parts of the country, and even some of the city's residents miss the opportunity to visit the amazing area and enjoy its wonderful weather.

Be it winter or summer, hot or cold, this neighborhood welcomes a large number of guests throughout the year, especially on weekends, IRNA wrote. Touring, hiking and having delicious food in its restaurants, and enjoying the taste of *lavashak* (licorice) and pickles made from the crops of nearby gardens are memorable for many Iranians.

Many believe that more efforts should be undertaken to preserve Darband, which is definitely one of the most beautiful tourism spots in Tehran. Fortunately, related authorities have made attempts to improve the services provided to the people in the area over the past years. They have built a parking lot and a police station in Darband, not only to better serve the people, but also to ensure the security of visitors.

Seyyed Mehdi Sabbaq, the mayor of Tehran's District 1, said a project has been launched to renovate the stone pavement of the neighborhood from

Sarband Square, also known as Statue Square, to Koohpayeh Square. He said the project aims at both beautifying the area and facilitating the movement of locals, shop owners and tourists.

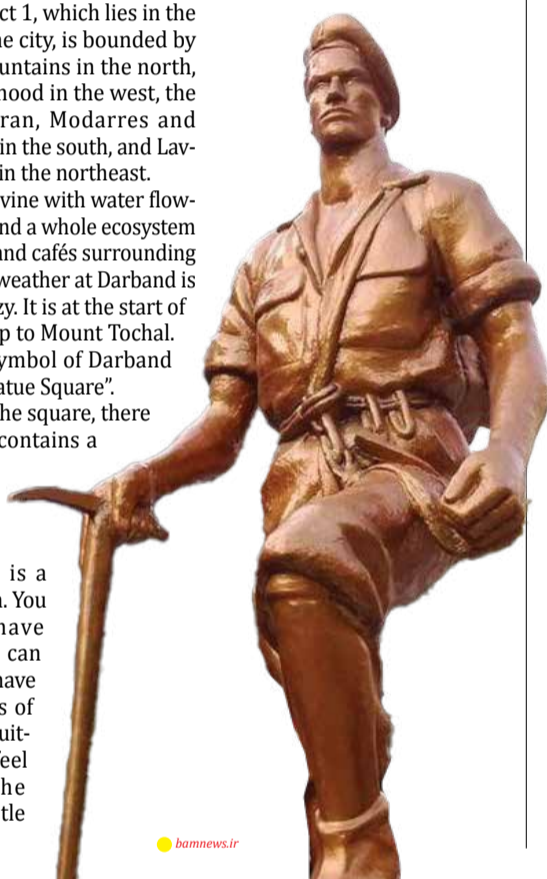
Tehran's District 1, which lies in the northeast of the city, is bounded by the Alborz Mountains in the north, Evin neighborhood in the west, the Shahid Chamran, Modarres and Sadr highways in the south, and Lavasanat County in the northeast.

Darband is a ravine with water flowing through it and a whole ecosystem of restaurants and cafés surrounding the water. The weather at Darband is fresh and breezy. It is at the start of a hiking trail up to Mount Tochal.

The popular symbol of Darband for locals is "Statue Square".

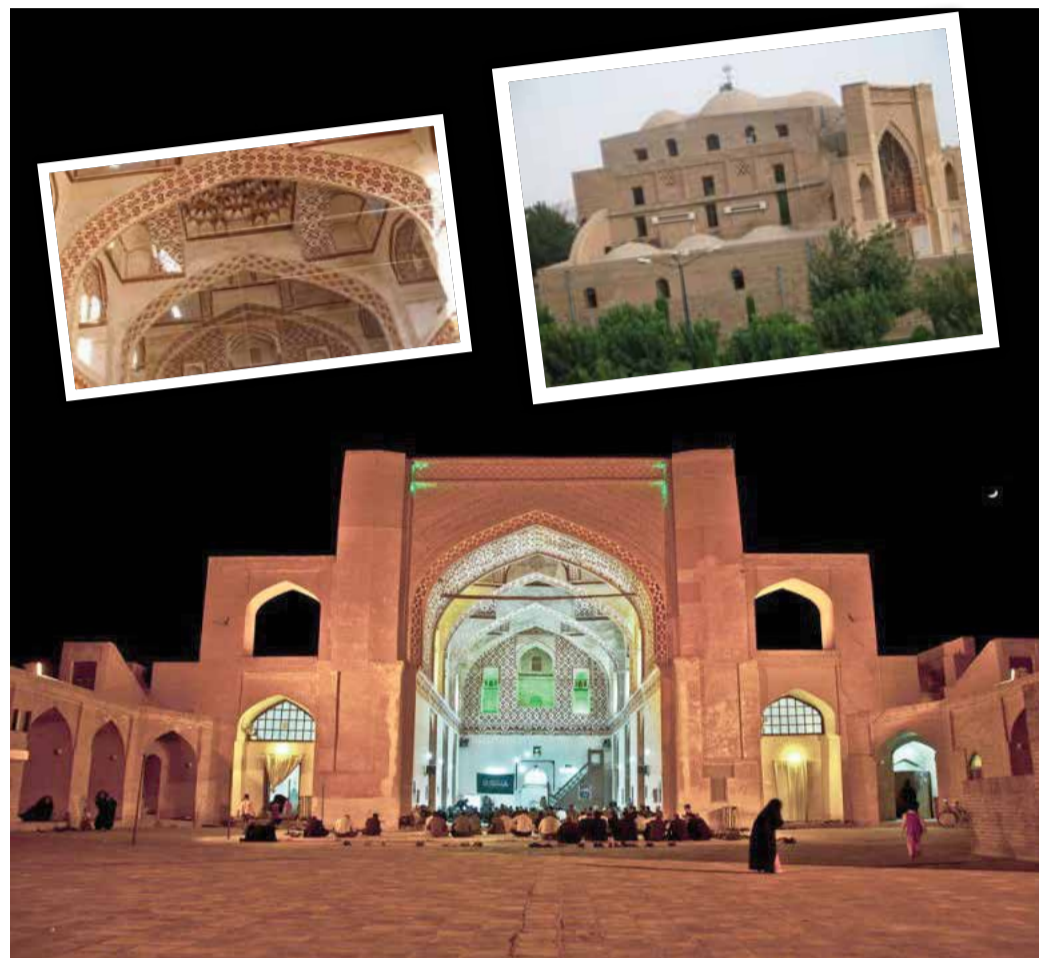
Starting from the square, there is a path that contains a variety of activities for visitors.

Beside the square, there is a chairlift station. You can indeed have fun there. You can enjoy tea and have different kinds of snacks. It is a suitable place to feel away from the hustle and bustle of Tehran.



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Architecture of Qaen Grand Mosque



kojara.com

Iranica Desk

The Grand Mosque of Qaen, in South Khorasan Province, was built in the 14th century. The mosque is a manifestation of one of the architectural masterpieces that were constructed in the late Ilkhanid era and the beginning of the Timurid period. Since its establishment, in addition to being a place of worship, the mosque has been an educational, political, social and artistic center. Great decisions were made there because it was a gathering place for Muslims. Rajabali Labbaf Khaniki, an

archeologist and researcher, told ISNA that the architect of this mosque did not follow the customs of the time and built it with a single porch. He said the construction of single-porch mosques pertained to the 11th century.

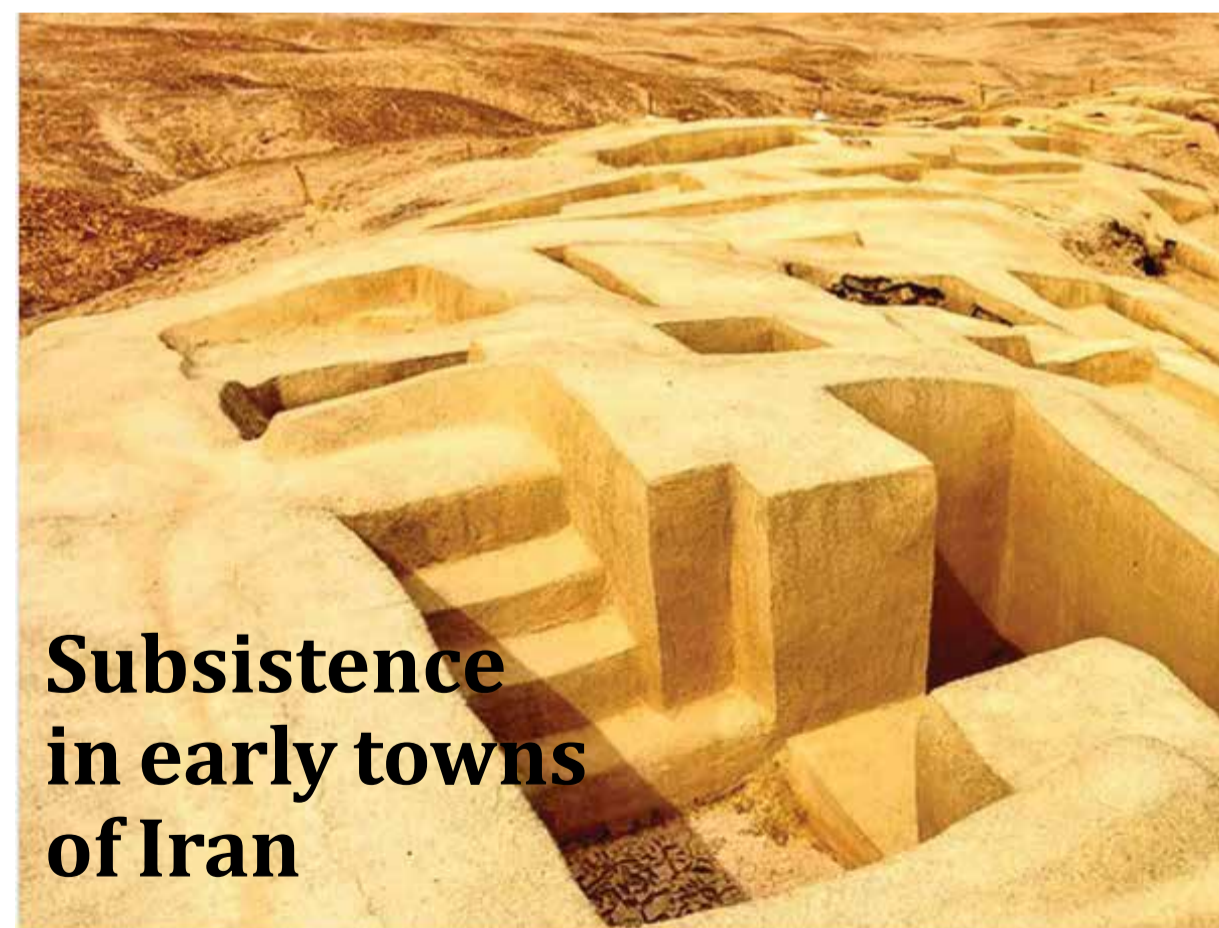
Citing archaeological excavations, Khaniki said a single-porch mosque in southern Qaen had probably been destroyed following a massive earthquake in the 11th century. He added that the architect of the Grand Mosque of Qaen built it by following the same map and using the construction materials of the demolished

mosque. The researcher said that's why the mosque was built with a single porch, contrary to the two-porch construction pattern which was common in its era.

The porch of the mosque has a height of over 17 meters, a width of 10 meters, and a length of 22.3 meters.

The roof of the porch has four arches and three domes, which are beautifully painted and decorated with very elegant mosaics. The paintings of the porch pertain to the Safavid era.

The Grand Mosque of Qaen has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

Shahr-e Sokhteh
rokna.net

Subsistence in early towns of Iran

The rise of a society that operated on the division of labour and specialist craftsmen is a characteristic feature of the Late Chalcolithic and the "Urban Revolution". The necessary redistribution of work gave rise to a complete reorganisation of all fields of work, including the agricultural sector. The production of staple foods became a specialised branch of the economy, as did pottery production, blacksmithing and trade.

Subsistence

Organising the food supply for the population of a whole town or city is an enormous logistic challenge.

The towns in southern and south-eastern Iran had enough arable land at their disposal to assure self-sufficiency. Various irrigation methods had been developed since the sixth millennium BCE. Inundation periods were utilised, and the construction of canals and terraces allowed the

retention of water over a longer period of time, so that both the water and the silt could be used. Such terraces are known from Dowlatabad near Tappeh Yahya in Kerman Province. These irrigation methods raised the yield of the fields in the direct hinterland of the cities, where mainly wheat and barley, but also millet, grapes and dates were cultivated. The crops were used in a variety of ways.

Analyses of animal bone assemblages show that controlled husbandry and culling of herds of sheep and goats took place at a distance from the cities. It is quite possible that this economic branch was in the hands of nomadic groups, who in this case would have supplied the inhabitants of the cities with animal products. Cattle, however, was kept only in close proximity of the settlements, and their meat and dairy products were probably consumed by just a small fraction

of the urban population. Another branch of animal husbandry specialised in the breeding of draft and pack animals.

There are only a few and still controversial records for the use of horses, donkeys and camels in the long-distance trade of this time.

In other regions of the Near East, donkeys are known since the fourth millennium BCE, but the archaeological evidence for Iran is – except for the onager, that was hunted – still lacking. Domesticated horses, possibly originating in East Anatolia or Transcaucasia, appear in Iran not before the later third millennium BCE. Secure evidence for camels dates as late as the second millennium BCE, and so far the terracotta figurines of dromedaries from Shahr-e Sokhteh (Burned City), in the southeast of Iran, are the only indication of a possibly earlier use of these animals in transportation.