

Bahr Ghan village of Sepidan fascinates nature lovers



visitiran.ir

Iranica Desk

High peaks, beautiful waterfalls, numerous rivers and springs have distinguished Sepidan from other cities of the southwestern province of Fars.

Bahr Ghan village, located on the road linking Sepidan to the provincial capital city of Shiraz, is a popular attraction. Its flowing river, green trees and cool air absorb visitors from across the country, especially in the summer.

The river flowing in the village, originating from the mountains of Sepidan, is surrounded by walnuts, plantain and white poplar trees. With sweet and clear water, the river caused the village's agriculture and livestock breeding sectors to prosper.

The average annual temperature of Sepidan, which receives more than 700mm of rainfall in wet years, is about 15° Celsius.

The pleasure of resting on the banks of the river under the shade of green

trees and breathing fresh air has made Bahr Ghan village a destination for nature lovers of Fars and its neighboring provinces, especially during the spring and summer.

The mausoleum of Imamzadeh Malek, located in the village, also hosts many visitors from various parts of the country every year.

The roaring river and pleasant climate of the village can help boost its economy and generate jobs for the villagers.

In order to realize the objective, efforts should be made to enhance the tourism infrastructures of the village, situated near the center of Sepidan, and create a comfortable environment for tourists.

Ali Qasseminejad, a rural manager living in the village, which has 1,090 households, told IRNA that presently the villagers host tourists from across the country.

Referring to the large number of people traveling to the village, especially in

the spring and summer, he said that the establishment of some eco lodges is a necessity.

He added that according to an ancient document, the history of the village dates back 580 years.

"A number of ancient adobe houses remain in the village, which, if refurbished, can host tourists and nature lovers traveling to the village," he said.

Fars is among Iranian provinces that enjoy various tourist and historical attractions. The develop-

ment of tourism has been proposed as one of the practical solutions to help the province diversify its sources of income. Planners and policymakers in Fars Province have attached great significance to efforts aimed at promoting the tourism industry.

The city of Sepidan is located in northwestern Fars Province and has considerable potentials in tourism. It is situated in the heart of the Zagros Mountains, which has cold winters and cool summers. Sepi-

dan's ski resort is one of the largest ski resorts in Iran, which covers an area of 500 hectares. The city also has many tourist attractions including waterfalls and museums.

With regard to Sepidan's great potentials, provincial officials have placed plans on the agenda to introduce it as a special tourism zone. The officials of Fars Province have repeatedly stressed that the potentials of the province should be exploited to create revenues and jobs.

Tehran's oldest tower in awful condition

Iranica Desk

The 900-year-old Toghrol Tower in Shahr-e Rey, which is the oldest tower in Tehran, is being renovated for the third time.

Based on what experts have said, the shape of this historical site has been massively changed, given the fact that the southern gate of the monument has been wrongly repaired, as a result of which flaws are obvious in its appearance.

An official from the Cultural Heritage Department of Shahr-e Rey gave assurance that the renovation would be undertaken by professional artisans.

However, field researchers reported that manual workers are on this project while under no supervision. Apparently, the job has been handed to the same contractor who had already received severe criticism for its poor handling of the 2,300-year-old Rashkan Castle in Shahr-e Rey. The restoration is taking place while dampness had seeped through the interior of the monument, causing the tower to lean.

However, the construction workers are only concerned with the materi-

als necessary to renovate the exterior design, while being oblivious to the interior of the building.

Since the refurbishment is not being done properly, it has raised several questions.

Chairman of the National Committee of Iranian Museums (ICOM) Ahmad Mohit Tabatabaei said that this renovation must be done under the control of the committee.

He suggested that if the Cultural Heritage Organization finds any problems, it should solve it through legal means.

He highlighted that this tomb belongs to Tughril, the Seljuk ruler who died in Shahr-e Rey in 1653 CE. This is the first time that restoration of a historical work is recorded.

Moreover, there are photos available from pre- and post-renovation of this monument.

"It is better to shift this responsibility to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, because of their fixed budget" he continued.

He noted, "This tower is the only discovered artwork that dates back to 900 years ago, being the oldest one found in Tehran so far".



visitiran.ir

