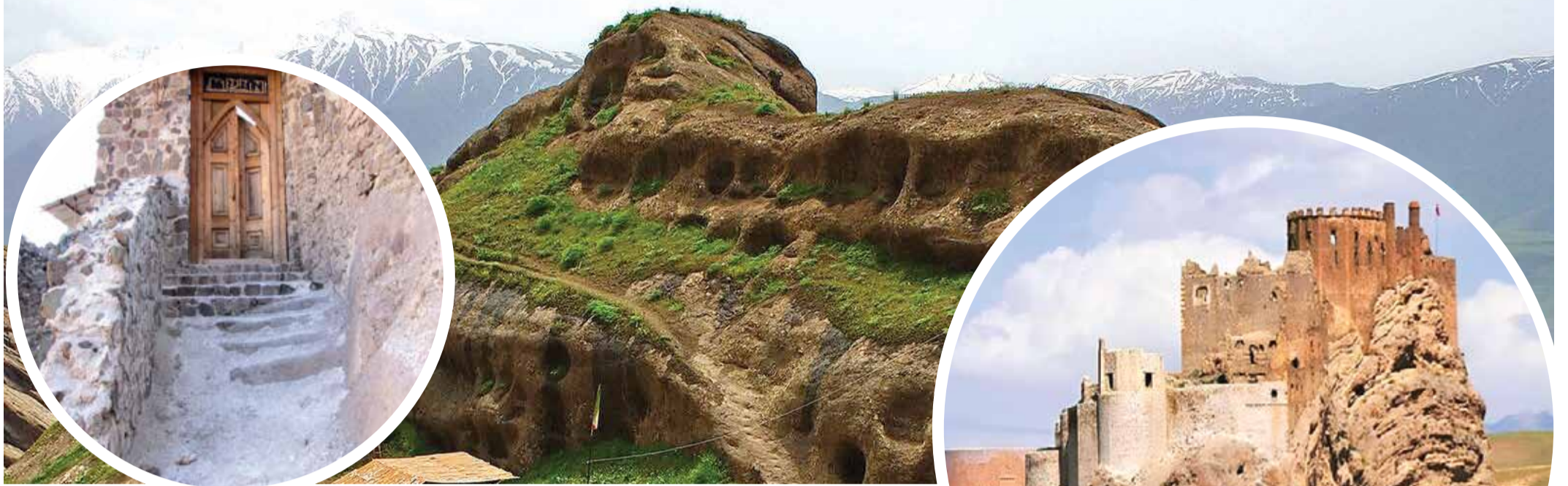


The mysterious Alamut Castle



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Perched on the peaks of Alborz Mountains, in northwestern Iran, Alamut Castle is one of the most famous and mysterious castles in the country. Only ruins remain from the once majestic castle, but its historical importance and the legends around it continue to make this place worth visiting. In this article, you will discover the story of Hassan Sabbah and the Alamut Castle. There is about 30 percent left of the original structure, which was a 20,000 square-meter fort, the construction of which started in the 9th century, surfiran.

com wrote. Located on top of a hill, the castle has two upper and lower parts, as well as the walls surrounded by precipices. Thanks to its location and architecture, Alamut Castle was known as one of the most impregnable in Iran. It became famous under Hassan Sabbah's rule, a member of the Ismailis that led a resistance against the Seljuk dynasty, which was in power at the time in Persia.

Story of the castle

The story of Alamut Castle begins in 891 CE, when an

ancient Persian king decided to start the construction of the monument. Two centuries before the reign of Hassan Sabah, this king was on a hunt when he saw a large eagle perched on top of a remote hill. Seeing this as a favorable omen and realizing the strategic value of the location, the king chose to build a castle there and to name it "Alamut," which can translate into "eagle's nest". It was in 1090 CE when the castle became famous. This was when Hassan Sabbah took the castle to make it the center of the Ismailis. There are various stories

detailing how Hassan Sabbah took the castle. Which ever technique he used, it is said that he took control of the castle without spilling a drop of blood. Hassan Sabbah made the Alamut Castle the headquarters of the Ismailis and spent the rest of his life there, reading and writing. From Alamut, Hassan Sabbah fomented an open rebellion against the Seljuk dynasty, and his followers took and built several other castles in the region. Alamut Castle is one of the most popular in Iran, worth visiting for its historical significance and beautiful

natural surroundings. Expect some hiking to reach the fortress, as it is located on top of a hill, with an elevation of about 2,000 meters. It is a moderate hike that requires comfortable shoes. You will have to

climb about 400 stairs on an incline of 35 degrees, for about one to two hours, depending on your walking pace. As it is at a high altitude, the best time of the year to visit Alamut Castle is

in late spring and summer. While the view is amazing, the trail is often closed during winter due to heavy snow and reaching the top of the hill at that season requires professional training.

River control and canal construction in ancient Iran



Karun River
fadaktrains.com

Dez River
kindiran.com

As the historians wrote down, the civilization of ancient Iran were mostly located in the southern and southwestern provinces of

the country (Fars and Khuzestan provinces). There were a number of dams in the south of Iran which are still existed. There is

no doubt about their roles in the development of the south. While the rivers in the south have moderate discharges, Karun River has been the largest one in Iran. There are many remains of ancient civilization around this river. Khuzestan had been the store of grain and the land of sugar cane and it was very famous in the world. Although the execution of new dams, land leveling

and providing modern irrigation networks cause some of those old water structures to be ruined, there are still many old canals, which show the greatness and importance of Khuzestan Province in the past. Even now, some of them are under operation.

The boundary of southern rivers

The most important rivers in Khuzestan are: Karun,

Dez and Karkheh. There are many small rivers in this great plain as well. The sign of projection of shore into the sea called river sedimentation. There are many canals between Karkheh and Dez, which belonged to the old era.

The trace of Elamites' irrigation canals

Investigators believe some of these irrigation canals

in this large plain had been excavated during Elamites Period, as it was written on old inscriptions. It is clear that they were crossing the Karun River by boat, but its location isn't clear. There are different crossing points on Dez.

Achaemenid and Sassanid

One of the important canals in Shushtar is Darian. It is believed; Darius the Great. Besides that, there were many water and irrigation structures, which belonged to Achaemenid era in this great plain. Unfortunately there are not many traces of them, but there were some people believed they would belong to some other eras. There was a serious need to construct some bridges over three important rivers in Khuzestan region during Sassanid era. As you know one of the governmental centers was in Pasaargade and the other one in Teisphon.

Specification of Sassanids' bridges

Shapur the First had two major objectives for these bridges: His army could

easily cross the rivers any time, which was necessary. The piles of constructed bridges were somehow used as dams to raise water level and divert it to left and right irrigation canals. There were even structures with triple objectives in Iran. One of the best samples is Band-e-Amir in Fars. Irrespective of connecting both river banks, it acted as dam and raised water level to divert to the canals in both sides, and finally they used the water power of this great historical structure to rotate the millstones. Another sample is Gargar Weir and the water mills around it, which were constructed during Sassanid era. Those explanation of multipurpose structures belonged to the most recent era. When Shapur the First defeated Valerian the Roman Emperor in Epuda battle (260 CE), he got benefit from Roman captives to carry out his construction plan. After Shapur his successor, Khosrow Parviz who was very interested in development and improvement of the country started the construction of Qasr-e Shirin and Taq-e Bostan.