

Tourism infrastructures of Mehdishahr to be developed



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● hameghlim.com

Iranica Desk

The city of Mehdishahr, also known as Sangsar, is located 20 kilometers from the center of the north-central Iranian province of Semnan. Numerous regions of the city are very familiar to tourists and nature lovers. Mehdi Qassemi, an official from Semnan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, told ISNA that efforts are underway to develop the infrastructures of the city. He added that a project to pave the route linking Azam Hossei-

niah to Khilkhan Residential, Catering and Tourism Complex of the city was launched. He noted that tourism is among the most dynamic sectors of the global economy, adding that improvement of these infrastructures would help develop sustainable tourism in the city. He said that Mehdishahr, with a pleasant climate, is home to numerous historical monuments and natural sites. "Shahmirzad, a town in Mehdishahr, which has been selected as an exemplary tourism area, attracts a large number of tour-

ists every year," he noted. The history of the city goes back to the pre-Islamic period and even the Pishdadian Dynasty. Mehdishahr is bordered by the city of Semnan from the south, Mazandaran Province from the north, Firouzkuh from the west, and Damghan from the east. A large number of mines are located in the area. However, Mehdishahr should be considered a completely mountainous region, south of the Alborz Mountains. The region has a variety of vegetation. If you move north from Shahmirzad, you will see many needle-leaf trees, including juniper, cypress, and barberry. The most important products of Mehdishahr include wheat and barley, fodder (alfalfa), walnuts, plums, pomegranates, grapes and apricots. Like other cities of the province, various types of handicrafts are being manufactured by the craftspeople of the city. Kilim-weaving, *jajim-bafi* (weaving a traditional Persian covering), *ghalam-zani* (the art of carving superb designs on various metals), *shomareh-duzi* (a type of embroidery) and pottery are among the main handicrafts of Mehdishahr. Mehdishahr has been registered as the National City of *shomareh-duzi*.

Enjoy water sports in Tehran's Fashafuyeh Lake



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Tehran has no beaches. When you visit its periphery, you either reach the desert or mountains; forests and beaches belong to the other side of the mountains. If you travel toward Imam Khomeini International Airport, before reaching the airport, at kilometer 18 of the Tehran-Qom highway, you will see a lake that has all the leisure facilities of Kish and Qeshm islands. It is the destination of any tourist traveling around Tehran, visitiran.ir reported. Water sports are available in

Fashafuyeh Lake Complex only during the warm seasons, beginning in the middle of spring and lasting until about October. You can also go there in other seasons and enjoy other fun activities such as car racing and horse riding. Boat riding is one of the most popular activities you can undertake in the lake. Different kinds of boats such as motorboats, kayaks, and slaloms are available to choose from. **Water skiing:** To do this in Fashafuyeh Lake Complex, two separated water boards are

attached to your feet, you will stand on water, and a boat will pull you on the water by the rope you hold in your hands. **Jet skiing:** Jet ski is a kind of water motor that is so light that it would rarely drown. With basic instructions, you can ride it on the water and enjoy an exciting experience. Water shuttle is a ride that looks like a UFO. You can sit on it and lean back while holding its handles to avoid falling in the water. A motorboat pulls the shuttle by a rope. **Cable skiing:** This is also a type of water skiing. To do it, you will put both of your feet on one board, and a cable attached higher than the water level pulls the board. **Flyboarding:** This is one of the most exciting water rides you can experience. The boards use the force from pumping water to raise you up to twelve meters above the water. You can move freely and perform show tricks on the board.

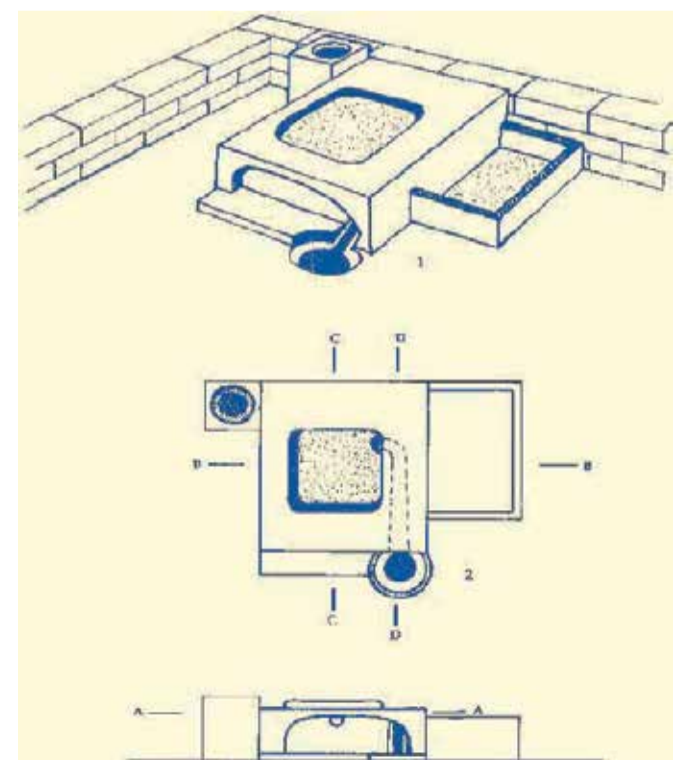
Crucible metallurgy in Iranian Plateau

Crucibles are known from a number of sites on the Iranian Plateau, such as Tal-e Iblis, Shahr-e Sokhteh and Tappeh Ghabrestan. However, just one smelting hearth has been found, in a 3rd millennium context at Shahdad, south of the Lut. Crucibles are typical for Iranian metallurgy in Chalcolithic and Bronze Age times. Their characteristic is their use not only in the melting of native copper for casting, but also in the melting of native copper mixed with copper arsenides in order to achieve an efficient alloy, as well as in the smelting of oxides and the co-smelting of oxides and sulphides.

In Tal-e Iblis near Kerman, the analysis of 300 crucible fragments indicated their use in smelting process, since they still held traces of slag and had not been exposed to temperatures higher than 1000°C. Thus, as an experimental reconstruction confirmed, the charge had been filled directly into the crucible, which had been covered, and the fireplaces had been simple pits in the ground. In Tal-e Iblis near Kerman, the analysis of 300 crucible fragments indicated their use in smelting process, since they still held traces of slag and had not been exposed to temperatures higher than 1,000°C. Thus, as an experimental re-

construction confirmed, the charge had been filled directly into the crucible, which had been covered, and the fireplaces had been simple pits in the ground. But the first irrefutable proof of smelting and casting processes comes from Tappeh Ghabrestan near Qazvin, at the end of the 5th millennium BCE: 20kg of malachite, crushed into small, nut-sized pieces, ideal for smelting, were found, along with two hearths, a crucible with slag residue, four open casting moulds for tools with shaft-holes, and a rectangular mould for five rod-shaped ingots. Additionally, a cylindrical object made of clay that can be inter-

preted either as a mould or as a tuyère (blowpipe) was uncovered. If it was in fact a tuyère, it would be the only prehistoric example from the plateau and one of the very few found in Western Asia as a whole. The workshops at Tappeh Ghabrestan and the significant quantities of metal at Tappeh Hesar, Sialk and Shahdad suggest the existence of professional metallurgists, whose efforts were more directed towards the manufacture of objects through casting and hammering than towards the modification of raw material processing techniques, which would not show significant improvement for two millennia.



So called metallurgical furnace from of Shahdad

The above is a lightly edited version of part of a chapter entitled, 'Susa', from a book entitled, 'Persian Antiques Splendor', edited by T. Stallner, R. Slotta, and A. Vatandoust, published by German Mining Museum. The photo were taken from the book.