

Unique artifacts on display in Museum of Antique Gems and Jewelry



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Iranica Desk

The archeological discoveries show that Iranian women have used jewelry for over 5,000 years. High-ranking men also wore jewelry, from golden necklaces and bracelets to bejeweled scepters and swords.

The Museum of Antique Gems and Jewelry, located in Mirdamad Boulevard in Tehran, is a place where you can visit a luxurious and unique treasure of ancient Iranian jewelry and ornaments, ISNA wrote.

About 800 objects are on display in the museum, some of which were collected from the museums of Mostazafan Foundation.

The first section of the museum, called "Gems and Jewelry of Ancient Iran," features women's jewelry made of shells and stones. For many visitors, it is awe-inspiring to see so much delicacy in jewels dating back thousands of years.

As time progressed, the jewelry production technique advanced and new pieces were made of bronze, glass, gold and baked clay, with colorful patterns.

In the showcases of the museum, displaying ornaments made during the Parthian, Sassanid and Achaemenid periods, the progress gained by the jewelry-making industry is much more tangible.

Some objects of the museum are unique including a piece of a gold-made scepter, dating back to the Achaemenid era, decorated with lapis lazuli. Some other gold cups and bracelets, being showcased in the museum, show off the artistic elegance of this historical period as well.

In the next section of the museum, the jeweled weapons of the Safavid and Qajar kings are exhibited,

the most unique of which is the golden sword of Fat'hali Shah Qajar (1772-1834 CE).

The sword's hilt, having a purple velvet sheath, is made of bone, decorated with diamonds, emeralds and rubies. The diamond sword of Mohammad Shah Qajar (1808-1848 CE) and the golden sword of Shah Abbas Safavid (1571-1629 CE) are other outstanding artifacts exhibited there.

Another section, featuring gems, watches, pearls and diamonds is also very eye-catching, especially the items made by the world's most famous jewelry brands.

All works have been authenticated and dated before putting on display. You are recommended to visit the Museum of Antique Gems and Jewelry with a guide who would tell you the story behind the jewels and ornaments on display.

The Museum of Antique Gems and Jewelry offers a new discourse in its field of specialization and has a different view from other museums in its field; a perspective that can have important effects on the country's jewelry industry.

Like other forms of art, jewelry is a reflection of the feelings and intelligence of its creator. When human beings began to live collectively, they paid more attention to adornment, beauty, and the use of accessories to beautify themselves and their living environment. Search for beauty was one of their inner needs. The first pieces of jewelry made by human beings were inspired by nature, but gradually, through their creativity and innovations, more sophisticated pieces were made, some of which were magnificent and spectacular works of art.

Spend 'Art Evenings' on Tabiat Bridge of Tehran



IRNA

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Craft artists gather on Tabiat Bridge (Nature Bridge), located in the Abbas Abad district of Tehran, Thursdays and Fridays, to participate in an event named "Art Evenings".

During the event launched on Aug. 24, artists show how their works of art in various fields are created, according to IRNA.

On the opening day, embroidery artisans exhibited their works for four hours.

On the second day, 21 craftspeople engaged in woodworking showcased their handmade works. Tabiat Bridge is the largest pedestrian overpass in Iran. The 270-meter (890 ft.) bridge connects two public parks — Taleghani Park and Ab-o-Atash Park — by spanning Modarres Expressway, one of the main highways in northern Tehran.

The bridge was designed by Diba Tensile Architecture (Leila Araghian and Alireza Behzadi). It has won several awards, including the Popular Choice Prize for Highways & Bridges from the Architizer A+ Awards, a global architectural competition based in New York. Also the bridge won the 2016 Aga Khan Award for Architecture (from Bangladesh) for its exemplary approach to an infrastructure project, "a breath of fresh air" according to the award jury.

Not only does the bridge connect two parks, but it is a popular gathering place for the community in its seating areas and restaurants, serving as a place for people to spend some time, rather than just pass through. Some have described walking on the bridge as feeling like walking through a forest, a place of positive energy where they can come to rejuvenate.

Four million people visited the bridge the first year it was opened, on October 12, 2014.

Al-Biruni, Iranian polymath who first determined Earth's radius



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Abu Rayhan Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Biruni, commonly known as al-Biruni, was a prominent Iranian scholar and polymath who lived during the Islamic Golden Age. He is often referred to as the "founder of Indology," the "father of comparative religion," the "father of modern geodesy," and even the first anthropologist.

As one explores the history of science, al-Biruni stands out as one of the earliest figures to capture attention. He was a highly accomplished scientist with extensive knowledge in various branches of science.

Al-Biruni was born in the town of Kath, a village near Khwarazm, on September 4, 973. At the young age of 17, he eagerly immersed himself in scientific pursuits. It was during this time that he calculated the latitude of Kath by carefully observing the maximum altitude of the sun.

In 998, he found himself at the court of Qabus, the ruler of Gorgan and Tabaristan in me-

dieval Iran. It was there that he penned his first significant work, titled "al-Athar al-Baqqiya 'an al-Qorun al-Khaliyya" or "the remaining traces of past centuries," on historical and scientific chronology, likely around the year 1000.

In 1017, the political landscape underwent a dramatic change as Mahmud of Ghazni, the first sultan of the Ghaznavid Empire, captured Khwarazm. Al-Biruni, along with a group of scholars, was taken to Ghazni by Mahmud.

Sultan Mahmud recognized al-Biruni's reputation as a keen observer of natural phenomena and had a strong desire for his presence at his court. He granted al-Biruni a suitable position and employed him as an astronomer and astrologer in his palace. However, Mahmud never fully acknowledged his talents, and due to differences in their scientific beliefs, al-Biruni was imprisoned by Mahmud on several occasions.

In one of their debates, al-Biruni asserted that the Earth was round and supported his argument with abundant and convincing evidence. However, Mahmud of Ghazni opposed this notion because of

his insatiable desire for absolute authority. He insisted that al-Biruni must mention in his thesis that the Earth was round only with Mahmud's authorization.

Al-Biruni accompanied Mahmud on his invasions into India when he was 44 years old. While Mahmud sought to annihilate Indian culture through pillaging and looting, al-Biruni made earnest efforts to preserve its rich heritage. He doc-

umented the people, customs, and religions of the Indian subcontinent, much like a modern anthropologist. As an indologist, he authored an encyclopedic book on India known as "Tahqiq mā li-l-Hind" or "the study of India."

Through this encyclopedia, al-Biruni introduced India to the ancient world, highlighting that ancient Greece was not the sole repository of knowledge.



Statue of al-Biruni in Laleh Park, Tehran



Al-Biruni was a remarkable figure in the world of knowledge, known for his dynamism, inventiveness, and exploration. He was a true innovator and developed various instruments for applied mathematics and astronomy.

One of his ingenious achievements was his explanation of how artesian wells work. He used the concept of connected vessels to illustrate how water naturally rises to the surface due to pressure. Also, he was a pioneer in making a globe to represent the Earth's geography and meticulously calculated the latitude and longitude of numerous cities to be marked on this sphere.

Al-Biruni was the first person to suggest the existence of a

continent like America through map projections.

Out of the 146 books authored by Al-Biruni, a significant 95 of them were dedicated to the study of astronomy.

He also devised an innovative method to determine the Earth's radius. Using trigonometry, he calculated the Earth's radius by measuring the height of a hill and the dip in the horizon observed from its summit. His calculated radius, 3928.77 miles, was slightly higher by 2% than the actual mean radius of 3847.80 miles.

Al-Biruni died on December 13, 1048, at the age of 75, leaving behind a lasting legacy. His work and ideas inspired future scientists like Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, and Torricelli.