



visitiran.ir



visitiran.ir

## Ardebil Anthropology Museum features region's rich heritage, vibrant traditions



visitiran.ir



visitiran.ir

### Iranica Desk

The Ardebil Anthropology Museum is incredibly valuable because it houses a rich collection of objects and items that beautifully reflects the customs, culture, history, livelihoods, and traditions of the people living in this region.

An official from Ardebil Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, Malakheh Golmaghanizadeh said that museums are like permanent exhibitions, and anthropology museums are considered the third category in museum classification. Objects and items representing the in-

igenous and nomadic lifestyles of local people from the past 150 years have been collected in the Ardebil Anthropology Museum. According to the official the museum has received an impressive total of 6,500 visitors from March 21-Aug. 21, 2023.

She added that the museum exhibits the general culture, tribal clothing, handicrafts, daily life, and consumption items of the local people in the past.

"And when it comes to collecting and displaying them, there hasn't been any bias towards a specific location in the province. Instead, a holistic and inclusive approach has been taken, con-

sidering all areas within the province," she stressed.

Golmaghanizadeh observed that schools and university students are regular visitors to this valuable collection, indicating the excellent collaboration among Ardebil Province's Department of Education and universities, and the Cultural Heritage Organization.

She noted that the Ardebil anthropology Museum finds its home in the magnificent and historic building of Zahir-ol-Eslam Bathhouse. It beams with pride as it showcases a priceless collection of artifacts from the Zand, Safavid, Qajar, and Pahlavi periods, illuminat-

ing the vibrant cultural heritage of the region.

The official continued that this bathhouse was built before the Safavid era (1501-1736 CE) and was later expanded and finished during that period. Currently, there are continuous efforts dedicated to preserving and maintaining this building, as ongoing attention to historical structures is crucial for their protection and safeguarding.

In a section of this museum, you will find statues depicting rural women and men in various activities such as conversing, baking bread, weaving carpets and rugs, and energetically shaking the yoghurt churn to make

butter.

In *sarbineh* of the bathhouse, multiple locations have been set up to meet the requirements of individuals who are waiting or seeking a place to rest. These specially designed spaces prioritize offering privacy after bathing, providing a dedicated area for prayer and reciting the Holy Quran, enabling the enjoyment of tea, and accommodating individuals who wish to smoke the hookah.

The main corridor of the bathhouse, known as *hashti*, is a winding path that connects the *sarbineh* to the *garmkhaneh*, the main washing area which consisted of multiple sitting ar-

reas, as well as hot and cold bathing pools.

The *hashti* is designed to prevent heat loss, block a direct view to the *garmkhaneh*, and regulate the body temperature of individuals. The corridor is constructed in the form of a narrow maze with a low ceiling, either octagonal or square, with a simple dome-shaped roof.

The *garmkhaneh's* illumination was provided by ceiling skylights with lens-shaped glass, which also served as a barrier to block the view of the bathroom from the outside.

Zahir-ol-Eslam Bathhouse was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in

1997. After the necessary renovations, it was opened as the Ardebil Anthropology Museum on February 11, 2000.

Given that Ardebil has been designated as the Tourism Capital of ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) in 2023, several programs have been implemented, or are in progress, to enhance the tourism potential of this province. Consequently, there has been a rise in the number of foreign tourists, particularly Chinese nationals, visiting Ardebil. This upward trend is expected to amplify museum visits and stimulate the tourism industry in the province.

## Maharlu Lake: A pink paradise of wonder in Shiraz

Nestled in the southeastern corner of the enchanting city of Shiraz, where Hafez's verses still linger, a spellbinding surprise awaits you - Maharlu Lake.

With an elevation of 1,500 meters above sea level, it unfurls from 28 to 31 kilometers in length, and 11 to 15 kilometers in width, [surfiran.com](http://surfiran.com) wrote.

### Captivating ink water

Yet, it is the lake's exquisite hue that captures hearts and imaginations alike - the pink water. The lake's salinity, high salt content, and seasonal rhythms collaborate to craft its signature shades.

The spotlight, however, belongs to a crimson-hued lake, affectionately dubbed "red killer" or scientifically known as "Dunaliella salina." As the sun orchestrates its magic



IRNA

and temperatures ascend, the algae release a rosy substance, transforming the lake's waters into a painter's palette of pinks and reds.

Environmental adversar-

ies, ranging from drought and low rainfall to pollutants, pose existential threats to Maharlu Lake. A poignant reminder that these enchanting landscapes demand our vigi-

lant protection, now more than ever.

### Timing is key

To truly embrace Maharlu Lake's ethereal charm, timing is of the essence. The lake

undergoes a remarkable metamorphosis across the seasons. For an encounter with the lake in its full aqueous splendor, plan your visit from autumn to mid-spring when rain breathes life into

its depths.

Should you yearn to witness the lake's renowned pink hues at their zenith, mid-summer beckons, as waters recede and colors radiate in their full glory.

### Immersing in local culture

Venturing to the village that shares its name with the lake offers a chance to immerse yourself in local culture. In this corner of the world, traditions of animal husbandry, horticulture, and agriculture form the bedrock of community life. Stroll amidst charming stone houses, adorned with arched windows that frame the past.

### Witnessing ever-shifting beauty

For those seekers of extraordinary experiences, Maharlu Lake awaits. A realm where verses and nature intertwine, leaving an indelible imprint on those fortunate enough to witness its ever-shifting beauty. Travel to this pink paradise, where the echoes of history and the water's hues converge, weaving a symphony of wonder.



visitworldheritage.com