

Visit cultural and historical treasures of Aradan

Padeh Castle
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A picturesque town in Semnan Province, Aradan offers a wealth of cultural and historical attractions. With its fertile plains and the Hablehrood River, it has become an agricultural center in the region. This town is renowned for its diverse range of agricultural and livestock products, which include high-quality wheat, cotton, watermelon, figs, tomatoes, walnuts, and olives. In addition, the town is well-known for its thriving livestock and poultry farming, as well as its flourishing beekeeping industry.

Let's delve into some of the notable landmarks that make Aradan a must-visit destination.

Aradan Bazaar

Built in the early Qajar period, this charming bazaar showcases remarkable masonry work by the Yaghmaei merchant family. With 31 rooms and beautiful arches, adorned with intricate designs, it is a testament to the architectural heritage of the town. The bazaar also features an octagonal open space, which remains a vibrant hub for locals.

Imamzadeh Ali Akbar Shrine

Located in the south of Aradan, this shrine holds a history that spans 850 years. The main dome originates from the Ilkhanid era, while additions during the Qajar period include a portico and octagon. Despite the absence of tile work, the mausoleum's

brick construction exudes a unique charm.

Imamzadeh Sultan Shah Nazar Shrine

Situated in the heart of Aradan, the building of this mausoleum dates back to the early Qajar period. Its distinctive architectural style and the exquisite plasterwork inside the dome make it a sight to behold. Perched on a hill with historical significance dating back to the Parthian era, the mausoleum draws visitors seeking solace and historical insights.

Tekiyeh of Aradan

Constructed during the Qajar period, this *tekiyeh* served as an avenue for the traditional *ta'zieh* performances. Comprising chambers and an open courtyard, this historical gem boasts two porticos – one to access the *tekiyeh*, and the other facing west. Immerse yourself in the rich cultural traditions that unfolded in this remarkable structure.

Yatari Oliya Castle

Found in the village of the same name, this ancient castle stands atop a hill, offering breathtaking views. Built on an extensive area, it once served as a hostel. Explore the remnants of this remarkable fortress, which has silently witnessed the passing of time.

Padeh Castle

Serving as the gateway to the village of Padeh, this castle showcases its Parthian-era origins. Standing at an imposing height of 14 meters and with walls measuring 12 meters in diameter, it played a pivotal role as a watchtower along the Silk Road.

Be captivated by the strategic significance of this historical structure.

Aliabad Water Reservoir

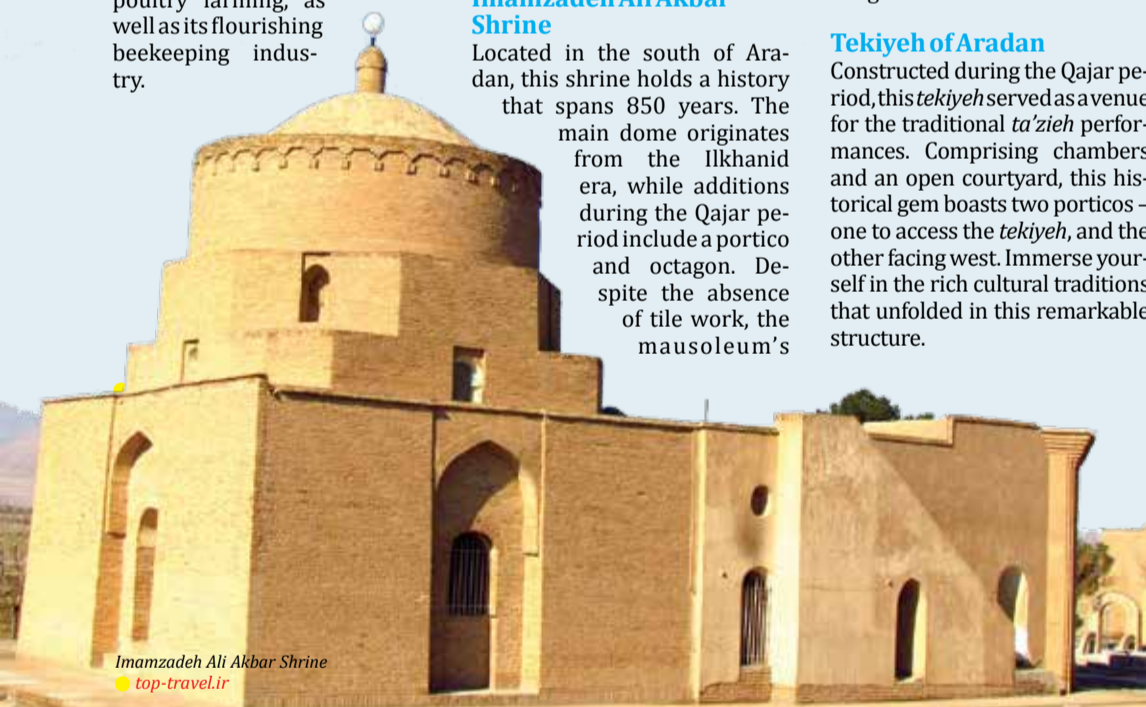
Dating back to the Qajar period, this water reservoir was designed by renowned architect Haj Ghorban Memarian. Its impressive brickwork staircase, roof, and entrance bring out the beauty of its architecture. Admire the intricate geometric patterns that adorn this centuries-old reservoir.

Dehnamak Caravansera

Located on the ancient stone-paved road, this Safavid-period

caravansera captivates visitors with its four-ivan (portico) layout. Step into the famous southern hall, known as the *shahne-shin* (royal seat), and explore the numerous small rooms surrounding the grand courtyard. Don't miss the water reservoirs alongside the road, integral for meeting the needs of travelers in the past.

Aradan's rich heritage, encompassing its bazaar, mausoleums, castles, reservoirs, and caravansera, offers a glimpse into the region's captivating past. Immerse yourself in the cultural treasures of this enchanting town and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Imamzadeh Ali Akbar Shrine
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Stabilization efforts underway for western wall of Shushtar's historical hydraulic system

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The director of the Shushtar World Heritage Site, Amin Mahdavi, has announced that specialized measures are being implemented to stabilize the western wall of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System. The importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of visitors to historical sites, as emphasized by international conventions, has driven these efforts.

He added that through regular monitoring, it was discovered that the western wall, spanning approximately 600 meters in length and standing at a height of 25 meters, exhibited movements and signs of deterioration.

"With a movement of around 1.5 centimeters, there was an inherent risk of sudden collapse. Of particular concern was the fact that this wall overlooks the mill areas and is closely surrounded by residential structures. Hence, the majori-



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ty of the building owners have been made aware of the potential risks associated with its stability," he noted.

Mahdavi noted that the significance of addressing this issue lies in the potential destruction of a significant

portion of the mill buildings in the event of a sudden wall collapse. Moreover, the Gargar River, an artificial river of historical significance dating back to the Achaemenid period, could experience blockage, leading to irrepara-

ble social and human losses downstream.

He observed that this stabilization plan has been in development since 2009, requiring the expertise of qualified consultants and the implementation of various executive measures.



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Consequently, access to the western section of the site has been blocked, preventing visitors from entering the middle area.

"News agencies have diligently communicated this closure to tourists, emphasizing that access will remain restricted until the completion of the workshop operations," he stressed. He stated that the projected timeline for the execution of the stabilization plan is estimated to be around 14 months, accounting for the schedule outlined by the design consultant and the factors involved with the contracted company. In its initial phase, the plan will encompass a length of 60 meters, covering the entire height of the wall.