



Taq-e Booshtan
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Anahita Temple
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Path to UNESCO recognition for Kermanshah's historical sites

Iranica Desk

The historical sites Taq-e Booshtan, and Anahita Temple in Kermanshah Province have been on the UNESCO World Heritage tentative list since 2006. However, there has been no progress in preparing the dossier for these sites and submitting it to UNESCO. The measure aims to encompass the 18 other significant historical sites in the region, highlighting the rich history and

cultural heritage of Kermanshah Province.

Morteza Gharavand, an official who is responsible for preparing the dossier, explained that the decision to create a comprehensive dossier was made due to the fact that each country is only allowed to submit one dossier for world registration each year. The proposed dossier, "Sassanid-Parthian Landscape: From the Anahita Temple to the Taq-e Booshtan," aims to showcase the cultural

continuity and architectural marvels of the Parthian and Sassanid periods along the Silk Road. Gharavand also mentioned that the dossier is planned to be submitted out of turn and with the participation of Iraq. The preparation of the dossier has involved conducting archaeological and ethnographic studies, as well as collecting necessary information. However, there is a need for updated studies, which requires additional funding.

He noted that the ruins of Ctesiphon, as one of the most important capitals and architectural remains from the Sassanid and Parthian periods in the heart of Iraq, are very important to Iranians. Therefore, its joint registration with Iraq is important. Ctesiphon is part of the Diyala Province, and negotiations should take place with the governorate of that province. According to him, the Anahita Temple is an incredibly intricate

structure that poses significant challenges for restoration efforts due to the materials used in its construction. A significant portion of the temple's stones have been damaged or destroyed and require restoration to their original location. He added that, to date, the focus has been on acquiring the necessary properties and securing the surrounding lands, with much of the area now under the control of cultural heritage authorities.

However, despite significant investment in restoration efforts since 1968, the temple's significance warrants further attention and funding.

The Anahita Temple has the potential to attract a large number of tourists, with estimates ranging from 150,000 to 200,000 visitors per year. With careful planning and execution, this monument could become a significant cultural and economic asset for the region.

Embark on a breathtaking journey to Nakhjir Cave

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Nakhjir Cave is a breathtaking limestone cave that is situated in Markazi Province and is a popular tourist destination. It was initially discovered in 1987 after an explosion occurred near its entrance.

The cave is named after the region in which it is located, which is situated in the northeastern part of Delijan. In ancient times, hunters used to lead animals to the hollow area called Chal-Nakhjir for easier hunting.

This cave, which belongs to the third geological period, was registered on Iran's National Heritage List by the Cultural Heritage Organization in 2005. The cave is divided into three



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levels, with its main entrance ranging from 10 to 40 meters in

height and 10 meters in width. Chal-e Nakhjir Cave had never been seen by humans before its discovery. Inside the cave, visitors can witness various formations resulting from sedimentary and dolomitic phenomena, making it one of the most beautiful caves in the world. The main branch of the cave has several sub-branches, with approximately four kilometers of it being explored by locals and experienced cave explorers. The depth of the cave is estimated to be between eight to 10 kilometers.

Once inside the cave, visitors will be amazed by its magnifi-

cent halls, corridors, pools, and beautiful terraces. Additionally, crystal formations of calcite have formed due to natural factors, enhancing the cave's beauty with their reflective properties.

Chal-e Nakhjir Cave includes several halls, with the Chehel Sotoon Hall being the most stunning, adorned with various stalactites, stalagmites, and mesmerizing colors. One can also witness decorative rocks that have formed in the shape of humans, deer, eagles, turtles, doves, and giant crystal statues. Most of these rocks are made of limestone.

The cave dates back approximately 70 million years; and

thus far 1,200 meters of it have been paved, secured, and illuminated for public viewing.

Another unique aspect of the cave is its living nature, meaning that if any part of the cave is damaged, it will be naturally restored over the years. Visitors will also encounter a lake at the end of the cave, surrounded by mysterious rock formations, adding to the cave's beauty and wonder.

Although the complete end of the cave has not yet been identified, the presence of natural ventilation inside the cave makes it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Visitors never face any problems related to oxygen deficiency inside the cave.

