

# History of human settlement in Tehran pushed back

## Iranica Desk

Archaeologists conducting field research at Qomiabad Hill in Shahr-e Rey, south of Tehran, have reported new findings that could push back the history of human settlement in the Tehran plain by tens of thousands of years, possibly to more than 40,000 years ago. This recent discovery was made in an area where one of its ancient hills was destroyed with the permission of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization of Tehran Province, motivating some archaeologists to visit the site. Although there are no remaining traces of that hill, which does not have a

specific name and has been denied historical significance by the Cultural Heritage Organization, archaeologists have found new discoveries by examining the remaining area and hill, which they believe will change the history of Tehran. Morteza Hesari, a faculty member of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, who visited Quiambao village, has reported new findings in this area related to the Paleolithic period, located in the south of Tehran. He explained that during a visit to Qomiabad Hill, they observed stone

tools from the Paleolithic period. As a result, they requested Fereydoon Biglari, an archaeologist and head of the Paleolithic Section of the National Museum of Iran, to conduct a field visit to the site. Following a visit to the area, Biglari said that little information was previously available about the Paleolithic period in Tehran Province, mentioning that it was limited to a few findings dating back to this period. However, he noted that they had uncovered a wide distribution of stone artifacts in Qomiabad Hill. He further added, "During this visit, we encountered samples related to the carving and production of stone tools on the

surface of the hills." Additionally, he described the surface of the hill as being covered with sediment containing pieces of flint, obsidian, and other workable stones that were used for carving and tool-making during the Middle Paleolithic period. Biglari emphasized, "Based on the new findings, the history of human settlement in Tehran has been pushed back tens of thousands of years, to more than 40,000 years ago, and possibly even up to around 80,000 years ago. The skeletal remains of humans found in several caves indicate that Neanderthals lived in parts of Iran during the Middle Paleolithic period. However, further research is needed to obtain more information about this location."

## Experience nostalgia in Puppet & Toy Museum of Kashan

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In addition to the archaeological marvels of Kashan, a city in Isfahan Province, such as the Historical Tabatabaei House and Ameri House, the splendid Kashan Bazaar, and the mesmerizing Agha Bozorg Mosque, the city still holds wonders and surprises waiting to be explored.

For those who long for simpler times, the Kashan Puppet & Toy Museum (Guesthouse) offers a journey back to the carefree days of yore, where one could run in joy across a beautiful yard. As a city steeped in history and culture, Kashan boasts numerous museums, and the Puppet & Toy Museum stands out

as one of its top attractions, housing a renowned collection of historic toys. Walking through the museum and gazing at old toys and puppets evokes nostalgic sentiments for visitors of all ages. The entire building is adorned with a diverse array of toys from various time periods and origins.

The museum showcases local native toys and puppets as well as toys from around the world, some dating back 150 years. Each section holds a wealth of historical significance. Other sections feature a variety of antique puppets representing Iran's folklore, including witches, wizards, demons, and warriors, each with their own origin stories. One section is dedicated to the remains of the llam rain puppets, voodoo-like figures hung on holy trees by the women of llam during dry seasons to dispel the bad luck of drought and bring rain.

International toys



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are also on display, including a replica of the first plastic toy brought to Iran by the 19th-century king Nassereddin Shah Qajar as a gift to one of his favorite mistresses. Additionally, visitors can view an Italian-made replica of Pinocchio, along with several vintage German wooden horses and Tunisian toy soldiers. The diverse exhibits and historical details make the Kashan Toy & Puppet Museum a must-see attraction.

What truly sets this museum apart is its accommodation quarters. Staying in the museum's rooms allows visitors to fully immerse themselves in its ambiance. Guests can also take part in toy-making workshops, creating local crafts with their own hands.

### Activities and entertainment

Puppet shows are a highlight, featuring a variety of classic and traditional char-

acters and their respective stories and adventures. Colorful, funny, and charming puppets entertain guests throughout the evening with a unique box-play puppet show that uses a chest as the stage instead of traditional red curtains. The museum also features a traditional Persian sharbat house, offering a variety of traditional and organic drinks, as well as herbal teas and snacks for guests to enjoy.



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