

Explore the enchanting Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress in Dezful



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Dezful, in Khuzestan Province, boasts a history of several thousand years, making it one of the oldest cities in Iran. The city and its surrounding areas are home to numerous natural and historical attractions that are essential to explore when visiting this remarkable region.

One of the most spectacular places to visit in Dezful is the Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress and the beautiful road leading to it. Also known as Ali Mardan Khan, this fortress is among the most magnificent and ancient sites in Dezful.

Traveling along a winding and verdant road, visitors can behold a breathtaking and picturesque landscape, complete with waterfalls, streams, and the splendid Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress. This natural fortress, situated on the mountain walls at an elevation of 1,550 meters, and nestled alongside the Haft-Tanan Mountains, captivates with

its beauty, IRNA wrote.

Local guides in the area explain that the towering walls of this mountain, coupled with the challenging access to its peak, led to the formation of a natural fortress that served as a refuge or military structure in the past. They also mention the existence of a castle-like structure atop the fortress in ancient times.

Route to the fortress

Dezful is located in the southwest of Iran, and it is one of the northern cities of Khuzestan Province, hosting some of the most important tourist attractions in the region. The city is 721 kilometers from Tehran, and 155 kilometers from Ahvaz. The Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress is also located 25 kilometers north of Sardasht, and 65 kilometers northeast of Dezful.

From Dezful to Sardasht is approximately 45 kilometers, and from there, a 25-kilometer mountainous route leads to Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress.



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From the beginning of this mountainous route, you can enjoy the extraordinary view of the Haft-Tanan Mountains and take incredible photos.

Surrounding landscapes

There is a twin waterfall at the foot of the mountain where the fortress is located. The waterfall on the right side, with less water flow, is hidden behind a tree, but

the one on the left side is fully visible. The color of Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress is earthy, and in some parts, it is dark and black, which enhances the grandeur of this massive wall. The surrounding vegetation and the waterfall add to the natural beauty of this area.

Accommodation options

Camping in front of this twin waterfall is one of the

best accommodation options recommended for nature enthusiasts. In this part of the Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress, there are several small stone-roofed chambers that tribes used for residence or rest. These chambers can be used as a refuge in suitable weather conditions and with safety considerations. However, it should be noted that spending the night in these chambers is not possible;

their roofs do not fully protect against raindrops.

If you aim to capture the complete view of Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress in your photo, it is best to start taking pictures from a distance. The fortress is quite large, and as you get closer, it may not all fit into the frame.

Hiking and access tips

To find the ideal starting point for your hike, consider seeking assistance from a local guide, or using a map for navigation. You can approach the Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress from both sides of the twin waterfalls and enjoy the stunning scenery of the area from above. The length of this route is approximately 20 to 30 minutes, and whether you approach it from the right or left side of the waterfall, there is no significant difference in time.

Depending on your hiking plan, you can cover a longer distance and reach the fortress from various points. The route to Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress is relatively easy and

mostly flat, making it accessible for mountaineers and nature enthusiasts. The only potential challenge may arise from rain or strong winds, so be sure to check the weather conditions in advance.

As there are no shops along this mountainous route, ensure you bring all necessary supplies and personal items with you. Pack essentials such as sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, water, and any required medications in your backpack.

Best time to visit

During the rainy season, the area showcases beautiful small and large water streams and waterfalls on this mountain and the surrounding mountains, adding an extraordinary charm to this natural fortress.

The best time to visit Mohammad Ali Khan Fortress is from late autumn to early spring. The plains filled with yellow wildflowers are one of the most beautiful attractions of this area in the spring season, which should definitely not be missed.

Shesh Baadgir Cistern in Yazd, a historical treasure

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The city of Yazd is often referred to as the city of cisterns, owing to its dry and desert climate. Situated in a neighborhood of the same name, the Shesh Baadgir Cistern is a historical treasure. It boasts six wind catchers (referred to as baadgir in Persian) constructed in an octagonal shape to optimally utilize the region's climatic conditions and wind direction. This ancient structure has been recognized as a national heritage of Iran.

The Shesh Baadgir Cistern is a prominent tourist attraction in Yazd, dating back to the Qajar period. It is distinguished by its elegant, octagonal wind catchers and a large egg-shaped dome. The cistern's

height, the exquisite architecture of the wind catchers, graceful entrances, and decorative brickwork and captivating design are its defining features.

Previously serving as a water source for the people, the cistern has now transformed into a historical attraction. The cistern features a northern and a southern entrance, each with two staircases and two water outlets. It is presumed that the southern entrance was used by Muslims, while the northern entrance was for Zoroastrians, although this has been disputed in some sources.

Notably, the staircase of the cistern is divided into two parts, with one part being open and consisting of 55 steps leading to its dome, while the covered part continues beyond the dome. The dome of the cistern has an egg-shaped form, lending a unique beauty to its architecture. The height of the water tank is 12.6 meters, and the height of the wind catchers is 10 meters.