

Adobe structures of Fahadan neighborhood symbolize ancient Iranian architecture



Iranica Desk

Situated in the historic center of Yazd lies the enchanting district of Fahadan. This neighborhood boasts a well-preserved collection of traditional Persian homes, mansions, bazaars, mosques, and *baadgirs* (wind catchers). Constructed mainly in the 18th and 19th centuries, these adobe structures showcase intricate designs and decorations that epitomize ancient Iranian architecture.

Fahadan offers a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of elite Yazdis of the past. These exquisite homes blend influences from pre- and post-Islamic eras, incorporating traits from the Sassanid, Safavid, and Qajar periods. The fusion of luxurious styles tailored to Yazd's hot, arid climate is a testa-

ment to Iran's rich artistic and architectural heritage, wrote amazingiran.com.

The use of adobe in Fahadan not only defines its aesthetic appeal but also enhances its functionality. The mud brick dwellings harmonize with the desert landscape, providing excellent thermal insulation in extreme temperatures. The adobe bricks, made of clay and straw, form thick walls up to a meter in width, painted with white lime plaster to reflect sunlight. Small windows help trap cooling

air inside.

Despite being susceptible to water damage, adobe structures endure Yazd's dry climate. Repairing cracked or collapsed walls involves adding new bricks, with old clay returning to the earth, completing the material lifecycle. The meticulous handcrafting of uniform bricks and intricate brick-laying patterns by skilled craftsmen over generations seamlessly integrates these monolithic earthen structures into the desert environment.

Fahadan homes embody ancient Iranian innovations in passive cooling essential for Yazd's scorching summers. The strategic placement of *baadgirs*, courtyards, and basements facilitates ventilation within the interiors. *Baadgirs*, wind tower structures atop roofs, capture breezes with shaft openings facing



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different directions to ensure a continuous flow of cool air into the homes. Some towers even feature ice boxes to further cool the air.

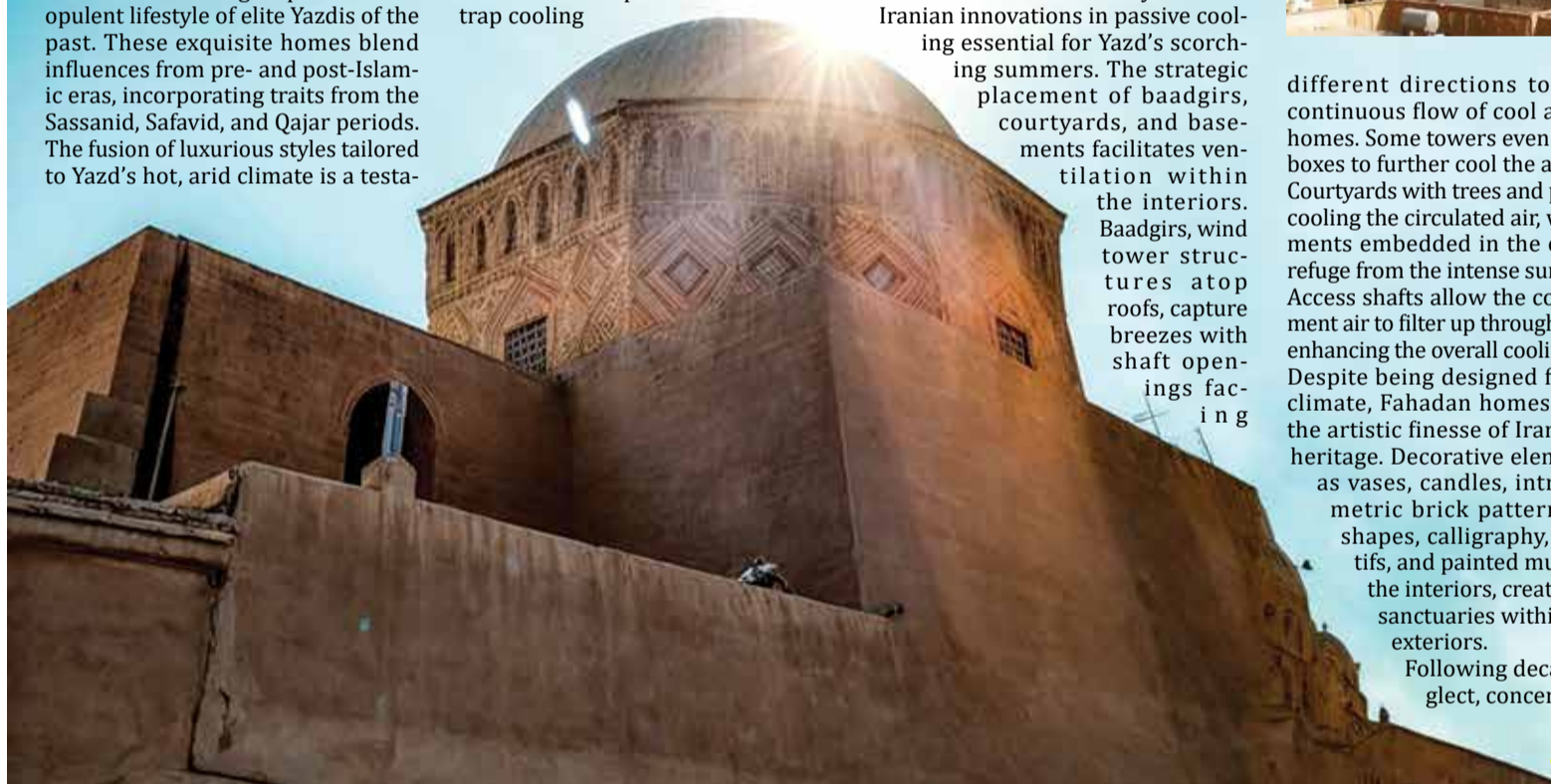
Courtyards with trees and pools aid in cooling the circulated air, while basements embedded in the earth offer refuge from the intense summer heat. Access shafts allow the cooled basement air to filter up through the house, enhancing the overall cooling effect.

Despite being designed for a harsh climate, Fahadan homes showcase the artistic finesse of Iran's cultural heritage. Decorative elements such as vases, candles, intricate geometric brick patterns, arched shapes, calligraphy, floral motifs, and painted murals adorn the interiors, creating elegant sanctuaries within the plain exteriors.

Following decades of neglect, concerted efforts

have rescued Fahadan's mansions from decay. Government-led restoration projects in the 1990s repurposed these homes into libraries, kindergartens, and craft workshops, ensuring that strict guidelines maintain the original architectural integrity. Ongoing maintenance efforts combat erosion, preserving this architectural gem for future generations.

Strolling through the labyrinthine alleys of Fahadan offers a journey through Iran's rich history. The towering thick earthen walls, elaborate wooden doorways, and intricate tilework transport visitors back in time, evoking a sense of grandeur and history that is truly captivating. Stepping into the mud brick time capsule of Fahadan allows one to immerse oneself in Iran's cultural heritage, experiencing a world of elegance and ingenuity that stands as a testament to ancient architecture at its finest.



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Visit stunning Jashak Salt Dome in Bushehr Province

Kuh-e Namak of Jashak, also known as Jashak Salt Dome, stands as a national natural monument nestled in Bushehr Province, in the southwest of Iran. Its breathtaking beauty is attributed to the presence of table salt that adorns its landscape.

Dating back an impressive 600 million years, Jashak Salt Dome finds its home within the Jashak Mountains, spanning 12 kilometers in length and 4.5 kilometers in width. Encompassing an area of 3,666 hectares, the dome boasts a summit reaching an elevation of 1,350 meters above sea level.

This geological wonder features a central salt core, formed by extensive underground salt layers. The dynamic interplay of sudden tremors and movements within these layers gives rise to ground disruptions, shaping the distinctive salt domes in various sizes and forms, hipersia.com wrote.

Key features

Colorful salts: Contrary to the common perception of salt being solely white, Jashak Salt Dome surprises visitors with a vibrant array of minerals and crystals. These elements imbue the salt dome with hues of red, brown, yellow, black, and orange, creating a visually captivating spectacle.

Salt glacier: Witness the awe-inspiring salt glaciers on the northwest side of Jashak Salt Dome. Formed through the movement of salt masses along the earth's slope, these structures resemble traditional glaciers but possess the unique ability to retain heat.

Salt water flow: During dry seasons, the evaporation of water gives rise to exquisite salt crystals following the direction of water flow within Jashak Salt Dome, adding an elegant touch to its natural allure.

Salt caves: Explore the enchanting salt caves within Jashak Salt Dome, adorned

with an abundance of salt crystals resembling stalagmites and stalactites, showcasing a diverse array of shapes reminiscent of grape clusters.

Effects of erosion: While the salt dome remains active, the ongoing process of erosion, driven by water and wind, contributes to its gradual transformation. This erosion engenders a delicate equilibrium in nature, accentuated by the emergence of unique attractions within the dome.

Takht-e Div: Marvel at the striking Takht-e Div, colloquially known as the Demon's

Throne, a captivating eroding phenomenon within the salt dome. These columnar formations, varying in height from ten centimeters to over ten meters, stand as enduring sentinels guarding the dome's integrity.

Salt springs: Discover the mesmerizing salt springs that cascade saltwater from deep underground, sustaining the vitality of the surrounding ecosystem. The uninterrupted flow of these springs is vital to preserving the splendor of Jashak Salt Dome and its intricate stalagmites.

Golkalam Valley: Immerse yourself in the rare beauty of Golkalam Valley (Cauliflower valley), adorned with distinctive orange and white salt formations resembling cauliflower. When illuminated by sunlight, these crystalline structures exude an otherworldly charm, accentuating the dome's natural wonders.

Flora and fauna: Despite the saline environment, pockets of vegetation thrive within Jashak Salt Dome, featuring species like Milkvetch, Zygo-phylum, jujube, Bryophyllum, wild almonds, and polka dot

plants. The diverse wildlife includes wild goats, foxes, jackals, hyenas, a variety of birds, and an assortment of reptiles, enriching the ecosystem's biodiversity.

Ideal time to visit

Given its location in a region characterized by intense heat, the prime season to explore Jashak Salt Dome is from mid-November to early April. Be sure to check the weather forecast beforehand, especially considering the dome's susceptibility to heavy rainfall along its prominent sites.



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