

Aras Dam, a sanctuary of life and progress



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Aras Dam, situated over the Aras River, lies 35 kilometers west of Jolfa, in Ghezel Geshlagh, West Azarbaijan Province. With a history spanning thousands of years, the river has witnessed numerous fluctuations. Over the centuries, poets have immortalized the river in verse, alternately praising its beauty and chastising its temperament, making it a beloved subject in Azerbaijani culture, particularly in the soothing lullabies of mothers. The construction of Aras Dam stands as a monumental achievement, representing one of the nation's most significant electricity-hydraulic endeavors, forged in partnership

with the Republic of Azerbaijan during the 1970s. The southern bank of the river boasts a vibrant coastal promenade where throngs of visitors revel in the river's allure during the summer months, partaking in boat rides and kite flying. Today, local investments have transformed the area, offering visitors quaint traditional restaurants where artisanal bread is baked, and hosting local festivities such as Araz fishing and kite-flying competitions. Furthermore, a tourism camp stands ready to cater to guests, providing essential services overseen by the cultural heritage organization. Aras Dam Lake, positioned atop the Aras River, 40 ki-

lometers from Jolfa on the Iran-Azerbaijan border, experiences scorching summer temperatures of up to 40 degrees Celsius and frigid winter lows of -20 degrees Celsius. Encompassing a vast expanse of 15,000 hectares, Aras Dam Lake reigns as Iran's largest reservoir formed by a dam. This artificial lake, nestled in northwestern Iran, teems with biogenetic materials and sustains a diverse array of freshwater fish species, making it a hotspot for tourism and angling pursuits. Noteworthy inhabitants of the lake include common carp, grass carp, big head fish, Capoeta, Asp, and Barbel, with the lake serving as the primary source of aquaculture in

West Azarbaijan Province. The lake's bounty supplies markets nationwide with an abundance of freshwater delicacies at the onset of each fishing season. The river in this region exhibits a minimum discharge of 339 cubic meters per second, while its flow peaks at 2,240 cubic meters per second. Notably, the environs surrounding the Aras River and Aras Dam Lake serve as vital habitats for the globally significant greater white-fronted goose population, with 3,000 of these majestic birds finding sanctuary in the wetlands of West Azarbaijan Province, particularly along the margins and the lake behind Aras Dam. This thriving ecosystem underscores the province's suitability for



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this species' conservation. Aras Dam boasts four Kaplan turbines, two on each side, each generating 11 megawatts, totaling 44 megawatts, revolving at

187.5 rounds per minute to yield a production capacity of 22 megawatts on Iran's side. The construction of this reservoir aims to bolster agricultural wa-

ter supply in the region and facilitate electricity generation, marking a pivotal contribution to the area's development and sustainability.

Natural and historical wonders of Bahmai in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province

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The city of Bahmai, covering an area of 1,447 square kilometers, is situated in the western and southwestern part of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, just 40 kilometers from Behbahan. With its diverse array of pristine natural and historical sites, Bahmai attracts thousands of tourists annually. Half of Bahmai's tourist attractions lie in tropical regions, while the other half are in temperate zones. The district's proximity to Khuzestan Province offers a wide range of attractions catering to various preferences.

Nader Castle

The historical Nader Castle, located in the northeast of Likak near Bahmai, is a captivating destination adorned with lush farms, vibrant flowers, gardens, towering oak trees, and cascading springs. According to folklore, the castle served as a sanctuary for leaders and rulers of the Ismaili sect, a Mus-

lim group seeking refuge in remote mountain fortresses, away from central authorities from the early 9th century CE until the Mongol invasions. Situated 10 kilometers from Likak, Nader Castle features a prison, a pond, a watchtower, clay and brick rooms, a stable, graves, almond and pistachio trees, and a spring in its northern part, adding to its historical charm and appeal.

Barm Alvan Wetland

The Barm Alvan Wetland



● Barm Alvan Wetland
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it can be a destination for hosting natural beauties. The Iranian Department of the Environment (DOE) successfully registered the Barm Alvan Wetland under the Ramsar Convention in February 2024. Spanning 20 hectares, the wetland is a distinctive long-lasting lake with brackish shores. Surrounded by the Zagros Mountains, with almond and oak forests, and home to numerous species of



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rare birds and plants, this natural heritage is consid-

ered a significant natural attraction in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. Situated near the protected area of Solak Gorge (Tang-e Solak), the wetland plays a key role in water conservation to support wildlife populations inside and around the protected area. The banks of the Barm Alvan Wetland are adorned with rare plants, and its depth varies between 12 to 30 meters. With its breathtaking natural landscapes and diverse flora

province's top tourist attractions.

Tang-e Solak

The rock reliefs of Tang-e Solak are historical heritages from the Parthian era, located near a lush valley covered with oak and cypress trees, 12 kilometers northeast of Likak. The rock reliefs, along with the old stone pavement, unique carvings, and a spring make the area a memorable destination for history and civilization enthusiasts to experience the historical and cultural remnants amidst the colorful nature.

Magher Gorge

With its delightful and temperate climate, abundant vegetation, and picturesque forests, Magher Gorge (Tang-e Magher) attracts numerous tourists annually from all over Iran, particularly from the southern regions. According to ancient inscriptions, this area served as a recreational destination for rulers and kings during the Sassanid era.



● Tang-e Solak
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is a UNESCO World Heritage Site registered in the

Ramsar Convention; with its unique characteristics,