



Seyyed Mohammad Bridge of Zanjaan connecting past and present



Iranica Desk

Zanjaan is a city with a rich historical background, known for its cold mountainous climate and the presence of significant rivers like Qezel Ozan and the Zanjaan River, the latter being one of the city's primary waterways. In the past, Zanjaan River, flowing through the outskirts of the city, was prone to flooding, but today a gentle stream meanders through its course. In ancient times, these rivers carried more water, shaping the movement and transportation of people back then. Consequently, bridges were constructed by philanthropists to facilitate the ease of travel for the residents. The Seyyed Mohammad Bridge, a public utility structure, was erected during the Qajar era by Haj Seyyed Mohammad. This bridge stands as a national architectural marvel. Also known

as Qarah Tappah Bridge, the name derives from the Azari term for "black hill," a nod to its proximity to the village of Qarah Tappah. The Seyyed Mohammad Bridge was built in 1921 over the Zanjaan River, connecting Zanjaan to Hamedan during the mid-Qajar period. Haj Seyyed Mohammad Zanjani, a distinguished clergyman and prosperous merchant during the Constitutional Revolution era, was the visionary behind this remarkable structure. This bridge, which has withstood the relentless flow of the Zanjaan River for more than a century, exemplifies the skill and artistry of its creators. The arches, openings, foundations, and materials used in the construction all point to a genuine masterpiece. Bricks are notably abundant in this structure. During the construction of the bridge, three main openings

were incorporated, with the central one being larger than the others. This design was made due to the higher water pressure at this specific location compared to other areas. The bridge's foundations, painted white up to a height of two meters, along with the fully stone-paved entrances, serve to enhance the visual allure of the bridge. This bridge has played a significant role in the lives of the people in the past, earning its reputation as one of the most important bridges in Iran. Spanning 104 meters in length and 6.5 meters in width, it was meticulously constructed using bricks, cut stones, and *sarooj* (a kind of concrete used in ancient Iran). Featuring three primary openings, the central one stands taller and wider than the two side openings, effectively reducing the bridge's weight and proving valuable during floods and peri-

ods of high river levels. Its foundations exhibit a unique and aesthetically pleasing architecture, prominently showcasing the use of river stones in its design. The entrances on both sides of the bridge are elegantly paved with stones, enhancing the overall beauty of the structure. Renowned among the locals for its role in connecting the Qarah Tappah village to Zanjaan, it is affectionately referred to as the Qarah Tappah Bridge. Recently, the bridge has undergone meticulous restoration and reconstruction efforts. This bridge was built outside the city at that time. Now, with the expansion of Zanjaan, this bridge is located within the city of Zanjaan. Zanjaan boasts a total of three renowned historic bridges: The Haj Seyyed Mohammad Bridge, the Mir Bahaeddin Bridge, and the Sardar Bridge, all serving the public.

Lorestan's Azna Snow Tunnel and natural marvels

Lorestan Province stands out as one of the premier tourist destinations in western Iran, boasting a plethora of attractions that are sure to captivate visitors. The province's distinctive and lush natural environment promises to astonish you, creating an unforgettable journey. From enchanting waterfalls to captivating caves, from the picturesque overturned tulips plain to the extraordinary lakes and gorges, Lorestan Province offers a diverse range of natural wonders for travelers to explore.

Among the province's natural gems is the renowned Azna Snow Tunnel, a popular destination that spans over 800 meters and offers breathtaking mountain vistas in the foothills of Oshtrankouh. Situated 82 kilometers from Khorramabad, Azna is home to more than 80,000 residents. This city, nestled in the eastern part of Lorestan Province, thrives as an agricultural hub due to its fertile plains, with a significant portion of its population deriving their livelihood from farming. Notably, Azna leads

the nation in wheat production and contributes to 10% of the country's bean production. Five kilometers from Azna lies the majestic Oshtrankouh Mountain range, featuring 13 peaks reaching heights of 4,250 meters. This mountain range, often referred to as the Iranian Alps, attracts numerous climbers and tourists, both domestic and international, each year. With its lofty snow-capped peaks, meandering rivers, verdant valleys, diverse flora and fauna, and charming foothill villages, Oshtrankouh offers a

truly mesmerizing experience for nature enthusiasts. The Azna Snow Tunnel, a natural marvel with a width of 10 meters and a height ranging from 2.5 to 3 meters, is a product of accumulated snow and ice in one of the Oshtrankouh valleys near the village of Aznadar. Formed during heavy winter snowfalls and subsequent spring melts, this tunnel-like structure presents a perilous yet alluring passage for adventurous travelers. Despite the risk of collapse, many tourists venture inside to witness its

unique beauty firsthand. Aznadar, the site of the snow tunnel's formation, stands out as a picturesque tourist spot within the Oshtrankouh region. Boasting diverse vegetation, natural springs, flowing water, and wildlife such as bears and goats, Aznadar offers a rich tapestry of natural wonders for visitors to explore. The valley's awe-inspiring vertical cliffs, which often obscure the sun until midday, create a serene backdrop for travelers to immerse themselves in Iran's pristine landscapes.

The Azna Snow Tunnel, accessible only during spring, summer, and early autumn due to weather conditions, offers a chilling experience as visitors traverse its icy interior. As you journey through the tunnel, the temperature drops and cold-water drips from the ceiling, enveloping you in a surreal atmosphere. At the tunnel's summit, visitors may experience a peculiar sensation, feeling weightless yet perspiring—a testament to the tunnel's unique allure and the wonders of nature awaiting those who dare to explore its depths.



yjc.ir



rokna.net



SURF PERSIA