

EXCLUSIVE

Tehran is a large and bustling city that does not leave much room for its residents to relax with its crowds and noise. However, this vast city with many attractions can be a very enjoyable and interesting place.

One of the most captivating museums in Tehran is the International Dolls Museum which houses various types of dolls and is a beautiful and tranquil place to watch them. The museum offers a delightful journey into the realm of dolls and toys, appealing to individuals of all ages, particularly children and teenagers, by acquainting them with the diverse cultures, stories, myths, attire, and traditions of various countries. Fortunately, the museum provides an avenue for such cultural exploration. As its name implies, the museum goes beyond Iranian dolls, curating a diverse collection of dolls and narratives from various nations for visitors to enjoy and learn from.

Located in the heart of Tehran, this local museum showcases a myriad of dolls from across the globe. Alongside local and overlooked Iranian dolls, the museum features a collection of dolls from Europe, America, and Asia. The museum's activities extend beyond merely exhibiting dolls for children, as each doll is accompanied by its own unique story and historical background.

Dolls have historically emerged from myths and tales, with individuals crafting dolls of their heroes as a display of admiration. Consequently, dolls serve as cultural emissaries, embodying the customs and ideologies of different societies. Exploring the dolls of different nations can be an enjoyable and straightforward method to delve into various cultures. For instance, if you are considering traveling or relocating, particularly to Asian countries, familiarity with their cultural expressions can foster a sense of closeness and warmth among locals. Dolls often represent a significant aspect of a country's cultural heritage, offering a starting point for conversations and facilitating connections with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

This museum showcases over 2,500 cultural dolls from 84 countries worldwide, displayed in various sections categorized by continent. Visitors can explore rituals, customs, arts, clothing, music, handicrafts, and natural heritage from Iran and around the globe. Through educational workshops, regular exhibitions, and mobile museum services, this museum offers enthusiasts the opportunity to deepen their understanding of global cultures and dolls.



Take a journey through cultures in International Dolls Museum



Years ago, Ali Golshani, Masoud Naseri Daryai, and Farideh Naseri Daryai collected dolls from various parts of the world and established the International Dolls Museum, which has since expanded its activities. The museum has thrived with the support of various groups since 2016, and in the subsequent year, it was honored with the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Award.

Having moved from its original location, the museum now resides in the Darvazeh Dolat neighborhood of Tehran, operating with official approval from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism. The museum initially began its journey with 700 dolls.

At first glance, the museum showcases dolls crafted from wood, fabric, and even materials like bamboo and wheat. However, these dolls carry within them stories and imagination. It is intriguing to note that in ancient times, each doll had specific roles and responsibilities. Each doll, akin to a traveler from distant lands, brings with it a wealth of experiences and memories to the museum. The International Dolls Museum is divided into three sections:

First floor

The initial section of this museum which is known as the Museum of International Dolls is located on the first floor.

Among the collection are Afghan, Chinese, Arabic, and Indian god dolls, as well as faceless Tajik, Austrian, and Armenian dolls. The assortment encompasses handmade, factory-made, and display dolls.

Second floor

The subsequent section of this museum on the second floor, named the Museum of Dolls and Iranian Culture, presents the tribes, costumes, stories, and myths of Iran. This exhibit features dolls crafted by Iranian ethnic groups, dolls from historical dynasties of Iran,

dolls created by Iranian literary figures and contributors to children's literature, and a series of doll sculptures depicting women from various regions of Iran, each adorned in the traditional attire of their respective regions.

Basement

In the basement section, visitors not only become acquainted with a diverse array of toys but also gain insight into their historical origins. This area hosts toy tours, children's tours, as well as a variety of doll and toy-making workshops.

The iconic Lajkonik doll, symbolizing the hero of Poland, the Matryoshka doll representing unity in Russia, the Nutcracker doll gifted by American soldiers, the Worry doll symbolizing the sorrow of the people of Guatemala, the blessed and prosperous Iranian dolls, the Daruma doll from Japan symbolizing wishes are among the most renowned dolls in the International Dolls Museum.

The Museum of International Dolls also offers supplementary activities aimed at educating both children and adults.

These activities include:

- Cultural nights designed to introduce enthusiasts to the rich culture of Iranian ethnic groups.
- Doll-making workshops that encourage the crafting of both traditional and global dolls.
- Establishment of a mobile museum to engage educational and cultural institutions in Tehran and other cities.
- Coordination of group tours catering to children, teenagers, and mother-child groups, as well as specialized tours tailored for students, researchers, and both Iranian and international tourists.
- Sale of products aligned with the museum's mission, such as dolls, toys, and educational, cultural, and artistic packages.