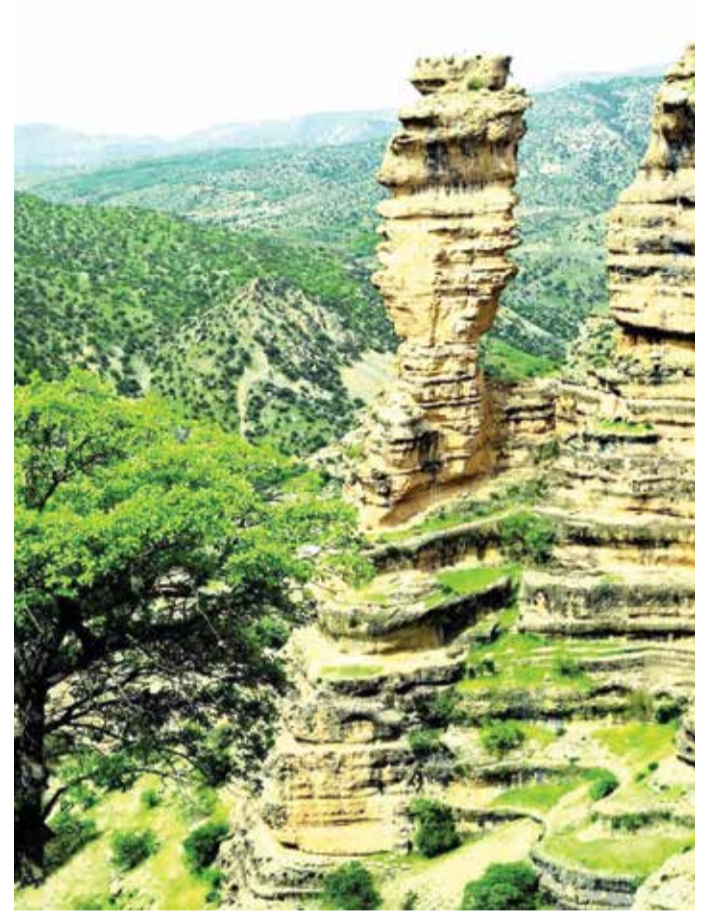
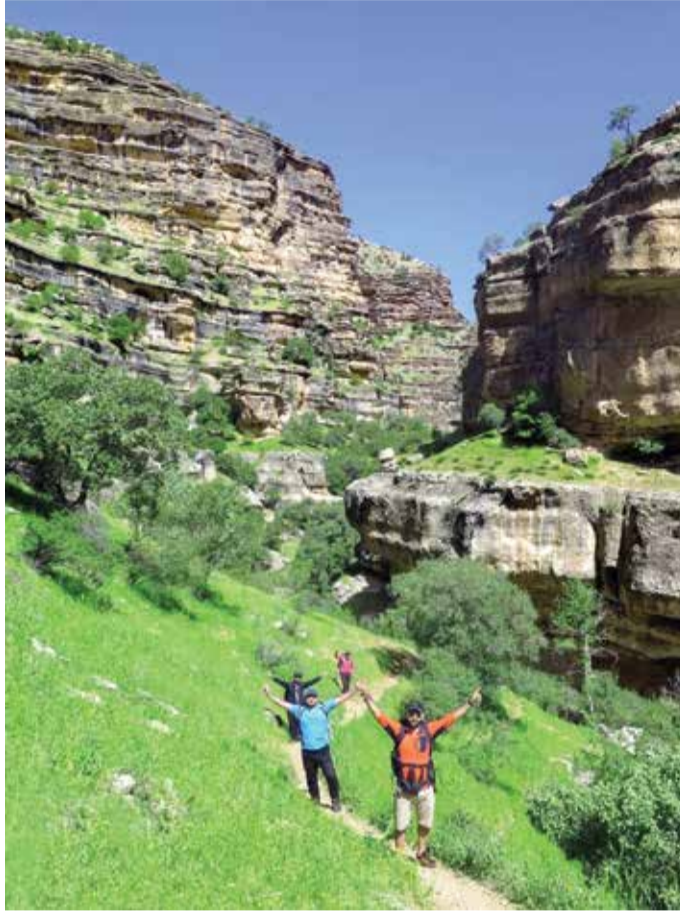
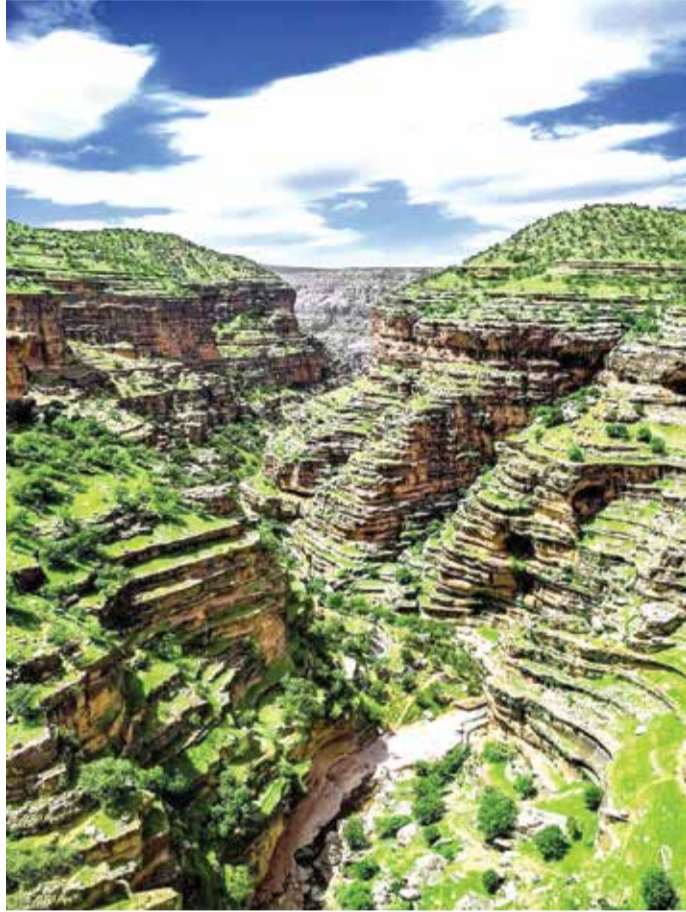


Magnificence of Shirez Canyon in western Iran



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Iranica Desk

Shirez Canyon, situated at the border between Ilam and Lorestan Provinces in western Iran, is a truly remarkable destination to explore, boasting unique and stunning natural scenery. The most convenient access to this spectacular canyon is from Kuhdasht in Lorestan, establishing Shirez Canyon as one of the most beautiful attractions in the region.

If you have a penchant for exploring pristine and magnificent natural wonders, the rock formations in Shirez Canyon will undoubtedly enchant you. Nestled in the Zagros Mountain range, this area has a rich history spanning millions of years, and similar natural formations

are exceptionally rare to find in the world. The enduring forces of natural erosion have shaped the rocks into their current remarkable form, thus earning Shirez Canyon and similar areas the distinction of being some of the oldest natural museums on Earth.

Located 50 kilometers north of Kuhdasht, Shirez Canyon is surrounded by breathtaking natural landscapes. Situated amidst towering rocky mountains, the canyon resides within a deep valley where the presence of flowing water has enhanced the lushness of the entire area. The canyon spans approximately five kilometers, with its enclosing walls soaring from 150 to 200 meters in height above the valley floor.

Shirez Canyon stands out as a prominent natural wonder in Iran and globally, boasting stratified rock formations sculpted over countless years, with the geological park dating back millions of years. Nestled in the picturesque Zagros Mountains, this valley ranks among the most enchanting natural sites, drawing visitors and nature enthusiasts from all corners of the world. Traversing this canyon's path, hailed as one of Iran's most exquisite nature trails, unveils a labyrinth of winding valleys, each offering breathtaking natural panoramas. Shirez Waterfall captivates with its beauty amidst the meandering rock formations of the canyon. Adjacent to the sedimentary walls, this waterfall forms a magnificent

spectacle. Numerous smaller waterfalls dot the canyon, with the primary one known as the Parandegan (Birds) Waterfall owing to the avian presence in the surrounding nooks and crannies.

Erosion from rainfall and air-flow has intricately shaped the rock formations in Shirez Canyon over the passage of many years, resulting in their distinctive columnar structure.

Shirez Canyon boasts limited vegetation coverage, yet the favorable climate and perennial river flow have fostered the growth of oak, cherry, grape, and fig trees among the rocky terrain. Recognized for its exceptional natural and historical attributes, Shirez Canyon has earned a place on Iran's list of natural heritage

sites. Given its unique characteristics, this region holds the potential to be designated a UNESCO Global Geopark. Situated at an altitude of approximately 1100 meters above sea level, the canyon is considered one of Iran's colder regions.

When embarking on a visit to the canyon, it is crucial to equip oneself adequately for an adventurous exploration of pristine landscapes. Comfortable attire and suitable footwear are essential, tailored to the season of your visit. Given the water flow in Shirez Canyon, it's advisable to carry spare clothing to account for the possibility of getting wet. For those planning to trek in Shirez Canyon, ensuring you have all necessary camping gear is imperative. Access to water

and food within the canyon is limited, so it's vital to carry sufficient food supplies.

Several western provinces of Iran experience cold and rainy weather for a significant portion of the year due to their proximity to the Zagros Mountain range. Consequently, visiting the canyon during autumn and winter, particularly during heavy rains, is not advisable due to the risk of flooding.

To witness the canyon's breathtaking beauty, the optimal times for visiting are spring and summer. Early spring offers cool weather and refreshing rain showers, while summer brings warmer temperatures. The Shirez River swells with the onset of spring and maintains a robust water flow throughout the summer.

Mir Emad Museum showcasing masterpieces by renowned Iranian calligraphers

Iranica Desk

The Sa'dabad Palace Museum in Tehran is renowned as one of the city's top attractions. Within this historical and cultural complex are various buildings, including the Mir Emad Calligraphy Museum, which showcases masterpieces by renowned Iranian calligraphers from different eras. The Mir Emad Museum, located within the Sa'dabad

Palace Complex, attracts many visitors annually.

The Mir Emad Museum is situated in the heart of Sa'dabad Palace, housed in a building within the complex that reflects the architectural styles of the late Qajar and early Pahlavi periods. Originating from the Constitutional Revolution in 1906, this era lasted until 1961.

The museum building features two floors and, following the

Islamic Revolution, was repurposed into a museum along with the rest of the Sa'dabad Complex, dedicated to exhibiting and safeguarding precious calligraphic artworks.

In 1997, the museum's name was revised, drawing inspiration from the acclaimed Iranian calligraphy master, Mir Emad Hasani Ghazvini, who lived in the seventeenth century. His renowned calligraphic works have gained

international recognition.

With 196 square meters of area, the first floor of the building has been established on a platform with a height of one and a half meters, equivalent to 1.5 square meters.

Different sections

The Mir Emad Museum building is divided into two distinct sections. The first floor features works of pre-Islamic calligra-

phy and a selection of Islamic calligraphy. On the second floor, visitors can explore Islamic calligraphic pieces, decorative calligraphy, practical objects, and handwritten manuscripts.

Objects

Calligraphy has been used as a decorative element on some items since the early centuries of Islam, as it held significant importance in the Islamic world.

Metal lines on candlesticks, tombstones, ceramic and glazed bowls, as well as parts of the mihrab, are some of the noteworthy objects displayed in this section of the museum.

Manuscripts

Collections of handwritten manuscripts, including poems and books such as the Holy Quran and prayer books, are exhibited in this section of the museum.



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