

Taleqan Dam and its scenic reservoir lake



Iranica Desk

There is an embankment dam situated on the eastern side of Taleqan creating a lake in the southern foothills of the Alborz Mountains in Alborz Province. Taleqan, the provincial capital, is located in this region. The lake is primarily fed by water originating from the Shahrud River, flowing 175 kilometers from high elevations before meeting the Alamut River. Ultimately, this water makes its way into the Caspian Sea in northern Iran.

In 1969, initial studies for the establishment of Taleqan Dam Lake began with the purpose of redirecting water from Taleqan to the plains in Qazvin. Additionally, a nine-kilometer tunnel was constructed to facilitate the transfer of water to Ziyaran and the water canals of the Qazvin plain. However, these were not the sole initial projects linked to the Taleqan Dam. In conjunction with the dam's construction, a series of studies were undertaken for a reservoir dam aimed at managing springtime floods in the

Taleqan River. This project was ultimately finished in 2006 and commenced operations simultaneously. The lake formed by the Taleqan Dam stretches over ten kilometers in length and functions as a hydroelectric power source. Notably, the reservoir boasts a volume of around four hundred and twenty cubic meters. The vicinity surrounding the Taleqan Dam Lake has evolved into one of Iran's most scenic and popular recreational spots. Throughout the spring and summer months, visitors from

Tehran and Alborz Provinces flock to the area. The verdant shores provide stunning vistas of the Shah Alborz Peak in the Alborz Mountains, creating enduring memories for years to come. Lush forests with towering green trees, expansive meadows adorned with colorful flowers, and rushing rivers with crystal-clear blue waters combine to form a captivating and heartwarming landscape. The area boasts a rich diversity of plants and animals, offering glimpses of beautiful birds, vi-

brant butterflies, and various wildlife species.

Numerous recreational activities cater to all preferences:

- Thrill-seekers can delight in boating on the lake's waves.
- Fishing enthusiasts can try their luck at catching different fish along the lake's shores.
- Cooling off with a swim in the refreshing waters of the lake during the hot seasons promises a delightful experience.
- Photographers have the opportunity to capture unforgettable moments of the enchanting lake and its

surrounding natural beauty.

● Strolling through the forests and verdant meadows provides a chance to inhale clean air and revel in the unspoiled splendor of nature.

Near Taleqan Lake, a range of accommodations awaits visitors, catering to diverse preferences. Eco-tourism lodges provide a taste of rural life for those interested in a more authentic experience. Camping in nature beckons to adventurers seeking excitement and a closer connection to the great outdoors.

Tomb of Khwaju Kermani is a must-see attraction in Shiraz



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Tourists, both domestic and foreign, often regard Shiraz as a top destination in Fars Province. The city offers a wide variety of attractions that cater to every visitor's interests. One notable highlight is the collection of poet tombs, which includes the resting place of Khwaju. The tomb of Khwaju Kermani (1280-1351 CE) is a must-see attraction in Shiraz, located across from the Qur'an Gate. This significant site is

near the famous Roknabad Spring. Registered on Iran's National Heritage List, the tomb is one of the many tourist destinations in Fars Province. Khwaju Kermani, born in Kerman in 1290, was a prominent poet of the Mongol era. Situated at the base of Mount Sabui, the tomb marks the start of the Shiraz-Isfahan road. During his youth, alongside his studies, Khwaju Kermani nourished a profound love for exploration. His travels took him to various destinations, including Egypt, Syria, and

Iraq, where he resided in Baghdad for a period. Upon returning to Iran, he settled in Shiraz, where he found companionship and wisdom in a man named Abu Ishaq. Khwaju Kermani passed away in Shiraz in 1351. As per existing records, the Fars Province Archaeology Organization established a chamber in the northern section of his tomb in 1958. Two verses of his poetry are elegantly inscribed in nasta'liq script on the walls of this chamber. Khwaju Kermani is celebrated as one

of the most melodious poets from the Kerman region and a master lyricist of Persian poetry. His profound influence and contributions during his time in Shiraz are well-documented. Notably, his work greatly impacted the renowned poet Hafez Shirazi, shaping the latter's ghazals. The architecture of Khwaju Kermani's tomb is striking. Featuring two columns at its base and top, the tomb is open-roofed, with a distinctive curved surface on the grave within. While there is no specific inscription

marking Khwaju's resting place, a verse from Surah Ar-Rahman adorns the gravestone as the sole adornment. Legend has it that in close proximity to Khwaju Kermani's tomb, three caves exist. According to historical records, his devotees and scholars from that era would select one of these caves for continuous worship and adoration of God, dedicating themselves to praising Him day and night within these sacred spaces.