

Varkaneh village, attractive for numerous tourists during spring and summer



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The seasonal flow of rivers, the steady flow of village qanat water, and its springs, particularly during spring and summer, infuse the village with a special freshness. These water sources, coupled with the walnut, apricot, grape, and apple orchards they nourish, lend a unique charm to the village and contribute to its delightful beauty. The surrounding mountains and the

regions, alongside the walnut, apple, and almond orchards, are popular choices for family excursions for residents of Hamadan and other cities.

Historical sites and cultural landmarks

The village boasts a number of captivating historical and religious attractions. These include a mosque nestled within



Iranica Desk

Rural tourism is a highly sought-after travel experience for visitors looking to immerse themselves in traditional or historical settings and diverse indigenous cultures. Iran boasts numerous villages that attract tourists, with Varkaneh in Hamedan Province standing out as one of the most renowned. Located near the Ekbatan Dam, Varkaneh village is a prominent tourist destination within the province. Nestled in the southern foothills of the Central Zagros Mountains, this region is renowned for its pristine natural beauty and mountainous climate. Varkaneh is one of Hamedan Province's six designated tourist villages, recognized as a national heritage, and appreciated as a special tourism area in the country. The residents of Varkaneh village are multilingual, speaking

Turkish, Persian, and Kurdish languages. This village is famous for its local music, which is a central part of celebrations and weddings.

Varkaneh village has a rich history that spans over 400 years, with artifacts dating back to the Safavid period discovered there. The village's original nucleus, developed around the village qanat, boasts a significant historical lineage tracing back to the early Safavid era.

The architecture of Varkaneh village is notable for its predominant use of stone as the primary building material. This preference for stone construction is attributed to the ample availability of the material in the region, its durability, resilience to weather changes, and the scarcity of bricks and clay in the vicinity. This tradition of employing local materials in construction is a common practice in Iranian architecture across various regions.



Khan and Jen valleys, especially during different seasons and notably in the lush greenery of spring, present stunning and captivating landscapes.

Varkaneh attracts numerous tourists and travelers, especially during the spring and summer seasons. The stone terraces of Takht-e Sang and Darikhan re-

the old fabric, the horse stable renowned for its unique stone architecture, and the impressive Mehri Khanom Castle. Furthermore, the distinctive stone architecture prevalent throughout the village is noteworthy.

Nomadic life

In the spring and summer

months, Varkaneh village becomes a temporary home to nomadic tribes. These nomads uphold their age-old traditions by journeying through lush pastures, mountains, and numerous valleys, pitching their camps among the hills before eventually returning to the plains as the moderate season draws to a close. The nomads' migration route, weaving through picturesque landscapes of their summer and winter quarters, has established the area surrounding this village as a prominent hub for observing nomadic movements.

Ideal time to explore

Nestled in the southern foothills of the central Zagros Mountains, Varkaneh village experiences a mountainous climate. For an optimal visit, you are recommended to explore Varkaneh during the warmer seasons, particularly in spring and summer. The colder weather in the latter part of the

year may pose challenges for travelers. Nonetheless, autumn adorns Varkaneh with its enchanting hues, drawing many to revel in the village's breathtaking vistas.

Accommodation options

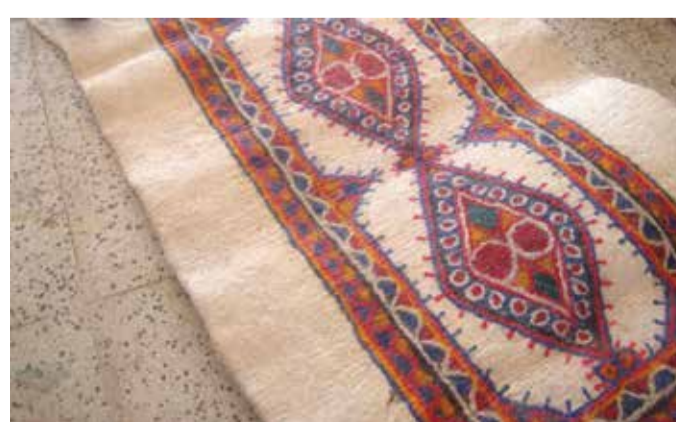
As a burgeoning tourist spot, Varkaneh village offers comfortable lodging options to ensure visitors' satisfaction. Apart from eco-lodges, some locals extend house rentals on a daily basis. Varkaneh village is well-equipped with welfare and tourism amenities. The influx of visitors notably rises during holidays and weekends. When exploring Varkaneh village, it's essential to honor and respect the local culture. The villagers are known for their hospitality, yet it's courteous to seek permission before entering private orchards. To support the local economy, consider purchasing products and handicrafts from Varkaneh village.

Felt making a time-honored tradition in Semnan Province

Semnan Province is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and diverse handicrafts. The province is particularly known for its intricate and colorful traditional handicrafts, which reflect the artistic skills and talents of the local artisans. These handicrafts not only showcase the cultural identity of the region but also serve as a significant source of income for many families in Semnan. Visitors to the province have the opportunity to explore and purchase these beautiful handmade items as souvenirs, appreciating the local artistry. One of the many handicrafts of Semnan is felting, a traditional craft that has been practiced for centuries. The process of making felts is similar across different

regions of Iran, with variations in color, pattern, and thickness. Felt is considered one of the oldest floor coverings created by mankind. According to a famous story told by the felt makers of Semnan, Soleiman the prophet's son, a shepherd, inadvertently discovered felt making when his tears mixed with the wool of his sheep, resulting in the creation of the first felt.

Felt is a unique textile made without the use of a loom, relying on moisture and pressure for its creation. During the felting process, water is poured over layers of wool while they are compressed, causing the fibers to interlock and form a single piece of fabric. Sheep wool, typically sheared in springtime, is



the most commonly used material for felts due to its long fibers and variety of colors. A piece of felt can be made in a single day, making it an affordable product,

albeit a labor-intensive one. Felt is primarily used as a floor covering but also finds applications in crafting items like *korsi* covers (low tables with heat-



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ers underneath), horse covers, kitchen utensils, dolls, and clothing. The patterns and designs of felts often feature abstract motifs inspired by nature. Today, felt

making continues to be practiced in cities such as Semnan and Shahrud, preserving this traditional craft for future generations.