

Kouchesfahani Mansion: Echoes of Rasht's architectural past



● ISNA

Iranica Desk

The Kouchesfahani Mansion, located in the old market of Sabzeh Meydan in Rasht, Gilan Province, showcases exquisite brickwork and reflects the architectural style of the early Pahlavi era. However, it has not yet been registered nationally. The mansion's remaining portions are divided among various owners who reside there. While half of the street-facing

walls are covered in cement, the original beauty of the red brickwork remains visible. A tall wooden door enhances the grandeur of this mansion nestled in a narrow cul-de-sac. While the building appears to have two stories, it actually contains three levels, including a basement. The wooden windows on each floor are adorned with decorative elements known as keystones, which reflect the architectural influences

of the late Qajar and early Pahlavi periods, ISNA wrote. The tall windows illuminate the dark hallway, and sunlight streaming through the window grilles adds an exquisite touch. The main hall and the numerous rooms on the second floor, along with the tall wooden doors and windows, maintain a minimalist decor. However, the high ceiling, adorned with white wooden paneling, evokes the tranquility and charm reminiscent of

grandmothers' homes.

Among the mansion's most striking features are the exquisite brickwork in the courtyard and the building's exterior. Unfortunately, access to the courtyard is restricted, as the first floor and courtyard are occupied by a private owner. Nonetheless, from the second-floor balcony overlooking the courtyard, one can appreciate the beauty of the mansion's intricate brickwork and glimpse a small, roofed area of the courtyard.

According to an inscription on the wall, the Kouchesfahani Mansion was originally quite large, but parts of it were destroyed during the construction of Alam al-Huda Street in the early Pahlavi era. What remains today is a tall, two-story building adorned with brick decorations at the entrance and along the walls. The mansion features brickworks and columns that have unfortunately suffered damage and been filled with

cement. Some sections of the facade have been completely destroyed, revealing a clothing store located behind the tall commercial unit.

In 2017, a dossier was prepared by Gilan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization; however, the mansion has not yet been nationally registered.

The floor plan is quadrilateral, and the building topped with a sloped roof. Its estimated height is 10 meters, and the maximum length of its exterior facade is approximately 31 meters. The primary materials used in its construction are brick and wood, while the outer walls are covered with cement up to a height of 1.5 meters. The main decorative elements include brickwork and wooden adornments beneath the ceiling. There are four entrances featuring wooden doors with rectangular frames and floral carvings. A metal gate was later added to the building, and the exterior features seven small and large windows on the eastern side.

A journey into Peraw Cave in Kermanshah Province



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If you're seeking adventure, Peraw Cave in Kermanshah Province is a tempting destination. However, it's essential to complete professional caving courses and join an expert group equipped with the necessary gear before exploring. Also known as "Killer Cave" (Ghar-e Qatel in Persian), it was registered as the second national natural heritage of the province in 2009 and rec-

ognized as a national heritage in 2010. The cave stretches 1,454 meters in length and reaches a depth of 752 meters, situated between the Taq Bostan and Bisotoun mountains, south of an area known as Peraw Square. Inside this mysterious cave, there are 26 shafts, the deepest of which descends about 42 meters.

In 1971, Peraw Cave was recognized as the deepest vertical cave in the world, earning it the title of "Everest of Caves."

However, after 40 years and the discovery of deeper caves, it now ranks as the 221st. Due to its high altitude, cold temperatures, and natural glaciers, traversing Peraw Cave poses significant challenges for spelunkers. Visitors face additional difficulties, including narrow openings that require crawling through frigid water; almost freezing on their stomachs. If you plan to explore this daunting cave, be aware of the numerous dangers you may

encounter, such as the risk of falls from heights, getting stuck in flooded areas or narrow passages, becoming disoriented, sustaining physical injuries, facing insufficient lighting, poor air quality, adverse weather conditions, and the potential for natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, or bursts of water or gas. In addition to the dangers associated with visiting the cave, there are many wonders to discover, such as the breathtak-

ing and unique experience of interacting with diverse rock formations, gemstones, and underground waterfalls. You'll embark on an adventure filled with excitement amidst nature while facing a physical challenge that demands focus, strength, mountaineering skills, and high endurance. Exploring this cave allows you to uncover new sights, find peace and concentration in its darkness, and forge a direct connection with nature,

including the underground waters, rocks, natural minerals, and subterranean plants. These experiences offer a profound appreciation of the natural world around you. If you have the physical strength and necessary skills for this caving expedition, gather a strong team and embark on your adventure. Due to the cold temperatures in winter and autumn, summer and spring are the ideal seasons to visit the Killer Cave.