

Aquarium Valley, one of the most stunning natural highlights in Fars Province



Iranica Desk

Darab, an ancient city located in Fars Province, boasts a rich history that spans several millennia. This picturesque destination attracts countless tourists and mountaineers throughout the year, drawn by its unique blend of historical, natural, and trekking attractions. Visitors to Darab can explore ancient villages, majestic waterfalls, deep gorges, lush valleys, and verdant mountains.

In this article, we invite you to discover one of the most breathtaking natural high-

lights and tourist destinations in Darab: Aquarium Valley. Situated near the village of Forg at an altitude of 1,330 meters above sea level, the Aquarium Valley delights visitors with its stunning landscapes, which feature cascading waterfalls, verdant reeds, and tranquil pools of crystal-clear water. This idyllic setting provides a perfect backdrop for exploration and relaxation, as reported by IRNA.

A journey to the extraordinary Aquarium Valley is regarded as one of the most rewarding natural experiences one can have in Fars

Province. The serene environment envelops visitors in a sense of peace and harmony, accentuated by the vibrant chorus of local birds and the beauty of the surrounding landscape. However, it's crucial to recognize that exploring this valley requires not only a profound appreciation for nature but also an adventurous spirit and a readiness to embrace the unknown. Typically, a day trip to Aquarium Valley is required, offering an immersive experience enhanced by the enchanting sounds of wildlife and the magnificent vistas that greet you at every turn.

Awe-inspiring waterfall

The waterfall that flows through this captivating valley is often referred to as Kaseh Rud, named after a water-rich river that sustains five breathtaking waterfalls. This river gathers water from upstream springs, irrigating the fertile lands of Forg village. As Kaseh Rud cascades down towering cliffs and meanders through shallow channels, it significantly contributes to the unparalleled beauty of Aquarium Valley.

In addition to Kaseh Rud, another river from the west flows into Aquarium Valley, where the two rivers converge just below a scenic bridge, further enriching the area's natural splendor.

Flora and Fauna

The mountainous climate of Aquarium Valley has fostered a diverse and vibrant array of vegetation. In addition to the extensive reeds that flourish here, various plant species such as willows, figs, palm trees, mountain wormwood, and mangrove shrubs create a stunning visual tapestry throughout the valley and its surroundings. As you wander through the gorge, you may feel the gentle nibbles of small and large fish brushing against your feet as they swim in the clear waters. Historically, the region was home to various mountain animals, including gazelles, but their numbers have dwindled due to excessive and illegal hunting practices. After approximately an hour of walking along the valley floor,

you will come across a large reed bed, where the towering reeds can reach heights of three meters or more. Nestled behind these dense reeds lies the abundant Panjali Spring, which is framed by a solitary Panjali Palm tree—a notable attraction that stands resilient despite having survived a fire. Beyond this spring, the valley narrows, and adventurers must possess technical climbing skills to continue their exploration.



At the end of the Aquarium Valley, you'll find a large pit filled with crystal-clear water, intriguingly sourced entirely from underground springs. By traversing the four-kilometer expanse of the valley, you will arrive at one of the most beautiful aerial bridges in the country—an exceptional feature of this extraordinary area.

This impressive aerial bridge features four 35-meter arches and soars approximately 84 meters above the ground. It is

a concrete arch structure that spans between two tunnels, measuring 358 meters and 278 meters in length. Gazing at the Aquarium Valley from this towering bridge offers an awe-inspiring perspective that elevates your appreciation of the stunning landscape below. The bridge and the access route to the waterfall are strategically located at the border between the Rastaq and Forg villages.

Traveling through the rocky terrain necessitates the use of hands for climbing, especially in areas where waterfalls make the stones slippery. Therefore, a basic level of physical fitness is essential when navigating the initial sections of the valley. It is advisable to wear proper footwear and exercise caution to prevent slips and falls.

In certain sections along the valley, you will need to wade into the water. For those who enjoy water sports, do not miss



the opportunity to dive and swim in the deeper pools that can be found. Beyond the Panjali Spring, the path narrows, and it becomes crucial to be a capable climber or mountaineer to continue further. It is strongly recommended not to attempt these sections without the guidance of a professional. While the initial journey may seem manageable, the trail progressively presents more challenging obstacles.

Trekking poles, hiking shoes, and other specialized equipment become vital for navigating the more demanding later portions of the valley. Unfortunately, suitable camping spots within Aquarium Valley are limited. Therefore, if you plan to stay overnight in the area, consider heading to the surrounding villages, where local homes and guesthouses can provide comfortable accommodations.

Best time to visit

The best time to explore Aquarium Valley is during the spring, particularly in May, when numerous hiking groups often visit the area. Fortunately, the presence of hikers does not lead to overcrowding, allowing Aquarium Valley to retain its status as one of the untouched and picturesque spots in Fars Province. The pleasant and refreshing climate, especially within the dry expanses of Fars, transforms Aquarium Valley into a paradise that should not be overlooked.

For years, the pristine, untamed nature of Aquarium Valley has captivated visitors with its beauty and grandeur. As we relish in the wonders of this remarkable natural area, let us also embrace the principles of responsible tourism, ensuring that it remains protected for those who come after us—allowing future generations to enjoy its unparalleled wonders.

