

Allure of Cheshmeh Gol, a stunning spring in Golestan Province

Iranica Desk

The Cheshmeh Gol (Flower Spring), also known as the Flower Lake, is a stunning natural attraction located in Golestan Province, just south of the city of Ramiyan. This spring serves as a popular recreational area for both locals and visitors.

Nestled at the foot of the Penhan Khaneh Mountain and surrounded by a dense forest of broadleaf trees and agricultural land, Cheshmeh Gol is a truly dreamlike destination. The spring has formed an oval-shaped basin due to subsidence in the limestone formations. Regarded as one of the deepest and coldest water springs in the world, Cheshmeh Gol once reached a depth of 44 meters and now extends to an impressive 80 meters.

Cheshmeh Gol is located at an elevation of 320 meters above sea level, measuring 90 meters in length and 80 meters in width, covering an area of 720 square meters. Its striking dark green color makes it well-known among the springs in the region, a hue attributed to its significant depth. Water is sourced from the bottom of the spring, with no external water entering its basin.

The spring features an outlet channel, and its overflow feeds into the Qarah Chay River in Ramiyan, a tributary of the Gorganrud River, which irrigates the surrounding rice paddies and agricultural lands.

The spring is home to various fish species, with river whitefish being the most abundant. These fish primarily feed on aquatic insects and mollusks and are highly regarded for sport fishing in the area.

The vegetation in the Cheshmeh Gol area predominantly consists of broadleaf trees, particularly



oak. The heights surrounding the spring were once home to ancient and valuable forests, but these have unfortunately been replaced over the past decade by needle-leaved trees planted by the Forests and Pastures Organization.

The construction of a road leading to the spring has made the surrounding soil vulnerable, resulting in noticeable erosion. This has exposed the roots of some trees. In recognition of its natural significance, the spring was registered as a national heritage site in 2016.

While springs and lakes may seem inviting for swimming and bathing, it's important to note that these activities can be dangerous. Swimming is prohibited in Cheshmeh Gol due to the high risk of drowning, even for professional swimmers. Tragically, several individuals have drowned in this spring. If a drowning occurs, recovery becomes nearly impossible due to the spring's depth of 60 to 70 meters and its canal-like structure; the water pressure at depths of 45 to 50 meters is so intense that divers cannot descend. Additionally, the spring contains various wooden debris and logs, and the water is extremely cold.

Best time to visit

Spring and summer are the ideal seasons to visit Cheshmeh Gol and enjoy its stunning natural beauty. Fall, with its vibrant colors, also enhances the allure of the spring. If you plan to visit during winter, be cautious of the roads and pathways to avoid any difficulties.

Given its proximity to the city of Ramiyan, visitors can find accommodations in the city, ranging from traditional lodgings to eco-tourism sites for an enjoyable overnight stay.

An enduring exploration of Persian architectural beauty at Qajar Museum of Tabriz



Step into the Qajar Museum of Tabriz, located in the historic Sheshghelan district, and embark on a timeless journey through Persian architectural splendor. The Amir Nezam House, a stunning testament to the opulent style of the Qajar dynasty, dates back to the era of Abbas Mirza. This exquisite building showcases the remarkable craftsmanship and grandeur of

traditional Qajar architecture. Since its transformation into a museum in 2006, it has offered visitors a captivating glimpse into the rich history and culture of the Qajar period, making it one of the most enchanting museums in East Azarbaijan Province and its capital, Tabriz.

The architecture of the mansion features intricate details characteristic of

the Qajar style, including ornate decorations, remarkable tile work, and expansive courtyards that transport visitors back in time. The house serves not only as a cultural treasure but also as a prime example of historical preservation, encapsulating the charm of 19th-century Persian design. Its beauty and significance make it a must-visit for anyone interested in Iran's rich architectural heritage.

Amir Nezam Garoosi, a prominent political figure and writer during the Qajar era, constructed the Amir Nezam House to safeguard the valuable possessions of Naser al-Din Shah. Over the years, the house transitioned from a repository of royal artifacts to a government building under the Pahlavi regime following the fall of the Qajar dynasty, reflecting the evolving political landscape of Iran.

The structure of Amir Nezam House has undergone significant changes over time, with many important features lost due to age and neglect. To preserve its historical value, the house was designated as a Qajar Museum in 1991, allowing visitors to connect with the past. Additional restoration efforts were undertaken in 2006 to repair and maintain the remaining elements of the building, ensuring that it continues to



be a site of cultural and historical importance.

The museum is a stunning example of Iranian architecture infused with Qajar-era artistry. The two-story building spans 1,500 square meters and features an ivan supported by 16 intricately crafted columns. Surrounded by inner and outer courtyards, the museum is enhanced by lush gardens

and tranquil pools.

Visitors are captivated by the museum's elaborate stucco work, shimmering mirror decorations, and vibrant stained glass windows, which evoke the splendor of the Qajar period. Each aspect of the museum reflects the grandeur and artistic style of the time, making it not only a place to explore history but also a vibrant portal to the past.