

Enchanting Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province

Iranica Desk

Located 12 kilometers from the city of Chelgard and 100 kilometers from Shahrekord, the capital of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall cascades through steep canyons at the entrance of the village of the same name, situated on the lush slopes of Kouhrang. The village sits at an altitude of 2,200 meters above sea level, enjoying a mild climate in spring and summer, while experiencing cold winters.

Sheikh Alikhan is renowned for its local products, including honey and dairy items, and has preserved many of its traditional customs. Among these are melodies associated with joy and the distinctive tunes of the chap instrument, which reflect the rich Bakhtiari culture and serve as unique attractions for visitors to the province.

Water is one of nature's invaluable blessings, but when it cascades from high mountains to form a waterfall, it becomes an even more enchanting spectacle. At the entrance of Sheikh Alikhan village, the waterfall flows through a steep gorge, creating a refreshing breeze for visitors. Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall is one of the scenic highlights of Kouhrang, located 40 kilometers from Sar Aqa Seyed village, near Chelgard town.

The waterfall's water springs from the surrounding heights, and its distance from Shahrekord is approximately 90 kilometers. The most stunning views and highest water flow occur in spring, when the area is adorned with blooming tulips known as Shahdari, further enhancing the landscape's beauty.

In spring, the gushing rivers and flowing springs of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province create a spectacular natural display. In winter, however, the cold weather transforms the waterfall into a breathtaking collection of icicles, with some reaching heights of over half a meter, adding a unique charm to the site. Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province is rich



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in natural wonders, but Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall stands out as one of its most unique landscapes. The valley, where the white waters flow, is enriched by colorful flowers and the scent of medicinal and edible plants, offering visitors a glimpse of Iran's enchanting nature. In spring, the edges of the waterfall are adorned with fragrant plants that enhance the cool air with their delightful aromas, notably the scent of wild mint.

Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall is a completely natural attraction, untouched by human alteration, making it a pristine destination for visitors from both within and outside the province, particularly those from warmer regions. Ten meters from the waterfall,

bubbles and mist hang in the air, delighting nature enthusiasts who venture close to witness this natural wonder.

To enhance the experience, cultural heritage initiatives could invest in this site by establishing recreational facilities, providing comfort and relaxation for visitors while attracting even more tourists. The lush greenery along the valley, the stunning waterfall, and the nearby spring creates a breathtaking scene that captivates all who visit. Despite its extraordinary beauty, Sheikh Alikhan Waterfall remains relatively unknown to first-time visitors exploring Kouhrang's attractions, making it a hidden gem waiting to be discovered.



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Darandash Valley, where adventure meets serene landscapes

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Darandash Valley in East Azarbaijan Province is an exhilarating destination for nature enthusiasts and adventure travelers alike. Visiting this breathtaking valley not only allows you to engage in recreational activities and appreciate the stunning natural beauty, but it also provides an adrenaline rush, offering experiences that are truly unique and unforgettable.

This remarkable location is shaped by the Agh Chay River, which, in its journey through hard rocks and stones, has carved out a magnificent valley

amidst the picturesque landscape of the city of Zonuz. As the river flows, it has created deep channels in the rock formations, contributing to the valley's fame and allure. These channels serve as a sanctuary for various bird species, including doves, adding to the valley's charm and biodiversity, IRNA wrote.

The distance between the walls of Darandash Valley ranges from two to ten meters, resembling a legendary maze that brings to mind scenes from adventurous movies. The valley stretches approximately 500 meters in length, and the presence of several stunning waterfalls further enhances its splendor, creating

a captivating environment for visitors.

Darandash Valley is known by several names, with 'dash' meaning 'stone' in Turkish, likely referencing the abundant rocks and stones that define the area. This valley stands out as one of the key attractions in Marand and is situated near the village of Haris. While there is a village named Darandash in the region, Haris is closer to the paths leading to the valley, making it a more convenient starting point for your adventure.

As one of the prime destinations for canyoning in Iran, Darandash invites you to pack your travel bag and embark on a

journey to the northwest of the country. There are two routes to reach this captivating valley, and regardless of which path you choose, you are sure to encounter a remarkable and extraordinary landscape along the way.

Best time to travel

Without a doubt, spring is the optimal time to immerse yourself in the beauty of nature, particularly for canyoning and enjoying the mild weather conditions. Be sure to prepare your travel gear in advance so you can fully embrace the thrilling adventure that awaits you in Darandash Valley.

The valley's cool and pleasant

climate makes it an excellent getaway from the summer heat, providing an idyllic setting for an unforgettable swimming experience during the warmer months.

However, it is important to keep in mind that due to the cold climate of East Azarbaijan Province, it is advisable to avoid visiting the valley during the rainy seasons. If you do choose to visit during this time, ensure that you are equipped with the necessary gear to handle the conditions safely.

Exploring the pristine and scenic Darandash Valley marks the beginning of an adventurous yet risky journey. Therefore, it

is highly recommended to travel with professional nature tours and experienced guides familiar with the area. Alternatively, seek guidance from local residents who can provide valuable insights and assistance.

To navigate the challenges of Darandash, you must possess adequate skills and techniques for canyoning, as well as good physical fitness, since you will encounter both long hikes and the need to climb up and down rocky terrains. Be sure to bring essential descending equipment, such as ropes and helmets, to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience as you traverse this stunning valley.



● delgarm.com