

Garah Ban village; a Russian architectural treasure in Kermanshah



● karnaval.ir

Iranica Desk

Garah Ban village is one of the notable tourist attractions in Kermanshah Province, particularly recognized for the distinctive Russian architecture of its buildings, which has gained popularity among visitors. The village is celebrated for its cleanliness, orderly pathways, and beautifully designed gardens and fountains. Additionally, Garah Ban produces high-quality rosewater that is not only popular within Iran but also has a significant following abroad, making it one of the country's key exports.

To reach Garah Ban, travelers must journey approximately 60 kilometers from the city of Kermanshah to Harsin. The presence of a village with Russian architecture in such a remote area of Iran may seem improbable, as if a modern tourist destination has emerged unexpectedly amid the dusty roads and wilderness, as noted by IRNA.

Garah Ban also serves as a resting place for religious figures and distributes its rosewater and herbal distillates across Iran and to foreign countries, including France, where they are utilized in high-quality perfume production on a

large scale. The villagers engage in agriculture, gardening, animal husbandry, and the cultivation of saplings, Mohammadi roses, and medicinal plants. Interestingly, based on artifacts discovered in the area, some believe that Garah Ban dates back approximately 2,000 years.

Upon entering the village, visitors are greeted by a large, beautifully landscaped boulevard adorned with colorful flowers. The main building of the village is located at the end of this boulevard, captivating the attention of every tourist. This boulevard extends

to the base of the mountain, where a stairway path is situated. After navigating the steep path, you will reach an area that is blocked off by a guardian and barriers.

Garah Ban can be regarded as the origin and main capital of the Ahl-e Haq (People of Truth). During your visit, many tourists can enjoy free accommodation and food, reflecting the hospitality of the villagers.

The best time to travel to Garah Ban in terms of weather is from mid-spring to mid-summer, as winter's chill is absent during this period, and the scorching

heat has not yet arrived. The village becomes filled with colorful flowers and lush trees in spring, creating an ideal atmosphere for photography and enjoying the surrounding scenery.

Please note that visits to the village are not possible in May, August, November, and March, as villagers focus on repairing buildings, managing internal affairs, and planting and harvesting crops during these months.

Mint extract and rosewater are among the region's exported products and are considered some of the best souvenirs from the area.

Visit Hasht Behesht Palace; historical marvel in Isfahan

Located in the heart of Isfahan, Hasht Behesht Palace is a mesmerizing relic of Iranian classical architecture, set amidst a sprawling garden that has since transformed into a public park. Once the opulent summer residence of former kings, this historic palace attracts visitors with its enchanting design and serene surroundings. While entrance to the palace grounds is free, a small fee is required to access the palace itself, though only the ground floor is open for exploration.

Hasht Behesht Palace, a testament to the grandeur of Shah Soleiman Safavid's reign, captivates with its intricate tile work and fascinating designs, offering a glimpse into a bygone era. Al-

though much of the original grounds have been lost to time, the remnants of Hasht Behesht still resonate with historical significance. The surviving tile work, adorned with captivating motifs, provides a vivid snapshot of the palace's former glory.

Visitors can stroll through the lush garden, imagining the splendor that once was, while the palace stands as a silent witness to the opulence and architectural prowess of the Safavid era. Isfahan's grandeur owes much to the visionary endeavors of the Safavid period, particularly under the reign of Shah Abbas, the first king of the Safavid Empire. Declaring Isfahan as the capital, Shah Abbas sought to elevate its

status by commissioning the creation of Chahar Bagh Street, a magnificent thoroughfare flanked by verdant gardens. Unfortunately, time has claimed many of these lush retreats, leaving only the Chehel Sotoun and Hasht Behesht Gardens.

Despite the loss of much of its original splendor, Hasht Behesht Palace remains a vibrant testament to Iran's history and culture.

Constructed in 1669, Hasht Behesht Palace quickly garnered a reputation as "the most beautiful palace in the world."

Although the passage of centuries has eroded the allure of the surrounding garden, the palace itself endures as a

lively historical monument. In 1964, stewardship of the garden was entrusted to Iran's Culture and Art Ministry, ensuring its preservation for future generations. The palace's enduring charm offers a glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of the Safavid kings and the architectural prowess that defined an era.

In the realm of architecture, Hasht Behesht Palace exemplifies a distinctive floor plan prevalent in Persian and Mughal designs, where eight chambers elegantly encircle a central room. This layout, characterized by its octagonal forms, symbolizes the eight levels of paradise in Islamic belief. However, the inspiration for this architectural style extends beyond Islamic traditions,

drawing upon diverse cultural influences.

The architectural paradigm of Hasht Behesht Palace also resonates with the ninefold schemes prominent in Indian mandalas, which serve as cosmic maps in Hinduism and Buddhism. These multifaceted influences highlight the cross-cultural exchange of ideas and aesthetics that shaped the palace's design. The intricate blend of symbolism and practicality in Hasht Behesht's architecture not only showcases the sophisticated artistry of its creators but also reflects a rich tapestry of cultural interconnectedness spanning from the Islamic world to China and India.



● jamaran.news