

Exploring heritage at Garmsar's Museum of Ethnic Groups

Iranica Desk

Garmsar is a city in Semnan Province and serves as a junction for the northern railway connecting Gorgan and Mashhad, with the main road from Tehran to Mashhad running alongside it. The city is situated 110 kilometers from Semnan, the provincial capital, and 95 kilometers from Tehran.

Formerly known as Khaar, Garmsar covers an area of approximately 5,182 square kilometers. The Garmsar plain extends 48 kilometers from east to west and 27 kilometers from north to south.

One of the most notable attractions in Garmsar is the Museum of Ethnic Groups, where visitors can learn about the diverse ethnicities of Iran. This museum, also known as the Baqeri House, was built in the early Pahlavi era and was officially established as a museum in 2010. Garmsar is unique in Iran for its diverse population, which includes Turks, Arabs, Lurs, Gilaks, Baluchs, and others, earning it the nickname 'Island of Ethnic Groups of Iran.'

The history of the museum dates back to the Qajar era when it was originally constructed as a garden house in the style typical of the period. It was established as the Museum of Ethnic Groups in 1931 by the late Mirza Ali Agha Baqeri, a notable benefactor of Garmsar, and was transformed into the museum in 2011, highlighting its diverse ethnic community. The museum has been

registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

The Museum of Ethnic Groups, or Baqeri House, is located on Ayatollah Kashani Boulevard, Salman Farsi Street, in Shahid Faisali Alley. The building consists of two floors and features various sections, including a water reservoir, bathhouse, and a beautiful courtyard. Remarkably, all parts of this ancient structure have remained intact. A picturesque pond in the middle of the courtyard adds special charm to the space. The construction utilized traditional materials such as raw brick, plaster, clay, wooden beams, and straw clay, with uniquely artistic brickwork enhancing its beauty.

The museum comprises seven display halls housing around 130 items, including traditional clothing, agricultural tools, livestock items, books on different ethnic groups, kitchenware, and nine statues that portray the attire, lifestyle, and professions of various ethnicities for public viewing.

Garmsar is one of the beautiful cities in Semnan Province, attracting many visitors each year. For those interested in the races and ethnic groups of Iran, the Museum of Ethnic Groups in Garmsar is a must-visit destination. The city showcases unique beauty in every season, but spring is particularly regarded as the best time to explore the museum and other local attractions. Visitors can enjoy the exhibits and capture beautiful souvenir photos.



● ISNA



● neshan.org



● ISNA

Nature's masterpiece at Behdeh Village of Hormozgan Province

Iranica Desk

Behdeh Village, located 38 kilometers from Parsian in Hormozgan Province, is one of the region's most beautiful locales, celebrated for its unique natural, cultural, historical, and social attributes, making it a notable tourist destination.

Efforts are underway to attract visitors by preserving the village's traditional architecture and local customs while harnessing its natural resources. These initiatives aim to generate income and promote sustainable development for the community.

Although precise information

about the village's establishment is scarce, archaeological artifacts and pottery discovered during well-digging suggest that the area has a history dating back approximately 3,000 years.

Geographically and climatologically, Behdeh village reflects the prevailing conditions of the region, characterized by a warm and dry climate, mild winters, and hot, humid summers. With its pristine nature and numerous historical sites, Behdeh has been designated as the sixth tourism target village in Iran.

Giry Konar Cave lies in a mountainous region southwest of Behdeh, adjacent to agricultur-

al lands. In the western part of the mountains, local residents constructed a tunnel to channel rainwater from Giry Konar to the agricultural fields of Behdeh. This impressive structure has become one of Behdeh's historical attractions, drawing many visitors each year.

The presence of medicinal plants, such as thyme and other local flora, enhances the beauty of the area, while the stunning mountains and breathtaking valleys provide trails for hikers. The route to Giry Konar Cave is relatively easy to navigate, as most of the journey is along a well-paved road, with only a short dis-

tance on an unpaved secondary road.

Owsiyeh water basin is one of the most renowned ones in Parsian, located northwest of Behdeh village at the end of a beautiful and picturesque valley. This basin is set in an untouched and scenic area that attracts numerous tourists each year. The water supply for Owsiyeh comes from seasonal rivers during the rainy season, and due to its great depth and the impermeability of the underlying layers, water is always present in the basin.

When rainwater cascades down from the mountains, it collects in the basin, having no

outlet other than evaporation by the sun. Over time, the water takes on a dark greenish color (often referred to as "sludge green"), which is the reason for the naming of this location (meaning "Black Water"). On the way to the water basin, visitors pass through colorful, Martian-like mountains before entering a valley characterized by extraordinary erosional shapes and various types of rocks, captivating every viewer.

Faryab Valley

The Faryab Valley, located in the northwest of Behdeh, is a stunning natural landscape that showcases the grandeur of

the unique Creator of the universe. The presence of springs, along with lush surroundings adorned with fiery-colored flowers and oleander blossoms during Nowruz celebrations, captivates every viewer.

In this picturesque valley, several watermills were constructed in ancient times by the hardworking people of the region. These mills harness the power of water from the upstream springs to rotate their wheels, grinding the locals' wheat and making the bread from this divine blessing a centerpiece on community tables. This location is situated 35 kilometers northwest of the village.



● yjc.ir