

Restoration projects underway for historic monuments in Anbarabad and Sirjan



Tomb of Salar Reza



Haji Darvish House

Iranica Desk

Restoration operations for the historical Tomb of Salar Reza in the city of Anbarabad, which dates back to the Safavid period, have officially commenced, as confirmed by an official from Kerman Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization.

Nader Alidadi Soleimani stated that this phase of restoration and revitalization will involve repairs made with adobe, plaster, repointing, debris removal, and structural reinforcement, as reported by IRNA.

He elaborated that the building, which hails from the Safavid era, was constructed in the early 11th century AH (17th century CE).

Salar Reza was a Shia Muslim, and his tomb is situated in the Garm Salar Reza village, located at the western foothills of the Jebal Barez Mountain. This site serves as the final resting place for Salar Reza, his family, and his followers. The tomb is housed within a relatively large structure known as *qal'eh* (castle), which features four towers and walls built of stone, adobe, and brick. The Tomb of Salar Reza has been officially registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

Anbarabad is a city in Kerman Province, positioned 257 kilometers south of the provincial capital. It is bordered to the north and west by Jiroft, and to the south by Kenuj and Rudbar, and to the east by Bam and Rigan counties.

In another development, Vahid Hos-

seini, the head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Sirjan, announced the commencement of restoration and conservation studies for Haji Darvish House in the town of Zeidbad. He indicated that this project marks a significant advancement in the scientific restoration of this important building. Hosseini pointed out that the Haji Darvish House is a nationally registered structure, spanning over 2,000 square meters and dating back to the Qajar period. The building was acquired by the Zeidabad Municipality in 2018, and restoration and conservation studies have started in partnership with Sirjan's Cultural Heritage Department.

Haji Darvish was a merchant from

Zeidabad, recognized for constructing most of his residence with the assistance of Yazdi architects. This mansion features a grand windcatcher, a central courtyard, and an array of architectural highlights that exemplify the Qajar era. Parts of the house were built during the Zand period, with additional sections completed in the early Qajar era.

Upon entering the octagonal vestibule, visitors pass through several elongated corridors that lead to the courtyard. The summer quarters, outfitted with a distinctively tall windcatcher, create a refreshing atmosphere. To either side are five-door and three-door rooms, adjoined by exquisitely plastered winter quarters that include a tall fireplace. The

house also boasts a vertical window adorned with colored glass that filters sunlight artistically. In the northern section, there is a kitchen with a separate courtyard, along with several rooms designated for staff rest. The upper floor features additional rooms intended for guards or for rest during the summer nights.

From the entrance vestibule, a door opens to the stable and barn. This house, marked by its tall walls and spacious courtyard, contains numerous rooms meant for the family of Haji Darvish, notably known as Darvish Yusof Ali. In addition to trading spices from Bandar Abbas to Isfahan and Rey, he also owned extensive properties in the region and achieved high ranks in mysticism and spirituality.

Exploring the enchantment of Arghavan Valley

Arghavan Valley is one of the most beautiful and unique geological phenomena near the city of Ilam. Located along the path to the Ghuchali Gorge, it spans approximately 170 hectares. The valley derives its name from the Arghavan tree, or "Judas tree," which abundantly lines the riverside. Today, it is a popular tourist destination for both locals and international visitors.

The valley provides an ideal environment for various cold-resistant plants and trees, including oak, hawthorn, and a type of maple. The rich vegetation supports a thriving beekeeping industry, known for producing high-quality honey.

The shrubs in Arghavan Valley can reach heights of up to 12 meters. During Farvardin and Ordibehesht (approximately March, April, and May), the gorge transforms into a stunning display of rich purple hues, creating a breathtaking sight for visitors. While Ilam is considered the original habitat of the Judas tree, the area also features dense forests of oak and other species.

The valley is dotted with rivers and several springs, allowing visitors to enjoy refreshing water and spend hours immersed in this natural setting. Judas tree shrubs typically grow along rivers in floodplains with light soil. They propagate through seeds encased in pods and



bloom after one year. The flowers appear in clusters of three to six on branches or even the main trunk. When daytime temperatures exceed 15 degrees Celsius, the flowers bloom, lasting for about two weeks. The blossoms of the Judas tree are edible, offering a sweet and sour flavor that pairs well with other vegetables. Unfortunately, this magnificent plant now faces the threat of extinction. Thanks to its rich biodiversity, the

beekeeping industry continues to flourish in this region. Notably, Arghavan Valley is designated as one of the protected areas in Ilam Province. Located in southwestern Iran, Ilam Province is known for its stunning natural scenery and pleasant weather, making it a hub for numerous tourist attractions. According to historical records, this area was part of the ancient civilization of Ilam. The historical monuments and inscriptions found throughout the



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city stand as testaments to its ancient heritage. Covering approximately 20,133 square kilometers, Ilam Province ranks twenty-second in area across the country. It shares borders with Kermanshah to the north, Khuzestan to the south, Lorestan to the east, and Iraq to the west, with a notable 420-kilometer border with Iraq. A significant portion of the population in Ilam engages in a nomadic lifestyle.

The northern and northeastern regions of Ilam Province are characterized by mountainous terrain, while the southern and southwestern areas consist of low-lying lands. This geographical diversity has resulted in a wide range of natural sights and ecosystems. Situated 710 kilometers from Tehran, the city of Ilam is enveloped by forest-covered mountains, boasting a mild, mountainous climate with particularly pleasant springs.