

# Natural beauty of Heydarabad village



## Iranica Desk

A significant portion of Ilam Province's tourism potential resides within its villages, many of which remain undiscovered due to their obscurity. The Haftav Valley, a lush and forested area near the city of Ilam, features an enchanting blend of forests, orchards, springs, and rivers. This valley, with its abundant rice paddies and extensive fruit orchards, produces a substantial share of Ilam Province's fruits, including figs, apricots, and apples. Notably, the apricots from this region are renowned throughout the country, and the villages nearby also boast significant ethnological tourism potential.

The rural architecture in the Haftav Valley is particularly appealing, characterized by numerous windows that draw admiration. Window crafting has become a traditional and respected occu-



pation for many locals, adding to the village's charm. The villages of Jafarabad, Heyderabad, Zardaloabad, and Tulab in this region possess tourism potential and anthropological appeal, with Heyderabad being the most notable among them, IRNA wrote. Heyderabad village, situated in the Sivan district of Ilam, enjoys a pleasant climate conducive to cultivating a diverse array of fruits during the summer months. Its breathtaking landscapes have led to its designation

as a tourism target village since 2005. Heyderabad lies approximately 25 kilometers from the city of Ilam and extends towards Tulab village.

The architecture of Heyderabad, known for its distinctive tourism offerings, is captivating, with organized alleys, each possessing its own unique name. The mosaic-paved streets and the cleanliness of the village signify that rural development projects have been largely implemented successfully, en-

hancing the overall experience for visitors.

This beautiful and mountainous village has developed into a vibrant community over the past 200 years. Located at an altitude of 1,400 meters above sea level, it experiences a temperate, mountainous climate, with mild weather in spring, summer, and early autumn, followed by colder temperatures in winter. The flowing river and small streams that meander through the narrow alleys of the village contrib-

ute a refreshing element to the atmosphere, while the water-rich Haftav Valley, situated 30 kilometers from the city of Ilam, extends up to the heights of Tulab near the village.

The combination of forests, fruit orchards — particularly walnut trees — and the presence of springs and rushing rivers creates a stunning landscape in this mountainous valley. Within the village, various facilities, including designated trash bins, restrooms, and water coolers, have been established to enhance the visitor experience. The local community actively participates in the development and implementation of diverse projects, further contributing to the village's appeal.

The economy of Heyderabad is primarily based on agricultural, service, and handicraft activities, with both irrigated and rain-fed farming practices prevalent. Most of the village's land is cul-

tivated using rain-fed methods. The picturesque paddy fields surrounding the village present a beautiful view, and the aroma of rice fills the air during the harvest season.

In and around the village, lush and dense farms and orchards create a picturesque setting that is ideal for recreation and enjoyment for tourists. The village holds considerable national potential, particularly due to its apricot trees, which have led to the annual celebration of the "Apricot Harvest Festival" held in June.

The apricots from this village are highly esteemed throughout the province, and a nearby area has even been named Zardaloabad in their honor. With the abundance of apricot trees in the village, the festival has the potential to gain recognition at a national level, celebrating the rich agricultural heritage and cultural significance of the region.

## Uncovering archaeological significance of Turang Tappeh

Turang Tappeh (Turang Hill) is located northwest of Turang village, approximately 20km from Gorgan, the capital of Golestan Province, and 60km from the Caspian Sea coast. This ancient hill, dating back 5,000 to 6,000 years, has been preserved as part of Iran's National Heritage List, drawing comparisons to the Hesar Tappeh and Sialk Tappeh civilizations.

The first excavations at Turang Tappeh were conducted in 1878 CE by the archaeologist Clement Augustus de Bode during the Qajar era and the reign of Muhammad Shah. Significant discoveries from these archaeological expeditions included tools, cups, containers, and weapons made of gold, silver, and bronze, indicating that agriculture, irrigation systems, and pottery-making were prevalent in ancient times at this site.

In 1889 CE, Jean-Jacques de Morgan further explored Turang Tappeh, uncovering copper and bronze daggers, small stone statues, and additional historical artifacts. Subsequent excavations in 1922 CE, led by American

archaeologist Frederick R. Wulsin, identified three distinct historical layers within the site. The first layer, at a depth of six meters, revealed a cemetery with red and gray pottery and bronze vessels, dating to the Iron Age. The second layer, found at eight meters deep, and the third layer contained various pottery vessels and clay statues. Further excavations in the 1940s and 50s by French archaeologist Jean Deshayes defined nine periods of cultural life at Turang Tappeh.

Covering an area of 30 hectares and reaching a height of 30 meters, Turang Tappeh features a prominent brick structure measuring 13 meters in length and eight meters in width, of which only the first floor remains today. This ancient hill was once the

site of a Sassanid fortress built over the clay structure, which served as an ancient temple known as Chahar Taqi or "Four Vaults." Some scholars believe it may be part of the ancient wall of Hyrcania (Gorgan), designed to protect the Sassanid Empire against invasions from groups such as the Chionitae, Hephthalites, and Kidarites.

Furthermore, traces of the Achaemenid and Parthian empires have also been discovered in the region. Among these findings is a seal inscribed with the name Khosroshad Pirouz, which may be linked to the lost city of Roshan Pirouz. Evidence of the Ilkhanid period has also been uncovered, adding to the site's rich historical significance.

