

# Crown imperials of Dehnow; unique natural heritage in need of protection



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## Iranica Desk

Ali Mashhadi, head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Khomein in Isfahan Province, highlighted the habitat of the crown imperial — an Asian plant recognized for its cluster of bell-like flowers atop a tall, mostly bare stem — in Dehnow village, a unique natural attraction in Markazi Province. This habitat has been officially registered as a national natural attraction, ensuring the protection of this beautiful site while creating new opportunities for sustainable tourism development in the region, chtn.ir wrote Mashhadi noted the area's unique characteristics, including its location in the mountainous region, which

features a temperate climate, springs, and pristine natural beauty. As the birthplace of crown imperial, it lies along the former Khakbar road and is poised to become an appealing destination for nature lovers and local culture enthusiasts.

He emphasized that the national registration of this natural attraction, covering approximately 70 hectares, presents a significant opportunity for sustainable tourism development.

By focusing on tourism alongside environmental protection, Khomein can enhance its economic and social prosperity. This is particularly crucial in the current context, where preserving natural resources has gained increasing importance, making the region

more attractive to tourists and investors.

Mashhadi emphasized the importance of protecting this natural attraction, stating that safeguarding natural and historical sites not only preserves their beauty but also protects the civilization and culture of the land. This responsibility lies with all segments of society, and we must collaborate to safeguard these valuable resources.

He expressed hope that, with the cooperation of local residents and authorities, they can transform the area into a sustainable tourism destination, making the most of its natural attractions. He also noted that planning cultural and artistic festivals can significantly promote these attractions and draw in tourists.

Additionally, they are working on creating the necessary infrastructure for tourists to enjoy the area's natural beauty. This includes improving access, providing facilities and educational resources for visitors, and promoting environmental awareness among both the local community and tourists. In conclusion, Mashhadi stated, "We all need to recognize that protecting these natural sites benefits not only us but also future generations. Therefore, the cooperation of all individuals and organizations is essential for effectively safeguarding these natural treasures."

The crown imperials of Iran are not just flowers; they are emblems of a nation's endurance. Blooming amidst the mountains, their roots burrow

deep into the parched soil, drawing life from the very essence of the earth.

These crown imperials, with their unique inverted beauty, testify to the power of adaptation and transformation. Just as they thrive in the most unlikely conditions, the Iranian people have also adapted to the ever-changing tides of history. They have weathered storms, embraced change, and emerged as a vibrant, resilient culture that continues to captivate the world.

The crown imperials of Iran symbolize hope, a reminder that even in the darkest times, a guiding light exists. They teach us that beauty can be found in the most unexpected places.



ISNA

# Archaeological significance of Kermanshah Province

## Iranica Desk

Kermanshah Province holds a unique and prominent position in the history of archaeological studies, particularly concerning the origins of agriculture and permanent settlement in the world, Hojjat Darabi, a faculty member in the Archaeology Department at Razi University of Kermanshah said.

Speaking in an interview with ISNA, Darabi highlighted that the first research in this area began in the late 1950s. In 1960 and 1961, an archaeological team from the University

of Chicago, led by Robert Braidwood, explored several prehistoric sites and examined the plains of Kermanshah and Mahidasht within the province.

At that time, the sites of Tappeh Aasiyab and Tappeh Sarab, located near the city of Kermanshah, were the most significant prehistoric sites studied by the University of Chicago's team. However, subsequent research over the following decades revealed that Kermanshah boasts the largest number of Neolithic archaeological sites in Iran. According to the studies conducted at these archae-

ological sites, the first steps of humanity toward agriculture and settlement in the Central Zagros, including Kermanshah Province, were taken approximately 10,000 years ago. Darabi noted that research on the Ganj Dareh Mound in Harsin has identified it as the first site for the domestication and breeding of goats, with evidence of animal husbandry and plant cultivation also discovered at the Sheikh Abad mound. He stressed that these findings indicate that Kermanshah Province's greatest archaeological potential is linked to the Neolithic

period and deserves special attention. Fortunately, in recent years, there has been a shift in the approach of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Kermanshah Province, emphasizing that archaeological activities should be targeted. However, most current activities have been limited to exploratory drilling aimed at determining boundaries and zones.

Darabi reminded us that while such activities are valuable for protecting archaeological sites, they cannot provide the same insights into past societies as

excavations can. Therefore, it is crucial to prioritize archaeological excavations to more thoroughly introduce the rich heritage of Kermanshah Province, particularly given the Neolithic period's unique significance in this region.

He also addressed a common misconception surrounding archaeological excavations in historical sites. Unfortunately, some decision-makers in the field of cultural heritage believe that conducting excavations will lead to increased destruction by illegal diggers. However, it is important to recognize that all sites typ-

ically suffer from damage before any archaeological activities occur, raising concerns that they could be entirely lost.

Darabi pointed out that it is precisely through these excavations that we have gained knowledge about our past heritage, such as Bisotun and Ganj Dareh, of which we take great pride. He noted that the rate of destruction of archaeological sites is alarmingly high and is unfortunately on the rise. Therefore, we should not hesitate to proceed with excavations or use this issue as an excuse to avoid taking necessary actions.

He emphasized the need to support archaeological excavations through scientific planning and analysis, utilizing skilled specialists in the process. The best way to protect these sites is to enhance local people's awareness of their significance, which can be achieved through public educational activities stemming from archaeological work.

Darabi expressed hope that the cultural officials of the country recognize the role and importance of cultural heritage as a unifying force within society, thereby giving it the attention it deserves.



Ganj Dareh Mound  
KOJARO.COM



Tappeh Aasiyab  
ANYJA.IR



Tappeh Sarab  
CAFETARIKH.COM



Bisotun  
MEHR