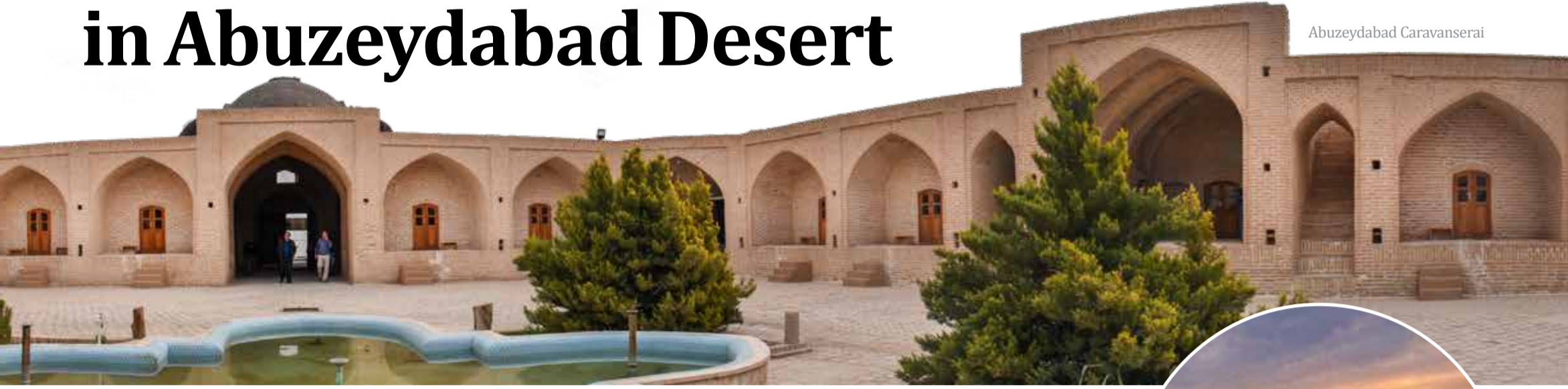


Adventure and tranquility in Abuzeydabad Desert

Abuzeydabad Caravanserai



Iranica Desk

The Abuzeydabad Desert is part of the expansive Maranjab Desert, situated north of Abuzeydabad and northeast of Kashan in Isfahan Province. It is considered one of Kashan's main attractions. Like other parts of the desert, Abuzeydabad reveals its true beauty in its profound silence, hot, shifting sand dunes, and breathtaking landscapes. The vastness of the desert offers a unique opportunity for visitors to connect with nature and experience tranquility away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Alongside other desert destinations in Iran, such as the Maranjab and Mesr Deserts, Abuzeydabad is a popular choice for tourists interested in exploring desert scenery. The mesmerizing sunsets and starry nights create a magical atmosphere, making it an ideal spot for photographers and nature enthusiasts. Additionally, Abuzeydabad is regarded as the capital of ancient dialects in Iran, with the unique dialect and culture of its residents being significant draws for visitors. Engaging with the local community can provide deeper insights into the rich history and

traditions that have shaped the area.

The Abuzeydabad Desert is approximately 270 kilometers from Tehran, making it accessible in about three hours of driving. Visitors can also reach the desert from other cities, particularly through Natanz and Kashan. Depending on your location, you can choose the best route to reach either of these cities. Most of the key attractions in the Abuzeydabad area are located along a 25-kilometer dirt road to the north. About eight kilometers from the city, you'll encounter sandy dunes and rolling hills. To access the larger, more striking dunes, follow the desert path alongside the Chaleh Arous Salt Lake.

The Abuzeydabad Desert is a small segment of the larger Band-e Rig Desert. In addition to its stunning natural attractions, it is renowned for the historical and archaeological sites it features. Many tourists who plan to visit the Abuzeydabad Desert take advantage of its high tourism potential by also scheduling visits to nearby historical landmarks, such as ancient caravanserais and traditional Persian gardens. This blend of natural beauty and cultural heritage

makes the area a rich destination for exploration.

The best seasons to explore the Abuzeydabad Desert are autumn, winter, and early spring. Like other desert regions, the climate here can be very hot during the summer months. Nature tours to the Abuzeydabad Desert and the Noushabad Underground City are typically organized during the cooler months of the year, allowing visitors to fully enjoy the outdoor activities without the discomfort of extreme heat.

For accommodation in the Abuzeydabad Desert, you can set up your camp among the sand dunes. A night spent amidst the quiet and serene sandy hills can be truly memorable, offering a chance to witness the beauty of the desert under a blanket of stars. Alternatively, the Abuzeydabad Caravanserai offers another lodging option in the desert.

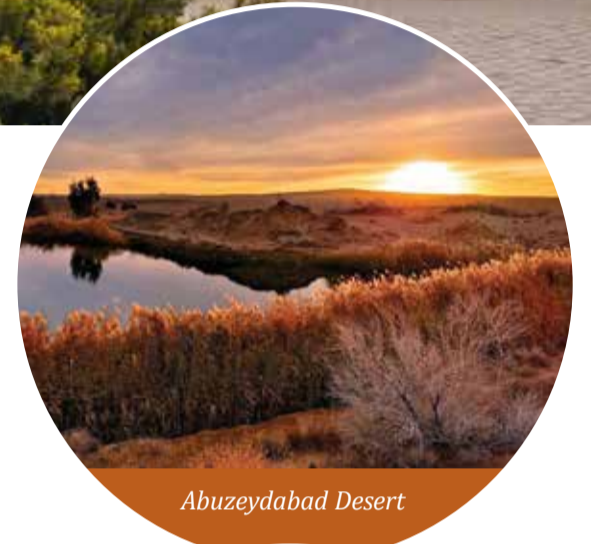
Abuzeydabad Caravanserai

The Abuzeydabad Caravanserai, with its four-ivory layout and over four centuries of history, dates back to the Safavid era. Initially, this caravanserai served as a resting place for caravans and their mounts. Up until 60 years ago,

camel drivers from Yazd, Isfahan, and other cities would rest here. The Shah Abbas Caravanserai in Abuzeydabad was registered on Iran's National Heritage List on August 23, 1999. This caravanserai has been welcoming travelers for nearly 400 years. It has remained active since its construction during the Safavid period and continues to provide a suitable resting space with good amenities today.

Activities in the Abuzeydabad Desert include desert trekking, photography, off-roading, camel riding, stargazing, and ATV riding. The diverse landscapes offer a backdrop for adventure and exploration, catering to both thrill-seekers and those looking to relax.

The desert features a variety of vegetation that supports diverse wildlife. The fauna includes species such as falcons, eagles, rabbits, sand foxes, sand cats, jackals, wolves, jerboas, hubara, various agamid lizards, snakes, and the Maranjab lizard. This rich biodiversity adds another layer of intrigue for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts, making the Abuzeydabad Desert a truly captivating destination.



Abuzeydabad Desert



Abuzeydabad Desert

Historical and artistic importance of Isfahan carpets



If you want to explore a complete archive of Iranian carpets, be sure to visit the Isfahan Carpet Bazaar, located near Imam Khomeini Square. This market has experienced various ups and downs throughout history. Most members of the Isfahan Carpet Union have been engaged in this craft for generations, inheriting the secrets of their trade from their ancestors. Here, you can find a range of carpet-related

jobs still practiced, including spinning, dyeing, drawing, weaving, craftsmanship, polishing, trading, and repair.

Isfahan carpets are known for their balanced texture, using materials like wool, silk, and natural dyes that provide both durability and beauty. They represent the aesthetic identity of Iranian carpets and serve as a reference for artists and researchers. The designs of Isfahan carpets are

inspired by old maps that adorn the city's buildings, and significant innovations continue to emerge from new artists.

The Isfahan Carpet Market is a relic of the Safavid era, featuring a brick-built structure with two-story shops lining both sides of the bazaar path. The dome roofs, adorned with tiles and plaster, include skylights that provide ventilation and lighting. Each dome arch



typically accommodates two shops facing each other. These ceilings help regulate the market's temperature throughout the seasons. Interestingly, these roofs also serve as nesting sites for red-breasted swallows, which migrate to Isfahan due to the favorable climate and the Zayandeh Rud river during their breeding season. Locals consider the swallow to be an omen, and in ancient times, it

was affectionately referred to as "Pisoor," a term that has fallen out of use. Keep an eye on the sky during your visit; you might be lucky enough to spot one of these birds.

The bazaar is home to several notable sites, including *saqakhaneh*, *ab anbar* (cistern), bathhouse, a mosque, caravanserai, coffee house, stable, *zurkhaneh*, and a school. Additionally, Amin Carpet Bazaar is a contemporary

structure that harmonizes with the market's texture and cultural identity.

Isfahan carpets come in various shapes, with the most common being rectangle, square, circle, and octagon, available in sizes ranging from small to large.

We recommend that you not only visit this market but also consider purchasing souvenirs to decorate your home with original Iranian art.