

# Exploring Iran's majestic ice waterfalls

Iranica Desk

Iran, a land of diverse and breathtaking nature, is home to a treasure trove of natural attractions. For those seeking winter recreation and the beauty of icy phenomena, Iran offers numerous wonders. Among these unique attractions are the stunning ice waterfalls, which enhance the mountainous regions of Iran during the winter season.



Damavand Ice Waterfall

## Damavand

The Damavand Ice Waterfall is one of the most remarkable natural phenomena in Iran and the entire Middle East. Located at an altitude of approximately 5,100 meters above sea level on the southern face of Mount Damavand, this stunning feature is nestled within one of the region's dormant volcanoes. It remains frozen for most of the year, with only brief periods in summer when a thin stream of water flows beside it. During the summer months, temperatures can rise above freezing around noon, allowing for a small amount of runoff. However, by around 4 p.m., temperatures drop again, causing the melted ice to refreeze and resulting in a perpetually frozen cascade. At the top, a depression covered in snow can be found year-round, IRNA wrote.

Reaching this icy marvel requires mountaineering experience, technical equipment, and high physical fitness. The access route branches off from the main southern path of Damavand, necessitating navigation through rocky and icy terrain. Despite the challenges, the stunning views of Mount Damavand, natural glaciers, and the ice formation create a unique and unforgettable experience for climbers and nature enthusiasts.

## Nava

The Nava Ice Waterfall is situated at an altitude of about 2,500 meters above sea level in Larijan, Mazandaran Province, and is notable for being frozen year-round. Located near the Damavand Ice Waterfall, it remains ice-covered despite its lower elevation. This site is popular for specialized ice climbing programs.

To access the location, take the Haraz road. Approximately 200 meters past the Larijan and Rineh exit, you will see the turnoff for the village of Nava. Travel for five kilometers along this road, which includes both dirt and paved sections. After this distance, you will reach a secondary road that passes through orchards, leading you to the icy formation. The hike from the village of Nava takes about an hour.

## Akhlamad

Akhlamad Waterfall is one of the most beautiful cascades in Iran, located in Khorasan Razavi Province, near Chenaran. Nestled in the pristine mountainous nature of Akhlamad village, this stunning site showcases its unique beauty throughout the year, with its charm particularly enhanced in winter. As the cold season arrives, the falls freeze, creating a dreamy, snowy landscape. Icicles hanging from the rocks and the frozen cascade add captivating appeal to the area, making it a popular destination for tourists.

Notably, Akhlamad features not just one waterfall but a series of cascading displays situated in a deep valley within the Binaloud Mountain range. In winter, all these features freeze, creating an unparalleled view. Walking alongside these frozen cascades and enjoying the serene, untouched nature of Akhlamad is an unforgettable experience. In addition to its natural beauty, the region also boasts historical and cultural sites that enhance its appeal.

## Khor

The Khor Ice Waterfall, approximately 50 meters high, is located in the village of Khor in Alborz Province, near the Chalus Road. As winter approaches, the water freezes, creating a stunning display of icicles and ice formations. The access route is relatively easy, with a short walk leading you there. The path passes through fruit orchards, showcasing the pristine beauty of the area. Facilities around this natural wonder include parking, restrooms, and gazebos for resting. If you're looking for a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of the city, this site is an excellent choice.

## Hamellon

The Hamellon Ice Waterfall is located along the route from the Meygun Gorge to Shamsak, Tehran Province, and is a popular destination for climbers and nature enthusiasts. Due to its shaded location, the cascade completely freezes during the cold seasons. In addition to ice climbing, visitors can enjoy walking around the stunning site and experiencing the area's pristine nature.

In the summer and spring, Hamellon Valley offers a lush landscape and clean air, providing a calm escape from city life. Furthermore, the presence of the Meygun International Ice Climbing School nearby has made this area an important hub for

ice climbing training and development in the city. If you're seeking a unique and exciting winter experience, we highly recommend visiting this natural site.

## Sangan

The Sangan Ice Waterfall is located at the end of Sangan village, approximately 20 kilometers northwest of Tehran, nestled in the foothills of Pahneh Hesar Peak in the stunning Alborz Mountains. During the cold seasons, it offers breathtaking views. Activities such as ice climbing, hiking, and photography are commonly enjoyed in the vicinity, which remains active during moderate seasons, providing another natural attraction.

To access this location in winter, park your vehicle near Sangan village and proceed on foot, equipped with appropriate gear for the remainder of the journey. The steep roads in this area can freeze quickly, making them hazardous. The Sangan Waterfall is recognized as one of the tallest in Tehran Province and is the first natural site in the province to be registered on Iran's National Natural Heritage List.

## Ganjnameh

Hamedan, one of Iran's historical provinces, boasts not only rich cultural attractions but also numerous natural wonders. The Ganjnameh Waterfall is one such attraction, named after one of Iran's exquisite historical artifacts. Located at the foot of Mount Alvand, it sits alongside the ancient Ganjnameh inscriptions, which date back to the Achaemenid era.

The combination of nature and history enhances the visual appeal of this site. In the cold season, it transforms into an ice formation, making its appearance even more spectacular. The best time to visit the Ganjnameh Ice Waterfall is in late autumn and winter. The site was registered on Iran's National Heritage List on January 5, 2008.

## Abarsaj

The Abarsaj (or Abarsij) Ice Waterfall is an extraordinary and lesser-known attraction located 10 kilometers north of Shahrud in Semnan Province, within the eastern Alborz Mountains. This area is ideal for winter visits, as icicles adorn the cold slopes of Shahvar Peak.

Locals can easily guide you to the access route for this gem. After reaching the Egbaliyeh area, it takes about an hour of walking to arrive at this beautiful location. The best time to see the icicles of the waterfall is from early December to late March, as it does not remain frozen year-round and only forms ice during the cold seasons.

## Margoon

Margoon Waterfall in Fars Province is often regarded as one of the most beautiful cascades in Iran. With its unique features, it is an important attraction in the spring and summer; however, its beauty in winter is truly unparalleled. When the water cascading down from the mountain freezes due to the cold, it adds even more grandeur to the scenery. Unlike many others, the waterfall does not originate from a river; instead, its flow comes from thousands of springs that emerge from the rocks.

Due to its twists and turns, the formation is often likened to a snake, which is how it got its name (*mar* in Persian means snake). The cool winter climate, combined with the snow-covered mountains, makes this area appealing to those who enjoy the colder seasons. Additionally, the icicles hanging over the falls further enhance its beauty.

## Abnik

The Abnik Waterfall in Tehran Province is another popular site for ice climbing and winter sports enthusiasts. The collection of attractions in this area, including a river, Abnik village, and the waterfall itself, holds significant appeal for residents of Tehran. During the cold seasons, it freezes, providing an opportunity for winter travelers. The path to reach this natural wonder in winter is challenging, requiring approximately three hours of hiking and climbing.

It's crucial to remember that winter poses specific dangers, and visiting Abnik without proper equipment can be hazardous. Besides winter sports and ice climbing, this area offers beautiful and unique landscapes for exploration and photography. If you have the necessary gear, don't miss the chance to experience this stunning icy formation.



Sangan Ice Waterfall



Ganjnameh Ice Waterfall



Abarsaj Ice Waterfall



Margoon Ice Waterfall



Abnik Ice Waterfall



Nava Ice Waterfall



Akhlamad Ice Waterfall



Khor Ice Waterfall



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