

Haraskan archaeological site demands immediate attention, further excavations



Iranica Desk

The director of the Vigol Cultural Heritage Site, Javad Hosseinzadeh, stated that the Haraskan archaeological site in Aran and Bidgol requires optimal protection and further excavations by Kashan academics and international archaeologists to uncover its residential, political, and industrial sectors. The Haraskan archaeological site is located east of the city of Aran and Bidgol in Isfahan Province, where, during two seasons of archaeological excavations, remains of a fire temple dating back to the Sassanid era, as well as the transitional period from Sassanid to Islamic, have been discovered. This structure is considered by archaeologists to be one of the most exceptional fire temples of the Sassanid period. He noted that Haraskan has

been of interest to historians for many years, adding that the protection processes in this region must be carried out, and what has been discovered from the excavations should be preserved so that further research and excavations can continue.

He stated that given the significance of Haraskan and the artifacts discovered there, further measures should be taken for archaeological explorations and to introduce it to the people of Iran and the world. Hosseinzadeh, referring to the discovery of an inscription in this ancient area, said, "This inscription is carved on the stone benches where the priests sat, narrating in Pahlavi the lighting of the Bahram Fire Temple in the fire temple of Haraskan." He continued, "The mentioned inscription, along with the bases of offering tables, decorated

plaster columns, and sections adorned with lotus flower motifs, is currently on display to the public at the exhibition of Haraskan."

He noted that Sassanid-era pottery, along with early and middle Islamic ceramics featuring stamped designs and golden hues, obtained from two seasons of excavation at the ancient city of Haraskan, are also showcased in this exhibition.

This archaeologist said, "This exhibition has been established next to Haraskan with the assistance of the Aran and Bidgol Municipality."

According to him, based on historical sources, the Sassanid city of Haraskan was abandoned for unknown reasons in the 9th century AH; the ancient site later identified and discovered near Aran and Bidgol is believed by archaeologists and

historians to be the lost Haraskan mentioned in history.

According to IRNA, the Archaeology Group from the University of Kashan began excavation operations at the ancient site of Haraskan in 2021, and after 60 days, significant sections of a fire temple from the late Sassanid and early Islamic periods were uncovered, which archaeologists believe was one of the most important places of worship during the Sassanid era and part of the fire temples of Bahram.

Aran and Bidgol, located 215 kilometers north of Isfahan, is known for its rich cultural heritage and historical significance. The area is characterized by its unique architecture, traditional crafts, and proximity to other historical sites, making it an important region for both tourism and archaeological research.



Nature and history unite at Sheyvand Waterfall

Sheyvand waterfall is located in the picturesque Sheyvand village of Izeh, Khuzestan Province. Nestled next to the lake formed by the Karun III dam and the Karun II River, Sheyvand village sits in the foothills of the Zagros Mountains, surrounded by lush oak forests. This idyllic setting not only offers stunning natural beauty but also serves as a vital ecosystem for various plant and animal species.

Sheyvand village, along with the neighboring villages of Noshivand and Posht Asiyab, forms a triangular area through which

the river flows. These villages are situated in a region where the Karun River meanders to the east, creating a unique geographical landscape that enhances the area's charm.

Waterfall details

The Sheyvand Waterfall cascades dramatically from a height of 80 meters, flowing down the Mon-gasht mountain for four kilometers before reaching Sheyvand lake. This stunning waterfall not only captivates visitors with its beauty but also plays a crucial role in irrigating the gardens and paddy fields of

the village. Directly across from this highest waterfall in Khuzestan province lies Zaras tourist village, which attracts visitors looking to experience the natural wonders of the area. Accessing Sheyvand village can be done via barge, ship, or go-fast boat, although a bumpy dirt road is also available for those who prefer to drive. The waterfall itself is about three kilometers from the village, requiring approximately an hour of walking to reach its breathtaking viewpoint.

Flora and fauna

The biodiversity of Shey-

vand is remarkable, with a variety of animal species including leopards, boars, brown bears, wolves, jackals, foxes, rabbits, rams, sheep, mountain goats, Iranian squirrels, and various birds such as partridges, see-see partridges, nuthatches, shrikes, and woodpeckers. The region is also home to around 230 plant species, including Iranian oak, red ben, oregano, tragacanth, Pistacia atlantica, figs, Montpellier maple, pomegranates, grapes, and walnuts, contributing to the ecological richness of the area.

Historical significance

In addition to its natural attractions, Sheyvand village boasts historical significance, featuring an Abbasid caravanserai from the Saffavid era. The area is rich with remnants of an ancient fortress, believed to date back approximately 4,000 years BCE. Visitors can also find stone inscriptions and reliefs near the Bardgori crypt, which dates back nearly 1,700 years to the Sassanid era. The village is home to two historic water mills and an old dungeon that reaches a depth of 25 meters, adding to its historical allure.

Local handicrafts and cuisine

Sheyvand village is also known for its vibrant handicrafts, including jajim (a type of woven fabric), felt, neck scarves, rugs, and hand-woven carpets. The local cuisine is another highlight, featuring delicious offerings such as mountain honey, cheese, local butter, sugary bread, pomegranate paste, and torshi made from pomegranate seeds. These culinary delights provide visitors with a taste of the region's rich cultural heritage.

Attractions

Izeh, where Sheyvand is

located, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and historical significance. Visitors to Izeh can explore various archaeological sites, ancient ruins, and traditional crafts that reflect the area's storied past. The region is characterized by its unique architecture, traditional crafts, and proximity to other historical sites, making it an important destination for both tourism and archaeological research. The combination of natural beauty, historical intrigue, and cultural richness makes Izeh a captivating place for travelers and history enthusiasts alike.

