

# Discovering magic of winter in Iran's scenic villages

## Iranica Desk

Several villages in Iran are renowned for their exceptional winters, offering a unique and pure experience for tourists during the winter season as well as in spring and summer. The snowy villages of Iran invite you to embark on a winter journey. When planning your trip to these picturesque villages, be sure to check access routes beforehand and bring safety equipment such as tire chains.

### Masuleh

The stunning view of Masuleh village in Gilan Province with its traditional windows, unique terraced houses, and beautiful trees dotting every corner, captivates all who see it. Masuleh is one of those attractions that will have you returning multiple times. Be sure to plan at least one of your visits to the enchanting site in winter so you don't miss the breathtaking winter scenery. In 1975, Masuleh was registered on Iran's National Heritage List and is now recognized as one of the smallest cities in Iran. This charming attraction resembles a painting in winter, offering extraordinary scenery for photography enthusiasts, according to IRNA.

On snowy days, locals begin shoveling snow off the roofs and yards of their houses, while fog and cold blanket the alleys. If you dress warmly enough, the cold can be delightful, especially when accompanied by a warm drink. Masuleh is one of those attractions that becomes quiet in winter, allowing you to find accommodations to escape pollution and enjoy the serene winter nature, spending dreamy days in the cozy, secluded, and wintry atmosphere of Masuleh. After wandering through the winding staircases, treat yourself to a cup of a warm drink by the oil heater. To reach Masuleh, start your journey from the city of Fuman; after an hour of driving, you will arrive in Masuleh. Be cautious of the roads in winter, and definitely bring tire chains with you.

### Abyaneh

Abyaneh village, Isfahan Province, shines like a red gem in the heart of Isfahan Province. Situated about 2,200 meters above sea level, it is one of the highest villages in Iran. The houses of Abyaneh are constructed from red clay, and winter presents a different face of the village; snow blankets the red earth, creating a unique and captivating landscape. The narrow, winding alleys of the village become covered with snow, and the chimneys of the houses emit smoke, offering a delightful winter scene that feels like a postcard for tourists.

Due to Abyaneh's unique geographical location, the number of visitors significantly decreases in autumn, with only a few daring individuals braving the cold conditions to witness the village's winter beauty. Traveling to Abyaneh in winter

comes with its challenges. There may be closures or limited services in restaurants and tourist facilities; therefore, if you plan to visit Abyaneh during this season, be sure to prepare and plan accordingly. Accessing Abyaneh is quite straightforward; it can be reached via the Kashan-Natanz-Isfahan highway. Alternatively, you can take the Persian Gulf highway, which connects Qom to Isfahan.

### Kandovan

One of Iran's most unique villages is Kandovan, known for its remarkably strange and distinctive architecture. Located in East Azarbaijan Province, Kandovan attracts both domestic and foreign tourists every year. The village is recognized as one of the unparalleled examples of rock villages in the world. Kandovan experiences cold and long winters, and the cone-shaped houses carved into the rocks, covered with snow, create a breathtaking and postcard-worthy landscape. In winter, the cold and silence envelop the village, transforming it into a tranquil haven for those seeking a different experience for a few days. Traveling to Kandovan in winter requires considerable preparation. It is advisable to bring warm clothing, suitable shoes for icy and snowy conditions, and food supplies. To reach Kandovan, you can travel from Tabriz to Azarshahr and then to Kandovan; however, it's important to check the road conditions before starting your journey. The area is entirely mountainous, and heavy snowfall in winter can lead to road blockages. Despite the challenging winter conditions, a trip to Kandovan is worthwhile, as the beauty you'll experience there makes braving the cold an unforgettable adventure.

### Deylaman

Deylaman is part of the Siahkal in Gilan Province and can be considered one of the oldest human settlements in the area. With its unique mountainous nature, this destination is significant for travel in the spring and summer; however, it offers a different experience in winter. Throughout the winter, all the pastures in the region are covered in snow, providing a stunning vista. Deylaman takes on a calm and frosty appearance in winter, showcasing its unique beauty. Heavy snowfall transforms the region's lush greenery into a pristine blanket of white. Nonetheless, before traveling to this cold region, keep in mind that heavy snowfall often leads to road blockages. Therefore, pay attention to weather warnings during these seasons and travel cautiously.

### Palangan

Palangan is a beautiful terraced village located in Kurdistan Province, near the border with Kermanshah Province. Much like Masuleh, Palangan features terraced houses arranged so that the rooftop of each home serves as the yard for the

house above it. The unique architectural style enhances the area's beauty while maximizing the use of mountainous terrain.

Throughout the seasons, Palangan shines like a paradise nestled in the mountains, showcasing stunning attractions, including towering peaks and flowing rivers in this fertile region. The village is situated about 57 kilometers from Kamyaran and is part of the broader Uraman area.

For those seeking adventure and a connection with nature during the colder months, Palangan is a picturesque winter destination. Its narrow streets and charming houses become blanketed in snow, creating a captivating landscape that delights nature lovers. However, it's essential to be well-prepared for travel to the winter village. To avoid road blockages, check weather forecasts in advance and plan your visit a few days after a snowfall to ensure clear roads while still enjoying the breathtaking winter scenery.

To reach Palangan, travel to Kermanshah, then head towards Kamyaran, and finally make your way to the village.

### Uraman Takht

One of the many attractions of the beautiful Kurdistan Province is Uraman Takht village. Located in the western part of Kurdish Province, it borders Iraq to the west. In the Kurdish language, Uraman is a name that consists of two parts: "Ura" and "Man." Some interpretations suggest that "Ura" refers to "Ahura," leading to the translation of "Ahuraman" as "House of Ahura." The name has evolved over time but is still used to reference this beautiful village. Based on archaeological evidence, it is established that people have inhabited the region for approximately 40,000 years.

Uraman village is celebrated as one of the stunning terraced villages of Iran, which adds to its unique charm. The pyramid-like structure of the village is crowned with a historic fortress at the peak. In winter, Uraman Takht takes on an entirely different character. Heavy snowfall transforms the terraced houses into a mesmerizing, white-covered landscape. Although the cold during this season can be quite intense and navigating the terraced streets may pose challenges, the winter beauty of Uraman Takht is nothing short of magical. The stone houses blanketed in snow, along with the smoke rising from lit chimneys, combine with the tranquility and silence that reign in winter, creating a beautiful winter gift for lovers of the season. If you plan to visit the village in mid-winter, you can also participate in the traditional Pir Shaliar ceremony.

### Sangan

Sangan village, a hidden gem in the northwest of Tehran, is known for its pristine nature and cool climate, making it an excellent destination

for escaping the hustle and bustle of city life. Situated at an altitude of 2,575 meters above sea level in the Alborz Mountains, Sangan boasts numerous natural and historical attractions. From the breathtaking Sangan Waterfall, which stands approximately 30 meters tall, to the shrines of Imamzadeh Qasem and the Pahneh Hesar Peak, each site offers its unique beauty.

In winter, Sangan reveals a stunning and serene view blanketed in white snow. The Sangan Waterfall, which dazzles in the warm seasons, transforms into an icy chandelier during winter, creating a spectacular sight. The silence and tranquility that envelop the village during this season provide an ideal opportunity to escape the noise of the city and immerse yourself in the unspoiled winter nature.

To reach Sangan, take the road leading to the shrine of Imamzadeh Davood. This road begins in the northwest of Tehran and reaches Sangan. However, it is important to note that traveling to Sangan in winter requires careful preparation and planning. Due to snowfall and freezing conditions, access routes to the village and pathways leading to the waterfall may become slippery and challenging.

### Khur

The beautiful Khur village is located within the jurisdiction of Karaj, Alborz Province. Situated 17 kilometers from Karaj along the Chalous road, Khur serves as a cool retreat at the foothills of the Alborz Mountains, functioning not only as a summer destination but also as an integral piece of history and nature. Imagine a lush valley filled with ancient trees, a river breaking the mountain's silence with its melodic flow, and a waterfall cascading down from the rocks. The idyllic image captures a glimpse of Khur's beauty.

Despite its close proximity to the larger cities of Tehran and Karaj, the short distance allows visitors to escape the urban chaos. In this village, you can admire the beautiful Khur Waterfall, enjoy stunning views from Gandomchal Peak, and visit a centuries-old plane tree that is over 800 years old.

As winter arrives in Khur, the village transforms into a scene of enchanting beauty. The nearby Khur Ski Resort offers excellent opportunities for an exhilarating winter trip. Additionally, the Khur Waterfall transforms into an ice chandelier that sparkles in the sunlight, enhancing the winter experience. All of these attractions contribute to an exhilarating journey to the village.

To reach Khur, the best route is via the Karaj-Chalous road. After traveling approximately 17 kilometers from Karaj and before reaching the Karaj Dam, an exit on the left side of the road will direct you towards the village of Khozankala. The road is paved, but be sure to have tire chains ready during winter for a safe journey.



Masuleh  
● IRNA



Abyaneh  
● yjc.ir



Kandovan  
● nasrnews.ir



Deylaman  
● yjc.ir



Palangan  
● foundation.app



Khor  
● travel.mhkarami97.ir



Sangan  
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