

Untouched beauty of Chal Kandi Valley in Dezful



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Chal Kandi is a breathtaking valley carved by the Dez River in Dezful, Khuzestan Province. Towering cliffs and the erosive power of water have sculpted stunning landscapes, making it one of Dezful's most beautiful and pristine attractions. Its moderate climate provides a welcome escape from the heat, drawing tourists during the warmer months.

Nature enthusiasts will find hiking through Chal Kandi, equipped with proper gear, a truly delightful experience. Alternatively, visitors can explore the valley by taking local boats from Dezful or Andimeshk. Photography enthusiasts will be captivated by the abundant reeds and dense grasslands that line the riverbanks. Located approximately 30 kilometers north of Dezful and 25 kilometers northeast of Andimeshk, Chal Kandi Valley is a popular recreational area in Khuzestan Province. The valley's rocky paths are adorned with lush reeds and grasslands, enhancing its natural beauty. The cliffs of Chal Kandi have been shaped over centuries by river sedimentation and high humidity. This pristine stretch of the Dez River teems with diverse plant and animal life. In the upper reaches of



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the cliffs and foothills, you might spot jackals, foxes, and mountain goats. The clear waters of the river are home to various fish and crabs, while kingfishers and red-billed crows can be seen among the cliffs. The Dez River reaches depths of nearly 30 meters in the deeper sections of Chal Kandi. The depth, combined with the tall rocky walls, creates a significant temperature difference between the valley and the surrounding cities, resulting in a pleasantly temperate climate even on the hottest summer days. The entire Chal Kandi Valley is a showcase of natural beauty. The stunning, winding cliffs are particularly noteworthy, offering cozy spots for photography and enjoying the scenery. The transparent waters of the Dez River are teeming with fish and are a major draw

for tourists. The clarity of the Dez River allows you to see the stones at its bottom. Amidst the rocks, you can find various medicinal and aromatic plants, such as borage and wild mint, whose fragrances fill the valley in the spring. Willow trees stand tall on the heights overlooking the cliffs. Ascending to the upper reaches of Chal Kandi rewards you with breathtaking views of the river and cliffs converging below. The "kat" spots nestled among the rocks offer ideal places for rest and relaxation. Chal Kandi's serene and pristine environment, combined with its beautiful landscapes, makes it a haven for nature lovers. Professional athletes can enjoy canyoning, climbing, and rock climbing over the river's flow. Even those without peak physical fitness

can appreciate the tranquility of nature and the soothing sound of flowing water by walking along the easier paths.

Fishing

Chal Kandi Valley is a fantastic destination for fishing enthusiasts. The variety of fish and the crystal-clear waters of the river make fishing from the cliffs of Chal Kandi a truly enjoyable experience. Remember to bring appropriate gear and equipment. Be mindful of the fish spawning season, as it is not a suitable time for fishing.

Swimming and water activities

Swimming and splashing are popular activities in Chal Kandi Valley, especially during the warm months. However, be aware that the Dez River is quite deep in this area, so sufficient

swimming skills are necessary. Jumping from the cliffs into the water, while taking safety precautions, is another thrilling option. You can also experience other water activities such as shuttle rides, boating, jet skiing, and diving. To participate, join recreational tours departing from coastal parks along the Dez River. For adventurous activities, bring the proper equipment and, if you're unfamiliar with the area, seek assistance from local guides. Khuzestan Province, known as one of Iran's hottest southern regions, experiences high humidity in the summer due to the Dez and Karun rivers. Dezful and Andimeshk are also among the hottest cities in Iran. However, Chal Kandi Valley's unique structure creates a significant climatic contrast. The constant flow of the river and the tall rocky walls

moderate the climate within the valley. During the day, the cliffs block sunlight from reaching certain areas, keeping them cool. While you can visit Chal Kandi Valley year-round, the best time for water activities is from mid-June to mid-October. In the fall and winter, the weather in Chal Kandi Valley and its surrounding areas is cool and temperate. However, the water temperature drops significantly, making water activities less enjoyable. It's not advisable to visit during heavy rains due to the river's depth and the risk of flooding. The rocky and stony terrain of Chal Kandi valley is not ideal for camping. The weather around the valley also differs from that within, becoming very hot in the summer. For camping, it's best to limit your stay to daytime picnics and spend the night in nearby towns

and villages. Eco-lodges in the villages surrounding Chal Kandi are popular accommodation options. The village of Pamenar, a short distance from the valley, offers suitable eco-lodges. In Andimeshk, Dezful, you can also find local houses and eco-lodges. Hotels in Dezful and Andimeshk are other convenient options for accommodation near Chal Kandi. When traveling to Chal Kandi valley, it's crucial to have a local guide familiar with the route. Navigating the valley requires familiarity with the paths and swimming skills. If you plan to visit by local boat, be sure to wear a life jacket and follow all safety guidelines. Wear light clothing and comfortable shoes suitable for hiking and nature walks. If you intend to swim, bring an extra set of clothes and a towel. Sunscreen, sunglasses, plenty of drinking water, and a sun hat are essential items for your journey through Chal Kandi valley. To climb to the upper parts of Chal Kandi, bring climbing and mountaineering gear. If you lack experience with canyoning in rocky and challenging terrain, avoid unnecessary risks. If visiting during the colder seasons, wear warm and waterproof clothing.



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Beauty of geometric motifs in varis-bafi textile art

Technological advances and changes in today's lifestyle have led to some handicrafts losing their usage and becoming obsolete. However, they retain their value as cultural heritage. One such craft is *varis-bafi* (varis weaving), practiced by the Bakhtiari tribe in Chahamahal and Bakhtiari Province. Varis is a type of weave created to meet the needs of nomads, utilizing the technique of *kart-bafi*. The technique has been popular since ancient times, particularly among nomadic cultures. Kart-bafi is a form of strip weaving that is not performed on looms or textile machinery but rather on karts, which are cards with holes. The history of kart-bafi dates back to the 3rd to 2nd millennium BCE. Although this technique has been prevalent



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among nomadic peoples, unfortunately, no samples of kart-bafi from ancient times have survived. Research indicates that kart-bafi is still practiced by the Bakhtiari tribe, as well as the Lor tribes of Lorestan and the Shabsavan tribe, visitiran.ir wrote.

The raw materials used in kart-bafi include hand-spun wool, goat hair, silk, spun golden threads, high-quality linen, and cotton. Tools such as karts, looms, wraps, wefts, shuttles, combs, grid papers, and colorful beads are essential for this craft. The type of knot or the

way the thread passes through the karts determines the pattern. In varis-bafi, designs and patterns are created similarly, with the yarn's passage through the karts allowing for diverse designs. By twisting the karts, additional variety can be introduced. When the yarn is threaded through the kart according to the design, and the kart is moved forward or backward, similar motifs are generated along the strip. This technique allows for numerous geometric motifs to be created. Common motifs in varis-bafi include trees, birds such as peacocks and roosters, and various inscriptions, each representing a specific meaning within Iran's traditional culture. Cherry red and gray are common colors, while black and gold can also be found in some pieces.