

Discovering beauty of Derazno village in Golestan Province



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Iranica Desk

Derazno village, nestled in the Kordkuy of Golestan Province, is one of the most stunning areas in northern Iran. Its high elevation provides breathtaking views of the Golestan forests, making it a prime destination for nature enthusiasts and seasoned travelers alike. With its excellent climate, lush landscapes, and untouched forests, Derazno has earned a reputation as one of the most picturesque tourist spots in Golestan Province, guaranteeing lasting memories for visitors.

Located near the forest of the same name and the Jahan Nama forest, Derazno village is approximately 35 kilometers southeast of Kordkuy. The area lies near Derazno Peak, which rises to about 2,800 meters. Kordkuy itself is situated in western Golestan, bordered by Bandar Torkaman, Semnan, and the Gulf of Gorgan. As one of the highest villages in northern Iran, Derazno offers some of the most beautiful vistas of the Gulf of Gorgan. The surrounding mountainous regions are among the most pristine in Golestan, and the pastures of Derazno provide sweeping views of more than ten neighboring cities and villages.

Derazno village is situated in a cold region, making travel and daily life quite challenging for nearly half of the year. Currently, around 160 households reside in this area, spending only the first six months of the year in this beautiful highland. Unfortunately, in recent years, increased construction and soil erosion have led to significant damage to agricultural lands during heavy rainfall in the colder months.

Most houses in Derazno village have preserved a traditional structure that is well-suited to their environment. The local homes are constructed from adobe and wood, with some utilizing stones from the surrounding mountains. These houses remain cool in the summer and warm in spring and early autumn. Dense forests filled with fragrant wild and medicinal plants surround the village, while the nearby mountains are home to numerous springs and waterfalls.

On most days of the year, especially at sunrise and shortly thereafter, thick clouds envelop Derazno village. The expansive pastures around the village provide ideal grazing grounds for livestock from the local community and neighboring villages. However, due to overgrazing, access to these pastures for herders is currently permitted only with



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authorization from the Department of Environment. One of the notable features of the vegetation around Derazno village is the harmonious coexistence of forest and pasture. The dense forests of Derazno are adorned with thyme, nettle, chamomile, and shrubs such as medlar, barberry, wild plum, and wild apple and pear trees. At higher elevations, wildlife like wild boars and brown bears can also be spotted. Fortunately, in recent years, the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization has planted trees such as black pine, maple, ash, oak, and walnut in this area, significantly contributing to the restoration of the region's flora. Nonetheless, protecting the Derazno Forest and its natural resources remains essential.

The most stunning views of the Caspian Sea and the surrounding plains can be enjoyed from this village. Derazno Peak, located adjacent to the village, rises to an impressive 2,800 meters above sea level.

Situated at an altitude of over 2,600 meters, Derazno village is accessible only via steep, winding mountainous roads. The high elevation and proximity to the mountains create a very cold climate, making travel along the village's dirt road impossible during the cold seasons.

No matter the time of year you visit Derazno village, there are seasonal activities that attract tourists.

Paragliding and kite surfing

Due to the village's high elevation, paragliding enthusiasts are also drawn to this region. While the flying site in the Jahan Nama area is not accessible during winter, skilled kite surfers and paragliders can take advantage of favorable conditions for flying over the lush forests in spring and summer. The extensive pas-



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tures and meadows surrounding the village, along with the Derazno forest, provide a safe landing area for kite surfers.

Nature walking and forest hiking

The winding local roads in the Derazno forests and surrounding parks offer untouched and picturesque environments for walking. If you have the appropriate equipment, consider planning a hiking trip to camp in the heart of this pristine nature. The meadows around Derazno village are lush and vibrant, often displaying the phenomenon of ocean clouds at certain times of the day. From these pastures, you



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can enjoy breathtaking views of the Caspian Sea's plains, Golestan forests, and surrounding protected areas. Exploring the adobe houses of Derazno village and the wooden cabins on the hillsides is also a delightful experience.

Imam Reza (PBUH) Forest Park

Imam Reza (PBUH) Forest Park lies along the road from Kurdkuoy to Derazno village, located in the "Palang Pa" area, through which a river of the same name flows. The park is covered with numerous trees, and diverse vegetation can be found throughout its various sections. It is approximately 25 kilometers from Imam Reza (AS) Forest Park to Derazno village. The park offers a variety of recreational facilities for the comfort of tourists and travelers, including accommodations, pavilions, a guesthouse, a restaurant, parking, and a children's playground. If you cannot find suitable accommodation in Derazno, you can stay in one of the suites at this forest park. Its close proximity to Derazno allows you to explore the attractions of both Kurdkuoy and Derazno during your visit.

Jahan Nama Protected Area

The Jahan Nama Protected Area, located in the southernmost part of Golestan Province, is often referred to as the "Roof of Golestan" due to its high elevation. This area stands over 3,000 meters above sea level and provides breathtaking views of Kurdkuoy, Gorgan, and Bandar Torkaman. The entire mountainous region is adorned with abundant springs and dense forests. Among nature enthusiasts, the Jahan Nama Protected Area is one of the most popular forests in Golestan, attracting various groups of campers throughout the year. A diverse range of plants and animals can be found here. To visit this area and camp in its pristine locations, you'll need a knowledgeable guide, as well as suitable tools and

equipment. Venturing deep into this area without proper knowledge can pose risks for tourists.

Historical attractions

Derazno village, nestled in pristine and picturesque natural surroundings, is situated in a historic area that was once part of Tabaristan. Consequently, in Kurdkuoy, you'll find not only stunning natural attractions but also a variety of historical buildings.

Radakan Tower

Radakan Tower is situated in the southern part of Kurdkuoy, approximately 15 kilometers from Derazno village. This historic structure, also known as Mil Radakan, is located near a village of the same name. Mil Radakan rests atop a dirt and stone hill, and archaeologists compare its bricks and structure to the Gonbad-e Qabus Tower. The entrance to Radakan Tower is located on its southern side, where remnants of a Kufic inscription can still be seen.

Accommodation

Derazno village is a pristine retreat, situated far from urban chaos. While there are a few hotels and local accommodations nearby, the best option for staying in Derazno is to rent local houses. If you visit during the warm season, you can choose charming wooden cabins or adobe houses nestled on the slopes for your overnight stay, allowing you to truly enjoy the stunning morning views. In recent years, the influx of tourists has led to the establishment of eco-lodges in the village as well. Imam Reza Forest Park features cabins and forest suites at reasonable prices, making it an attractive option for visitors. Additionally, luxurious villas and homes have been developed throughout the region, catering to those seeking upscale accommodations. For nature enthusiasts, the village offers beautiful and secluded slopes that are perfect for camping. There is only one shop in the village that supplies essential food items and other necessities, so it's advisable to come well-prepared for camping.

Best season to visit

Derazno is among the top travel destinations during the warm months. The delightful weather here provides a refreshing escape from the heat and pollution of large cities. However, by early autumn, the air begins to take on wintry colors and scents, making it increasingly challenging for residents to remain in the area.