



Kheirabad Chahartaqi  
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# Breathtaking beauty and historical marvels of Gachsaran

**Iranica Desk** *These days, the presence of fields filled with colorful tulips, abundant springs, the shores of the Kosar Dam, rivers, and the roaring waterfalls of Gachsaran in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province have transformed the area into a paradise for nature enthusiasts. However, the stunning landscapes and beautiful nature are not the only attractions for tourists; the historical monuments and the shrine of Hazrat Bibi Hakimeh (PBUH), have made Gachsaran the queen of Nowruz tourism in this province.*



Sassanid Bridge  
● IRNA

**Kheirabad Chahartaqi**  
One of the significant historical and tourist attractions is the Kheirabad Chahartaqi, an architectural unit consisting of four-barrel vaults and a dome. The use of *chahartaqi* in non-religious architecture is often ceremonial, observed in the establishment of certain structures. This type of ceremonial setup can be seen in the temporary construction of *chahartaqi* as part of decorations during celebrations.

**Sassanid Bridge**  
The Sassanid Bridge in Kheirabad is another noteworthy tourist attraction in Gachsaran. This historical bridge, located just 130 meters from the Kheirabad Chahartaqi, dates back to the Sassanid era and was added to Iran's National Heritage List on November 4, 2007.

**Marin village**  
Marin village is regarded as one of the scenic locations in Gachsaran. This beautiful village, with its pristine nature and historical attractions dating back to pre-Islamic times, is a popular tourist destination in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. To reach Marin Village, if you travel along the old Dehdasht-Gachsaran road, you will arrive at the Kuh-e-Dil Protected Area after about an hour. Just before reaching Dil village, there is a mountain road on the left that winds through hills and oak forests, leading you to Khamin Mountain, where Marin Village, surrounded by numerous orchards in the heart of the valley, is located. Marin village is situated 36 kilometers north of Gachsaran and 198 kilometers southeast of the provincial capital city of Yasouj.

**Kheirabad River**  
The Kheirabad River is considered one of the attractions of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, flowing along the foothills of the mountains in Gachsaran. This river originates 25 kilometers northeast of Dogonbadan and flows northwest. At 28 kilometers northeast of Dogonbadan, it merges with a large tributary flowing from the northwest and becomes known as the Shah Bahram River. Just one kilometer south of the Gerdab village, it combines with the Taghar River and, flowing southwest, is referred to as the Kheirabad River.

**Kosar Dam**  
Kosar Dam is another picturesque location in Gachsaran, located 60 kilometers northwest of Dogonbadan. This beautiful multi-pur-

pose dam in the four-season province of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province provides drinking and industrial water for the cities and ports along the Persian Gulf. The stunning lake created by the dam has the potential to become one of the most stunning tourist destinations in the southern part of the country, attracting many visitors every year, especially during the Norouz holiday.

**Ganj Banar Waterfall**  
The Ganj Banar Waterfall is another remarkable tourist attraction in Gachsaran. Located seven kilometers north of Gachsaran on the slopes of Khaeiz Mountain, this waterfall has a height of 30 meters, with its waters supplied by several springs. Despite the typically warm weather of Gachsaran, the air in this area is incredibly cool and pleasant, making it a popular destination for tourists each year.

**Suleiman Castle**  
Suleiman Castle (Deje Soleiman) is another highlight located about 15 kilometers southwest of Gachsaran. This castle, likely one of the forts from the Ismaili movement, is situated next to the village of Suleiman and approximately 15 kilometers southwest of Gachsaran.

**Lishtar Dome**  
The Lishtar Dome is a prominent sight in Gachsaran and an architectural relic from the Seljuk era, listed among Iran's national heritage sites. A dome is a type of structure that resembles a hollow hemisphere. The history of dome construction in Iran dates back to prehistoric times, with these domes utilized in ancient Middle Eastern buildings and tombs. This beautiful dome is a highlight of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province and is located 30 kilometers west of Gachsaran, along the ancient route connecting Dogonbadan to Behbahan, in the Lishtar plain.

**Tomb of Bibi Hakimeh (PBUH)**  
The tomb of Bibi Hakimeh (PBUH) is a significant religious, historical, and tourist site located 81 kilometers south of Gachsaran on the eastern side of Bibi Hakimeh village, attracting many pilgrims. Bibi Hakimeh is the sister of Imam Reza (PBUH), the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims. Near the tomb, there is a small door known as Bab al-Morad, which, according to various accounts, leads to a cave where Bibi Hakimeh took refuge with her maid to hide from their enemies.



Marin village  
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Ganj Banar Waterfall  
● safarbazi.com



Suleiman Castle  
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Tomb of Bibi Hakimeh (PBUH)  
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## Sarakhs Caravanserai; elegant rest stop of ancient travelers

Sarakhs Caravanserai (Robat-e Sharaf), renowned as the Museum of Brickwork in Iran, is situated in the city of Sarakhs, Khorasan Razavi Province. This stunning structure is a relic of the illustrious Seljuq era (1037-1153). Caravanserais were essential places for travelers to rest during lengthy journeys. They established these buildings along major routes, including the Silk Road, at regular intervals. Within these caravanserais, travelers found rooms, barns, and facilities to store water and prepare hot food, allowing them to rest and recuperate before continuing their journeys. Robat-e Sharaf, specifically, was constructed on the orders of the ruler of Marv in the early 12th century. The design of Sarakhs Caravanserai features a rectangular layout divided into two primary sections. Each section showcases a four-ivan (four-porch) courtyard. The first courtyard has a rectangular shape surrounded by guard rooms, while the inner courtyard is square and contains a pool. It is theorized that the outer courtyard was intended for the general public, whereas the inner courtyard served as the residence for government officials. One of the key reasons for the fame of Sarakhs Caravanserai lies in its breathtaking and intricate architectural decorations.

The building is adorned with elaborate brickwork and various stucco details throughout its sections, including the mihrab, beneath the dome, and at the entrance. The entire structure is covered with brick inscriptions, and it originally featured six towers and two mosques. Despite having undergone damage and renovations numerous times from the Seljuk period to the present, the Sarakhs Caravanserai remains a remarkable testament to the art and craftsmanship of brickwork characteristic of the Seljuq era in northeastern Iran. Additionally, this site offers a valuable collection of original inscriptions from that period.

Be certain to include a visit to this unique complex in your itinerary after exploring the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH), the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims in Mashhad, the spiritual heart of Iran. The caravanserai is located approximately 45km from Sarakhs, conveniently situated along the road from Mashhad to Sarakhs. After arriving in the city of Mazdavand, continue your journey for about 25 kilometers to reach the village of Shurloq. From this village, a six-kilometer drive along the asphalt road will lead you directly to the magnificent Sarakhs Caravanserai. The ideal time to visit this remarkable attraction is during the spring.

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