

# Experiencing splendor of Darsajin village in Zanjan

Iranica Desk

Darsajin village, known as the Abyaneh of Zanjan, is located in Abhar, 15 kilometers from the center of the city. This picturesque village is recognized as one of the key tourism destinations in Zanjan Province, with a historical background that dates back to the pre-Islamic era. The village boasts a mountainous climate, which makes it exceptionally cool and pleasant during the spring and summer. Each year, Darsajin attracts a large number of tourists due to its abundant natural and historical attractions. Some historians attribute the establishment of the village to Keykhosrowpour Siyavash and Darab Kiani, while others link it to Shapur Zolaketaf. Its rich culture, historical architecture, and pristine nature contribute to its designation as the Abyaneh of Zanjan, chtn.ir wrote. The village's cool weather is due not only to its mountainous location but also to the presence of springs, rivers, and underground sources of fresh water. This results in cool summers and cold autumns and winters, accompanied by mild springs. Darsajin features traditional adobe houses with windows facing the square, stone platforms, winding cobbled streets, and old neighborhoods. The central square serves as a gathering place for locals and is adorned with plane and cypress trees, contributing to its unique charm. This compelling landscape has led to Darsajin being nominated as a top candidate from Zanjan Province for inclusion in the list of the world's best tourist villages. However, the village faces significant challenges in terms of tourism infrastructure, including the lack of parking, sanitary facilities, and suitable accommodations. This highlights the urgent need for relevant authorities to take serious action to address these issues.



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Deputy Head of Zanjan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization Davoud Abian, emphasized that the essence of rural tourism lies in the combination of environmental landscapes, farm activities, and unique cultures present in the village. This integration not only provides opportunities for recreation and diversity for tourists but also creates job opportunities and income for local residents.

He noted that the village's traditionally constructed houses feature balustrade balconies adorned with flower pots. Around the square, seating areas offer locals a place to relax. A large platform in the center of the village square, surrounded by plane and cypress trees, enhances the area's beauty. During the day, this square serves as a gathering place for people on break from work, while in the cooler evenings, it



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becomes a venue for casual conversations and commerce. Abian continued to highlight that the village's historical significance is marked by numerous attractions, including its historical fabric, rural architectural style, public square, ancient towers and walls, remnants of an old castle, and an old mosque. Rural tourism has become increasingly popular, with its appeal growing day by day.

Davoud Azizkhani, the village manager of Darsajin, acknowledged that while the village is recognized as a tourist destination within Zanjan Province, it suffers from insufficient infrastructure, particularly the lack of public restrooms and adequate parking facilities. He pointed out that the main issue is funding. "Although our village is a tourist destination, there isn't enough local revenue to implement such proj-

ects," he explained. "Some projects require coordination with provincial departments, which can slow down the administrative process. Nevertheless, we hope to resolve these issues in the near future through continuous efforts and by attracting private investors." Azizkhani mentioned that 5,700 tourists visited Darsajin village during the Nowruz holiday this year, asserting its status as a targeted tourist destination. He emphasized that the village deserves dedicated funding for maintenance, similar to other villages. Mohammad Reza Azizkhani, a local involved in tourism affairs, highlighted the infrastructural challenges faced by this tourist-target village. "Like many mountainous villages, it boasts unparalleled natural beauty, surrounded by towering mountains and lush plains. Springs, rivers, and sources of fresh underground water contribute to its prosperity and greenery; however, the lack of public restrooms poses a serious challenge for tourists." He noted that visitors often have to rely on restroom facilities in schools, health houses, or mosques, which may not always be accessible. He emphasized that although Darsajin village is recognized as a tourist destination attracting many domestic and foreign visitors, the lack of suitable infrastructure can negatively impact their experience. Azizkhani stressed the importance of attracting tourists by providing basic amenities: "This cannot happen without sufficient facilities." He urged authorities to pay more attention to these issues and to invest in tourism infrastructure to create better conditions for drawing more visitors. village has the potential to become a global tourist destination. However, achieving this goal requires government support and investment in infrastructure.

## Heritage and tradition at Ardebil Anthropology Museum

Zahir ol-Eslam Bathhouse is a historical bathhouse in Ardebil, dating back to the Ilkhanate dynasty. It was purchased and restored during the Qajar era by a man named Motamen ol-Ro'aya, who added new rooms to the structure. Like other traditional Iranian bathhouses, Zahir ol-Eslam features a *kafshkan*, or shoe-remov-

al area, and a *rakhtkan*, which serves as the locker room. The entryway, called the *sarbineh*, is crowned with a dome. The bathhouse includes *khazineh*, or bathing pools for cold and warm water. As with many old bathhouses, its plumbing system was constructed from clay pipes. The bathing pools were supplied with water

from a nearby river, which was channeled into the facility via these clay pipes and drained in the same manner. Today, all components and technologies of the bathhouse are displayed at the Ardebil Anthropology Museum. Although the bathhouse continued to operate until the Pahlavi era, it was ultimately purchased and restored by the Cultural

Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization of Iran in 1999, after which it transitioned into a museum. The Ardebil Anthropology Museum features thirty-three wax sculptures that depict the rituals, traditions, clothing, and lifestyles of the people of Ardebil. Additionally, the museum houses manuscripts, documents, and ar-

tifacts that highlight the region's historical and cultural identity. Visitors can not only explore the structure of a traditional Iranian bathhouse but also immerse themselves in the culture of the Ardebil people. Located on Sa'di Boulevard, near the Darwazeh (Aali Qapu) district and in front of the Sheikh Safi al-Din Shrine, the

Ardebil Anthropology Museum showcases both the cultural heritage of Ardebil and the architectural significance of the old bathhouse. Visitors can plan their tour to follow a visit to the Sheikh Safi al-Din Shrine, enjoy local delicacies and souvenir shops, and then explore the bathhouse and museum.



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