

# Registration efforts for Khalu Hossein Kuhaken Cave

**Iranica Desk**

The head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Paveh, located in Kermanshah Province, has announced ongoing efforts to register the Khalu Hossein Kouhaken Cave in the tourist area of Meygoreh of Paveh on Iran's National Heritage List.

In an interview with ISNA, Aziz Mostafaei described the Khalu Hossein Kuhaken stone cave as a unique and significant structure. He highlighted the importance of this site and noted that efforts have been made over the past few years to have it registered as part of Iran's national heritage.

Mostafaei explained that a dossier for the site was previously prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage as a historical site. However, since Khalu Hossein cave is less than fifty years old, it did not qualify for registration as a historical site, and the file was not approved. He emphasized that, following a directive from the deputy minister of cultural heritage, it has been determined that the Khalu Hossein cave must be registered nationally.

Mostafaei further stated that compiling a new dossier for national registration is now back on the



agenda, with plans to pursue registration as an intangible cultural heritage. He also announced that efforts are underway to

transform the Khalu Hossein neighborhood into a tourist site in Paveh. He explained that Khalu Hossein Kuhaken had endowed

this site to the municipality before his death, and the municipality has made significant infrastructure improvements over the

past few years. Actions taken for the site include building access roads, developing the area, and setting up a ticket

booth. However, electricity has yet to be implemented, which they hope to realize soon. Mostafaei mentioned that



one of Khalu Hossein Kuhaken's descendants currently serves as a guide for tourists, sharing the story of Khalu Hossein and the history of the rock-cut cave. He recounts that Khalu Hossein, a resident of Banehvreh, became disabled due to an accident as a young man and faced many tragic events in his life. Out of sorrow, loneliness, and pain, he sought refuge in the mountainous Meygoreh area, where he began to carve out a cave to live in.

Mostafaei recalled that Khalu Hossein started building this cave in 1978, dedicating twenty years of his life to its creation. The cave consists of four separate houses with nine rooms. Khalu Hossein Kouhaken, also known as Farhad the Second, passed away in 2016.

Paveh is located in the Ormanat Mountainous region in the extreme northwest of Kermanshah Province, bordering Iraq to the west. This small mountainous city experiences cold winters and temperate summers, situated 636km from Tehran. The surrounding mountains are typically filled with fresh spring water from March to June. The town is also encircled by large fruit gardens, creating a beautiful landscape during the summer months.

## Formation, features of Chahkuh Gorge in Qeshm

Chahkuh Gorge is located in the northwest of Qeshm Island, near the village of Chahu Sharghi. This geosite is a prominent and unique example of running water erosion, which has formed a characteristic canyon valley. The primary factor shaping this gorge is the rapid and powerful water current resulting from rare, torrential rains. Water erosion, particularly along a major fracture, also plays a significant role in its formation.

The area surrounding the gorge is part of the Salakh anticline ridge, where the salt dome is exposed. An anticline is a dome-like fold with a convex-up structure formed by internal and lateral earth pressures. These pressures cause joints, fractures, and faults to form at the edges of the anticline. In Chahkuh Gorge, these weak-

nesses are significantly affected by erosive processes, leading to the gradual development of the gorge, persiapiplanet.com wrote. The vertical section of the main gorge features another gorge with a prominent linear crevice observable along the fracture. A key characteristic of Chahkuh Gorge's geological formation is its water impermeability, causing water to flow through and fill fissures and cracks, which gradually erode them. Generally, anticlines and their surrounding areas are turbulent and unstable, leading to further formation of faults and cracks. Due to the mechanical action of water, various erosive shapes — such as linear, elliptical, and spherical concave forms — have developed in the gorge's walls. Additionally, the movement and rotation of rock fragments within the flowing water have

created holes, bowl-like shapes, potholes, and other erosive features. Locals have capitalized on this opportunity by digging holes at the bottom of the gorge to collect and store rainwater, which has proven valuable during periods of drought.

**Tectonic structures**

A notable feature within Chahkuh Gorge is the presence of east-west faults, formed perpendicular to the main valley. These parallel faults possess nearly vertical fault mirrors with left-slip surfaces and a

normal component. Tafoni, a form of dissolution erosion, occurs in the sandstone layers; here, winds carrying saltwater droplets lead to evaporation and crystallization of salt, separating the sandstone into sheets and grains. The flat surfaces of the ridges and arches indicate that they have also been shaped by various erosive processes, including rapid water and wind erosion.

Qeshm Island is a dry area with low annual rainfall. The presence of traditional wells on the island has been crucial for maximizing the utilization of this limited rainfall. These wells were actively used until a few years ago, prior to the construction of the desalination plant on Qeshm Island.

Chahkuh Gorge is quite long, but only a short section is accessible to ordinary visitors.

The remainder of the gorge can only be explored by adventurous individuals equipped with the proper gear, due to challenging access roads and water conditions.

Visitors can explore Chahkuh Strait during all seasons; however, it is advisable to avoid the gorge during rain or high water flow, as the presence of several wells along the strait can create additional risks.

Given the remoteness of Chahkuh from Qeshm, various amenities have been established in the surrounding area, including in Chahkuh village. Nearby attractions include Statue Valley, the Mangrove Forests, and Cheshmeh Strait.

Currently, there are numerous signs available to assist visitors in navigating the area effectively.

