

Revitalize spirit, find relief in Towbiroun Valley

Iranica Desk

Dezful, situated in the north-eastern part of Khuzestan Province, is approximately 155 kilometers from Ahvaz, the provincial capital. This city boasts a wide array of natural and historical attractions, making it home to some of the most significant tourist spots in Khuzestan Province. Despite the province experiencing a hot climate from mid-spring to mid-autumn, Dezful offers cool retreats that allow visitors to escape the heat. One such oasis is Towbiroun Valley, an extraordinary natural wonder located just 20 kilometers north of the city in the Sardasht region, near an area known as Tangeh Sara.

Towbiroun Valley is renowned for its stunning scenery and is a must-visit for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike. The name Towbiroun is derived from the local Dezfuli dialect, where “Tow” refers to fever and heat, and “Biroun” means to cut off. Therefore, “Towbiroun” can be interpreted as “a place that removes heat from the body and soul.” Historically, people would travel to Towbiroun Valley seeking relief from pain and illness, believing in the healing properties of its waters. Upon arriving at the valley, you’ll be struck by its breathtaking beauty. It is characterized by towering rocky walls that soar up to 100 meters high, creating a narrow, shaded

path where you can wander along a cool sandy floor. The experience of walking through this enchanting landscape, surrounded by the protective embrace of these towering cliffs, is unlike any other. As you explore, you’ll be captivated by the unusual and delightful rock formations, lush vineyards, and wild fig trees. The valley is further enhanced by abundant springs, picturesque waterfalls, and gentle trickles of water, which together create a landscape that is both extraordinary and indescribable.

Nature’s masterpiece

Over thousands of years, nature has sculpted this legendary valley, where mist, sun, and the cosmos have played a vital role in its creation. The structure of Towbiroun Valley is primarily composed of sedimentary rocks shaped by water erosion from prolonged rainfall and runoff from the surrounding mountains. During dry periods, the valley serves as a drainage channel, collecting underground water, which flows visibly along its walls and floor. This environment supports a diverse range of wildlife, including various fish, snakes, and lizards.

Recreational activities

Jeep and off-road riding: For thrill-seekers, Towbiroun Valley is the perfect spot for exciting jeep rides. Just be sure to preserve the beauty of this natural haven while enjoying the adventure.

Walking: Strolling through the valley, with its cool sands and clear waters, provides a relaxing experience. Take your time to enjoy the tranquility that this unique environment offers.

Photography and scenic viewing: The dreamlike landscapes evoke a special sense of peace. Don’t forget your camera — capturing these



mesmerizing views will bring lasting joy.

Camping: Towbiroun Valley is an ideal location for nature tours and overnight stays. If you love camping and group outings, this valley allows for unforgettable nights under the stars, enveloped in its serene darkness. Remember to respect the natural surroundings and leave no trace.

When to visit

Though Dezful is known for its hot climate, Towbiroun Valley remains one of the best places to retreat into nature, even during the height of summer. The optimal time to visit is from May to late summer. Notably, even when temperatures rise above 40 degrees Celsius in Dezful, a cool breeze sweeps through the valley, often reduc-

ing the temperature to a pleasant 25 degrees or less.

For those considering an overnight camping experience, Towbiroun Valley is an exceptional choice. Setting up a tent here allows you to enjoy an exciting night in this magical place. As you immerse yourself in the beauty of Towbiroun, please keep in mind the importance of preserving its pristine nature.

Leveraging technology, handicrafts to enrich cultural heritage tourism



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During the recent visit of Deputy President for Science and Technology Hossein Afshin to Khuzestan Province, an excellent opportunity arose to discuss and emphasize the necessity of linking technology, cultural heritage, and tourism — a subject that has the potential to create a fundamental transformation in this industry at both provincial and national levels.

In this meeting, the importance of utilizing modern technologies to transform the tourism industry was underscored. Afshin announced an agreement with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts aimed at developing technological tourism in Khuzestan Province. He noted that the intended development model, while generating wealth, also prioritizes environmental protection, economic diversity, and the preserva-

tion of cultural heritage. One of the key topics emphasized during this session was the vital role of technology in transforming the tourism industry and in restoring historical artifacts. Contrary to common misconceptions, tourism is not merely limited to booking accommodations and tickets; rather, technology can serve as a powerful tool for storytelling, preservation, and the creative presentation of cultural heritage. Furthermore, the discussion addressed the potentials of handicrafts and the challenges faced in marketing and sustaining them. Afshin emphasized the role of creative industries as a bridge between innovation and heritage. By combining creativity with modern technologies, it is possible to pave the way for international markets for Iranian products. Handicraft houses also have a crucial role to play in this journey; these centers, akin to growth centers for knowledge-based companies, can provide platforms for the flourishing of artistic businesses and handicrafts. Despite these significant potentials, Khuzestan Province faces serious challenges in leveraging knowledge-based infrastructure. Infrastructural weak-

nesses have hindered the province’s Science and Technology Park, which, despite its vast local capacities, suffers from minimal facilities. Meanwhile, the innovation and creativity embedded in Iran’s cultural heritage and handicrafts are supported by a rich knowledge base and historical resources, which can enhance the country’s standing in the international arena. The application of technology in these areas can be remarkably diverse, ranging from manufacturing technologies in handicrafts to the use of artificial intelligence for restoring artifacts, digitizing historical heritage, employing blockchain for registering artifacts, and designing specialized interactive museums according to global standards. In this context, joint cooperation between the Presidential Department for Science and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage can establish a foundation for the emergence of major technolog-

ical players in related fields, opening a new path in the discourse surrounding development based on identity and cultural economy. Achieving this goal will transform Khuzestan Province into a model for sustainable development founded on heritage and innovation within the country.

