

Enchanting wilderness of Kuhgol in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province

Iranica Desk

Fresh air and diverse tourist attractions — ranging from towering mountains like Dena and Khami, lush forests, serene lakes, cascading waterfalls, and rejuvenating springs — have transformed Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province into a unique paradise for spring exploration. The region's natural landscape is adorned with a variety of edible and medicinal plants, complemented by the melodic songs of birds and a temperate climate, all enhanced by well-developed recreational infrastructure at Kuhgol Lake. This has made Kuhgol one of the most popular and bustling tourist destinations in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad during the spring season, chtn.ir wrote.

Kuhgol Lake, renowned for its abundant flora and fauna, is considered the most fertile area of eastern Dena. Visitors can witness migratory birds such as ducks, grebes, storks, herons, and egrets gracefully circling the lake's surroundings. The presence of diverse edible and medicinal plants — including wild mushrooms, chamomile, mountain mint, rhubarb, pennyroyal, and a vibrant array of mountain wildflowers — makes Kuhgol a lush habitat bursting with color and life. Its picturesque landscape, abundant with blossoms and thriving greenery, truly lives up to its name as a flourish-



ing garden of flowers and plants. According to Seyyed Mojtaba Amirhosseini, the director general of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, "Since mid-April 2025, the Kuhgol tourist area

of Sisakht has been filled with visitors from across the country during certain hours of the day." He highlighted that, since the beginning of Nowruz (Iranian New Year), the province's diverse attractions — including pristine natural landscapes, historic sites, and religious land-

marks — have attracted thousands of tourists from various regions both within and outside the province. Amirhosseini continued by emphasizing that the northern, cooler areas of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, with their refreshing climate and mountainous

terrain, are among the top destinations for spring and summer tourism, especially attracting visitors from southern Iran. He further pointed out that the development of infrastructure and strategic promotion of tourism capacities — via media outlets and digital platforms — have played

crucial roles in boosting the tourism industry year-round in this scenic region. He listed some of the notable attractions as Yasuj Waterfall, Mehrian Gorge, Yasuj Forest Park, Deh Sheikh Cave, and Tang-e Tamoradi Waterfall, sites that annually draw thousands of visitors during

spring and summer. To reach this earthly paradise, travelers must first arrive in Yasuj, the capital city of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, known for its four-season climate. From Yasuj, after traveling approximately 35 kilometers northwest, visitors arrive at Sisakht. Continuing through Sisakht and after roughly six kilometers, they reach the breathtaking natural beauty of Kuhgol. From the lower part of the Kuhgol, a scenic 30-minute walk through mountain trees and wild flowering shrubs leads visitors to one of Iran's most captivating natural attractions nestled in the heights of the Dena Mountain. At the end of the Kuhgol trail, there is conveniently a parking area for vehicles and various shops where local herbal and food products are sold — ranging from traditional herbal medicines to an assortment of pickles crafted from garden and forest harvests— adding to the area's charm and drawing the attention of many tourists.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, with its wealth of natural and cultural attractions—featuring 250 natural recreational sites, 300 holy shrines, over 880 registered historical sites, and rich ethnographic elements such as local clothing, dialects, music, and dance — is widely recognized as one of the most prominent tourist destinations in southern Iran.

IRNA



Heritage, natural splendor awaiting development in Sarab Kalan village

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Sarab Kalan village, situated on the slopes of the Zagros Mountains in Ilam Province, boasts a history spanning approximately 1,500 years. Surrounded by lush greenery, diverse flora and fauna, and located in a region renowned for its favorable climate, this village is endowed with remarkable natural beauty. Ilam Province generally experiences a temperate climate characterized by mild

winters and warm, pleasant summers, making it an ideal environment for eco-tourism and outdoor activities. The area's rich natural environment, combined with Ilam's generally clean air and diverse ecosystems, adds to the village's ecological appeal, ISNA wrote. Despite its rich historical heritage and stunning natural surroundings, this village has remained deprived of essential support in the tourism sector, limiting its

potential for development. In this regard, Hamid Seydi, the rural manager of the village, said, "Located in the northwest of Ilam Province and adjacent to perennial rivers, Sarab Kalan is a village with a permanent population of over 800 residents, complemented by around 500 seasonal visitors. This has designated it as one of the targeted villages for regional tourism development". He underscored the chal-

lenges, "Unfortunately, despite the presence of ancient historical sites, reliable water resources, fertile agricultural lands, and its favorable climate, there has been a lack of serious planning and investment in promoting tourism in this area." He elaborated further, "Historical documents indicate that Sarab Kalan was known as 'Masazan' during the Sassanian era, serving as the administrative center of the region. It is believed to have

been the provincial capital during the reign of King Khosrow I. Evidence of its historical significance can be seen in the remnants of a castle, clear water springs, and local inscriptions." "Most villagers are engaged in agriculture and livestock farming. The area includes approximately 300 hectares of irrigated land and 1,000 hectares of dry land, predominantly owned by local families," he noted. Regarding current invest-

ments, Seydi added that Sarab Kalan Village's Council allocates an annual budget for various needs such as sewage treatment, waste management, and road paving. However, no financial resources have been designated for developing tourism infrastructure, restoring historical sites, or attracting visitors. Addressing the tourism potential, he said that experts specializing in tourism and rural development believe

that, given its strategic geographical location, natural water resources, biodiversity, moderate climate, and rich historical sites, Sarab Kalan could become one of the foremost tourist destinations in western Iran. "However, without careful planning, increased government and private sector investment, and strengthened support for local capacities, these promising opportunities will gradually fade over time," he concluded.



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