

A visit to majestic Kani Gravan Spring



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Iranica Desk

Kani Gravan Spring is one of the most beautiful attractions in Sardasht, West Azarbaijan Province, located just two kilometers from the city of Rabat and near a village called Kani Guiz. This spring bubbles from the earth and features unique attractions around it; the limestone hill is a natural formation that showcases the area's beauty. To visit Kani Gravan Spring, simply drive along the Sardasht-Mahabad road for about 30 to 35 minutes. After passing the town of Ravar, take a dirt road, navigating through wheat fields and oak forests as you head west, IRNA wrote. The cold water of this spring is not drinkable due to its salinity; over time, the sedimentation of minerals has created a colorful limestone structure around it, enhancing the spring's beauty. Addition-

ally, the chemical interactions in the spring water have caused this structure to grow taller each year. The healing properties of this spring are numerous, categorizing it among sparkling mineral springs widely used for beauty and skin care. The presence of natural minerals in the water has fostered the development of therapeutic tourism in the area, attracting many visitors each year seeking treatment for skin diseases, bone pain, and conditions like rheumatism and muscle pain. As the water flows on the surface, it leaves behind materials that gradually form an interesting conical mass, resulting in a colorful hill. This hill, set against the lush nature of the region, creates a picturesque view with a beautiful spectrum of colors. The limestone structure from which the spring emerges stands about 20 meters high. The river flowing at the foot of this natural for-



mation becomes abundant in the spring season, nourishing its surroundings and providing a delightful, green landscape filled with blooming meadows. The water from this spring eventually flows into the Little Zab River. The origin of the spring's name

is unclear; many locals interpret it as a term in the Kurdish language. In Kurdish, Gravan means heavy water, possibly referring to the high mineral content in this spring's water. On the way to Kani Gravan Spring via the Mahabad road, you will encoun-

ter lush nature, pleasant weather, and beautiful scenery, especially in the spring when the wheat fields, oak forests, and flowing waterfalls create unparalleled beauty. The limestone hills, with their unique color contrasts, captivate every viewer and

provide an appealing atmosphere for photography. You can set up a picnic in the meadows surrounding the spring and enjoy the splendor of this magnificent nature for hours. The peak beauty of this region occurs in spring and summer when its rushing rivers, lush landscapes, and pleasant weather are on display. With the arrival of autumn and the onset of winter, the spring and surrounding nature transform into a different kind of beauty; the freezing and snow-capping of the limestone hill during these seasons present visitors and nature lovers with a unique and breathtaking sight. Access to the spring is easy, making it suitable for people of all ages; on the way to the waterfall, you will encounter a stunning mountain road. When traveling to West Azarbaijan Province, be sure to include a visit to this spring in your itinerary, especially

since it is considered the most famous tourist attraction in Sardasht after the Shalamash Waterfall. Kani Gravan Spring was registered as a national heritage site in Iran on February 25, 2018, alongside the Shalamash Waterfall. The border city of Sardasht, which shares a border with northern Iraq, is one of the greenest and rainiest cities in the country, earning it the nickname "a piece of paradise." The untouched forests of the Zagros Mountains and the lush, rich vegetation, combined with the high and misty passes, capture the attention of every traveler and tourist, leaving beautiful and lasting impressions in their hearts. Every year, as spring approaches and the Nowruz (Iranian New Year) holidays begin, the beautiful nature of Sardasht and its tourist attractions provide a suitable and memorable destination for visitors.

Echoes of Seljuks in architectural marvel of Mehmandust Tower



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Mehmandust Tower, also known as Masumzadeh Tower, is situated to the south of Mehmandust village, approximately twenty kilometers northeast of Damghan in Semnan Province. This historical structure dates back to the Seljuk dynasty, having been constructed in 1097 during the reign of Ahmad Sanjar. It is recognized as a national heritage site. The tower shares several similarities with Toghrol Tower in Shahr-e Rey, Tehran Province, including comparable construction dates and architectural features. Toghrol Tower, a brick structure, serves as the tomb of the Seljuk ruler Toghrol Beig. Standing about twelve meters tall, Mehmandust Tower is built from brick and sarooj, a water-resistant mortar. The building has a cylindrical shape with twelve angles, one of which features a tall entrance with blind arches — arches that have been filled in and do not serve as passageways — as well as intricate muqarnas decorations, a hallmark of Islamic architecture. While the main dome of the tower has been destroyed, the remaining structure reaches approximately 14 meters in height. The upper part of the tower bears two inscriptions:

one in Kufic script and the other in Bannai script. Inside the tower, three tombstones can be found; one is made of brick, while the other two are crafted from stone. The precision in the construction of this tower is evident, as the ornamented edges of the cornices are visible even from the base. These edges are created by cutting the bricks into sharp or curved shapes, resembling sculptures. In 2017, Mehmandust Tower underwent renovation under the supervision of the provincial Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization, which included repointing, brick relocation, and cleaning.

Historical context of Damghan

Damghan is a city rich in history and culture, with numerous attractions that reflect its ancient heritage. The city is known for its historical significance as a key stop on the Silk Road. Throughout its history, Damghan has played a vital role in various dynasties, serving as a center of culture, commerce, and politics. The city has witnessed the rise and fall of empires, from the Achaemenids to the Sassanids and the Seljuks. Its strategic location made it an essential hub on trade routes, facilitating the exchange

of goods and ideas between the East and West. Damghan's archaeological sites reveal layers of history, with relics and artifacts that highlight its significance in ancient Persia. The city has a wealth of historical narratives that date back thousands of years, ensuring it remains an important part of Iran's cultural landscape today. One of the most notable landmarks in Damghan is the Tarikhaneh Temple, thought to be one of the oldest places of worship in Iran, dating back to the Sassanid period. This temple is renowned for its stunning brickwork and intricate designs, showcasing the architectural prowess of its era. Another significant attraction is the Jaame (Grand) Mosque, which boasts a beautiful minaret that dates back to the Seljuk period. The mosque reflects the architectural style of the time with its elegant dome and intricate tile work, offering visitors a glimpse into the city's Islamic heritage. Visitors to Damghan are not only treated to its architectural wonders but also to the warm hospitality of its people and the vibrant local culture, making it a compelling destination for anyone interested in exploring Iran's rich heritage.



● [wikipedia.org](#)