

# Havar Valley immersed in tranquility, natural splendor



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## Iranica Desk

Havar Valley, located in Maneh and Samalqan, is one of the most valuable natural attractions in North Khorasan Province. Boasting breathtaking landscapes, diverse vegetation, a pleasant climate, and several permanent and seasonal waterfalls, it offers remarkable potential for the development of nature-based tourism in the region.

## Geographical and ecological richness

This spectacular valley lies near Darkesh village, stretching along the slopes of the province's forested mountain ranges. Due to its unique geographical location, abundant surface water sources, and dense forest cover, Havar Valley stands as one of the richest and most pristine ecosystems in North Khorasan

Province. The access route to the valley winds through groves of oak, cypress, and various other plant species, presenting visitors with unique views of forested areas, rocky terrains, and flowing rivers interwoven within the landscape, chtn.ir wrote.

## Waterfalls

Along the valley's path, several waterfalls cascade down, some flowing year-round while others appear seasonally. The main Havar Waterfall, which measures approximately 15 meters in height, plunges from towering forested cliffs into a natural pool below. Smaller waterfalls dot the route as well, offering stunning views of water streaming through the forest during the spring and summer months. Beyond its natural scenery, the valley's absolute silence, cool air, and mild humidity contribute to

its reputation as a peaceful retreat. This combination makes Havar an ideal destination not only for nature lovers but also for mountaineers, photography enthusiasts, and adventurous tourist groups seeking tranquility and immersion in an untouched environment.

## Seasonal transformations

Havar Valley transforms in each season, presenting a distinct and unique character throughout the year. In spring, the valley pathway is carpeted with medicinal plants, wildflowers, and vibrant greenery that captivate the senses. During summer, the cool air and the shade provided by the trees make it a refreshing refuge from the heat of the surrounding plains. In autumn, the valley is adorned with the colorful foliage of trees, turning the entire area into a natural mas-

terpiece reminiscent of a painting. Winter brings snowfall and gradually freezes the waterfalls, revealing a striking and different perspective of the mountainous environment.

## Potential for ecotourism development

Thanks to its exceptional environmental features, Havar Valley holds strong potential to become a leading ecotourism destination in eastern Iran. This can be achieved through the careful application of sustainable development principles and effective tourism management. Planned initiatives might include the establishment of hiking trails, the design and development of nature camping sites, the organization of educational and cultural tours, and the enhancement of tourism infrastructure, all with a focus on involving the local

communities to ensure both ecological preservation and socio-economic benefits.

## Community

Darkesh village and the surrounding areas of Havar Valley are home to a warm and hospitable community renowned for producing native and locally sourced products. These include mountain honey, traditional dairy products, medicinal herbs, handicrafts, and authentic regional cuisine. Promoting tourism in this area can stimulate job creation, increase household incomes in rural communities, and help preserve the intangible cultural heritage unique to this region.

## Responsible tourism practices

As a natural and semi-untouched area, Havar Valley requires visitors to be conscientious about

maintaining environmental cleanliness and avoiding damage to the delicate vegetation. Employing local guides and following responsible nature tourism practices are essential to safeguard the area's integrity. Tourists should also wear appropriate footwear, carry necessary equipment, and pay careful attention to safety guidelines when hiking through the valley's trails. Havar Valley is a place that should be appreciated not only with the eyes but also with the heart. It is a location where time seems to slow, sounds become gentler, and life flows naturally as it should. If you ever find yourself in North Khorasan Province, don't simply pass through Havar — embrace its beauty, sit beside its waterfall, and allow nature to do what it does best: soothe and calm your spirit.

# Abouei House reflects Zahedan's rich cultural heritage

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Abouei House in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchestan Province, was constructed in 1932 by Mohammad Ali Mahmoudi, a renowned architect from Yazd, during the early Pahlavi era, coinciding with the formation of the modern city. It was built for Zaeim Abouei, a justice ministry employee, reflecting the architectural and cultural transition of that period. The house covers an area of approximately 813 square meters and includes a two-story structure centered around a large courtyard with a pond, characteristic of traditional Iranian residential layouts. It was used as a family residence until 1961 and later by Abouei's heirs before eventually becoming abandoned. One of the distinctive architectural features of Abouei House is its use of windcatchers (badgirs) on all four sides, which serve as natural ventilation to cool the in-



terior in the hot and arid climate of Zahedan. The house also includes a spring house with a basement water reservoir that provided water for drinking and irrigation, creating a pleasant environment for rest. The construction incorporates

traditional and regional architectural elements, blending Yazdi style with local materials and techniques. Adobe and brick are used throughout the house, with brick prominently featured on the facades and decorative domical roofs that crown the building.



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Currently, the Abouei House has been refurbished with brick and stucco by the province's Cultural Heritage Organization. In summary, Abouei House is a significant example of early 20th-century Iranian architecture in southeastern Iran, com-

bining climate-responsive design with cultural and historical significance, now revitalized as a museum and cultural hub. Zahedan itself is a city with deep historical roots, located near Iran's borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan. Though modern Za-

hedan developed mainly in the 20th century, the region surrounding it is rich with ancient historical and archaeological sites, including remnants of the historical city of Zahedan-e Kohneh, an important center in the Islamic era known for its sophisticated urban planning and architecture. Zahedan's historical area contains many culturally significant landmarks such as the nearly century-old bazaar, the largest Sunni Mosque in Iran (Maki Mosque), and Safavid-era caravanserais. Nearby ancient sites like Shahr-e Sukhteh, a UNESCO World Heritage site, highlight the area's significance through millennia. These sites, combined with Zahedan's unique position as a crossroads between cultures and trade routes, contribute to its diverse heritage and underscore the importance of preserving historic buildings like Abouei House within the city's vibrant cultural tapestry.