

Restoration, tradition draw visitors to Davaran village

Iranica Desk

Davaran village, located east of Rafsanjan along the road to Zarand in Kerman Province, is encircled by towering mountains, the most prominent of which is Alamdar Mountain. The village is known for a qanat, an underground irrigation canal, which is considered one of the best water sources in the region, attracting many visitors who come specifically to benefit from its water. Within the village, a stream of clean, clear water runs for roughly two kilometers. Along the banks of this waterway, many robust trees have flourished. Together with the restored historical buildings and layout, this natural feature contributes to the village's picturesque and charming environment, Mehr News Agency wrote. Last year, Hossein Rezai, the governor of Rafsanjan, announced that the Davaran Qanat had been officially registered on Iran's National Heritage List. He explained that the qanat dates back to the Timurid period, and that the old trees surrounding it are sustained by the qanat's irrigation. The international registration of this qanat is expected to bring significant positive impacts to the region, including the attraction of both domestic and international tourists, which will substantially boost the local economy. There are two historic towers in the village that were originally built about a hundred years ago for lookout and protection against thieves and bandits. Remarkably, these towers remain intact today. Although the towers are situated close to each other, they are now surrounded by numerous modern buildings. The combination of the old tower, the qanat with its pure water, nar-



row alleys, the holy site known as Qadamgah, the shrine of Bibi Gohar — sister of Imam Reza (PBUH) — and dozens of other historical and tourist attractions has made this village a favored destination for visitors, especially when the weather cools. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the villagers and the local council undertook renovations and improvements to parts of

the alleys, which enhanced the overall beauty of the buildings, amplified the village's greenery, and highlighted the flowing water in the streets. Additionally, an eight-hectare complex was developed at the village entrance to offer amenities and welfare services to travelers. The community here cultivates many mulberry and pistachio orchards. They also produce



a wide range of agricultural products, including peaches, dried apricots, apples, grapes, figs, and walnuts. Moreover, carpet weaving is a common occupation among the residents. Many tourists purchase local products, noting that the qanat water contributes to the superior quality of the produce. To introduce visitors to the traditional customs of the villag-

ers, symbolic installations have been created, such as statues representing the water masters who distribute water. These sculptures vividly depict the traditional water-sharing ceremony known as "Tashteh." Hassan Hosseini, head of the Cultural Heritage Department of Rafsanjan, emphasized the historical significance of the Davaran Qanat, reiterating its

registration on Iran's National Heritage List. He explained that Tashteh is a traditional method of water distribution that continues to be practiced by the residents of Davaran Village. During the annual Tashteh festival, a variety of cultural programs take place, including exhibitions of local products and handicrafts, displays of historical Tashteh structures from Kerman Province, and ceremonies honoring qanat diggers and veterans who have preserved this heritage. The village is also home to a small mosque, which some claim has foundations dating back to the Qajar era. Despite its age, the mosque has undergone extensive renovation and restoration throughout the years. Today, it remains a central place for worshippers and a venue for religious ceremonies held by the local community. Together with neighboring Husseiniehs — which are dedicated spaces for religious gatherings — this mosque plays a vital role in shaping and sustaining the religious and cultural identity of the village, particularly during Muharram when unique rituals are performed. The mosque is renowned for its exquisite, antique mirror work, and its façade has been restored to blend harmoniously with the village's historic architectural style. Thanks to the committed efforts of the residents, Davaran village has transformed into a notable tourist destination. In recent years, this has led to a trend of reverse migration, with former residents returning. Despite its growth as a tourist spot, the village remains deeply rooted in its traditions, standing alongside its ancient monuments, blooming orchards, and historic neighborhoods as a living testament to its enduring cultural heritage.

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Immerse yourself in autumn splendor at Cheshmeh A'la

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Cheshmeh A'la (A'la Spring) is one of the most prominent natural and historical attractions in Damavand, Tehran Province, with each season offering its own unique beauty. However, autumn transforms this spring and its surroundings into a rare painting of color and light. The yellow, orange, and red leaves of the surrounding trees, the pleasant sound of the clear flowing water, and the cool, pure mountain air create a dreamlike atmosphere for tourists and nature lovers. Many travelers consider autumn the best time to visit Cheshmeh A'la because, in this season, besides the stunning scenery, there is less crowding compared to summer, allowing for a more peaceful enjoyment of nature. Cheshmeh A'la is not just a natural attraction; it has deep roots in the history and life of the people of Damavand. Its clear and refreshing water has been a source of life for the region's inhabitants for centuries and has played an important role in the development of the surrounding settlements. Many local researchers believe that

the presence of this spring was the reason for the prosperity of agriculture and horticulture in this area, and even the old migratory routes of nomads passed nearby. Historical and oral accounts from locals indicate that Cheshmeh A'la served as a resting place for caravans and pilgrims, forging a deep connection with Damavand's past and the hospitality culture of its people, chtn.ir wrote. The role of Cheshmeh A'la in boosting tourism in Damavand is very significant. Its proximity

to Tehran and the unique quality of its water attract thousands of tourists annually for recreation, photography, and to enjoy the natural scenery. The presence of fruit orchards, high mountains, and lush landscapes has made Cheshmeh A'la one of the most important eco-tourism destinations east of the capital. Hiking and trekking enthusiasts can explore trails around the spring for memorable day trips or weekend outings. In autumn, the morning mist over the mountains and the reflec-

tion of fall colors in the spring's clear water create a poetic and unique scene that captivates professional photographers and nature lovers alike. One reason for Cheshmeh A'la's popularity is its relatively easy access. To reach this area, simply take the Tehran-Firuzkuh road from Tehran and travel about 45 kilometers to Damavand. From the city center, clear signposts indicate the route to Cheshmeh A'la, and after approximately 10 kilometers of driving along a scenic road, you will arrive at

your destination. This road is passable year-round and even during the cool and pleasant autumn days in Damavand, it offers a safe and comfortable journey for families. Due to the wide popularity among tourists, Cheshmeh A'la is equipped with suitable infrastructure for short-term stays and family visits. At the entrance, there is a spacious and secure parking area where travelers can park their vehicles without worry. Shops and stalls offering sou-

venirs, local products, and traditional snacks operate around the spring, allowing tourists to make their trip memorable by purchasing honey, local dairy products, mountain fruits, and handicrafts. The presence of ample green spaces for sitting and picnicking, garbage bins to maintain cleanliness, and sufficient lighting during evening hours all indicate that the area's management has paid special attention to tourists' comfort. Cheshmeh A'la, with its clear water and enchanting scenery, is not only a stunning natural attraction but also a part of Damavand's history and culture. Autumn in this area offers a unique opportunity to experience the warm colors of nature, the tranquility of the mountains, and to become familiar with Damavand's ancient heritage. Complete facilities and convenient access routes have made traveling to this lush jewel east of Tehran a pleasant and hassle-free experience for families and nature groups. Every visitor who sets foot beside this spring not only enjoys its natural beauty but also touches a part of Damavand's historical and cultural spirit.



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