

Explore cradle of civilization in Dehloran’s ancient plains



Ali Kosh Hill
● tamadonema.ir



Chogha Sefid Hill
● salameno.com

Iranica Desk

With its ancient heritage and a landscape dotted with archaeological mounds and prehistoric sites, Ilam Province stands as one of the most significant centers of early civilization in Iran. In a recent note, Sajjad Nazari, an expert with the Ilam Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, wrote that among the province’s cities, Dehloran holds a special place — a region that preserves within its plains the traces of humanity’s first efforts to build civilization. With archaeological sites such as Ali Kosh, Chogha Sefid, Musian, Farokhabad, Sabz, and Bayat, Dehloran can rightfully be regarded as one of Iran’s richest prehistoric areas — a true archaeological paradise of early human life, according to

chtn.ir. Systematic excavations at these sites have illuminated the crucial transition of humankind from nomadic and cave-dwelling lifestyles to settled village life. Findings from Ali Kosh Hill — one of the most important Neolithic sites in Iran — reveal that about 10,000 years ago, its inhabitants cultivated cereals, domesticated goats and sheep, and built mud-brick houses. These discoveries mark the dawn of a new era in human history — the era when humankind began to control its environment and produce food, rather than merely gather it. The stone tools and primitive pottery unearthed from these mounds display the ingenuity and craftsmanship of the region’s early inhabitants. Though simple and unglazed, the pottery features well-



Musian Hill
● seeiran.ir

formed and functional shapes that reflect the artistic sensibility and aesthetic awareness of the first farming communities. Moreover, similarities between Dehloran’s artifacts and those found in the Central Zagros region and Mesopotamia suggest early cultural — and possibly trade — connections that laid the foundation for southwest Iran’s first exchange networks.

Studies of the cultural layers within these mounds indicate a continuous pattern of habitation through successive eras. Changes in tools, house-building methods, and pottery composition reflect a gradual evolution of technical knowledge and human adaptation to the environment. Such characteristics have made prehistoric sites like Ali Kosh and Chogha Sefid

invaluable sources for reconstructing the process of civilization’s formation in southwestern Iran. Yet, the significance of these ancient sites extends beyond their archaeological value. They form an essential part of Ilam’s cultural identity, linking the present-day people of Dehloran to their millennia-old roots. The inhabitants of today’s Dehloran are, in a sense, the inheritors of a civilization founded thousands of years ago upon these very plains. Safeguarding this legacy is not only the duty of cultural heritage authorities but a national responsibility shared by all generations. In recent years, efforts have been made to document and protect Dehloran’s prehistoric mounds. However, threats from human activity and natural ero-

sion still endanger these invaluable treasures. Promoting these sites through cultural tourism routes could both support their preservation and contribute to Ilam’s sustainable cultural tourism development. Undoubtedly, the ancient mounds of Dehloran are not mere heaps of soil — they are living pages of human history, telling the story of early human struggle, creativity, and harmony with nature. Continued research, preservation, and public awareness can help these silent witnesses reclaim their rightful place in the grand narrative of human civilization. Dehloran, with its hidden treasures buried beneath the earth, still holds untold stories — stories that, if properly explored and protected, can reveal its true role in the dawn of human civilization.

Mellat Park of Mashhad blends leisure, well-being for all ages

Iranica Desk

Mellat Park, one of largest, most popular parks in Mashhad, the capital city of Khorasan Razavi Province, is a vast green space featuring pleasant walking paths and a wide range of recreational facilities, making it an ideal destination for tourists and families alike. As one of the city’s major attractions, the park offers a unique opportunity to rest, exercise, picnic, and enjoy nature in the heart of Iran’s spiritual capital. A visit to Mellat Park promises a peaceful and memorable experience of Mashhad’s urban beauty and lush greenery. Covering an area of approximately 720,000 square meters (72 hectares), Mellat Park was established in 1964. Originally located on the outskirts of the city, the park now lies at the very center of Mashhad due to the city’s rapid expansion over the decades, .kojaro.com wrote. With more than 35,000 mature trees, expansive lawns, and a scenic lake, the park provides a calm and inviting environment for strolling, jogging, picnicking, and leisure activities. One of its most famous attractions is its amusement park, founded in 1972, which extends from the central to the eastern sections of the park. Over the years, this amusement area has been developed and modernized, becoming one of Mashhad’s most well-equipped entertainment complexes and among the oldest amusement parks in Iran. Today, Mellat Park stands as one of Mashhad’s most complete recreational complexes, combining cultural, athletic,



● kojaro.com



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and leisure facilities suitable for visitors of all ages. **Walking and cycling paths:** The park’s long, shaded walkways, lined with centuries-old plane trees, and its designat-

ed cycling route equipped with a bicycle rental station, offer the perfect space for morning and evening exercise. **Sports grounds:** Located on the western side of the park, the sports area



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includes football and tennis fields, volleyball and basketball courts, a skating rink, and an open-air swimming pool covering 1,250 square meters with a capacity of 400 people.

Paintball arena: Situated along Emamat Street, Mellat Park’s paintball field is one of the most popular spots for group games and social gatherings. **Lake:** On the eastern side of the park lies a beautiful artificial lake, providing a refreshing space for boating and relaxation. **Cultural center:** At the heart of the park stands the Mashhad City Theater and the Imam Reza (PBUH) Cultural and Artistic Complex, which include a library, classrooms for cultural and art activities, and various multipurpose facilities. **Children’s play areas:** Near the lake, visitors will find a children’s playground, the Luna Park Amusement Area, and an Inflatable Castle, offering safe and fun spaces for younger visitors. **Women’s park:** Another significant feature of Mellat Park is the Rose Garden, a dedicated area for women, providing a secure and well-equipped space for exercise and recreation. **Food court:** The Mellat Park Food Court offers a variety of snacks and meals, along with buffet-style kiosks for light refreshments, making it an excellent place to relax after a walk or family outing. **Other facilities:** Throughout the park, visitors have access to public restrooms, cafés, prayer rooms, and numerous seating areas, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone. From its origins as a royal-era urban park to its present-day role as a beloved public space, Mellat Park of Mashhad continues to serve as a vital green lung for the city — a place where nature, recreation, and community come together in harmony.