

# Kandoleh village preserves culture, nature in heart of Dinavar



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Nestled in the lush mountains of Dinavar, a village awakens the senses with the scent of ripe grapes, the sounds of the Hawrami language, and the vibrant colors of Kurdish clothing. Kandoleh is a place where history, culture, tradition, and nature come together, offering visitors an experience that is not only beautiful to see but unforgettable to feel.

Milad Ataei, a journalist from Kermanshah Province, wrote, “Traveling to Kandoleh is not a journey across geography — it is a journey into a feeling.” That feeling begins on the winding mountain roads of Dinavar and takes root at the first glimpse of mud-brick houses and expansive vineyards, gradually settling into the soul. Here, time

moves differently; the rush of city life feels distant. Everything unfolds with patience, just like the grape clusters that ripen slowly and sweetly under the September sun, according to chtn.ir.

Kandoleh, designated as a tourism-focused village in Kermanshah, is more than a destination — it is a living story, a narrative of human coexistence with nature and culture. Its historically registered structures, with narrow alleys and mud-brick homes, testify to centuries of life and continuity.

But Kandoleh is not bound to the past. Today, it thrives. The presence of four eco-lodges allows visitors not only to see the village but to live it. Staying in these homes means waking to the smell of freshly baked bread, sipping tea on a veranda

overlooking the mountains, and listening to life flow quietly and naturally.

Many recognize Kandoleh for its grapes. Vineyards, spreading like a green carpet across the slopes, produce some of the finest grapes in the region. Here, grapes are more than an agricultural product — they are part of the village's identity. Every year, the Kandoleh Grape Festival is held, blending taste, color, and music. During these days, the village comes alive, filled with laughter, local melodies, and the energy of its people, transforming Kandoleh into a living stage of culture.

What truly distinguishes Kandoleh, however, is its unique cultural spirit. The villagers speak Hawrami Kurdish, a language that itself is a valuable

and ancient heritage. This cultural identity is reflected in their clothing as well. Women wear traditional Kurdish garments made of vibrant, eye-catching fabrics, moving like living flowers through the village streets. These colors are not just beautiful — they proclaim identity. Their clothing is more than attire; it tells a story of a living culture proudly preserved.

Ceremonies also hold a special place in Kandoleh. The village's Ta'zieh — a traditional theatrical ritual registered as a national cultural heritage — is one of its most significant cultural expressions. In Kandoleh, Ta'zieh is more than a performance; it is an emotional and spiritual experience in which villagers participate wholeheartedly. The ritual connects generations and

remains an inseparable part of local life.

The landscape — mountains, vineyards, and a sky full of stars at night — remains pristine. Here, nature is untouched, and the authentic silence can still be heard.

Perhaps Kandoleh's lasting charm lies in this perfect combination: history, culture, tradition, and nature. Tourists visiting Kandoleh are not mere observers; they become part of the story. They wake to the crow of a rooster, stroll through village streets, converse with locals, and watch sunsets among the vineyards.

Kandoleh invites visitors to pause — to see, listen, and feel. Here, there is no need to rush. Every moment offers a chance to discover beauty — in the smiles of its people, the col-

ors of its clothing, the taste of its grapes, and the quiet of its mountains.

In an era when many tourist destinations have lost their identity amid the rush of development, Kandoleh has preserved its authenticity. The village shows that development, when guided by respect for culture and nature, can become not a threat but an opportunity for continuity.

Kandoleh is not just a village; it is an experience. An experience that lingers in the heart long after the journey ends. Perhaps in the taste of a grape cluster, the sound of a Hawrami word, or the sight of a woman in colorful clothing walking along a stone alley — this is Kandoleh's secret: a place where travel becomes memory.

## Excavations show prehistoric occupation of Sarcham Hill

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Preliminary studies indicate that Sarcham Hill in Holeylan, Ilam Province, was inhabited from prehistoric times through the historic era, including the Bronze Age.

Habibollah Mahmoudian, a prehistoric archaeology graduate, told ISNA that Sarcham Hill is located 700 meters northeast of Sarcham village in Holeylan District. The Holeylan-Piazaabad asphalt road runs along the northern edge of the hill.

He explained that the Zardalan area, part of Holeylan, encompasses Piazaabad village as its center and lies at the far end of Ilam Province. The site sits at an elevation of 952 meters above sea level, with the permanent Sey-

march River flowing to its east and southeast.

Mahmoudian noted that Zardalan comprises two distinct climatic zones: the northern highlands rise above 2,500 meters and have a temperate mountainous climate, while the low-lying southern areas along the Seymareh River, where the hill is located, experience mild and warm winters.

The archaeologist added that Sarcham Hill lies east of the Towhid Town-Piazaabad road, within agricultural lands. Seasonal river erosion from the “Pol-e Jamshid” stream has exposed much of the archaeological layers at a depth of five meters.

Local livelihoods are based on agriculture and animal husbandry, with both irrigated and dryland crops

cultivated in the region.

Mahmoudian emphasized that erosion by Pol-e Jamshid has revealed the main archaeological layers, which contain stone and pottery artifacts, blades, tools, and bone remains. The pottery, largely handmade, includes both simple and decorated types. The density of pottery and stone blades underlines the hill's significance.

During field surveys in Zardalan, a total of 26 pottery fragments and 14 stone tools and blades were recovered and studied. The pottery interiors are brown and red clay, often decorated with parallel lines and bands.

Surface finds, including stone tools and blades on the valley heights of Pol-e Jamshid, suggest that the site belongs to prehistoric periods.



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## Water inflow revives Kani Barazan Wetland

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With the inflow of seven million cubic meters of surface runoff through channels and drainage systems leading to Kani Barazan Wetland, this international wetland has been revitalized and is now hosting 20,000 birds, according to the head of the Department of Environmental Protection of Mahabad in West Azerbaijan Province.

Announcing the development, Farouq Soleymani said that following the renewed restoration of Kani Barazan Wetland, thousands of aquatic and semi-aquatic birds have entered the area for the purposes of overwintering, resting, and feeding, according to chtn.ir.

He added that the presence of both native and migratory birds in Kani Barazan Wetland during the current season demonstrates that the wetland is in a favorable condition in terms of food availability and the level of security required for wildlife.



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Referring to the arrival of aquatic and semi-aquatic birds in the wetland, he noted that a wide range of species are currently present in this international habitat, including greylag geese, teals, coots, mallards, ruddy shelducks, and sandpipers.

Soleymani emphasized that given the favorable conditions of Kani Barazan International Wetland during this season and the continued inflow of surface waters into the wetland

body, it is expected that in early spring the area will host thousands of birds, including endangered species such as the white-headed duck, for nesting and breeding.

Referring to the protective measures in place for the birds of Kani Barazan Wetland, he stated that environmental rangers are currently stationed at the birdwatching site on a round-the-clock basis and are actively safeguarding the wetland.