

Neyriz combines historical heritage with natural attractions

Iranica Desk

Neyriz, a city in eastern Fars Province, brings history and nature together, offering tourists a different view of the province's attractions through its collection of historic structures, mountain landscapes, springs and scenic waterfalls. For travelers looking for a quieter and less-known destination, the city provides an opportunity to discover a part of Iran's historical and natural heritage.

The area around Neyriz is home to numerous historical sites. Ancient mounds, religious buildings and historic houses show that Neyriz is not merely a city with scenic nature but also contains layers of Iran's history.

One of these sites is Badrabad Castle Hill (Tal-e Qaleh Badarabad) in the Poshtkuh district, near Dehchah village, which was registered on Iran's National Heritage List in 2002. Such archaeological sites are important to history enthusiasts because they provide evidence of past settlement and human life in the region.

When Neyriz's historical attractions are mentioned, the Jaame Kabir Mosque is among the first sites that come to mind. The mosque is considered one of Iran's oldest religious structures and was registered on the national heritage list in 1933.

The mosque's architecture is also of interest to visitors. Its ivan and some other architectural elements have been linked by researchers to pre-Islamic architecture, particularly the Sassanid period. The mosque has also undergone changes and restoration during different historical periods, allowing features from several eras to be seen in its structure.

The mihrab and stucco decorations are among the mosque's notable features, giving visitors



Tarm Waterfall
● IRNA



Bakhtegan Lake
● IRNA

an opportunity to experience Iran's architectural history not through books and photographs, but in an actual historic structure. Neyriz is not attractive only to those interested in architecture and archaeological sites. The city is also regarded as one of Iran's important centers of calligraphy, and the Neyriz Museum of Calligraphy and Manuscripts is one of its cultural attractions.

According to information published about the museum, it houses a collection of manuscripts, old books and works by calligraphers. The mausoleum of Mirza Ahmad Neyrizi, a renowned calligrapher, is also located within the complex. The museum can offer a different experience for visitors interested in the history of writing, calligraphy and Iranian art.

In fact, the Museum of Calligraphy and Manuscripts can be considered part of the city's cultural identity, showing that in addition to its natural and historical attractions, Neyriz has a notable heritage in traditional arts. One of Neyriz's best-known natural attractions is Tarm Waterfall which is located on the southern slopes of the city in a mountainous area and takes on a different appearance during the wetter seasons.

Local sources put the waterfall's height at about 115 meters and describe it as the Middle East's



Jaame Mosque
● IRNA

tallest seasonal waterfall. The waterfall passes through gardens and the surrounding natural landscape, while during periods of high water flow, smaller waterfalls also form nearby.

The area around Tarm is not simply a dry, mountainous landscape. Fig, almond and walnut orchards, along with the region's vegetation, create a distinctive scenery. Therefore, if the trip is timed well, visiting the area can become one of the memorable parts of a family trip to Neyriz. Neyriz's natural attractions cannot be discussed without mentioning the region's lakes. Bakhtegan and Tashk lakes are among the major water bodies in Fars Province and form part of the valuable ecosystem of the area.

Tashk Lake is located in Bakhtegan area, and small limestone islands are among

its natural features. Narges and Gonban are two of the lake's known islands. Together with Bakhtegan Lake and other ecosystems in the region, Tashk forms part of the natural complex of Bakhtegan National Park.

Bakhtegan is also important for birdwatching. Species such as flamingos, cranes, geese and some waterfowl have been observed in the ecosystem, and during suitable seasons, the presence of migratory birds can add to the area's appeal.

The Bahram-e Gur Protected Area is another important natural attraction around Neyriz. Species such as the Asiatic cheetah, houbara bustard and Pleske's ground jay inhabit the area, and this diversity has made Bahram-e Gur one of the province's important natural areas.

Wildlife watching in such areas,

of course, differs from visiting an ordinary park or garden. Tourists should maintain a safe distance from animals and avoid feeding or approaching them. The purpose of visiting a protected area is to observe nature in its natural state, not to alter animals' behavior.

Neyriz also offers notable options for those interested in rural tourism. Dehmurd village is one such destination, located about 85 kilometers from Neyriz and attracting tourists because of its mountainous landscape and springs.

Horgan is another notable village in the region. The source of the Pahnabeh River is located within the village area, which has historically contributed to supplying water for agriculture in Neyriz.

The Palangan area lies south-east of Neyriz and is considered one of the county's attractive natural areas because of its valley, fig and pomegranate orchards and vegetation.

In spring, the growth of wildflowers, particularly poppies, can transform the appearance of the area. The presence of the Shah Yaqub Imamzadeh shrine and a pond attributed to Imam Hussein also makes the area appealing to visitors with religious and cultural interests. Palangan is located about 11 kilometers southeast of Neyriz.

The Pahnabeh Valley is located near a village of the same

name, with a river running through it. The flow of water and a waterfall along the route have created a lush environment, and the surrounding landscape becomes more attractive during suitable seasons. The area is appealing for nature tourism, but as with other natural areas around Neyriz, tourists are advised to check road conditions, weather and accessibility before setting out. Traveling to mountainous areas and valleys without adequate preparation can be difficult for families, particularly children and older adults.

A trip to Neyriz cannot be described simply as a historical or nature excursion. The city offers a range of experiences, from standing before a historic mosque and viewing centuries-old architecture to walking through nature, visiting springs and waterfalls, and watching birds in the surrounding ecosystems. On one side are the Jaame Kabir Mosque and the Museum of Calligraphy and Manuscripts, which reflect aspects of the city's historical and cultural identity; on the other are Tarm Waterfall, Bakhtegan and Tashk lakes, the Bahram-e Gur Protected Area, Palangan, Dehmurd and Pahnabeh. This diversity has made Neyriz an appealing destination both for families seeking a peaceful trip and for those interested in history and nature.

For a trip to Neyriz to become a lasting memory, visitors are better off not limiting themselves to a single attraction. Learning about the city's history, visiting its old structures, experiencing its natural landscapes and paying attention to local culture can provide a fuller picture of this historic city in Fars, which, in the shadow of the province's better-known destinations, still has parts of its tourism potential waiting to be discovered by travelers.

Iranica Desk

The beautiful and unique historic Khash Grand (Jaame) Mosque in Sistan and Baluchestan Province is a prominent symbol of Shia-Sunni unity dating back generations and is among the city's notable tourist attractions. According to IRNA, the mosque has long served, both before and after the Islamic Revolution, as a venue for religious ceremonies, public gatherings and meetings attended by Persian and Baluch communities and followers of Shia and Sunni Islam. It has also been a place for prayer and worship.

Khash has long been regarded as a center of friendship, brotherhood, solidarity and ethnic and religious unity in the region, where residents have maintained close social ties and worked together to address one another's concerns.

In the past, Khash lacked a suitable mosque for congregational prayer and worship. About a century ago, a benefactor named Emami, a Yazdi resident of Khash, took the initiative to build a mosque. Later, an army

Khash Grand Mosque stands as a historic symbol of Shia-Sunni unity

commander undertook the construction and completion of its minaret.

At the time, the groundwater table in Khash was very high. After the foundations were excavated and the first stones were laid, water began to rise. However, local residents and workers worked together, using stone and lime to prevent the water from advancing. The religious site subsequently became a symbol of unity and solidarity and a gathering place for worshippers. In later years, as the mosque could no longer accommodate Friday prayers and related religious and civic ceremonies, the Friday prayer leader and residents of Khash decided to build a larger mosque next to it that would better accommodate the number of worshippers.

The head of the Khash Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts said the original structure of the mosque dates back to 1928.

Malek Masoud Rigi told IRNA that the complex consists of two



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main sections: the mosque building and an attached minaret.

He said the mosque building has a floor area of 247 square meters

and is entirely covered. Its brick vaults rest on 16 columns, with every four columns forming a four-bay unit with a roof and four-part brick vaults, creating a columned prayer hall. A window has also been installed between every two columns to provide adequate lighting.

The official noted that the minaret of Khash Grand Mosque, dating from the Qajar period, has been registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

According to Rigi, the structure was inspired by traditional Iranian architecture and built as a freestanding cylindrical spiral minaret.

He said the minaret has a tall, elongated body, with bricks, mortar, sand, lime and plaster used in its construction. The structure was built with strong and durable bricks.

The minaret has a short, circular base decorated with various brickwork patterns and geometric designs. Another base with a gentle slope, corresponding to the inner slope of the wall, was

built on top of it.

He added that the minaret's diverse brickwork and numerous joints give it a distinctive grandeur. The second short base features narrow, elongated grooves separated by delicate bands.

He said that greater emphasis was placed on the religious function of the main prayer hall, while the architectural decoration reaches its peak in the minaret's brickwork. The decoration appears as courses of brickwork in the lower section, spiral relief patterns in the middle and upper sections, and a crenellated design at the top.

Rigi also pointed to the brick inscription on the minaret's body, saying it adds to the monument's authenticity and distinctive visual character. He noted that Khash Grand Mosque is located in the central part of the city, along Imam Khomeini Street.

Khash is located in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, 185 kilometers south of Zahedan, on the route connecting the provincial capital with Iranshahr and Chabahar. The city welcomes travelers and tourists throughout the year.