Historic wall of Isfahan gains national heritage status

Iranica Desk

The ancient wall surrounding the historic city of Isfahan has been officially added to Iran's National Heritage List under the name 'Daylami Wall,' the deputy head of Isfahan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization announced.

The wall was built during the post-Islamic period, under Hasan Rukn al-Dawla of the Buyid dynasty (335–366 AH), and enclosed a vast area corresponding to the extent of Isfahan at the time.

Seyyed Ruhollah Seyyed Alasgari told IRNA that the registration dossier for the Daylami Wall, a valuable historical landmark reflecting Isfahan's identity during the Daylamite period, had been approved by the National Heritage Registration Council.

He said the Daylamite period, particularly the reign of Rukn al-Dawla, marked a turning point in Isfahan's history, as the city evolved from a collection of scattered villages into an important political and cultural center. The wall is considered significant evidence of the city's development during that era.



IRNA

Located in a neighborhood known as Poshteh Baroo (Behind the Rampart), the wall underwent changes over successive historical periods, particularly during the Safavid era, when additions were made to its southeastern section.

According to Seyyed Alasgari, remnants of the wall were discovered several years ago within houses in the Poshteh Baroo neighborhood. During a site inspection, an archaeological team examined the remains and, drawing on archaeological records and other evidence, concluded that they belonged to the ancient city wall known as Isfahan's Daylami Wall.

He added that a registration dossier was compiled based on research and documentation prepared by archaeologist Aqil Aghili and architect Saeed Ghaseminejad. The dossier was first approved by the Cultural Heritage Registration Council of Isfahan Province before being submitted to the ministry's National Heritage Registration Council, which reviewed it in Isfahan on Tuesday.

He said the surviving sections of the wall had been altered over the past 150 years as a result of construction activities. In some areas, particularly where the wall has been incorporated into private houses, niches have been added. In some properties, sections of the structure remain visible from the alley, while others are preserved on the interior side of the buildings.

He noted that surviving sections of the wall can be seen in three houses along its route, with parts of the structure incorporated into the buildings and other sections still visible from the adjacent alley.

He added that the wall's location among privately owned properties in the Poshteh Baroo neighborhood poses a major legal challenge to its protection, despite its recent inclusion on the National Heritage List.

Seyyed Alasgari stressed that the monument is important to Isfahan's historical identity, noting that only a limited number of architectural remains from the Daylamite period have survived.

Ancient tree fossil reveals Golestan's natural history

Iranica Desk

A fossilized tree trunk discovered along the Azadshahr–Shahroud road, with a reported age of approximately 170 million years, offers a glimpse into the natural history of Golestan Province. Documenting and preserving this specimen could create opportunities for educational and scientific research while attracting greater attention to the province's potential for scientific tourism.

Mahmood Shakiba, Head of the Wildlife Protection and Management Office at the Natural History and Genetic Resources Museum of Golestan Province, described the specimen as a valuable part of the region's natural heritage, according to chtn.ir.

He said the fossilized tree trunk was discovered in 2021 during road-widening operations along the Azadshahr–Shahroud route. Following an examination and confirmation of the discovery, environmental protection personnel transferred it to the provincial department.

Highlighting the specimen's research value, Shakiba said that studying such remains helps researchers understand the region's geological history and past vegetation. It can also contribute to raising public awareness and expanding paleontological research in Golestan.

Explaining the initial identification, he said preliminary examinations suggest that the specimen belongs to the conifer group. However, determining its exact species and geological age requires further scientific investigation and specialist confirmation.

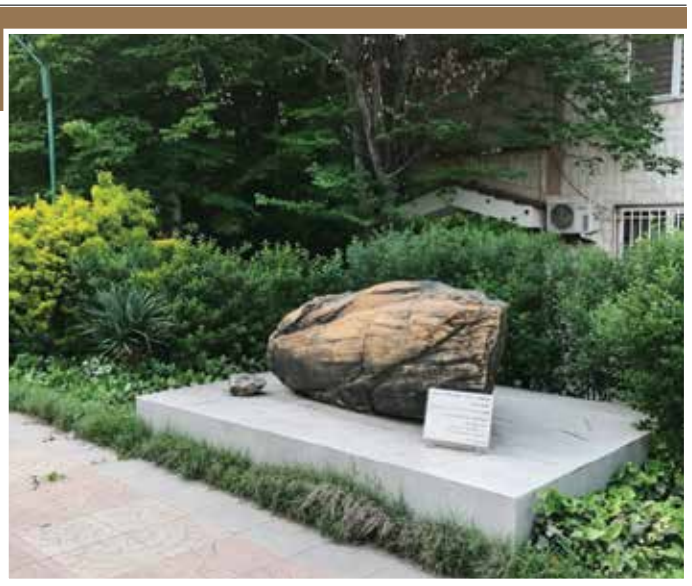
Shakiba described the donation of a section of the fossilized trunk to the Biodiversity Museum of Iran's Department of Environment in Tehran as a step towards introducing the province's natural heritage and scientific potential.

He said that housing the specimen in specialized museum collections would not only help preserve geological heritage but also make it available for scientific and educational purposes.

He emphasized that the proper preservation of fossil remains in museums plays an important role in documenting and researching the history of life on Earth, while helping pass knowledge about geological changes on to future generations.

Shakiba also announced that 100 plant and animal fossil specimens had been collected across Golestan Province. The specimens are currently housed in the museum collection of the Department of Environment of Golestan Province. Recently, 50 samples from this collection were sent to the Biodiversity Museum of Iran's Department of Environment in Tehran for further examination and identification.

He described the protection and introduction of fossil remains as



chtn.ir

part of a shared responsibility to safeguard the country's natural heritage, adding that greater attention to these specimens could improve public understanding of Iran's natural history and strengthen environmental conservation awareness.

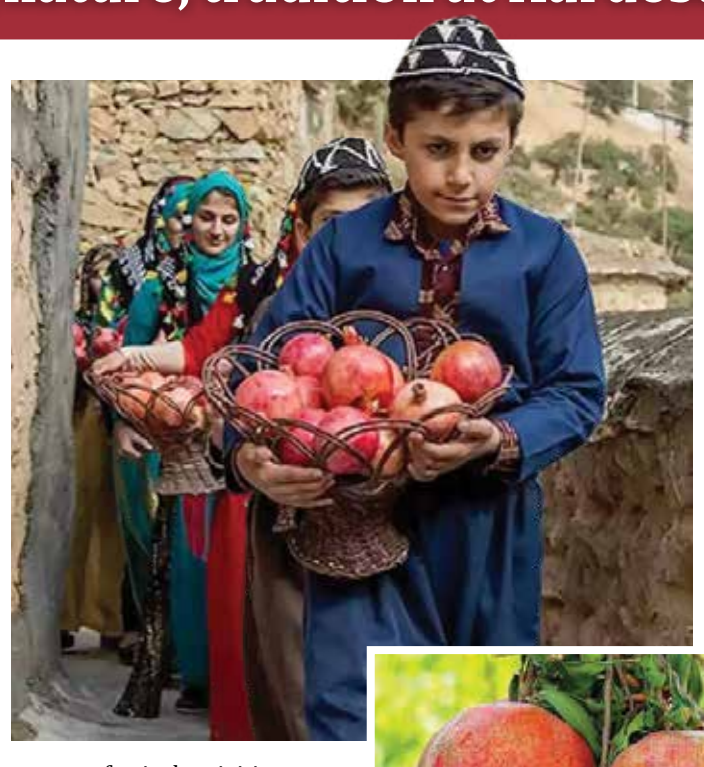
Celebrating nature, tradition at Kurdestan's Pomegranate Festival

Iranica Desk

The Pomegranate Festival of Kurdestan Province is one of the traditional cultural events of the Hawraman region, held every autumn during the pomegranate harvest season. Celebrated in several villages across Sarvabad, the festival brings together local communities and visitors to highlight the region's agricultural heritage, cultural traditions and natural beauty.

As autumn arrives and pomegranates ripen, villages across Hawraman, particularly those near the Sirvan River, prepare to celebrate the harvest. More than an agricultural celebration, the festival reflects the close relationship between nature, rural livelihoods and the cultural heritage of the Hawrami people. It is also an expression of gratitude for the harvest and a symbol of abundance and prosperity in local life.

Traditional Kurdish music and dance, traditional clothing, local agricultural products, handicrafts and a variety of pomegranate-based foods and products are among the main features of the festival. The event offers visitors an opportunity to discover the customs and traditions of the Hawrami people, learn about traditional pomegranate harvesting methods and experience the region's distinctive rural culture.



Alongside the cultural performances, festival activities may include visits to pomegranate orchards, local markets, exhibitions of handicrafts and the sale of fresh pomegranates and their various products. Cultural events and competitions may also form part of the program. The nature and scope of these activities vary from year to year and from one host village to another.

The festival is not confined to a single village. Over the years, several villages in the region have hosted the celebration, with Zhivar, Selin and Bolbar among the best-known locations associated with the event. These villages are notable not only for their pomegranate orchards but also for their distinctive stepped architecture, mountainous landscapes and rich cultural traditions. Together, they represent some of the region's important rural tourism destinations in Kurdestan Province.



kurdtourism.com

Zhivar

Zhivar is one of the prominent villages of Hawraman, known for its stepped architecture, lush orchards and spectacular mountain scenery. Its location near the Sirvan River and its traditional village landscape give it a distinctive natural and cultural character. Pomegranate cultivation and the traditional lifestyle of its residents are among its notable features.

Selin

Selin is another picturesque village in the Hawraman region. Its proximity to the Sirvan River and the surrounding natural landscapes make it an attractive destination for visitors. Agriculture and orchard cultivation remain important aspects of local life, alongside the preservation of traditional customs and cultural practices.

Bolbar

Bolbar is a traditional village in Hawraman, situated near Zhivar and along the route leading to Hawraman Takht. Its mountainous surroundings, rural architecture and scenic landscapes are among its main attractions. Together with Zhivar and Selin, Bolbar contributes to the cultural and tourism appeal of the region.

Other attractions

A visit to the Pomegranate Festival also offers an opportunity to explore the wider tourism potential of Hawraman. Beyond its orchards and traditional villages, the region is home to remarkable natural landscapes and important cultural attractions.

Hawraman Takht

Hawraman Takht is one of the region's best-known destinations, renowned for its distinctive stepped architecture, historic village fabric and mountainous setting. Its houses, built closely together along the slopes, create a unique architectural landscape and represent an outstanding example of traditional vernacular architecture in the region.

Sirvan River and valley

The Sirvan River and its surrounding valley are among Hawraman's most remarkable natural features. Flowing through mountainous terrain and deep valleys, the river creates spectacular landscapes that are particularly captivating in autumn. The surrounding scenery is an important attraction for nature enthusiasts and visitors exploring the region.

The close proximity of Zhivar, Selin and Bolbar also makes it possible to visit several traditional villages and natural attractions during a single trip, offering a broader experience of Hawraman's landscape and cultural heritage.

Preserving cultural heritage

The Pomegranate Festival is more than a seasonal agricultural celebration. It is a cultural event that reflects the historical identity, social traditions and close connection between the people of the region and their natural environment.

By bringing together local residents, farmers, artists and visitors, the festival provides a platform for showcasing regional products, supporting local producers and passing traditional customs and cultural values on to future generations.