

On the occasion of World Handicrafts Day

Truck with trailer carrying handicraft workshop to move in Qazvin

Iranica Desk

For the first time in the country, a truck with a trailer carrying the handicraft workshop and products will move through the city of Qazvin, on the occasion of World Handicrafts Day (June 10), said the deputy head of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization.

Seyyed Meysam Hesari told IRNA that inside the trailer, there is a pavilion in which craftspeople will produce handicrafts.

"Crafts manufactured by artists of Qazvin will be showcased in the pavilion as well" he said.

He said it is considered as a symbolic measure which helps promote handicrafts in Qazvin Province.

Hesari said holding two handicrafts workshops in the open air of the ancient Daei House and Sa'd al-Saltaneh Caravanserai, in compliance with health protocols, are another programs to be held by the organization on the occasion of World Handicraft Day.

A memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed between Qazvin and Alborz provinces' chambers of commerce, industries, mines and agriculture to support handicraft production



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and marketing.

"The move will be taken in coordination with Qazvin Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization", he said.

The unveiling of a virtual handicraft shop and commemorating nine handicraft artists of Qazvin Province are other programs scheduled to be held by the organization in coming days.



tasnimnews.com

About 7,500 people are involved in the activities related to handicraft sector in Qazvin Province.

Coppersmithing, *giri*h (knot) tiling, *jajim* (a

type of handmade textile) weaving, traditional knitting, mirror works and *sermeh* embroidery are among the famous handicrafts of Qazvin Province.

Touch the sky in Maranjab Desert of Isfahan Province



eligasht.com

Maranjab Caravanserai

Maranjab Desert is located near the city of Kashan which is one of the ancient desert cities of the central province of Isfahan. It was named after a castle around there dating back to Safavid Dynasty. It has a typical climate of hot and dry in summer, cold and dry in winter, and very little rainfall during the year.



gitishow.com

Maranjab Salt Lake

Maranjab Desert is among the most beautiful deserts of Iran. High dunes and forest arch are the attractions of this region. Most of the vegetation consists of Halophyte plants such as Tamarix and Haloxylon trees, and Zygophyllum bushes. The animal coverage of the area consists of wolf, jackal, hyena, fox sand, sand cat, lizard, chameleon, a variety of lizards, snakes, scorpions, dull-yellow partridge, eagle, hawk, and others cause of lots of food and water, hipersia.com reported.



iranroute.com

Aran va Bidgol Salt Lake and Sargardan (Wanderer) Island are other spectacular parts of the desert. When you watch the island from far away, the two ends of it disappear in the horizon and the

landscape looks like a ship adrift in the ocean desert, that's why it's called Wanderer Island. Another attraction of the Maranjab is a caravanserai located on the Silk Road.

Maranjab Caravanserai

Maranjab Caravanserai, one of the most famous in Iran, was built by the order of Shah Abbas Safavid. In the past, there used to be always, 500 soldiers on top of the castle to watch over the caravans trading from China to Europe. Maranjab Caravanserai has a qanat having fresh water which is a phenomenon in a desert full of salt lakes. Today Maranjab Caravanserai is used as a guest house. It has 29 rooms and accommodates tourists visiting this wonderful dessert. The rooms don't have beds so you should have sleeping bags. Each room accommodates one or two people and the bigger ones accommodate seven people. The caravanserai has a small restaurant that serves food. The area around the Maranjab Caravanserai is safe and is a great place for camping.

Sand dunes

Another attraction of the Maranjab Desert is the sand dunes. The tallest sand dunes on the east, are about 70 meters. On the southern side of Maranjab Caravanserai, there is a mountain, known as 'Kolang Mountain' surrounded by sand hills. If you are looking for a little adventure, with a 15-minute walk you can reach the top, the view of the desert from the top is just breathtaking. The moving sand dunes create a wonderful landscape in the desert. You can enjoy walking on the sand dunes with bare feet. Since the temperature rises in the desert at midday, it's better to walk on the moving sand dunes in the early morning or late afternoon.

Maranjab Salt Lake

Maranjab Salt Lake is located approximately 100km from Qom and 60km from Kashan. The lake has a surface area of about 1,800 sq.m. Many people confuse the Maranjab Salt Lake with Hoz-e Soltan Salt Lake. The lake looks like a triangle and it's five to 50 meters deep. The Maranjab Salt Lake is used for salt extraction too. The lands around the lake are swampy, so it's better to visit the lake with a local guide who knows the area. Generally, there are two ways to get to the Maranjab Salt Lake:

- On the way from Aran va Bidgol to Maranjab route after driving about 35km you'll see the way through the salt lake.
- Passing the Maranjab Caravanserai, after 10km you can see the route to the salt lake.

If you are lucky you can see flamingos too. September, October, and November, (the whole autumn) is flamingoes migration time.

What is the best time to go?

Mid-autumn and late November are the best times due to the dryness of the path, mild weather, and the lack of insects.

Getting there

There are several ways to get to the Maranjab desert. The main route is from Kashan to Aran va Bidgol to Padegan road and you have to drive around 45km on a dirt road to get to the Maranjab Desert. Due to the military base that is located in this region, a leader should accompany you.

Start your trip early in the morning, about 8 a.m., and enjoy visiting Maranjab Caravanserai, Maranjab Salt Lake, and dunes. You can spend your whole day in the Maranjab Desert and get back to Tehran after seeing the beautiful sunset. Otherwise, you can just visit the dunes and caravanserai and get back to Tehran in the afternoon.

Abgineh Museum in Tehran, a unique collection of glassblowing arts



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Si-e Tir (30th Tir) Street is one of the oldest, most magnificent streets in Tehran. It is located in the historic texture of the capital and in recent years, has turned to one of the attractions of the city.

The street is home to many monuments and museums and it is a great place to observe the architecture and style of the old streets of Tehran. One of its attractions is the Abgineh Museum. This beautiful museum



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is situated in a historical house and a large garden is surrounding it, iranparadise.com reported.

It is a beautiful old building that now is home to interesting ancient crafts. Abgineh Museum of Iran known also as Glassware and Ceramic Museum is one of the unique collections of glassblowing arts in Iran. If you always find glassblowing and glassware interesting, now it's the best chance for you to see how Persians used to make them thousands of years ago.

This museum that is actually a historical house is 90 years old. It belonged to Ahmad Qavam, one of the famous politicians of the Qajar Era. He had used this beautiful house as his residence and working office. In

1980, it was turned into a museum and in 1998 it was registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

This impressive house is located in a 7,000m garden, which is astoundingly decorated with intricate wooden windows and fifty kinds of brickwork.

This building has two floors and five halls. The first and second halls are on the first floor, and the other ones are on other floors upstairs. In the second hall the oldest glasses, glass

pipes and clay pots are located. The designer of the display windows of the museum was an Austrian engineer called Hans Holieln. The ornaments of the building include wood embossing of the door frames and stairways and the façade of the building with 50 different types of brick.

You will see a combination of Iranian and European (19th century) architectural style in this mansion. The first floor joined to the second one

through wooden stairs like Russian style. To set entrance temperature and light into the building they used double-glazed windows instead of wooden doors. These designs are based on Seljuk art. Don't forget to take a look at the delicate plaster works! So, just look up at the ceiling and walls from time to time. And, you may fall in love with the mirror works, a lovely item in Persian decoration.

The building is curated chronologically in such a way that pre-Islamic items are in the first floor containing Bolur Hall, holding glassworks from ancient Iran, and Mina Hall, holding the most iconic items which are glass tubes from Choqa Zanbil, dating back to 2,000 BCE.