



A 3rd-millennium-BC bas-relief, vandalized on a rock surface in western Iran earlier in September, has been restored without damaging its other undestroyed sections. The relief is carved on the face of a rock cliff in Salas-e Babajani county, Kermanshah province. "Parts of the bas-relief, which were hurt by vandalers, were rehabilitated by a team of restorers affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts and in collaboration with Kermanshah cultural heritage department, provincial tourism chief Omid Qaderi said on Sunday, IRNA reported. The department handed over restorers fragments of the [partly] smashed bas-relief, which depicts Iddin-Sin who was a monarch of the Kingdom of Simurram [circa 2000-1900 BC], Qaderi added.

**Vandalized Prehistorical  
Bas-relief Restored in  
Western Iran**

## Ambassador Lentz Presented his Diplomatic Credentials

The Embassy of Sweden is pleased to welcome the new Ambassador Designate of Sweden Mr. Mattias Lentz to Tehran. On 19 November, Ambassador Mattias Lentz presented his diplomatic credentials to the President of Iran Hassan Rouhani. The Ambassador and the President discussed the strong bilateral ties between Sweden and

Iran, a result of a long history of trade ties and people-to-people exchanges. Ambassador Lentz underlined Sweden's support for the continuance of the JCPOA.

Ambassador Mattias Lentz has previously served with the European External Action Service in Beijing and Manila, and been posted to the Swedish Embassies in New Delhi,

Beijing and Jakarta. Sweden officially the Kingdom of Sweden is a country in Northern Europe. It borders Norway to the west and north and Finland to the east, and is connected to Denmark in the southwest by a bridge-tunnel across the Öresund Strait.



## Iranian Northwestern National Parks Share Incredible Biodiversity

The precious national parks of northwestern Iran are the most diverse of any in the country, differing from rainforest to wide shrub lands which share a great biological diversity, this time we will take a quick look at three incredible national parks located in East Azarbaijan province.

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, including, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas and natural national monuments. In 1997, the Department of the Environment (DOE) held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas. By the year 2003, the size of the DOE supervised areas reached 11,791,788.225 hectares.

National park is a designated part of Iran's environment - including forests, rangelands, woodlands, prairies, water or mountains - that is an outstanding representation of Iranian nature. As such, it is brought under protection in order to permanently preserve its natural ecology and to create a suitable environment for the flourishing of wildlife and the growth of flora under natural conditions.

The national parks currently cover 1,649,771 hectares of the country's area.

Protected areas also are significantly important natural resources due to its impact on wildlife breeding, preservation of plant life or its natural state. The total area of regions protected is 6,600,601 hectares.

Wildlife refuges also are natural habitats with special climate qualifications, which brought under protection in order to revive wild animals and is stretching to 3,524,181 hectares. Arasbaran is a large mountainous area stretching from the Qusha Dagh massif, south of Ahar, to the Aras River in East Azarbaijan province.

The region is confined to Aras River

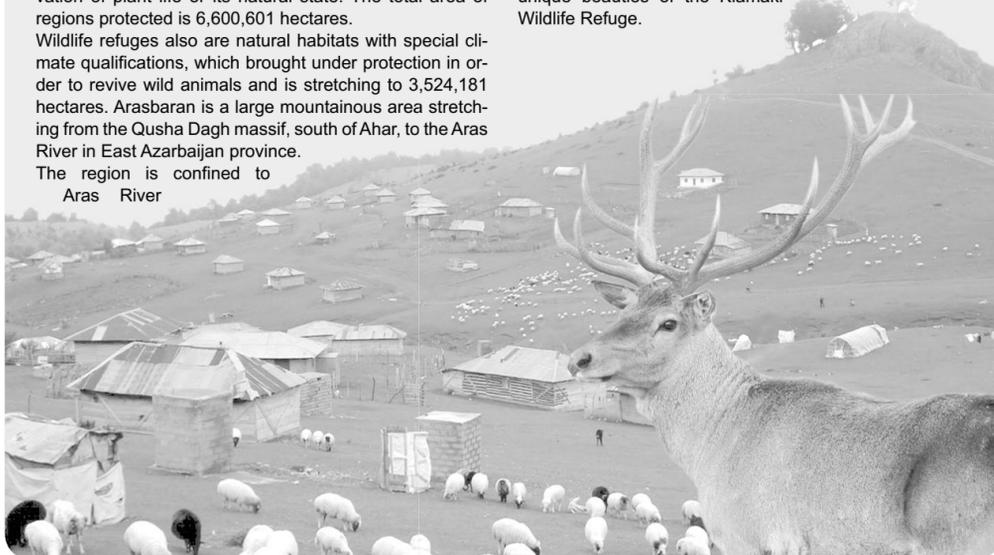
in the north, Meshgin Shahr county and Moghan in the east, Sarab county in the south, and Tabriz and Marand counties in the west. Arasbaran protected area measures 78,560 hectares with a circumference of 134 kilometers. The altitude varies from 256 meters in the northern part to 2,896 meters which is the highest elevation in southern part of the area, according to the UNESCO website.

In-between the Caspian, Caucasus and Mediterranean region, the area covers mountains up to 2,200 meters, high alpine meadows, semi-arid steppes, rangelands and forests, rivers and springs.

Arasbaran was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve in 1976.

It is home to 215 species of birds, namely the Caucasian black grouse, grey partridge, black francolin, and common pheasant, 29 species of reptiles, 48 species of mammals, notably wild goat, wild boar, brown bear, wolf, lynx, and leopard, and 17 species of fish.

The Kantal National Park is hosting over 350 animal species namely, wild goat, urial, wild boar, brown bear, Lynx, wild cat, jungle cat, fox, jackal and wolves, while being one of the most important habitats of Persian leopards in the country. In early spring, colorful tulips grow on the slopes of Kantal farms extending their range to amaze the visitors. And Maharan Waterfall is also one of the unique beauties of the Kiamaki Wildlife Refuge.



## Ab Malakh Waterfall: One of the Most Beautiful Waterfalls of Iran

The spring or waterfall of 'Ab Malakh' [Locust Water] in central Iran contains a curious case which destroy locusts.

The waterfall containing specific compounds is next to a village by the same name near the town of Samiram in Isfahan Province.

Ab Malakh waterfall is one of the strangest ones in Iran. Its special water content is capable of destroying all locusts at once. For this reason, the village and its spring have been named Ab Malakh or Locust Water.

According to the villagers, when their wheat farms were invaded by locusts in years gone by, they used this water to destroy them all at once. The waterfall is also known as Takht-e Soleiman [Seat of Soleiman]. This appellation is due to a large natural rock connecting the valleys on both sides of Ab Malakh River like a bridge. Some of the locals believe that the bridge acted like a royal seat and was used by King Soleiman [Solomon] as a resting place. A fresh water spring gushes out from the opening of the natural cave in Takht-e Soleiman and joins the river downstream.

Ab Malakh spring has two parts. The first part is the waterfall source at the heart of the mountain and the second part is the green anticline underneath the source which arches over the river like a bridge.

A dangerous, yet beautiful, precipice behind the waterfall has turned Ab Malakh into one of Iran's most fearful falls. The best time to visit this scenic area is in the spring and summer.

## Tadayon House in Semnan: A Tourist Attraction of Iran

Tadayon historic house is a tourist attraction in the city of Semnan in eastern Iran. It was built in the Qajar era in the 18th century. The house was built by a Semnani businessman, probably at the same time as the bazaar in the north of the city. This old house was renovated in 1994. It has a wide, elegant wind catcher and three main quarters. The "andarouni" inner quarters and courtyard is reserved for private family life, the "birouni" outer quarters is reserved for guests and visitors, and the servants quarters is linked to the family quarters. All three quarters have separate entrances.

The separate quarters in this ancient house are a perfect example of the vernacular architecture of Iran in past eras.

The private quarters include a vestibule, an entrance hall, and the inner courtyard which is indirectly connected to the outer courtyard and the servants' quarters. The outer courtyard also comprises the summer rooms, the winter rooms, the eastern and western terraces, the fountain room, auxiliary rooms, and storage rooms in both wings. The summer house has a tall, elegant wind catcher leading down to the fountain room. Apart from the cool air it blows into the summer quarters, it also gives the building a majestic view. Masterful stucco and ivans are the other features of separate summer and winter rooms in this old building. The outer birouni courtyard is reserved for entertaining guests and visitors. Its entrance door

opens up into the bazaar side street and served mainly as an office for the owner. Its rooms are large and a corridor connects them to the inner andarouni quarters. The basements are used as storage for goods and their ceilings are adorned with wood.

The third courtyard, or the servants' quarters, is the smaller of the three and rather simple in architecture for everyday use. It has no ornaments.

This building was used as staff accommodation, the stables, kitchen and wood storage. It is connected to the inner courtyard with a corridor on the one side, and to the street on the other. Tadayon House has been registered as a national heritage of Iran under number 1786.



cooking



### Baklava

Baklava or Baghlava is a sweet pastry that is popular around the world. Baklava is so filling and full of calories.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 Cup All Purpose Flour
- 1/4 Cup Sugar
- 2 Tbsp Sugar
- 2 oz (57 g) Pistachios
- 1.5 oz (42 g) Walnuts
- 1/5 oz (42 g) Almonds
- 1 Tsp Ground Cinnamon
- 1 Stick Cinnamon
- 1 Clove
- 1/3 Cup Honey
- 1 Tbsp Unsalted Butter
- 1/4 Tsp Cider Vinegar
- 1/2 Lemon (1/2 Tbsp Lemon Juice, 2 inch Lemon Zest)
- 1 1/2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil
- 1/8 Tsp Salt



#### Directions:

- 1- Combine a cup of all purpose flour and 1/8 tsp of salt in a large bowl and stir.
- 2- In a smaller bowl, mix 1/3 cup of hot water with one and half tbsp vegetable oil and cider, stir well.
- 3- Add the water and oil mixture to the flour bowl gradually.
- 4- Add more flour if the dough is too sticky.
- 5- Knead the dough for 20 minutes.
- 6- Rub the dough with vegetable oil, place it back in the bowl, cover the bowl with a lid or a plastic wrap, and let rest for two hours.
- 7- Mix the ground pistachios, walnuts and almonds in a bowl, add 1/4 cup of sugar, and a tsp of ground cinnamon and stir.
- 8- Melt a tbsp of unsalted butter and grease the bakeware's surface and the sides with it.
- 9- Cut the dough in 6 equal pieces.
- 10- Roll out each piece of dough on a well flour surface as thin as it gets. Be generous in using more flour on the rolling pin and your working surface.
- 11- Lay the dough on the bakeware, brush the surface with the melted butter. Extra edges can be cut or folded back on top the layer.
- 12- Repeat the steps until you have 3 layers of dough.
- 13- Cover the surface with a layer of the ground pistachios and walnuts mixture evenly.
- 14- Add three more layers of dough on top. Remember to brush the dough layers with the melted butter.
- 15- Cut the Baklavas in squares of triangles.
- 16- Preheat the oven to 350° F (176° C), bake for 30 minutes.
- 17- Remove the bakeware from the oven, re cut the baklavas and make sure they are now separated from each other.
- 18- Turn the oven down to 300° F (149° C) and bake baklavas for 30 more minutes.
- 19- Meanwhile, combine honey, 2 tbsp sugar, 1/4 cup of hot water, 1 stick of cinnamon, a clove, 2 inches of lemon zest and half tsp of fresh lemon juice in a pot and stir.
- 20- Simmer the pot for 10 minutes.
- 21- Turn off the heat and allow it to cool down.
- 22- Now turn the oven down even more to 210° F (99° C) and bake the baklavas for 30 more minutes.
- 23- Remove baklavas from oven, and pour the honey mixture on top immediately.

## UNESCO to Commemorate Farabi, Attar in 2020, 2021

UNESCO will commemorate Iranian philosopher Abu Nasr Farabi and Persian mystic and poet Farid ud-Din Mohammad ibn Ebrahim Attar in 2020 and 2021. The organization has registered Farabi's 1150th birthday and Attar's 800th death anniversary on its 2020 and 2021 calendars of events respectively, Iranian National Commission for UNESCO director Hojjatollah Ayyubi announced in a press release. "Countries can propose the birth and death anniversaries of their eminent luminaries to UNESCO in order to hold commemorative programs," he said. Ayyubi added that a variety of programs will be arranged to commemorate the luminaries. Abu Nasr Farabi was regarded in the Arab world as the greatest philosophical authority after Aristotle. Attar is mostly known for the Mantiq at-Tayr (The Conference of the Birds), an allegorical poem describing the quest of the birds for the mythical Simorgh, or Phoenix, whom they wish to make their king. His Elahi-nameh and the Mosibat-nameh ("Book of Affliction") both are mystical allegories similar in structure and form to the Mantiq at-Tayr.