



Khosrow Palace is a structure related to Sassanid Empire and is located near Char-Ghapi Fire-temple. Today, nothing much is left from this ancient palace but some stone-made ruins. Many historiographers believe that the reason of the palace's construction is related to the story of Khosrow and Shirin, a beautiful ancient Iranian love story by poet, Nizami Gangavi.

This place is a sample of Sassanid architecture. In constructing this antique and beautiful palace, Architects used a plan with multiple rooms, stable, large halls, stone made pillars and beautiful verandas.

During the Iran-Iraq war, it was severely damaged by the invasion of Iraqi forces and was later renovated.

Khosrow Palace in Iran's Kermanshah

UNESCO-registered Garden to Improve Tourist Amenities

TehranTimes: Kerman province's tourism department is to implement development initiatives to improve tourist amenities in the UNESCO-registered Shazdeh Garden.

"200 billion rials (some \$690,000) have been allocated to improve the tourism infrastructure in Mahan's Shazdeh Garden," CHTN quoted the provincial tourism chief as saying. The project is expected to bring more satisfaction to visitors and help attract further sightseers, Freydoun Fa'ali said. Shazdeh Garden forms an enigmatic green oasis in the heart of a barren desert. Many visitors consider Shazdeh Garden as a miracle due to its location. The garden was constructed under the command of Mohammad Hassan Khan, the ruler of Kerman, during the

Qajar era (1789–1925). Apart from the beauties of the garden, two-story mansions in the western and eastern parts of the garden perfectly represent Persian architecture. The main material used in them is brick, and the art of tiling is easy to recognize.

In 2011, a selection of nine Iranian gardens, including Shazdeh Garden, which bears important architectural, traditional, and cultural elements, were collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of "The Persian Garden."

One outstanding feature of Persian gardens is the arrangement of a pond in the center of the structure. The dance of fountains in the middle of Shazdeh Garden has given an admirable view of it that leaves everyone in

wonder and appreciation. For millennia, Iranian gardens have combined the magic of nature with the aesthetic qualities of art and architecture to create a symbolic representation of paradise on Earth.

A typical Persian Garden interweaves natural elements with manmade components to embody the idea of creating a paradise on Earth by the means of artistic, philosophical, figurative, and religious notions. According to the UN cultural body, the flawless design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the result of an inspired and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e. technology, water management, and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.



Bazaar of Sassanid City Undergoes Restoration

TehranTimes: A new round of restoration work has commenced on the historical bazaar of the ruined Sassanid city of Belad Shapur in Dehdasht, southwestern Kohgiluyeh, and Boyer-Ahmad province, the provincial tourism chief has said. A budget of 32 billion rials (\$107,000) has been allocated to the restoration project, Saeid Talebipour explained.

This phase of the project involves restoring and repairing a total of 11 shops, the official added.

The bazaar will be ceded to the private sector after being fully restored, to boost tourism and generate job opportunities in the region,

he noted.

Despite all the destruction that took place in this historical city in different eras, with an area of more than 45 hectares, it is currently considered one of the largest historical structures in the country in terms of size and number of historical buildings. Inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1985, the ancient city of Belad Shapur is one of the top tourist sites in the province.

The city was built at the time of Shapur I, also known as

Shapur the Great, (reigned 241 CE–272), the second king of the Sassanid Dynasty. Under his leadership, the empire stretched

extended to the Indus River, and in the west to the upper Tigris and Euphrates valleys.

Under Sassanids, Per-

portions, such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of Sassanian art, top

examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran. In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran — titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"— to its World Heritage list.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province is known for its nomads and nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.



from Sogdiana and Iberia (Georgia) in the north to the Mazun region of Arabia in the south; in the east, it

sian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose pro-

portions, such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Grand Mosque of Neyriz: An Ancient Architectural Wonder

Tasnim: The Grand Mosque of Neyriz is one of Iran's oldest mosques and, based on some historical evidence, used to be a Zoroastrian fire temple which turned into a mosque during the Islamic era.

The grand mosque is one of most fantastic ancient monuments in central Fars province which draws a large number of culture and history enthusiasts both from inside the country and from abroad every year.

The porches left behind at the mosque bear the architecture of the Sassanid era. The stucco decoration on the monument not only serves as a historical document, but contains historical concepts in praise of the Prophet Muhammad and

Shiite Imams.

The earliest date left behind at the mosque is 877 AD carved on the altar. The mosque itself was probably constructed before that date.

The most important survey on the mosque was conducted by French architect and archaeologist Andre Godard in the early 20th century. Godard believes the architecture of the mosque dates back to the Sassanid era which was in vogue until the early centuries of the Islamic era.

The monument has been registered on Iran's List of National Heritage and is currently under the protection of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism.



Iranian Village, Passers-by Relish Free Rosewater in Muharram Remembrance

TehranTimes: One of the main Muharram rituals in the small village of Cham Alishah, the central province of Isfahan, is the nazr of rosewater, which means to vow or commitment to carry out an act to fulfill wishes during a rosewater distillation ceremony.

The ritual is held on the seventh day of the lunar month of Muharram, when villagers gather in the houses where rosewater is collected from dried rose flowers, and they participate in the rosewater distillation ceremony, commonly known as "Golab-giri."

As part of this ceremony, the women of the village are enthusiastically present, and they use a variety of methods, including writing on the cauldron with a piece of wood, lighting a candle next to it, or taking wood from the fire under the cauldron and taking it home for the next year's ceremony.

Meanwhile, the participants are nazri (charity food) cooked by all families in the village. As a blessing, people use the rosewater

obtained through this ancient ritual during Tasua and Ashura (the ninth and tenth days of the mourning month of Muharram).

Golab or rosewater is obtained from a particular kind of Rose, known as Mohammadi roses, in



Iran. Harvesting flowers seems to be the most important part of the process. They should be picked from dawn through morning very carefully. The petals are put into massive copper pots and boiled,

and then the extracted water is kept in special bottles. The longer the distillation is, the better will be the quality of the rosewater.

Golab is used nationwide in diverse traditional dishes to flavor them or consumed as a religious

perfume as well. Iranians, who are mostly Shia Muslims, hold special ceremonies during the first ten days of the lunar month of Muharram to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein

(AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his 72 loyal companions. For Iranians, Ashura is a solemn day of mourning, marked by various mourning rituals and passion plays re-enacting the martyrdom. Men and women, dressed in the black, parade through the streets, slapping their chests and chanting. Some people seek to emulate the suffering of their third Shia Imam by flagellating themselves with chains in a symbolic act. Religious ceremonies in Iran more than often include food offerings, whether they are held at public venues like mosques or private residences. These communal gatherings are also a kind of forum where friends, acquaintances, and neighbors meet over food that is served after the ceremonies. During Muharram, every village, township, city, or metropolis is abuzz with preparation for food offerings known as Nazri, the processions of which are usually sponsored by wealthy benefactors.



Soleh Dokal Waterfall: One of the Amazing Waterfalls of Iran

Tasnim: About 60km South of Iran's northwestern city of Uremia and close to the Turkey border, the white-clad mountains of this region have become the birthplace of one of the beautiful waterfalls of West Azerbaijan province. This waterfall, known as Soleh Dokal, is located near a village of the same name. Soleh Dokal is not in the category of high waterfalls. However, due to the considerable volume of water and its greatness, it has been noticed by many people and many people enter this area to visit it. Soleh Dokal is actually a large river that enters a gorge with a high slope and low width at a point of its movement and creates a large and roaring waterfall. The best time to visit this waterfall is late spring, when this area is at the peak of its beauty. The vegetation around the waterfall is not full of trees and is mostly in the form of green pastures and full of colorful flowers.

Perspective



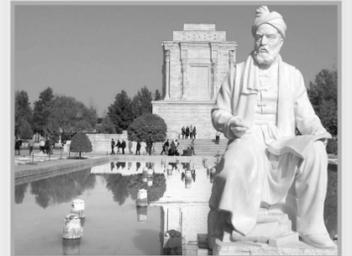
Tus to be Prepared for Possible UNESCO Registration, Deputy Tourism Minister Says

CHTN: The ancient city of Tus, where the illustrious Persian poet Ferdowsi is laid to rest, will be nominated for a UNESCO World Heritage status, the deputy tourism minister has said.

"We will take a big step for the global registration of the historical city of Tus and Ferdowsi's mausoleum... Of course, some preparations have been made, and we must carry out field measures," CHTN quoted Ali Darabi as saying.

Moreover, comprehensive plans are to be formulated to help revive the previous splendor of the ancient town through the close collaboration of the local officials and experts, the official stated.

He made the remarks during his visit to the northeastern town, adding: "We are determined to take a big step for the global registration of Tus."



Located near the provincial capital of Mashhad, which is one of the top tourist attractions of the country, Tus has been the birthplace of some important cultural and scientific Iranian figures in the past centuries.

The city was captured by Alexander the Great in c. 330 BC and it was destroyed once during the Mongol invasion, and again by the Timurids, and many of its people were killed.

Tus is famed as a cultural hub and is home to many national figures. Ferdowsi is a world-renowned poet whose mythical poems are translated into various languages. Many Iranians regard Ferdowsi as the greatest of their poets. Down through the centuries they have continued to read and listen to recitations from his masterwork, the Shahnameh.

Al-Ghazali was another figure who emerged from that area. He was a theologian, jurist, philosopher, and mystic. Other notable residents of Tus include the early polymath Jabir ibn Hayyan, poet Asadi Tusi; polymath Nasser al-Din Tusi and the prominent Islamic scholar Abu Jafar Tusi.