

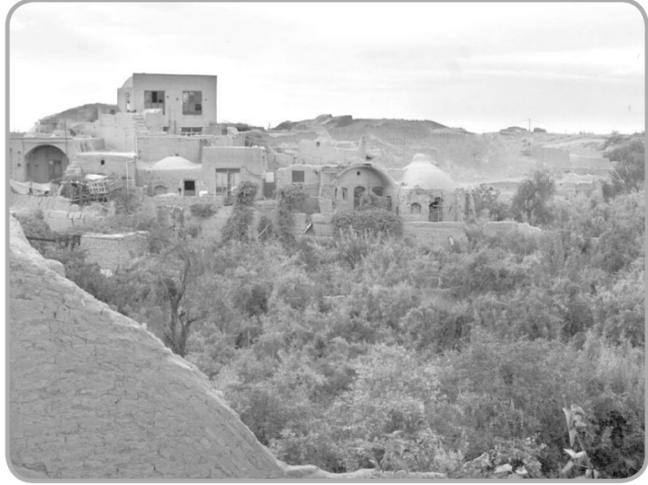


A total of 1,176,415 visits to the historical sites and natural sights of the north-eastern Khorasan Razavi province was recorded during the two-week New Year (Noruz) holidays (March 20-April 2). Historical city of Tus, the mausoleum of the epic Persian poet Ferdowsi, the mausoleums of poets Attar and Khayyam, and Naderi Garden were among the most visited sites, the deputy provincial tourism chief said on Sunday. Strict health protocols were demanded to be observed by the travelers during their visits, Marjan Akbari added.

The capital city of Mashhad is home to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam, which attracts thousands of pilgrims from various Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe.

Over 1.1m Visits to Khorasan Razavi Sites Registered in Noruz

Historical Core of Shahedieh made National Heritage



The historical texture of Shahedieh, a mudbrick town in Iran's Yazd province, has been added to the national heritage list, the provincial tourism chief has said. The historical texture, which has been recently demarcated, was inscribed on the prestigious list last week, ISNA quoted Seyyed Mostafa Fatemi as saying. The registration will allow for better preservation and to prevent destruction and illegal constructions, the official added. Historical textures of some other cities across the province such as Yazd, Ardakan, Meybod, Abarkooh, and Mehriz have also been registered on the national list, he noted. Referring to the historical structure of the city of Yazd, which was named a UNESCO World Heritage in July 2017, he expressed hope that the historical texture of Shahedieh to be accepted as a World Heritage in the years to come.

With mud-brick houses and several gardens and qanat systems, which have supplied water for them in the heart of the desert, the historical texture of Shahedieh is one of a kind. The concept of "Persian Qanat" was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2016, representing a selection of eleven aqueducts across Iran. According to UNESCO, the qanats provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate. The qanat system relies on snow-fed streams, which flow down the foothills of surrounding mountains channeling through sloping aqueducts, often over far distances to discharge into the city's underground reservoirs or ab-anbars. Such constructions are still in practice, many of which were made from the 13th century onwards. Yazd is among ancient cities which have applied this concept to make urban settlements possible in central Iran.

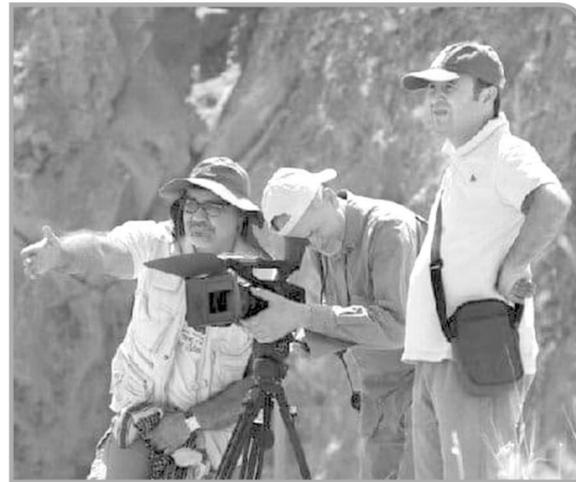
Documentary to Unravel Fascinating Secrets of Iron Age Site in Western Iran

Iranian filmmaker Keyvan Tabatabaei-Samimi has made a documentary on Ganj Dareh, which was once an Iron Age settlement in western Iran. The site is also one of the cradles of agriculture and livestock domestication in West Asia. Titled "Ganj Dareh", the film takes a behind-the-scenes look at one of the most important archaeological discoveries in the country, jointly conducted by Iranian, Danish teams of cultural heritage experts.

In 2019, Iranian and Danish archaeologists and cultural heritage experts discovered new traces of Iron Age occupation in a pre-historical cave during a follow-up archaeology season carried out based on an agreement previously signed between the Razi University of Kermanshah and the University of Copenhagen. Supervised by Iran's Research Institute

of Cultural Heritage & Tourism, the project was co-led by Iranian archaeologist Hojjat Darabi and Professor Tobias Richter from the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at the University of Copenhagen. Discoveries were made in Mar-Gurgalan [Sarab] cave that, according to Darabi, was inhabited some 50,000 years ago. "Preliminary results indicate that the cave was inhabited about 50,000 years ago and appears to be used both by the Neanderthals for residing and hunting and by the early Homo sapiens," Darabi explained. The cave was previously excavated by Danish archaeologists in the early 1970s, however, the excavations were renewed using new scientific methods, he added. The team managed to collect new evidence concerning how sedentism and agriculture [domestication of plants and animals] started in the region, which

is situated in the central Zagros mountain range. Prof. Ezatollah Negahban (1926 - 2009), who was an Iranian archaeologist known as the father of Iranian modern archaeology, believed that caves and rock shelters were particularly attractive living places for the hunter-gatherers of the early Paleolithic period and the geographic situation of the Iranian Plateau with its bordering mountain systems including the Zagros range on the west and the Alborz range on the north has meant that there were many cave sites which would have been suitable for an early cave-dwelling man. In general, the Zagros highlands have been subject to more Stone Age research and investigation than have the Alborz Mountains, and therefore a more detailed picture of early cave-dwelling life has been developed for the Zagros region where traces of cave dwell-



ers from the Lower Paleolithic to the Middle Paleolithic, Upper Paleolithic, and Epipaleolithic periods have been found. Although other parts of Persia have been

less investigated than the Zagros highlands, traces of cave dwellers have also been found at sites scattered throughout the Iranian Plateau and in the lowlands.

Vali-e Asr St., Longest in West Asia, being prepared for possible UNESCO registration

Over the past years, Tehran's Vali-e Asr Street, famed as the longest in West Asia, has undergone countless maintenance works as a prerequisite for a possible UNESCO registration. The leafy street runs for over 17 kilometers from the railway station in the south of the metropolis to the Tajrish square in the north. It is lined with many shops, restaurants, parks, cinemas, and cultural centers. Tehran's District 11 Mayor Nasrollah Abadian has recently talked about restoration works which has been carried out on the southernmost section of the thoroughfare, which is situated in the district. "Vali-e Asr Street, which is the longest in West Asia, has undertaken extra maintenance and restoration works as a prerequisite for a possible UNESCO registration.... Four Kilometers of it is situated in the district 11 and others in the districts of 6, 3, and 1, respectively," Abadian said. Landscaping and the beautification of urban spaces, flooring, and the protection of green spaces of the street are amongst tasks being practiced, he explained. "Vali-e Asr Street is the best example which witnesses the persistent ex-



ercises of creating the concept of Garden-Street as a destination of an urban area from the Safavid era up to the modern time," according to the UNESCO website. "A variety of architectural styles from traditional to modern and eclectic is a representation of eastern and western values synthesis in a specific geographical point, which carries a true definition of an architectural and spatial place." In the 19th century, the route

once passed through Shemiran gardens, barren fields between Tehran and Shemiran, Yusef Abad, Abbas Abad, and Behjat Abad ending at its southernmost tip inside the then Qajar-era town of Tehran. Vali-e Asr Street, which is registered on Iran's National Heritage list, was added to the UNESCO's temporary list in 2019. The street is one of the main urban elements of the Iranian capital in the north-south direction.

Taftan, Scientific, Terrestrial Tourism Attraction



Semi-active Taftan volcano in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province besides being a unique nature tourism attraction is a heaven for scientists and terrestrial experts. According to the IRNA correspondent in provincial capital city of Zahedan, the 4000-meter high Taftan volcano, with its beautiful virgin nature, is each year hosting tourists and mountaineers from across Iran and the world. The spring season is the best time of the year for sightseeing on this high mountain and its beautiful skirts, amid very pleasant atmosphere and the scent of fragrant wild plantation that makes an unforgettable memory for all visitors. Taftan mountain's plantation is quite diverse and The climate at Taftan features cold winters accompanied by snowfall when temperatures drop below freezing between December and February, and hot summers with temperatures during July and August exceeding 30 °C. Taftan is located in an arid locale but has more precipitation than the surrounding area, thus providing water to the surrounding terrain. Average precipitation is 150 millimeters per year. In 1914, the volcano was described to be "belching out clouds of smoke", although a report in 1971 indicated the absence of historical activity.

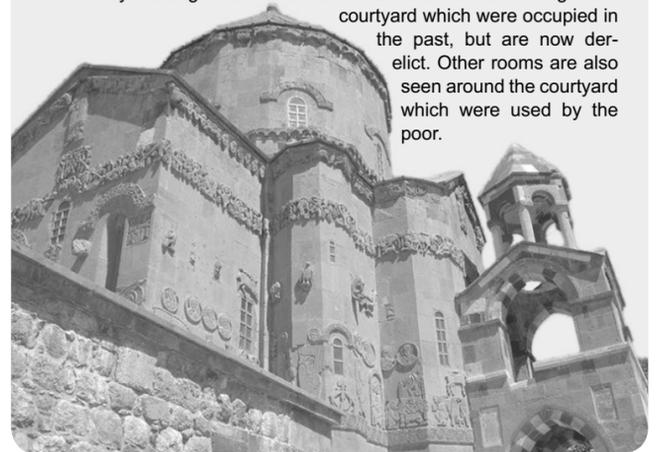
Holy Hovhannes: A 5th-Century Church in Iran

The Holy Hovhannes Church is an Armenian Catholic Church named after one of the disciples of Jesus called Johannes, or Hovhannes. It is located in Maragheh, northwestern Iran, and is the city's only church.

It is said to have been built in the 5th and 6th centuries CE. The original building has been destroyed many times in various occurrences. But the present structure was built on the initiative of General Samson Khan by Russian and French architects. It is made of brick with a rectangular design.

Maragheh's Hovhannes Church held a special place under the Ilkhanate Mogul rule. But it has been effectively abandoned now with the migration of Armenians to Tehran and other cities.

Hovhannes Church has three sections: The Archbishop's residence, a school, and an altar to light candles and incense. The church's domed entrance is in its west wing. This is a conical-shaped dome with a steel cover holding the bell. The main space of the church is a rectangle with an altar in its east wing. Lighting is provided by the main entrance and small windows in the eastern, northern, and western walls. A string of one-storey buildings have been constructed in the west wing of the courtyard which were occupied in the past, but are now derelict. Other rooms are also seen around the courtyard which were used by the poor.



cooking



Apple cake

Apple cake is sweet and can be a good side for a complete morning breakfast. It contains low amounts of sodium.

Ingredients:

- 1 Cup All-Purpose Flour
- 1 Egg
- 1 Medium Apple
- 5 1/2 Tbsp Unsalted Butter
- 1/4 Cup Sugar
- 1/3 Cup Brown Sugar
- 1/4 Tsp Vanilla Sugar
- 1 Tsp Baking Powder
- 1/2 Cup Milk
- 1 Tsp Ground Cinnamon
- Vegetable Oil



Directions:

- 1- In a large bowl, beat the egg until stiff.
- 2- Add the softened unsalted butter and continue blending until well combined.
- 3- Combine the flour, vanilla extract and baking powder, mix well.
- 4- Pour the flour mixture into the egg and butter bowl.
- 5- Gradually add the milk to the bowl and continue stirring until well mixed.
- 6- Brush/grease a 2 inch nonstick bakeware with vegetable oil.
- 7- Add half of the batter into the bakeware evenly.
- 8- Arrange the sliced apples across the batter.
- 9- Combine the brown sugar and cinnamon in a cup.
- 10- Sprinkle half of the brown sugar mixture on top the apples.
- 11- Add the rest of the batter on top of the brown sugar mixture to cover it completely.
- 12- Add the rest of the brown sugar mixture on top.
- 13- Preheat the oven to 375° F (190° C).
- 14- Bake the cake for 30 minutes or until golden.