

In Case You Missed

Castle Needs Attention

Qiz Qaleh (castle) located 23 km southwest of Saveh, is among the important ancient buildings the beauty and characteristics of which have not received sufficient publicity.

The edifice is situated on a huge rock and its unique architectural style is attractive for both domestic and foreign tourists, IRNA reported.

It comprises a palace, a prayer room and a fortress. The



palace was used for formal religious and political occasions. Existing documentations suggest that Qiz Qaleh dates back to the Sassanid era.

There are two rivers on the two sides of the castle. The eastern side river is permanent and the western side seasonal. Two villages are located near the castle.

The building covers an area of about 3,000 square meters. Entrance to the palace is on the eastern side of the castle. It is made of stone and mortar.

Qiz Qaleh was registered as a national heritage in 2003.

Mesopotamian-Like

Seal Found in Jiroft

Archeologists believe that oldest seal unearthed in Iran's historical city of Jiroft is very similar to Mesopotamian ones.

The seals are in various forms, some of them with impressions similar to the ones found in Mesopotamia and the Indus valley, reported Press TV.



Studies on the Jiroft seals show that the site was a commercial hub during the Bronze Age.

"The seals, found in Jiroft's Konar Sandal show that traders from all over the Iranian plateau went there for business," said Holly Pittman, a History of Art Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and a member of the Jiroft excavation team.

The Jiroft civilization is believed to have been as great as the ones in Sumer and Mesopotamia.

Located in Iran's southern Kerman Province, Jiroft is one of world's richest historical sites, which has yielded numerous items dating back to the third millennium BC.

Sassanid Canal

Under Renovation

Experts of Qasr-e Shirin Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department have launched operations for renovating Qasr-e Shirin's Sassanid canal.

The canal is among the masterpieces of hydrology worldwide, CHN reported.

It originates in the northeast of the city of Qasr-e Shirin and flows into an unknown region in Iraq. It is 130 km from Firouzabad irrigation system, which is used for irrigating the regional farmlands.

The irrigation system of the 1700-year-old canal is unique.

"Due to construction and agricultural activities in recent years a large portion of the canal has been destroyed," a cultural heritage expert, Saeed Farmani said.

Gilan: Land of Wetlands

The ever-green northern province of Gilan has been characterized as the land of wetlands and watersheds. The attractions of the wetlands and watersheds are appealing to any visitor, Mehr news agency reported.

Gilan's area is 14,711 square meters and its population is 4.2 million, accounting for 7.3 percent of the total population of the country.

Gilan has different kinds of wetlands and watersheds, including Anazli, Amir Kelayeh (Lahijan), Estil (Astara), Kiya Kelayeh (Langroud), Siyahdarvishan, Nargestan (Some'ehsara) and Khatibgouran.

In fact, many tourism experts believe that what pleases the most tourists who visit Gilan is its wetlands and watersheds.

Anzali International Wetland, which covers an area of 200 square km, shines in the region. It is to the southwest of the Caspian Sea, northwest of Rasht and south of the city of Anzali.

Among natural and beautiful characteristics of the wetland one can refer to is wetland tulip and also birds, including swan and pelican. Wetland tulip has medicinal value and is used widely in herbal medicine. Every year, tens of thousands of migrating birds seek temporary shelter in this unique wetland.

Amir Kelayeh International Wetland is another captivating attraction of the province. It covers an area of 1,230 hectares and is located in north of Lahijan. Migrating birds seek temporary refuge in this wetland



in winters. Among other features of this wetland is the white water lily. One unique characteristic of this wetland is that it is among very few sweet water wetlands of the world which is only one kilometer away from the sea.

The wetland houses 11 fish species, which in itself diversify this ecosystem. It is host to a diverse range of flora and fauna, each of which has an impact on the ecological value of the wetland.



Estil Wetland is one of the important natural attractions of Astara. It is located some seven kilometers from Astara adjacent to Londvil-Astara Road. The wetland is near a road, mountains, forests and farms. It has a favorable standing in the arena of ecotourism.

Furthermore, the wetland is important in terms of socioeconomic considerations. Among tourism attractions of the wetland is its proximity to an international hotel. The wetland is a temporary refuge for migrating birds.

Some 130 watersheds of the province, from a total of 11,000, are subject to protection plans. Every year over four million birds seek temporary shelter in the safe watersheds of the province during winters.

It is crucial that protection plans be devised for other watersheds of the province, which have favorable climatic conditions.

1.8m Visit Museums

Deputy head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) said sales of museum tickets nationwide in 2007-8 garnered 20.4 billion rials.

According to Fars news agency, Hossein Jafari added, "Last year, 1.8 million people visited the museums, 500,000 of which pertained to foreigners."

The rise in ticket sales compared to the previous year show that more attention has been paid to the cultural impact of museums on the society.

"In line with ICHHTO policy for museums, last year 240 museums were established or renovated nationwide," Jafari added.

