



A total of 16 relics, estimated to date from prehistorical times, have recently been donated to the tourism and cultural heritage directorate of Kerman province.

"16 ancient objects have been donated to Kerman province's General Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts," ILNA quoted a provincial police commander as saying. "Based on technical examination of the relic conducted by experts of the general directorate, the authenticity of all the [donated] objects were confirmed and their antiquity was estimated to be prehistoric," the official added. The police official, however, did not provide further detail on the objects and the donor(s). The big and sprawling province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers.

### Prehistorical Objects Donated to Cultural Heritage Directorate

## Museum of Archaeology to Come on Stream in Meshkinshahr

An archaeological museum will be inaugurated in the near future in the ancient city of Meshkinshahr, Ardebil province. Some 20 billion rials (\$476,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been invested in the project so far, the provincial tourism Nader Fallahi said. Covering an area of 1,650 square meters, the museum is still



under construction, the official added. Numerous ancient relics, which have so far been excavated in the city and its outskirts, will go on show at the museum, the official added. In December, the official announced that the provincial cultural heritage department plans to establish more museums in addition to those that are already operating across the province to meet the motto, "Ardebil the City of Museums", chosen for the current Iranian calendar year 1400. Meshkinshahr embraces several historical sites including QaleKhohneh ("Old Castle"), the ancient site of Shahr-e Yeri, and Qahqaheh castle. Being near the high Mount Sabalan, Meshkinshahr enjoys a moderate mountainous climate and the Sabalan summit can be seen in the south of the city with eye-catching scenery. The antiquity of the city dates back to the early centuries of Islam but in the Safavid era, it was thriving even more. The city is well known for its rugs and its mineral springs. Meshkinshahr suspension bridge with 345 meters long, 3 meters wide, and 80 meters high, which was inaugurated in 2015 and is said to be the largest of its kind in West Asia, is also one of the top tourist destinations of the city.

## Iran's Mazichal Village: Paradise of Nature Lovers

Mazichal is a scenic village with pleasant weather and verdant landscape 20 kilometers southeast of Kelardasht in Mazandaran province, north of Iran. The small village lacks modern facilities such as electricity, tapwater, asphalt roads or telephone, but offers a tranquil experience to visitors seeking an escape from the pollution and hubbub of city life, Historical Iran reported. Estimates about the total number of families in Mazichal range from 50 to 120. Families residing in Mazichal, most of them farmers or cattle breeders, live in the village during summer and migrate in winter. Mazichal gets its name due to the large number of chestnuts trees it contains. In local dialect, mazi means chestnuts and chal means valley. Thus, the name Mazichal refers to the nature of the area, a valley peppered with chestnuts trees. Mazichal is situated 2,600 meters above sea-level. Vehicles cannot maneuver easily on its roads, hence most visitors prefer to abandon their cars and walk to the village.



photo: Erfan Kouchari

It takes an hour to reach Mazichal from Kelardasht through a beautiful forest, which includes trees such as chestnuts and oak. As tourists approach the end of the forest's path, the highlands of Mazichal appear. There is a barrier between the forest and Mazichal, possibly to prevent wild animals from entering the village. In summer, the neighboring Abbasabad Village utilizes Mazichal for feeding its farm animals. At such times, the sight of herds of sheep traveling the various dirt roads toward Mazichal is not uncommon. The village attracts many eco-tourists throughout the year. In the course of a day, the weather can change drastically from sunny to a downpour. The unique characteristic of this village is that when it rains, Mazichal seems to be floating above the clouds. The topography of the region and the presence of hills and mountains is such that when it rains, clouds will overtake the sky and ground as well, covering the village and its surrounding area.

## Virtual Meeting held on Ancient Ceremony Norouz-e Sayyad

According to the people of southern Iran, Oman, India, and even Zanzibar in Africa, from July 31st to August 2nd every year, the sea becomes calm. Residents of southern Iran hold ceremonies called Norouz-e Sayyad to celebrate this. Norouz-e Sayyad (New Day of Fishermen) is one of the oldest traditions in southern Iran, especially Qeshm Island, dating back to more than six hundred years ago. Commemorating the tradition on the site of Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, Secretary of Iran Norouz Club Shaban Mirshokraei said that in this ritual, like the ritual of Norouz (Iranian New Year), the mainstream is renewal and it is related to sea-based occupations such as fishing and sea trading, IRNA reported. Attended by the head of Qeshm Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, Abdolreza Dashtizadeh, and other experts, the virtual meeting was held to talk about the celebration. Norouz-e Sayyad or Norouz-e Darya (sea) is one of the most ancient

ceremonies among Persian Gulf anglers, in which the older anglers hold special ceremonies and avoid fishing and eating fish out of respect for the ecosystem. Mirshokraei said that the ceremonies are currently being held on the islands of the Persian Gulf, including Kish, Qeshm, as well as other villages in the region of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. From the west coast of the Persian Gulf to the coast of India and even on the east coast of Africa, in Zanzibar, this ritual is held these days, he added. The expert of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department added that the country seeks to prepare a global record for this ritual. Mentioning that the elders call this ritual Norouz-e Darya, Dashtizadeh said, "According to the elders, the nature and form of the ceremony held today is different from the past." Today, efforts have been made to add local attractions to the event to attract tourists, he said. Persian Gulf settlers believe that all the fish are free to reproduce during

Norouz-e Sayyad, so the fishermen refrain from any fishing and eating aquatics in this period. Besides, the local people celebrate this day by swimming in seawater. During the ceremony, the villagers wear new clothes and paint their animals with red mud called gelak and take them to the sea. On this day, the Indigenous women receive guests with cooked pastries ranginak, made from dates. In the southern parts of Iran, the sea and fishing play a very significant role in the daily lives of people. Living on islands such as Qeshm, which are located in the Persian Gulf, means the lives of the locals are hugely dependent on the sea. Here, the sea means life, as it brings vitality to the people who rely on it for their food. Fishing is a major part of people's lives while different seasons and periods are defined according to their cycles, surfiran.com wrote. Unlike other parts of Iran which celebrate the customary Norouz in late March, local people in the south celebrate their New Year.



## Chalous: The Most Beautiful Road in Iran



Road 59, also known as the Chalous Road or Kandovan Road is an important road for people of Tehran, a large number of whom drive to popular tourist attractions in the north of Iran on weekends and for holidays.

This road is one of the busiest roads in Iran. The road becomes dangerous because of the narrowness and the mountainous terrain. The road is difficult and it's a nightmare in the wet or dark (or both). The surface of the road is asphalt, and chains or snow tyres can be required anytime. Approaching from Karaj to the south, the road initially leads through jagged cliffs, then on the north side of the range through endless old-growth beech forests that wolves, lynxes and bears all call home. Then, at last, the Caspian Sea appears on the horizon. This road, which displays a variety of sceneries from green to snow clad surroundings to Rocky Mountains in the north, is usually open all year, but during winter months, it can be closed when the access is not cleared of snow. In winter, avalanches and heavy snowfalls can sometimes block some sec-

tions of the road and can be extremely dangerous due to frequent patches of ice. The road is in dreadful condition and requires strong nerves to negotiate it. Any barriers along the edge afford little more than token protection; large stretches should be taken at a snail's pace and a lookout kept for vehicles coming from the opposite direction! The road's winding design, providing stunning panoramic views, is very curvy and fun for a leisurely ride, so it pays to take it slow. Exercise extreme caution when passing on-coming traffic, over-taking and around corners. It's about 200 Km long that in its northern part is totally Green (120 Km). There are many beautiful views when you drive on Chalous road; beautiful rock formation, rivers, dam lake, untouched woods, fountains, wild mountain animals and many other eyes pleasing views are available when you drive on this road. Because of many U turns Chalous is not an easy road for novice drivers. Beside of its beauty it can be a very dangerous road for those may like driving fast.

cooking



### Icebox Cake

Icebox cake is very easy to make. it only takes 10 to 15 minutes if you think a day ahead to have enough time to keep in refrigerator.

#### Ingredients:

- 8 oz (236 ml) Mascarpone Cheese
- 9 oz (236 ml) Whipping Cream
- 1/4 Cup Sugar
- 3 Tbsp Milk
- 1/4 Tsp Vanilla Extract
- Graham Crackers
- Espresso powder



#### Directions:

- 1- Whisk mascarpone cheese, sugar, vanilla extract and milk together until well mixed.
- 2- Whisk the whipping cream until it becomes creamy in a separate container.
- 3- Fold in the whipping cream to the mascarpone cheese mixer.
- 4- Lay graham crackers onto a edged container.
- 5- Cover the crackers with one inch of the filling.
- 6- Make more layers of crackers and filling.
- 7- Cover the bakeware and keep in refrigerator overnight or 8 hours at least.