

A Sassanid-era (224–651) rock-carved inscription has recently been discovered near the ancient city of Istakhr, in Marvdasht plain, which is home to the UNESCO-registered sites of Persepolis and Pasargadae as well as tens of other magnificent structures, in southern Fars province.

The inscription bears Middle Persian (or Pahlavi) script in six lines, said Hamid Fadai who presides over Persepolis World Heritage site.

Because of erosion of the inscription, specialized archaeologists and historians have read and translated it carefully, the official added.

The name of Zarathustra is engraved on this inscription that measures 40 by 35 centimeters, he noted.

**Centuries-old  
Inscription  
Discovered near  
Istakhr Ancient City**

cooking 

### Chocolate Dipped Cookie

Chocolate dipped cookie is very tempting and few of them with a cup of coffee or tea wouldn't hurt but since it is high in saturated fat. It has 19.7g saturated fat.

#### Ingredients:

- 4 oz (113g) Unsalted Butter
- 1 Cup All Purpose Flour
- 1/4 Cup Sugar
- 1/4 Tsp Vanilla Extract
- 1/8 Tsp Salt
- Ground Pistachio
- Dark Chocolate

#### Directions:

- 1- Combine butter and flour, stir until well mixed.
- 2- Stir in vanilla extract.
- 3- Mix flour and salt in a container and gradually stir in the butter mixture.
- 4- Cover a cookie pan with parchment paper.



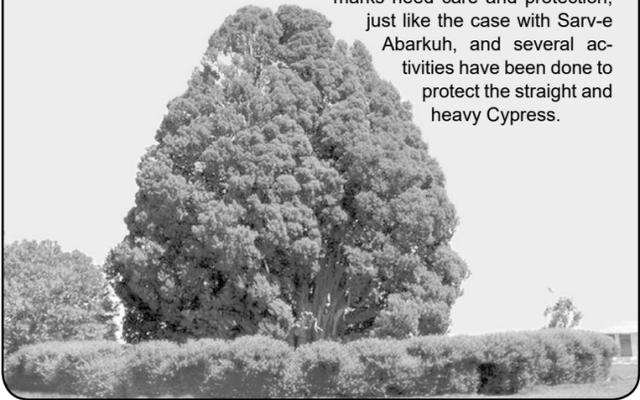
- 5- Place a tbsp of the batter in any shape you'd prefer (or use a cookie decoration kit).
- 6- Sprinkle the batter with ground pistachio.
- 7- Preheat oven to 350° F (177° C), bake the cookies for 15 minutes.
- 8- Melt dark chocolate (microwave or oven / stove).
- 9- Remove the cookies from oven and dip in the melted chocolate.

## What it's Like to Meet 5000-year-old Tree

At the age of almost five millennia, Sarv-e Abarkuh is a solid, tall tree still covering itself with glory, reaching 25 meters in height, 11.5 meters in width of its trunk, and 18 meters in circumference. Although it doesn't have the height or size of record-setting redwoods and sequoias standing near California, this Persian cypress has long been a tourist destination in central Iran for those who love to visit one of the oldest living creatures on Earth. It is a real blessing that this being has lived all this time to become a source of enjoyment for modern humans. The colossal cypress has unique features by which it is distinguished. The tree has worldwide popularity, a magnificent tree that surprises all the visitors with its glory. In addition to local travelers, the cypress has been visited by many scientists and researchers from across the globe as well.

Local legends state that this tree has a puzzling and mysterious soul that is living for thousands of years. In olden Iranian accounts, the origin of this cypress is credited to Japheth, the child of Noah, while others believe Zoroaster, the Iranian prophet, had planted Sarv-e Abarkuh. From the scientific point of view, the majority of the experts believe that Sarv-e Abarkuh is between 4,000 and 5,000 years old though some others have estimated its existence to reach 8,000 years.

Local legends state that this tree has a puzzling and mysterious soul that is living for thousands of years. When it comes to conservation and protection, it is obvious that naturally, all ancient and historical landmarks need care and protection, just like the case with Sarv-e Abarkuh, and several activities have been done to protect the straight and heavy Cypress.



## Tourism Projects Worth \$4.1m Inaugurated in Ardabil

A total of 10 tourism-related projects, worth 1.2 trillion rials (\$4.1 million) have been implemented across the northwestern Ardabil province during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2021), the provincial tourism chief has announced.

These projects have contributed to the creation of over 100 jobs, Nader Fallahi said, CHTN reported on Sunday. For the prosperity of the tourism industry in the province, supporting investors has been of primary importance, the official added. Last January, the official announced that more than 150 tourism-related projects are underway across the northwestern province. The mentioned projects will prepare the province's tourism sector for the post-coronavirus era when the number of tourists and travelers is expected to rise magnificently, the official added.

In July, a local tourism official announced that some 835 jobs are expected to be created in Ardabil by several investments in tourism-related projects, which are estimated to get off the ground by the end of the current Iranian year 1400 (ends in March 2022).

In April, tourism authorities of the province announced that they have developed extensive plans to draw more tourists during the winter season to the province and make it the winter tourism hub of the country. Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble. The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

## Historical Castles, Mansions in Isfahan Made National Heritage

A total of 10 aging structures and historical properties, which are scattered across Isfahan province, have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Saturday in separate let-

the list.

From very early history to modern times, defensive walls have often been necessary for cities to survive in an ever-changing world of invasion and conquest.

Fortifications in antiquity were designed primarily to defeat attempts at the escalade,

protect against invaders from neighboring territories. Many of the fortifications of the ancient world were built with mud brick, often leaving them no more than mounds of dirt for today's archaeologists.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The city has long been nicknamed as Nesfe-Jahan which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility. The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.



ters to the governor-general of the central province, CHTN reported. A selection of six historical mansions as well as Sardarb and Iraaj fortifications are among the properties added to the prestigious list. Kuhpayeh Caravanserai and the historical texture of the ancient village of Iraaj were also added to

and to the defense of territories in warfare, and were also used to solidify rule in a region during peacetime.

Uruk in ancient Sumer (Mesopotamia) is one of the world's oldest known walled cities. The Ancient Egyptians also built fortresses on the frontiers of the Nile Valley to

## Kolbadi Historic Building in Iran's Northern City of Sari

House of Manouchehr Khan Kolbadi is related to the late Qajar era and is located in Sari, the capital of Iran's northern province of Mazandaran. This monument was registered in the list of Iran's national monuments n 9th of Aban 1377 (1998) with registration number 2148. The house was built to the order of Sardar Jalil, one of the army commanders of the time. Later on, the house was yielded to his grandchild, Manouchehr Khan Kolbadi.

The architecture style of the building is taken from shrines in Qajar era and it consists of two interior and exterior sections. The main part of the house is established in two floors in the interior section and a basement and each floor has a dais and two-way rooms.



## Iran Tilework, The Most Beautiful Tilework in The World



History of tile (glazed brick), manufacture and decoration in Iran, goes back to the prehistoric period. It has an important position among the various decorative arts in Iranian architecture.

Four main decorative features could be categorized here. They are stone carvings, brick work, stucco and tile panels. The intricate method of manufacture, designs and type of materials used in these four methods have evolved as a result of natural factors, economic and political effects.

The art of tile working blossomed in the Islamic period of Iran. It became the most important decorative feature of religious buildings.

Evidence of brick work, stucco carving and tile panels from the last 14 centuries have provided much evidence of creative and imaginative nature of Persian Artisans. They placed their art in the service of religious architecture. This religious inspiration found its highest expression in ornate inscriptions, which decorated so many works during these centuries.

In 8-10th centuries AD., most of these inscriptions included sayings, proverbs, wishes, maxims, names of religious personalities and invocations of Allah's help, in decorative, simple or broken Kufic script and are found in poetry, such as ceramic wares of Neishabour.

In 13-14th centuries AD., ceramic wares, and tiles were decorated with many different forms of inscriptions. The most popular were molded decorations and inscriptions with messages of happiness, good health, prayers, wish for victory, proverbs, and simple messages of good will, poems and the name of Allah. Workshops at Kashan, Rey and Gorgan produced these types of wares.