

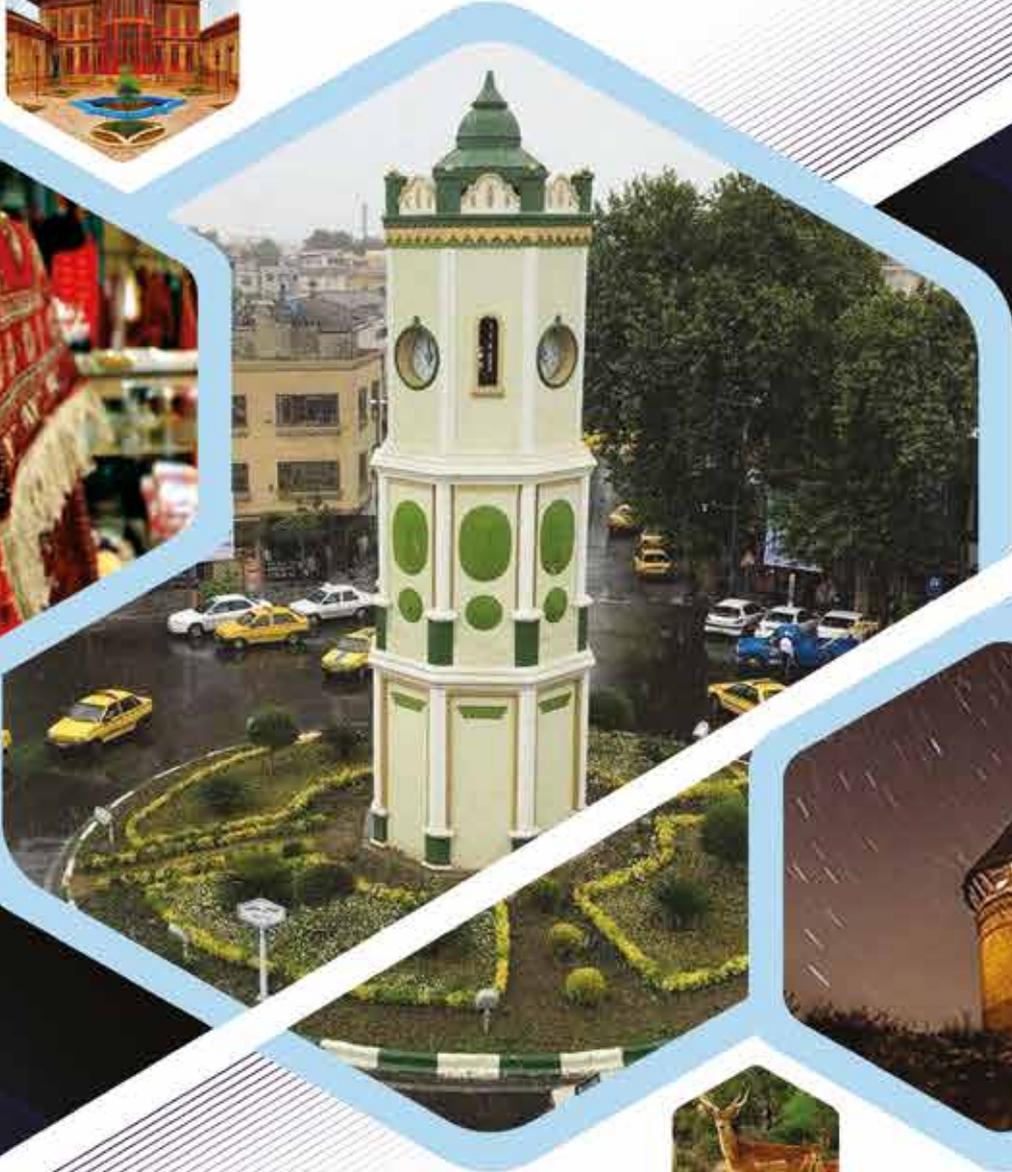
THE QUARTERLY CULTURAL MAGAZINE OF ECO CULTURAL INSTITUTE (ECI)

# ECO HERITAGE

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SARI 2022

ECO tourism capital



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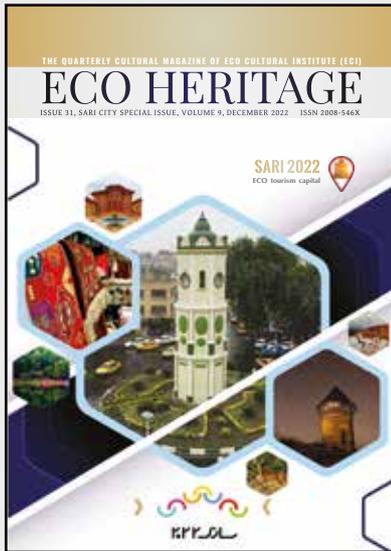




**Sari:**  
**ECO Tourism Capital**  
**in 2022**

ISSUE 31, SARI CITY SPECIAL ISSUE,  
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## Message from H.E. Mr. Ezzatollah Zarghami Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of The Islamic Republic of Iran

With all its evident and hidden manifestations, culture shapes the identities of different nations around the world. Cultural connection to ancient history is considered the soft power and effective diplomacy in this chaotic world.

Iran is a splendid and vast country enjoying a good variety of cultures, ethnic groups and languages. This variety has strengthened the country against different happenings through time and created a unique peaceful co-existence in this vast territory.

This great civilization has been in peace with its neighboring cultures through negotiations. It could keep its unity and integration, although the country also suffered some damages that seem to be quite natural throughout history.

Cultural interactions of Iran with the neighboring countries has built up commonalities, like Nowruz, and other national ceremonies, festival and sometimes rituals. This common culture paved the way for the countries to deal with their joint destiny and fate.

The tangible and intangible elements of these interactions manifest in different fields

of literature, art, handicrafts, festivals, rituals, and so on. This has made a great capacity for regional and international cooperation among ECO member states, particularly in the field of tourism. This capacity not only provides the member states with economic, cultural and political advantages, but it can also be a diplomatic means symbolizing the brilliant civilization of the region in itself which can draw the attention of many visitors with different tastes.

Realizing these potentials requires an event-oriented mechanism. Therefore, the proposal of selecting "ECO Tourism Capitals" was suggested by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism (held in Khujand, Tajikistan, on October 4, 2019) and it was approved by the members of the meeting. Accordingly, Dushanbe in Tajikistan was selected as ECO Tourism Capital for 2020-2021 and Sari and Ardabil in Iran for the years 2022 and 2023, respectively.

The inauguration ceremony of the Sari 2022 event was attended by the Secretary General of



the Economic Cooperation Organization, ambassadors and representatives from ECO member countries in May, 2022.

Sari is a historic city dating back to 2,200 years ago. It is a part of the mythological history of Iran. This city enjoys great natural capacities, like the Caspian Sea, Alborz Mountain Range, Hyrcanian forests, Badab-e Surt springs, historic monuments and great infrastructures, such as Sari International Airport, railroad, and road networks, and it can be a great tourism destination.

There is no doubt that the tourism potential and civilization of the ECO countries can be of great attention to international tourists around the world. In this regard, joint festivals and events can also be included in the plans of the ECO Tourism Capitals. It can be a great step toward making integration and sympathy as well as converting member states into tourism destinations.

We hope we can construct a new civilization through the cooperation of all ECO member states.



## **Message from H.E. Mr. Murodjon Buriboev President of The ECO Cultural Institute**

As approved by the 3rd ECO Ministerial Meeting on Tourism which was held on October 4, 2019, in Khujand, Tajikistan, a city of the ECO member states is declared as the tourism capital of ECO for a specified year. During the said meeting, Sari, was selected as the tourism capital of ECO for the year 2022.

Sari is a city in northern Iran, a country that is one of the world's oldest civilizations with a wide variety of top tourist destinations. Iran has been one of the founding member states and the host country of the ECO Cultural Institute for almost three decades. The Institute has organized a wide spectrum of activities to promote culture, arts, literature and tourism of this country with a unique cultural heritage. And now we are proud that we can promote Sari, in a special issue of our cultural quarterly journal. This is the fifth in a series of publications planned to promote major cities

and tourist destinations in the countries of the ECO region. Before this, we have published special issues on tourist attractions of Tabriz and Isfahan (Iran), Dushane (Tajikistan) and Khiva (Uzbekistan).

The capital of Mazandaran, Sari is considered one of the largest and most populated cities in the province. Sari is a city between forest and sea with a lot of attractions. The city is located between the slopes of the Alborz Mountains and the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. Geographically, from the east the city leads to Miandorud county, from the north it leads to the Caspian Sea, from the west to Qaemshahr city, and from the south to the Alborz mountains. Sari has moderate, humid summers and relatively cold and dry winters.

The city has been mentioned in Ferdowsi's magnum opus, the Shahnameh (Book of Kings), which recounts Iran's mythical and historical past. Excavations at Hutto and Kamarband Caves have provided evidence of the

existence of settlements around Sari as far back as the 7th millennium BC.

The laying of the first Iranian railroad network began from this city.

Sari has also been noted throughout history for its nature and many orange groves. The unique Badab-e Surt Natural Spring, which is the second registered natural attraction of Iran, is located in the Chahardangeh district of Sari.

The city's Clock Tower and Square is one of the notable landmarks of the city.

By publishing this special journal focusing on attractions in Sari, we hope to contribute to promotion of the rich historical and cultural heritage as well as tourism of the city.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. Seyed Ezatollah Zarghami, the Honorable Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran, for gracing this special issue with his insightful message.

# Introduction of the city of Sari

**Sari, the capital of Mazandaran, is the biggest and most populated city in the province. The city is located in northern Iran, between the slopes of the Alborz Mountains and the southern coast of the Caspian Sea.**

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The city has been mentioned in Ferdowsi's magnum opus, the Shahnameh (Book of Kings), which recounts Iran's mythical and historical past. Excavations at Hutto and Kamarband Caves have provided evidence of the existence of settlements around Sari as far back as the 7th millennium BC.

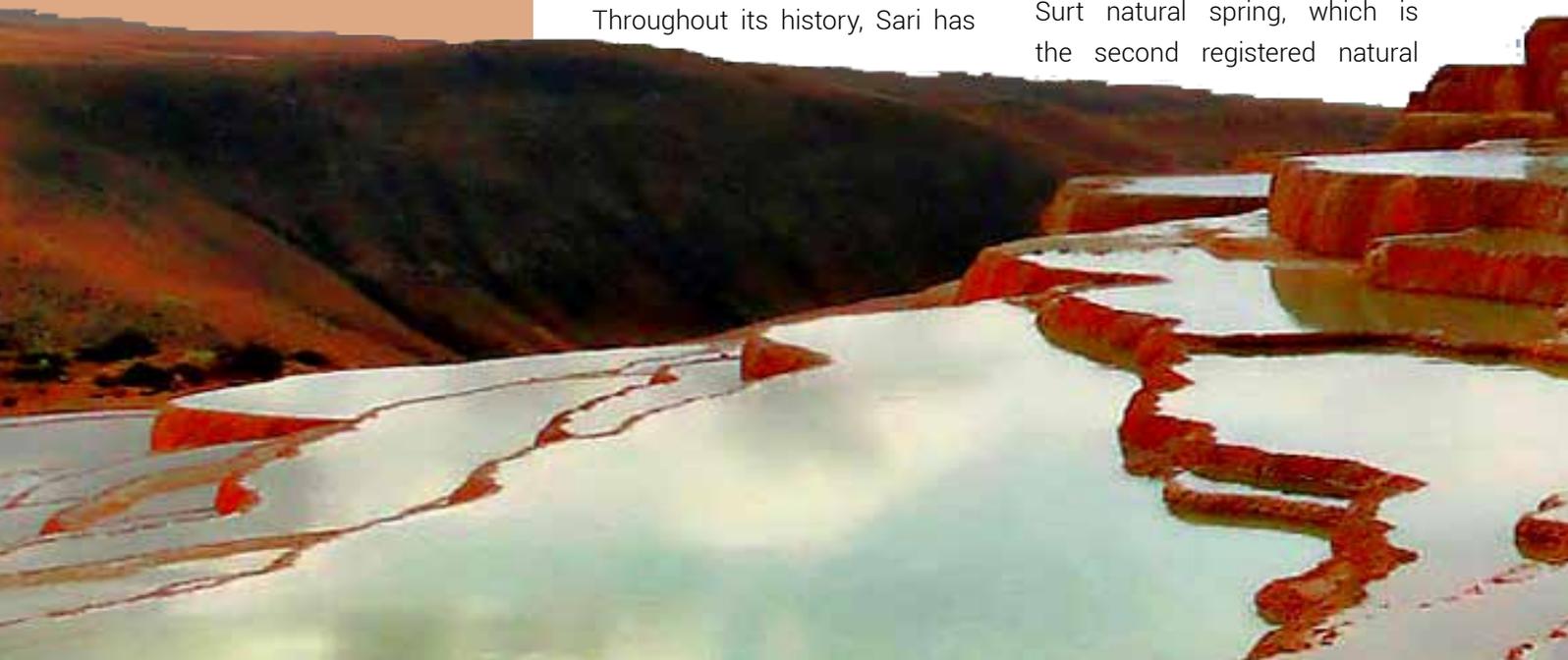
Throughout its history, Sari has

served as the capital of several local dynasties including the Bavandids (651-1349). Resket Tower is one of the tomb structures from this era. Lajeem is another similar tower believed to be a post-Bavandid structure.

In the Safavid era, the founder of the dynasty, Shah Abbas I (1571-1629), created his alternate capital in Farahabad just outside Sari. Shah Abbas is said to have chosen this location as his mother originated from Behshahr a town in Mazandaran Province.

When the Qajar came to power they made Sari the capital of Mazandaran once again and the city became the center of their rule for a short period. The founder of the Qajar Dynasty Agha Mohammad Khan (1742-1797) originally held a coronation ceremony in Sari before moving his capital to Tehran.

The laying of the first Iranian railroad network began in this city. Sari has also been noted throughout history for its nature and many orange groves. The unique Badab-e Surt natural spring, which is the second registered natural



attraction of Iran, is located in the Chahardangeh district of Sari. The city's Sa'at Square is one of the notable landmarks of the city. Local residents are known as Saravis or Sariyan. The population is a mixture of native Mazandarani, Persian-speaking people, Azerbaijanis, Caucasians, Kurds, and Turkmens. Whereas neighborhoods were identified during the Qajar dynasty by the ethnicity of their inhabitants, this is no longer so. Sari, as well as other regions in northern Iran, is well known for its hospitality. Sari used to be the home of Georgians, Armenians, and Zoroastrians, but today they are only from small minorities. Local languages are spoken in some neighborhoods, but almost everyone understands and uses mainstream Persian as a lingua franca.

The genuinely hospitable people of Sari not only served in Iran-Iraq War but also hosted the people who were displaced and fled from the war-torn areas.

Sari and Mazandaran Province, in general, were safe places due to the security, good weather and distance from war zones. During the 8 years of Iran's Sacred Defense, more than 50,000 people from southern war-torn cities migrated to Mazandaran and settled in this province, and many of them are still living in this province. Interestingly, this province even hosted some Iraqi families fleeing from the war.

In fact, Sari has not only been a tourist attraction but has also been chosen as a target city for migration. The unique nature and wildlife and favorable weather conditions have made the city very popular. Sari has distinct and manifold beauties and attractions and being a four-season city gives tourists the chance to enjoy the unique nature at any time of the year.

Besides, the local foods of Sari and its special souvenirs are very attractive to travelers and tourists. Sari's handicrafts are

also the manifestation of the art of the people who lived in the Caspian Sea region for many years and created the arts that are of interest to everyone today. Textiles, wood carving, sock weaving, lacquer making, mat weaving, carpet weaving, jajim weaving, pottery, and carpet weaving are among the major arts of the people of Sari.

Last but not least, Sari is of special importance due to its location on the route connecting the east to the center of Iran. This city is adjacent to the Caspian Sea from the north and the forest and river from the south. Like other northern cities, Sari is a citrus producer and one of the hubs of rice and livestock products in the country. Also, Mazandaran Wood and Paper Company, one of the largest paper-producing companies in the Middle East, is located in Sari.



# Sari: ECO Tourism Capital in 2022

**The annual selection of a city as the ECO Tourism Capital is a comprehensive plan for the development of the tourism markets of the ECO region countries that have had common cultural backgrounds and rich trade experiences in the Silk Road economic market.**

The main goal of the ECO tourism capital plan is to encourage member countries to plan for the development of tourist cities with the aim of poverty reduction and sustainable economic development. Focusing on nature, religion, health, and cultural

tourism, ECO member countries can raise urban living standards, and increase public awareness about the tourist attractions, resources, and facilities available in order to develop incoming tourism and create positive competition. Therefore, in the third meeting of tourism ministers of ECO member states, it was decided that one city would be chosen as the tourism capital of the ECO region each year starting in 2020. In this meeting, Dushanbe (the capital of Tajikistan) was chosen as the ECO tourism capital in 2020. And due to the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, this was extended in 2021. Later on, Sari was announced as the ECO

tourism capital by Khusrav Noziri, ECO Secretary General, and the city hosted the international Sari 2022 event.

The Sari Tourism Capital event was held at Badeleh Hotel in Sari from May 9-11, 2022, with the presence of 252 guests, including 27 ambassadors and their companions, 15 ECO staff members, 210 provincial officials, together with representatives from the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Deputy Minister in Tourism Affairs and the Head of International Affairs of the Ministry, as well as the Director General of the National Museum





of Iran. The General Governor of Mazandaran, all the Deputy Governors, provincial officials as well as the Governor and Mayor of Sari also took part in the event. Moreover, the presence of the Director General of the Multilateral and International Economic Cooperation Department of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its staff members all revived hope for a new season of the tourism economy in the ECO region countries.

Delivering a speech at the Sari 2022 event, Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, stressed that the ECO, in cooperation with member governments, seeks to strengthen tourism to help improve the welfare of the people of the ECO member countries. He called attention to the fact that the ECO pays special attention to tourism in order to support the overall development process of the region. Also, Bakhodir Abdullaev, the Uzbek Ambassador to Tehran, pointed out that his country, as one of the ECO member states, pays special

attention to the development of tourism and recommends that pilgrimage and recreational tourism between member countries should be given more attention by increasing the number of flights.

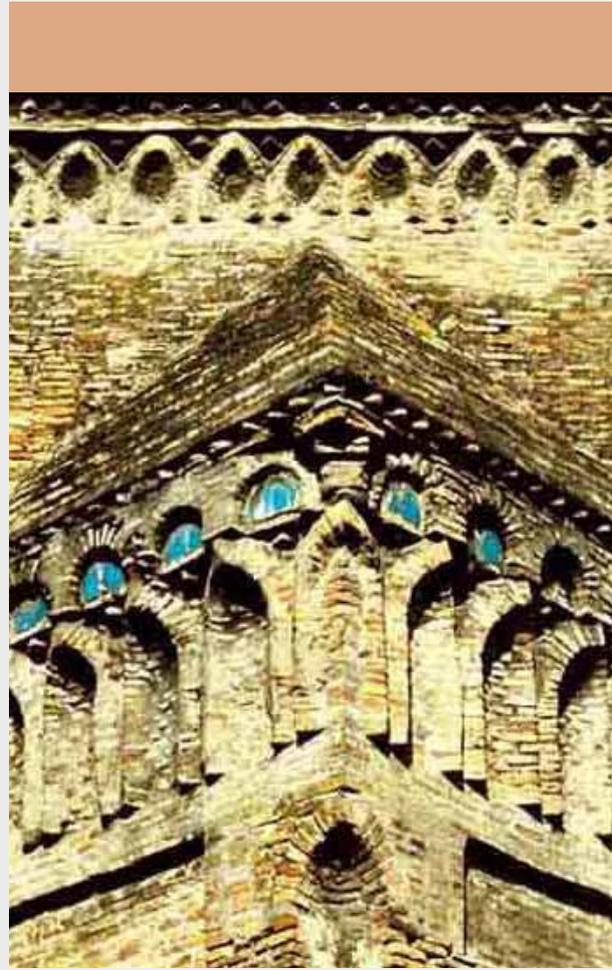
Furthermore, Ezzatollah Zarghami, the Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, in his speech at the event highlighted the importance of the tourism industry in the development of global peace, stability, and security. Ayatollah Mohammad Bagher Mohammadi Laini, Representative of the Supreme Leader in Mazandaran, also referred to the Mazandarani people's love for culture and noted that the cultural, moral, and spiritual atmosphere of Mazandaran province is favorable for attracting tourists.

Seyed Mahmoud Hosseinipour, the General Governor of Mazandaran, during Sari 2022 event emphasized tourism as one of Mazandaran's economic stimuli. He welcomed the initiative by the ECO member countries in the development of tourism in the region and noted

that Mazandaran will definitely make the most of this capacity.

Later on, Abdollah Mohajer Darabi, the Head of the Mazandaran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, called on the private and public sectors to enhance international tourism for Mazandaran. And finally, Keyvan Moradian, the Chairman of the Assembly of Representatives of Mazandaran Province, emphasized the need to witness practical action by ECO member states so that the cities that are introduced as the capitals of tourism are properly introduced.

The Sari 2022 event, which started with the slogan of social vitality, identification, and economic dynamism, based on the Khujand statements endorsed on October 4, 2019, paved the way to represent a proper image of Sari and increase international relations in various sectors with the ECO member states.



# Tomb Tower of Sultan Zain ul-Abidin

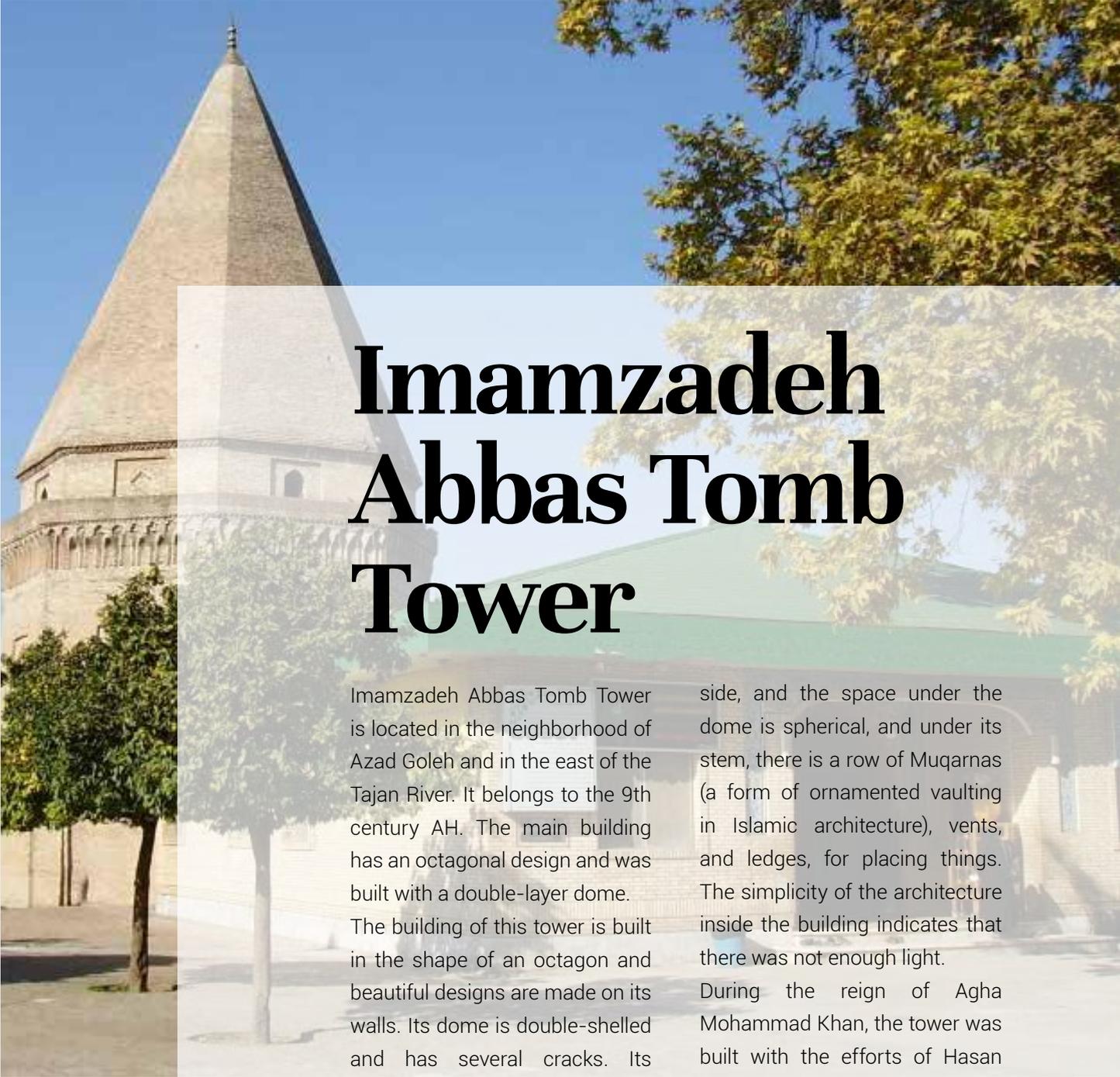
**The tomb of the son of Mir Bozorg Marashi Amoli is located in the vicinity of Imamzadeh Yahya on Imamzadeh Yahya Street in Sari.**

Zain ul-Abidin ibn Kamal al-Din Marashi Amoli was one of the Marashi kings of Tabaristan who came to power after killing Abdullah and after a few battles with Abdul Karim ibn Abdullah, he was finally killed by eating his mother's poisoned food in 897 AH.

Sultan Zain ul-Abidin tomb tower is considered among the best historical and religious buildings in Sari due to its architectural style, octagonal pyramidal dome, tiling decorations, exquisite chest, and wooden door. Above its entrance door, an inscription is

engraved on the tile in the Reqa script, writing: "Built by Seyed Ali ibn Seyed Kamaluddin Banna Amoli". On the wooden chest of the tomb, an inscription in the Thuluth script is carved with the utmost elegance and beauty. According to the text, the engraver is from the shrine of Sultan Amir Shamsuddin. This carved chest is truly a masterpiece. The four sides of the body of the inscription have been preserved and contain two engraved dates.

Tomb Tower



# Imamzadeh Abbas Tomb Tower

Imamzadeh Abbas Tomb Tower is located in the neighborhood of Azad Goleh and in the east of the Tajan River. It belongs to the 9th century AH. The main building has an octagonal design and was built with a double-layer dome.

The building of this tower is built in the shape of an octagon and beautiful designs are made on its walls. Its dome is double-shelled and has several cracks. Its protrusion is to protect the body of the tower from rain. There are 4 trestles-shaped ventilators for air conditioning in the space between the dome and the tower body. The tower has two entrance doors and two windows. Its outer area is 5 meters and its inner space is 3.5 meters, which means the thickness of the wall of the tower is 1.5 meters.

There is an altar on the south

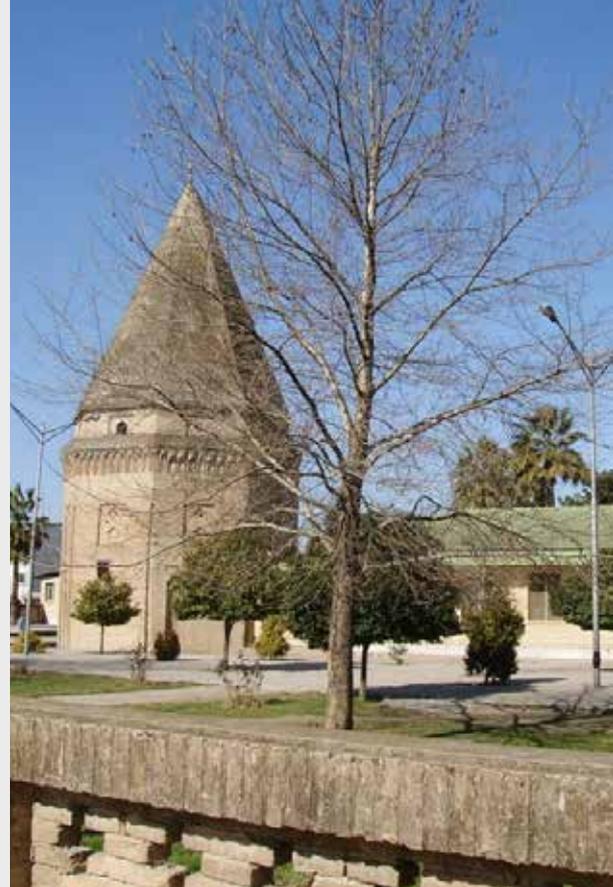
side, and the space under the dome is spherical, and under its stem, there is a row of Muqarnas (a form of ornamented vaulting in Islamic architecture), vents, and ledges, for placing things. The simplicity of the architecture inside the building indicates that there was not enough light.

During the reign of Agha Mohammad Khan, the tower was built with the efforts of Hasan Agha. Its wooden chest is one of the most beautiful wooden works in Mazandaran, and it is a special work considering its decoration variety, execution capacity, and historical data which was made by Shamsuddin Ahmad Najar Saravi.

The tower has two sections; the base and the body. The base holds the structure and controls ventilation for the chest. There



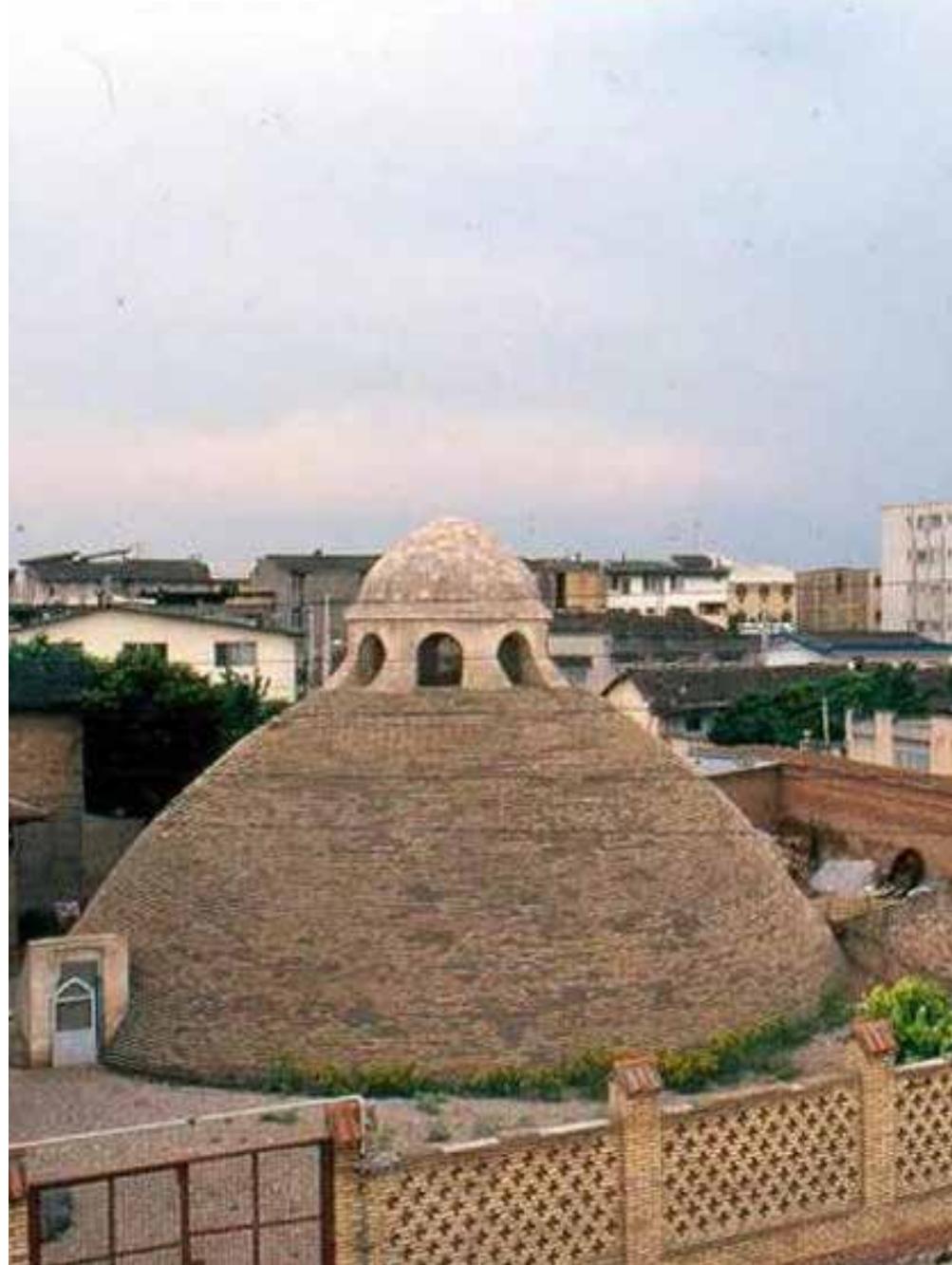
are Koranic, historical inscriptions, all kinds of Shamsa, arabesque, and floral designs, three wood carved inscriptions, and one wooden strip inscription on the round edge of the chest. Three personalities have been laid to rest there, named Imamzadeh Abbas, Mohammad, and Hassan. The external and internal parts of the structure reveal chalk- and brick-work, besides the inscriptions. The structure is 23 meters in height.



Imamzadeh Abbas Tomb Tower is located in the neighborhood of Azad Goleh and in the east of the Tajan River. It belongs to the 9th century AH. The main building has an octagonal design and was built with a double-layer dome. Its wooden chest is one of the most beautiful wooden works in Mazandaran, and it is a special work considering its decoration variety, execution capacity, and historical data which was made by Shamsuddin Ahmad Najar Saravi.



Ab Anbar No, also known as No Anbar in the local language, is one of the old reservoirs of the city of Sari in Mazandaran province, which is located in a neighborhood of the same name. Ab Anbar No is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Sari city and was the central core of the city in the past, and important historical and cultural monuments have been preserved in this neighborhood.



# “Ab Anbar No”

**Ab Anbar No (new) is a water reservoir that goes back to the Qajar era. With a height of 21 meters, it is one of the biggest reservoirs in the city.**

The dome roof and the eight windows that are built for ventilation make everyone want to visit the place.

It is said that the building was financed by a lady, Khorshid Khanum, from a well-renowned family. Ab Anbar No, which is called No Anbar in the local language, is located on Qaran Street, in a neighborhood with the same name, and is considered

one of the historical attractions of the city of Sari.

The building's entrance has tiled decorations with architectural features of the Qajar era. All its sections, including the entrance, staircase, and water storage (built with a dome cover) are still standing, however, the entrance is blocked with bricks and cement. Its entrance is located in the alley, above its door, signs of tiling decoration can be seen, and other parts of the reservoir are located in a private house. The inside of the tank is lined with Sarooj material. And on the two sides of the reservoir entrance, there are two facades decorated with mosaic tiles.



# Oben Waterfalls

**Oben waterfalls, which have different shapes and heights, are located in a region, which is a unique habitat for special mammals of Hyrcanian forests, such as red deer, roe deer, boar, wildcat, wolf, and fox, and even in the rocky areas of this region, there are sometimes species such as wild goats, goats, leopards, and bears. This mountainous region is covered by Hyrcanian forests, which have one of the most unique natural ecosystems in the country having more than 447 plant species.**



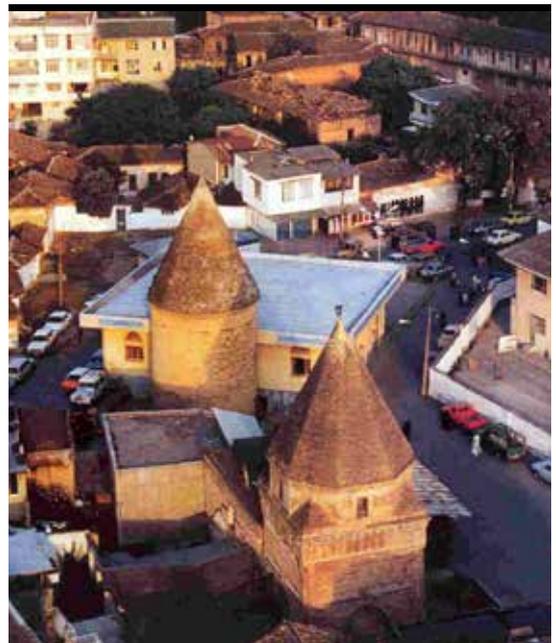
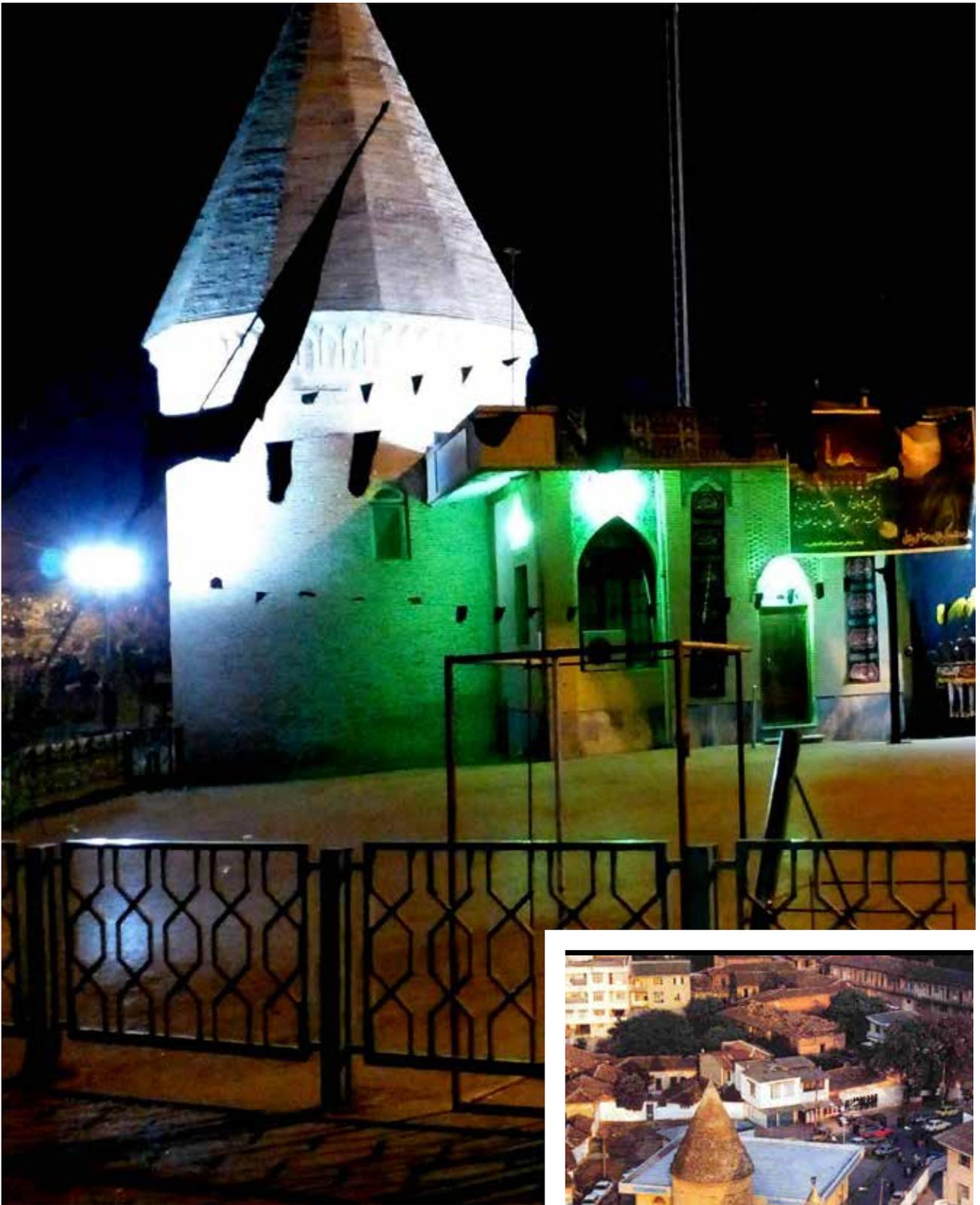
Oben waterfalls, or in the local term (Bula), which are located between the villages of Sangdeh and Miana, Banaft Rural District, Dodangeh district, in the city of Sari, include 5 beautiful mossy waterfalls due to the presence of numerous freshwater springs in the distance of almost 300 meters from the heart of the mountains covered with thick plants. These amazing waterfalls, which have different shapes and heights, are located in a region, which is a unique habitat for special mammals of Hyrcanian forests, such as red deer, roe deer, boar, wildcat, wolf, and fox, and even in the rocky areas of this region, there are sometimes species such as wild goats, goats, leopards, and bears. This mountainous region is

covered by Hyrcanian forests, which have one of the most unique natural ecosystems in the country having more than 447 plant species. Among the important plant species, we can mention the common hornbeam, beech, alder, Persian ironwood, and Gleditsia.

In order to reach this waterfall, you need to go to the city of Pol-e Sefid and Sangdeh village, exit the road to the east on Firuzkuh road towards Pol-e Sefid and follow until you reach Sangdeh. The way to the village is on a forest road that passes through the woods, which is very beautiful. There is also a forest track from the village to the waterfall which will be very enjoyable to walk. This is a nearly 35-kilometer route, which takes about two hours to pass.

# Waterfalls







# Imamzadeh Yahya Tomb Tower

The brick tower of Imamzadeh Yahya is located in the vicinity of Seyed Zayn al-Abidin mausoleum on Jamhuri Street in Sari and has an ancient wooden chest and door. The inscription reveals that the chest had been created in the year 849 AH. According to records, Imamzadeh Yahya is one of the offspring of Imam Musa Kazem (AS). The tower stands at a height of 20 meters and is circular in shape with a pyramid-like dome. According to the writings on the chest, Imamzadeh Yahya, his brother Hossein and his sister Sakineh are buried there, but according to the existing documents, Yahya Ibn Mir Qavam al-Din is also buried there.

Emamzade Yahya shrine is consisting of two sections "external shrine" and "external box". The external shrine was added in 1974 to the building. The box inside the shrine is one of the masterpieces of wooden art in Mazandaran. On the north side of the counter, a simple

door provides the access to the warehouse. A pretty door full of the masterpiece of the 9th century is between this section and the tower. Each pair of the door of Imamzadeh Yahya is consisting of three tablets. A small tablet on the top, a big tablet in the middle, and a small tablet at the bottom. Each tablet is surrounded by frames with arabesque decorations. The door was installed on the body of the tower and it was a cover between the mosque and the shrine tower.

For many years, this tower was located in the center of Mazandaran and it was safe against natural damage and human impact. Imamzadeh Yahya shrine with circular and cone dome design is built with local mortar and brick and is in the residential space of Sari. Its location links the social and cultural relations of the city residents with the religious identity of the tower.

**This mountainous region is covered by Hyrcanian forests, which have one of the most unique natural ecosystems in the country having more than 447 plant species.**

# Park

In the year 1965, in order to prevent the destruction of the forest and for the purpose of reviving and restoring it, the park was planted with Tehran pine and Zarbin Cypress trees.



Fes arbit fatque  
esiliae que et  
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mmorari co mus,  
quem elum cis.  
Ce



# Shahid Zare Forest Park

It is one of the beautiful and spectacular parks of the city of Sari, which is located three kilometers east of the Tajan River and is adjacent to the forested and low hills of the Alborz mountain range. Tourists can have a free overnight stay by using the facilities provided there. Shahid Zare Park has an area of 70 hectares and has oak and Persian ironwood trees.

In the year 1965, in order to prevent the destruction of the forest and for the purpose of reviving and restoring it, the park was planted with Tehran pine and

Zarbin Cypress trees.

Shahid Zare forest park was built in 1980. In Shahid Zare forest park of the city of Sari, facilities have been provided for the tourists, including an asphalted road, a prayer hall with an area of 120 square meters, including two separate sections for women and men, a grocery store, a traditional tea house, Kebab, and fast food restaurants, a drinking water well, two underground water sources, an area for children to play, a small playground for children, a volleyball court, a parking lot, an equipped skating rink, gas stoves for cooking and gazebos.

# Gorgin Abad Mineral Spring

The spring is located near Khvosh Neshan village in Farim Rural District, Dodangeh District, Sari County, Mazandaran Province. It splits up into three mineral water springs with different properties. In addition to the nature tourism opportunities, Gorgin Abad area of Khvosh Neshan village also has health tourism opportunities.

In the midst of the dense trees and along the river, numerous springs flow out of the earth's surface. Everywhere you look, there is water. Some of these springs have healing properties, one of which is located on the road before passing into the river. In order to reach the main spring with plenty of water, you have to cross the river to reach it. This spring has very cold sulfur water, in a way that the smell of sulfur fills the river and around the spring. Due to the coldness of the water, the spring water is suitable for swimming only in the months of June and July.



In the not-so-distant past, the natives of the region used to direct the water into the (new) wooden ponds that they made from tree trunks, then they lit a fire and threw stones from the river into it to heat them, then they put the stones into the pond until the water

heats up. Then, they would immerse in the pond and wash their bodies. Some people heat water in a pot and use it for bathing.

Gorgin Abad mineral springs are suitable for treating skin diseases, fungi, rheumatism, etc.



Gorgin Abad Mineral Spring has very cold sulfur water, in a way that the smell of sulfur fills the river and around the spring. Due to the coldness of the water, the spring water is suitable for swimming only in the months of June and July.

## Vaziri Bath



**Vaziri Bath is a traditional bathhouse which is located in the Ab Anbar No neighborhood, in Sari, Mazandaran province. The construction materials used in this bath and its architectural features have made this building one of the valuable historical attractions of Sari.**

In the past, it had two entrances, one through an alley and the other through a street, however, both are blocked and it can only be accessed from the north yard of the Kolbadi house. Kolbadi House is now known as the Museum of handicrafts and Traditional arts of Sari.

This historical structure was constructed in the late Qajar



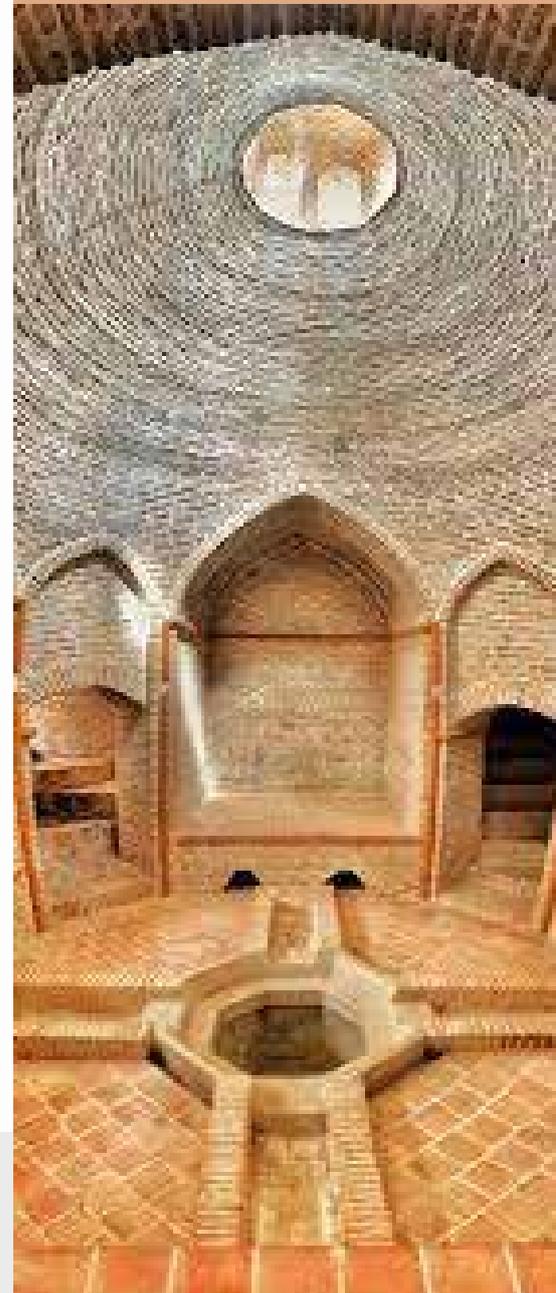
dynasty and was part of the vast house of Vaziri, which belonged to one of the famous families of Sari. Vaziri House has been destroyed over time and only its bath has remained. Therefore, it is called Vaziri Bath.

The only entrance to this bath is from Kolbadi House as they are located next to each other.

With a surface area of 200 square meters, this bath like other Persian baths consists of different sections. As you enter, you'll see the first section of Persian Baths which is called Sarbineh (the changing room). There is a small octagonal pond right in the center of Sarbineh, with four platforms located around it there people used to sit on them. Next to these platforms,

there are spaces called Pashoyeh, which means washing the feet. In order to prevent the entrance of pollution into the bath, people could easily wash their feet in them. Also, they could wash their feet again on their way out of the bath, so their body's temperature level would be steady and ready to leave the bath.

The Garm Khaneh (hot chamber) of Vaziri Bath has also been designed in an octagonal form. Garm Khanehs usually had one way for entrance and exit, in order to prevent the heat from going out of the bath. Also, the long and carved ways between Sarbineh and Garm Khaneh prevented the transformation of coldness and heat between the inside and outside of the bath.





# Fazeli Mansion

**There are some old houses in the old district of Ab Anbar No in Sari that look completely different from modern houses.**

One of them is Fazeli Mansion. You should go to Ab Anbar No district from Gharen Street to reach this majestic building. You can also go there from Sa'at Square and Enghelab Street. The distance from Elahiyeh Shopping Center to the mansion is less than five hundred meters. Fazeli Mansion is open to the public, and there is a guide that will explain the features of the building to tourists.

Other important buildings that are located near Fazeli Mansion are

Kolbadi Historical House, Vaziri Bath, Ab Anbar No, and Jameh Mosque of Sari. Fazeli Mansion has outer and inner courtyards. The inner part includes a square courtyard in the middle and a set of rooms, a kitchen and bathroom. The residential parts are located in the eastern and northern parts on one floor and in the western part on two floors, the roof of which are covered with clay tiles.

The alcove is in the eastern part and in the middle of the building, which protrudes from the rooms that are located next to it and steps have been made on two sides of the iwan of the alcove. Also, in the inner courtyard, in the southern part, the wall has eight



# Mansion

crescent-shaped arches, which are surrounded by a rectangular frame.

The main materials used in Fazeli Mansion are wood, brick, pottery, and clay. The Fazeli Mansion was built during the Qajar period and another part was added to it during the first Pahlavi period. This building, which is one of the few 3-story houses in its time, has 3 courtyards, one on the west side, the other on the east side, and the last one on the north side of the building. The building is decorated with brickwork. There are also traditional motifs made of brick in the facade of this Qajar period building. On the eastern side of the courtyard, there are rooms for sanitary and home services. Its windows are rectangular and have a military-like appearance. They look like the office buildings built during this period. This building has been owned by Mazandaran Hozeh Honari for the past few years and was once used as an educational space.





# Caspian Sea

**The Caspian Sea is the largest lake of world with a surface area of around 371,000 square kilometers.**

Khazar Abad beach in Sari is known as a tourist destination that can be considered an ideal tourist hub to attract more Iranian and foreign tourists. This beautiful beach is located 35 kilometers from the city of Sari. Khazar Abad beach, like some of the tourist places of this city, has a special and unique location with easy access. Khazar Abad is connected to the beautiful coast of the Caspian Sea by Farah Abad Boulevard, and these are all due to the geographical location of this area.

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It lies in the north of Iran, in Mazandaran, Golestan and Gilan provinces and has a maximum depth of about 1025 meters. The water of this lake is of two kinds, i.e. it is a fresh-water lake in northern portions whereas on Iran shore is saline. It is the settlement of more than five hundred plants and 850 animal species that some of them are Salmon, perch, pike, sturgeon, Algae and herring. Also, one of very few seal species living in

Caspian Sea. The wet Caspian littoral is ideal for growing rice and tea. Cotton and citrus fruits are also grown in the humid lowlands near the Caspian Sea.

Astara, Babol, Bandar Anzali, Chalous, Gorgan, Rasht and Sari are the major cities by this lake. From the point of view of tourism, Caspian coast is a favorite vacation spot for tourists and offers lush vegetation and sandy beaches.

The Caspian Sea is one of the wonders of the Middle East. The sea's name derives from the ancient Kaspi peoples, who once lived in Transcaucasia to the west. It covers 143,550 sq mi (372,000 km<sup>2</sup>) (excluding the highly saline

# Sea

lagoon of Garabogazköl to its east) and a volume of 78,200 km<sup>3</sup> (19,000 cu mi). The sea stretches nearly 1,200 kilometers (750 mi) from north to south, with an average width of 320 km (200 mi). Its gross coverage is 386,400 km<sup>2</sup> (149,200 sq mi) and the surface is about 27 m (89 ft) below sea level.

Over 130 rivers provide inflow to the Caspian, the Volga River being the largest. The Caspian Sea region presently is a significant, but not major, supplier of crude oil to world markets. It is also of special importance for transferring energy to the market and oil and gas lines.

The Caspian Sea has a great impact on the climate of its surrounding areas. It is a rich and endless source of marine aquatics, from which about 600,000 tons of aquatics are caught annually. Six sturgeon species, the Russian, sterlet, starry, and beluga, are native to the Caspian Sea. It is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the southwest, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to

the southeast.

The Caspian Sea, like the Black Sea, is a remnant of the ancient Paratethys Sea. Its seafloor is, therefore, a standard oceanic basalt and not a continental granite body. It became landlocked about 5.5 million years ago due to tectonic uplift and a fall in sea level. During warm and dry climatic periods, the landlocked

sea almost dried up, depositing evaporitic sediments like halite that were covered by wind-blown deposits and were sealed off as an evaporate sink when cool, wet climates refilled the basin.

The distance of 35 kilometers from Khazar Abad to Sari has also made tourists spend a day visiting the beach during their trip to this city.





Alandan lake is a lake with a 17-hectare span located in Sari and belongs to the Quaternary era. This lake is also called Pelle Azni because of the nearby village, Azni. The best way for going to the lake is through Azni village, which has a flat and easy walk to the lake. The lake has 70 km distance from Sari and is located on Sari-Semnan road.

# Alandan Lake

**The approximate distance of Alandan Lake from the city of Sari is 70 km and it is located on the road from Sari to Semnan, which is about 1000 meters above sea level.**

Alandan Lake has a pristine and special nature, and there are many types of common hornbeam, oaks, wych elm, and tilia trees around it. The lake is surrounded by broad-leaved forests. During the spring, violets, wild leeks, and fragrant and medicinal herb species grow there. In the summer, a river flows

on the other side of the lake which provides freshwater for drinking. In autumn, common medlar, wild hawthorn, and pear shrubs produce crops. And in winter, wild ducks take up residence there. The interesting point about this lake is that no river flows into it and it is filled only through rainfall. In fact, Alandan Lake is the main source of irrigation for the surrounding paddy fields, and in recent years, the fishing industry has also developed greatly due to the release of fish into the lake. The amenities include sanitary and recreation facilities as well as motorized and pedal boats.



# Churat Lake

**Churat Lake in Mazandaran Province is located in the Chahardangeh district in Sari.**

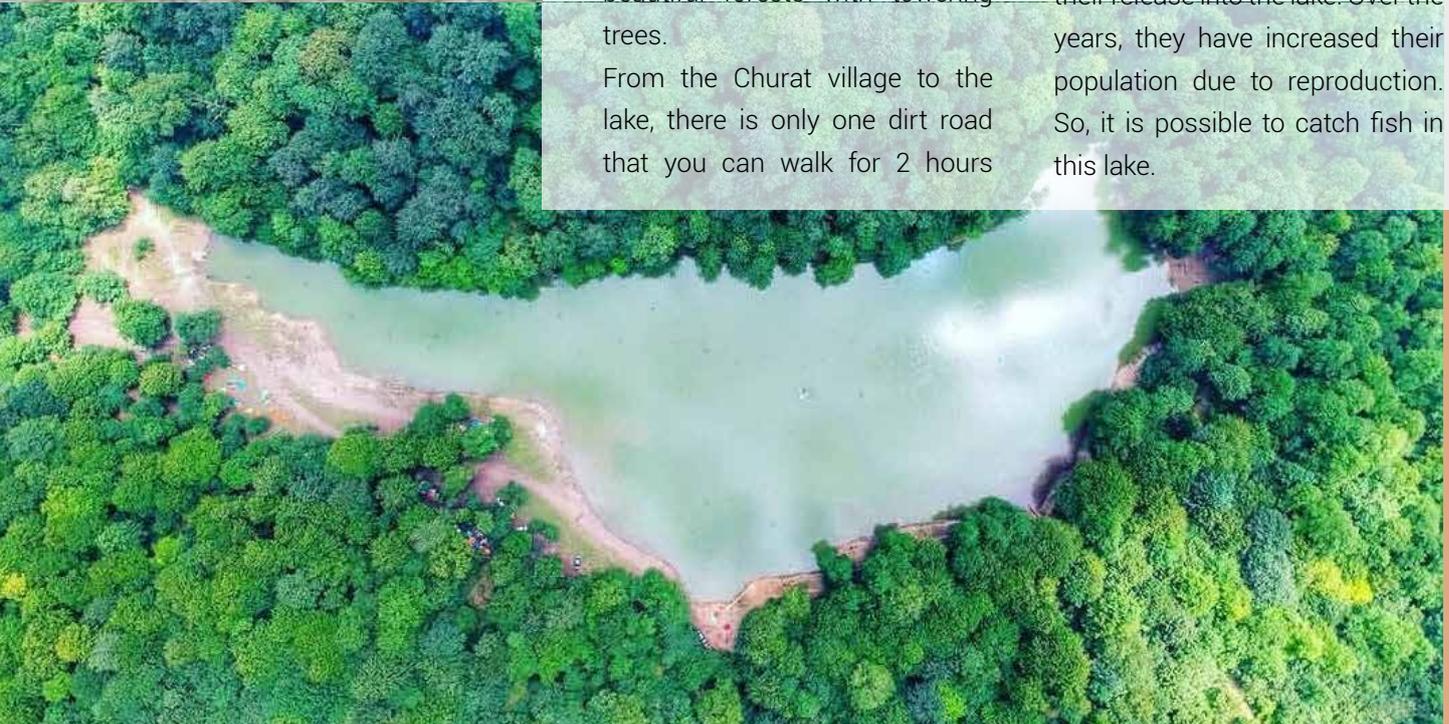
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The lake was created as a result of an earthquake in the year 1939. It is about 2.5 hectares. Being close to Churat Village, the lake is called Churat Lake. When water is decreased, the appearance of the remaining trees creates a stunning view. This lake is one of the most beautiful recreational attractions in Mazandaran Province. On the way to this lake, you have to pass through beautiful forests with towering trees.

From the Churat village to the lake, there is only one dirt road that you can walk for 2 hours

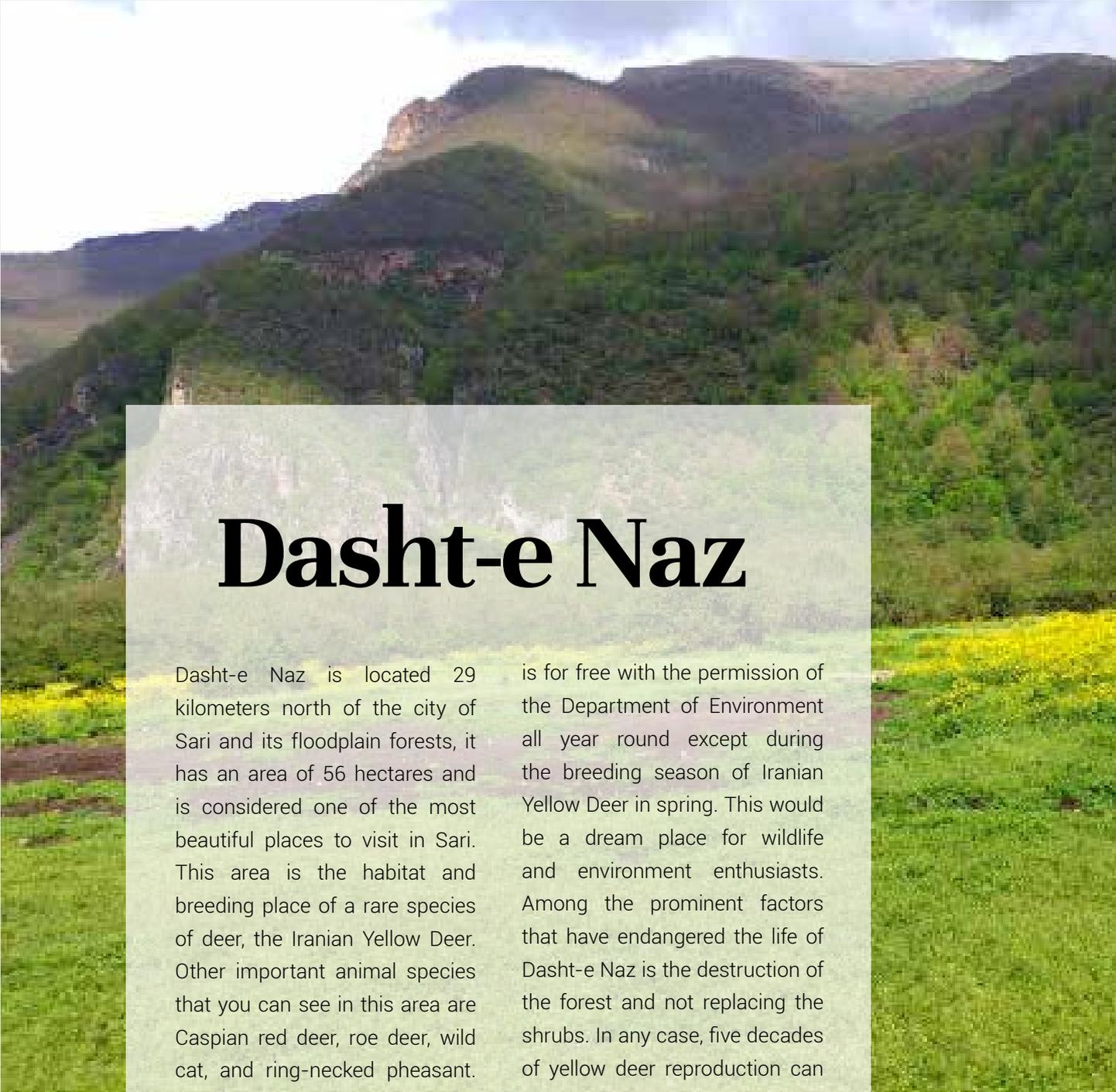
and enjoy the scenery. You can also drive by car. Finally, you will reach a beautiful and dreamy lake. Silence, peace, the sound of birds, and the trees, some parts of which are out of the water, create a landscape similar to a painting. Dreamy but real!

This lake is located in a valley with a steep slope and is surrounded by immaculate forests and old trees. The lake is in the shape of an oval and its depth varies according to the amount of seasonal rainfall. The fishes in the lake have been released by local people, and some of them have been reproduced due to the transfer of their eggs by birds and their release into the lake. Over the years, they have increased their population due to reproduction. So, it is possible to catch fish in this lake.





Churat Lake is one of the best and most attractive tourist attractions in Mazandaran province and is one of the lakes that has been created due to changes in environmental factors. Churat Lake was created in 1939 due to an earthquake and landslide, followed by the closure of the spring water route that is located next to the current lake. Churat Lake is located 10 km away from Churat Village among the pristine forests of Churat Village in Chahardangeh section of Sari city. To reach Churat Lake, you have to go through forests and dense trees and experience indescribable pleasure among the lush trees.



# Dasht-e Naz

Dasht-e Naz is located 29 kilometers north of the city of Sari and its floodplain forests, it has an area of 56 hectares and is considered one of the most beautiful places to visit in Sari. This area is the habitat and breeding place of a rare species of deer, the Iranian Yellow Deer. Other important animal species that you can see in this area are Caspian red deer, roe deer, wild cat, and ring-necked pheasant. Dasht-e Naz is also very valuable due to the variety of plant species as it contains more than 447 plant species. Hornbeam, beech, alder, Persian ironwood (*Parrotia persica*), Caspian locust, jungle cat, roe deer, red deer and pheasants are among the other plant and animal species found in the area. The surrounding of this area is fenced and the visit

is for free with the permission of the Department of Environment all year round except during the breeding season of Iranian Yellow Deer in spring. This would be a dream place for wildlife and environment enthusiasts. Among the prominent factors that have endangered the life of Dasht-e Naz is the destruction of the forest and not replacing the shrubs. In any case, five decades of yellow deer reproduction can cause pressure on the ecosystem of the region. Indiscriminate hunting in this area endangers the lives of animals, including the Iranian yellow deer, which is an endangered species. Of course, during these years, the placement of security cameras and the presence of environmental guards have been effective in this regard.



This 56-hectare Wild Life Refuge is located 29 kilometers from Sari. The refuge has 447 different plant species such as hornbeam, alder, beech trees, and parrotia trees. The significant animals of the refuge include roe deer, ring-necked Pheasant, jungle cats, and the rare Persian fallow deer. Dasht-e Naz is a great place for bird-watching. The most important birds of this wildlife refuge include the European honey buzzard, common wood pigeon, steppe eagle, and long-tailed tit.



# Tajan River

**Due to the mountainous areas, the city of Sari is blessed with many rivers, all of which join in the Takam region and enter the Caspian Sea after irrigating fields and creating water capacity for dams.**

Tajan is not like other permanent rivers; in fact, it suffers changes depending on the rainfall. It is the largest resource for Sarakhs plain, where beautiful anemones grow. A wonderful land for photographers. The river also feeds farms and fields as well as forests. The river features green lush vegetation on its bank: evergreens, Adler trees, and aquatic plants. A variety of birds live in the rich ecosystem, too. Among them are eagles of different species, herons, storks, ducks, geese, roosters, plovers, and bitterns

Tajan River, before joining in Takam region, in Dodangeh and Chahardangeh provides a good opportunity for recreational boating. Also, visiting the Tajan River in the heart of the city of Sari and the places leading to Farah Abad beaches can create pleasant memories. The roaring river behind the Soleiman Tangeh Dam and the course of the Tajan River in the Chahardangeh region

provides a very good opportunity for boating, specifically for the youths.

Tajan is not like other permanent rivers; in fact, it suffers changes depending on the rainfall. It is the largest resource for Sarakhs plain, where beautiful anemones grow. A wonderful land for photographers. The river also feeds farms and fields as well as forests.

The long river, 1,100 km, boasts broad-leaf forests as well as aquatic vegetation, seen more down the river. All the way, you can see beautiful landscapes from the valley to rice patches, forests, and lovely villages.

This great river is a habitat for various species of fish like trout, upstream, and carp, downstream.

# River

You will get nice opportunities for fishing (permits needed). The river features green lush vegetation on its bank: evergreens, Adler trees, and aquatic plants. A variety of birds live in the rich ecosystem, too. Among them are eagles of different species, herons, storks, ducks, geese, roosters, plovers, and bitterns.

There is a marvelous newly-built suspension bridge over the river where you will have a panoramic view of the region. Melal Parkland in Sari near the river is one of the most frequently visited places in the city. Families gather together for a picnic in the ambient place and tourists come to have fun near the river.



# Soleiman Tangeh Dam



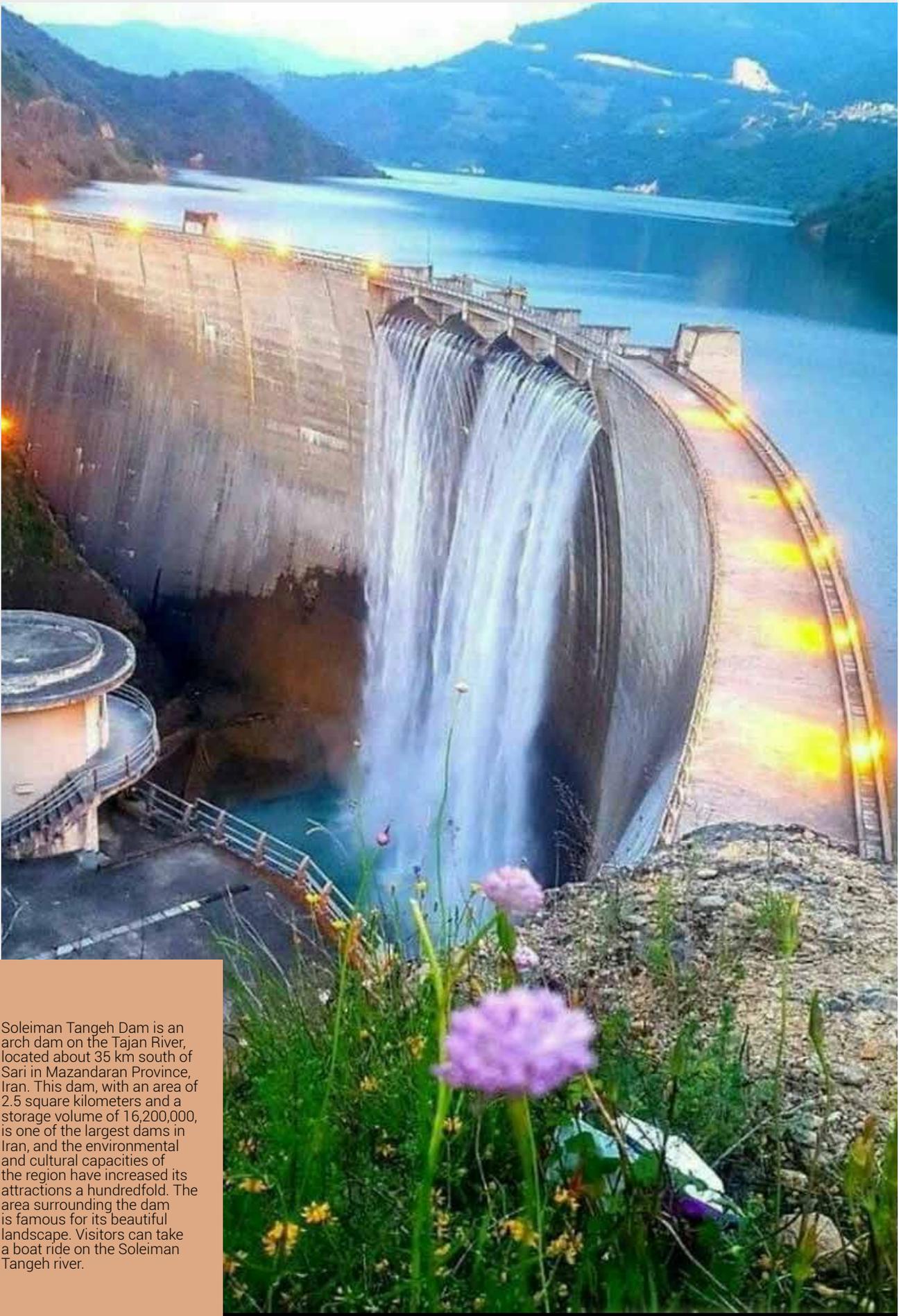
**Soleiman Tangeh Dam is located among the dense Hyrcanian and Caspian forests in the Dodangeh tourism region of the city of Sari and at a distance of 35 kilometers from the downtown.**

The dam was built for hydroelectric power production, flood control and to provide water for industrial and agricultural use. This dam, with an area of 2.5 square kilometers and a storage volume of 16,200,000, is one of the largest dams in Iran, and the environmental and cultural capacities of the region have increased its attractions a hundredfold. Because of heavy rainfalls in the highlands of Sari

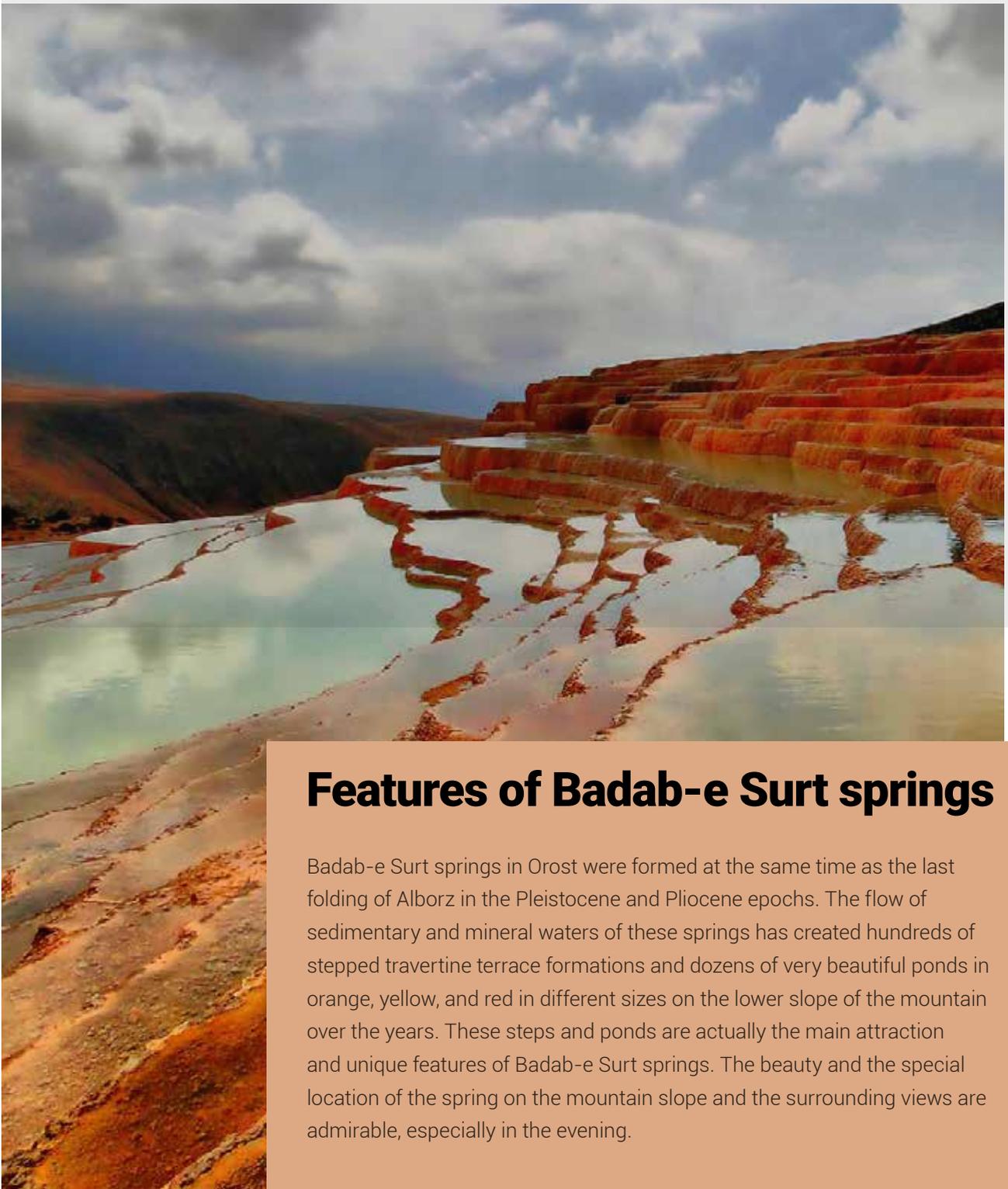
and the flooding of rivers, the dam overflows, creating a magnificent view in the heart of the forest. The rhythm of rivers and waterfalls, along with the wonders of pristine nature and agricultural products with kind people are among the features that make visitors enjoy their time.

Moreover, fishing, boating, jet skiing, social entertainment, and photography are very captivating for Iranian and foreign tourists. The area of Soleiman Tangeh has a very beautiful sight due to the presence of Shahid Rajaei Lake and Dam. The lush village of Aramesh, with its large and small villa complex, meets quality standards and attracts travelers to stay.





Soleiman Tangeh Dam is an arch dam on the Tajan River, located about 35 km south of Sari in Mazandaran Province, Iran. This dam, with an area of 2.5 square kilometers and a storage volume of 16,200,000, is one of the largest dams in Iran, and the environmental and cultural capacities of the region have increased its attractions a hundredfold. The area surrounding the dam is famous for its beautiful landscape. Visitors can take a boat ride on the Soleiman Tangeh river.



## Features of Badab-e Surt springs

Badab-e Surt springs in Orost were formed at the same time as the last folding of Alborz in the Pleistocene and Pliocene epochs. The flow of sedimentary and mineral waters of these springs has created hundreds of stepped travertine terrace formations and dozens of very beautiful ponds in orange, yellow, and red in different sizes on the lower slope of the mountain over the years. These steps and ponds are actually the main attraction and unique features of Badab-e Surt springs. The beauty and the special location of the spring on the mountain slope and the surrounding views are admirable, especially in the evening.

# Badab-e Surt Springs

**Badab-e Surt is a natural site in Mazandaran Province in northern Iran, 95 kilometers southeast of the city of Sari, and 7 kilometers east of Orost village.**

It comprises a range of stepped travertine terrace formations that have been created over thousands of years as flowing water from two mineral hot springs cooled and deposited carbonate minerals on the mountainside. These springs reach the heights covered with forests from the north, the heights covered with shrubs from the east, the valleys from the south, and the village of Orost from the west.

Badab is a Persian compound of Bād "gas" + āb "water", translating to "gassed water", referring to the springs' waters being carbonated mineral waters. Surt is an old name for the Orost village and a Persian word meaning intensity. Badab-e Surt springs include two springs with completely different characteristics in terms of color, taste, smell, and amount of water. One is full of water, very salty and deep, which has therapeutic properties, and the other is sour and orange in color, with iron sediment around it.

The flow of water on the slope of the mountain over many years has created beautiful and unique layers and ponds with yellow, orange, and red colors,

which dazzle the eyes with their indescribable beauty. These springs were registered in 2008 by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism as the second national and natural site in Iran after Damavand Peak. The beautiful springs of Badab-e Surt, which are also known as colorful springs, attract many tourists. In addition to their special beauty, Badab-e Surt springs have a very high therapeutic value. And this can only be found in a few places on this planet.

## **Badab-e Surt springs**

Badab-e Surt springs are amazing natural pools made of travertine, which are among the tourism sites of Mazandaran province and are located at an

# Springs

altitude of 1841 meters above sea level. The springs are surrounded by wild barberry bushes and their unique beautiful orange color is the result of high concentrations of iron oxide sediments. There are springs similar to Badab-e Surt in Pamukkale in Turkey, Baishuitai in China, Bagni San Filippo in Italy, Yellowstone region in the US, and Hierro El Agora in Mexico. Badab-e Surt is going to be registered as a global geopark and will be called a sister to Pamukkale springs in Turkey.

## **The first spring**

The first spring has very salty water and a pool with a depth of about 15 meters, which is useful for treating back and foot pain, skin diseases, Rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and especially migraine headaches. This spring does not freeze in winter due to its salty water.

## **The second spring**

The second spring, which is located upstream and northwest of Badab-e Surt, is sour-tasting and the water is red and orange in color. There is also a little iron sediment around this spring.

# Kolbadi Historical House



**Manouchehr Khan Kolbadi's Qajar house is located in the neighborhood of Ab Anbar No and in the historical urban texture of Sari.**

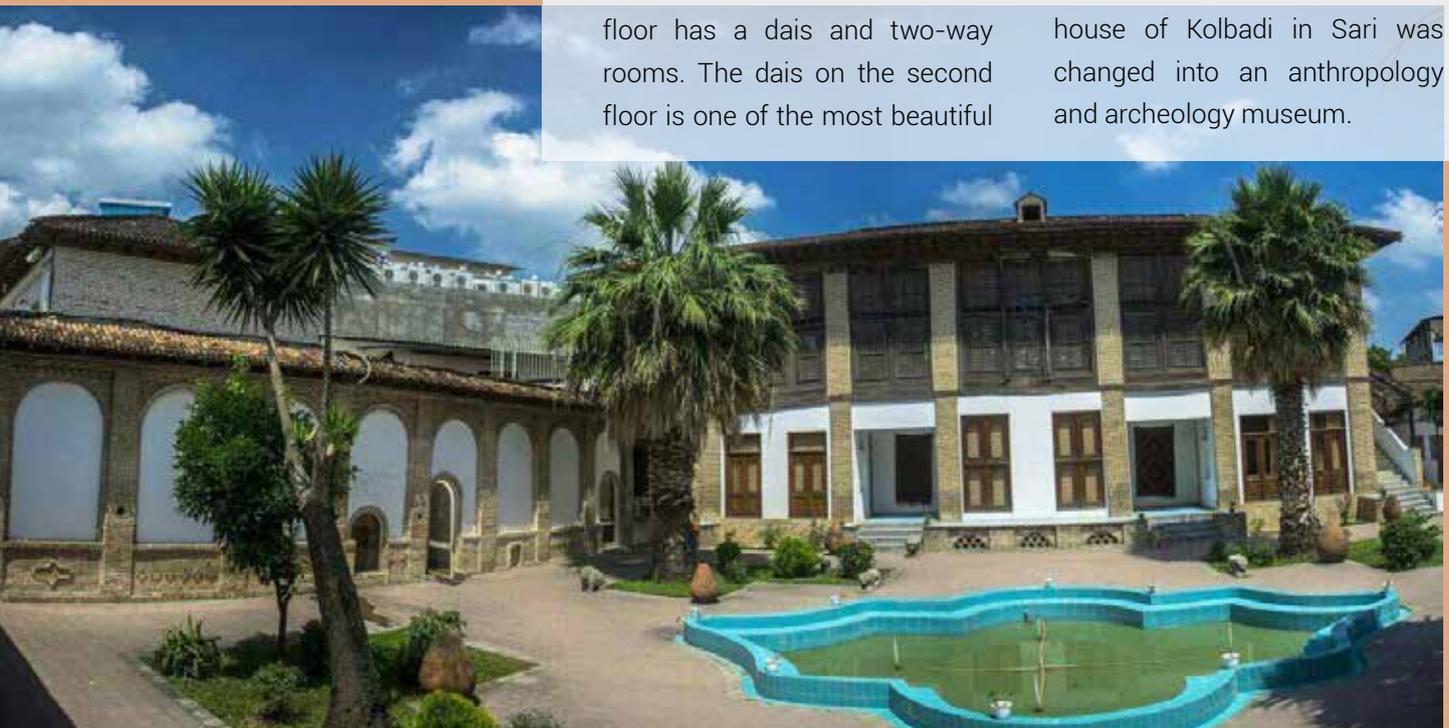
Kolbadi Historical House is one of the must-see places in Sari, which was built around 140 years ago by the order of Sardar Jalil, one of the army commanders at the time, in the name of his eldest son Amir Nosrat. As Amir Nosrat died soon, the house was yielded to his grandchild, Manouchehr Khan Kolbadi.

The main part of the house is established on two floors. Each floor has a dais and two-way rooms. The dais on the second floor is one of the most beautiful

rooms of the house and every part of it reminds one of the decorative arts in the Qajar period.

The materials used to construct this house are wood and bricks and its roof is in gable form and is made of adobe. Beautiful and eye-catching decorative arts of the Qajar era, such as stucco, and colorful sash windows can be seen in different parts.

Manouchehr Kolbadi was elected as a representative of the people of Sari for a while, but he died in 1983. And eight years later, in 1991, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism of Iran took over the ownership of the house, and after its restoration and reconstruction, in 2009, the house of Kolbadi in Sari was changed into an anthropology and archeology museum.





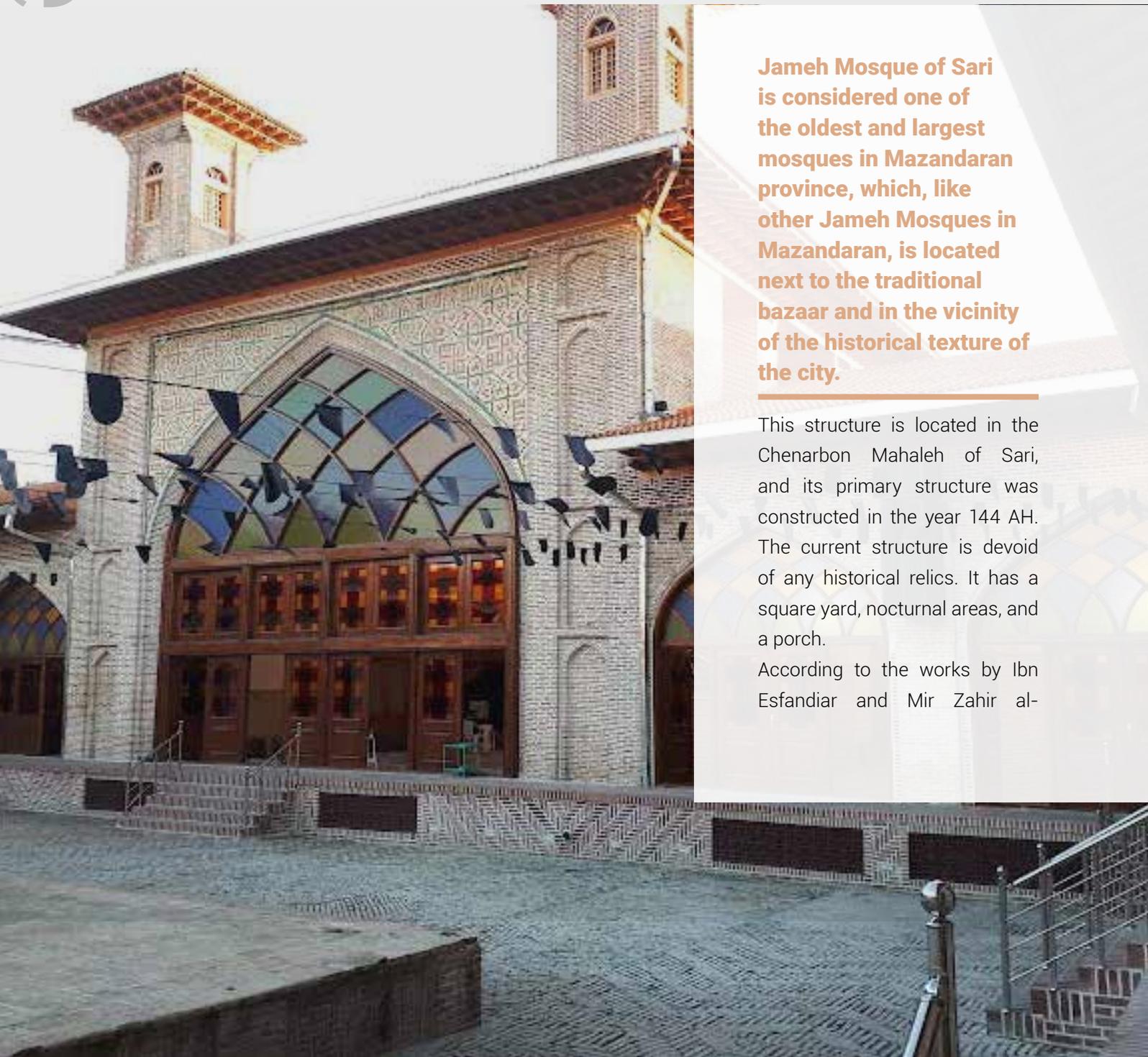
The architectural style of the building is taken from shrines in the Qajar era and it consists of two interior and exterior sections. The main part of the house is established on two floors in the interior section and a basement and each floor has a dais and two-way rooms. The dais on the second floor is one of the most beautiful forms of the house and every part of it reminds one of the decorative arts in the Qajar period. The materials used to construct this house are wood and bricks and its roof is in gable form and made of adobe.

## Jameh Mosque of Sari

**Jameh Mosque of Sari is considered one of the oldest and largest mosques in Mazandaran province, which, like other Jameh Mosques in Mazandaran, is located next to the traditional bazaar and in the vicinity of the historical texture of the city.**

This structure is located in the Chenarbon Mahaleh of Sari, and its primary structure was constructed in the year 144 AH. The current structure is devoid of any historical relics. It has a square yard, nocturnal areas, and a porch.

According to the works by Ibn Esfandiari and Mir Zahir al-





Din Marashi, Dr. Manouchehr Sotoudeh believes that Yahya Ibn Yahya founded the Jameh Mosque of Sari during the caliphate of Harun al-Rashid, and it was completed by Maziar Ibn Qaran. According to historical sources, the Jameh Mosque of Sari was established during the caliphate of Bani Abbas. But there is a difference of opinion in the sources about the founder. Some consider Abu Khasib as the founder after the defeat of Espahbod Khorsid, and some consider Yahya Ibn Yahya as the founder. Anyway, the history of the existing mosque dates back to the Safavid and Qajar eras. The mosque has two entrances; one for men (in the north of the building) and the other for

women (in the west). It has a big yard, two Minarets, and eight Shabestans; each Shabestan is called by a special name the two most famous are Haj Sadouq and Ayatollah Nazari, the latter of which is bigger and older. In this building, there is a beautiful altar with unique plasterwork. On the southern side, in addition to two Shabestans, there is also one porch and two minarets. The Mosque has a basement that is used for ablution facilities. In the middle of the yard, there is a platform with a height of 80 cm, on which special ceremonies were held in the past. All in all, this mosque has high architectural, historical, and religious values, and the citizens and shoppers still pray there.

Sari Jameh Mosque is one of the oldest mosques in Mazandaran province. It dates back to the pre-Islam era and used to be a fire temple of Zoroastrians of Iran in the North, next to the Caspian Sea. After the acceptance of Islam by the people in the region, Sari Jameh Mosque was constructed on the site of the temple. It is the first mosque built in the North of Iran.

Some historians believe Jameh Mosque had been built in the early centuries after the spread of Islam in Iran. Even some stated that this mosque had been built on the ruins of a fire temple of the Sasanid era. Today, nothing has remained of Jameh Mosque's primary structure and its current structure has been built during Safavid and Qajar dynasties. This Mosque has been recorded as one of the national monuments of Iran in 1999.

# Shah Abbasi Jameh Mosque

Oben waterfalls, which have different shapes and heights, are located in a region, which is a unique habitat for special mammals of Hyrcanian forests, such as red deer, roe deer, boar, wildcat, wolf, and fox, and even in the rocky areas of this region, there are sometimes species such as wild goats, goats, leopards, and bears. This mountainous region is covered by Hyrcanian forests, which have one of the most unique natural ecosystems in the country having more than 447 plant species.

Shah Abbasi Jameh Mosque is one of the interesting tourist sites which is located in the village of Farah Abad at a distance of 25 km from the city of Sari. This mosque was built in 1025 AH and is the most beautiful remaining building from the Safavid era in Mazandaran province. Farah Abad Historical Complex actually included the Jahannama Palace, a bridge, and a mosque where Shah Abbas spent parts of his reign there. Among these three structures, only the mosque remains. Bricks and Sarooj mortar are among the materials used in the construction of the Shah Abbasi Jameh Mosque. This building has four porches

and a large and beautiful entrance.

The history of the Shah Abbasi Jameh Mosque dates back to the Safavid era. Shah Abbas I ordered the construction of a large and luxurious (in his time) mosque in Sari to be used as a place of recreation and as a memorial to Khayr al-Nisa Begum, his mother. It is also said that Shah Abbas I spent his reign in different places, one of which is Shah Abbasi Jameh Mosque.

Shah Abbasi Jameh Mosque is also known as Farah Abad Mosque. This historical building was restored during the reign of Zandiyeh by the order of Karim Khan Zand. It was reconstructed by Mohammad Khan-e-Savadkoohi. Also in 1974, the Organization for the Conservation of Historical Monuments carried out restorations at the Shah Abbasi Jameh Mosque. In 1981, the decision was taken for the mosque to undergo fundamental restoration and reconstruction procedures, and finally, it was finished in 2011 and the mosque was registered in the list of national monuments of Iran.







Sa'at Square is one of the most important tourist attractions of the city of Sari due to its location near the shopping centers, as well as its architectural style. This is also the central tower in Sari. At Sa'at Square, tourists can easily access many of the main attractions of the city of Sari, such as Kolbadi Historical House, Vaziri Bath Museum, Jameh Mosque, Ab Anbar No, and Imamzadeh Yahya neighborhood. Public transportation is also available for each of the mentioned destinations.

# Sa'at Square

Sa'at (which means 'clock' in English) Square is located in Sari's downtown. In books about Mazandaran province, Sa'at Square is mentioned as the beating heart of the city of Sari. It is one of the most important tourist attractions of the city of Sari due to its location near the shopping centers, as well as its architectural style. This is also the central tower in Sari. Basically, the architecture of this tower is inspired by European architectural styles, the traces of which could be found in Iranian architecture and urban planning.

At Sa'at Square, tourists can easily access many of the main attractions of the city of Sari, such as Kolbadi Historical House, Vaziri Bath Museum, Jameh Mosque, Ab Anbar No, and Imamzadeh Yahya neighborhood.

Public transportation is also available for each of the mentioned destinations.

During the first Pahlavi period, the late Haj Darvish Ali Eslami's endowments, including a mosque, a school, a bath, and a passage were all located in the center of the city of Sari, and the caravanserais and a chapar khaneh surrounded this complex. Imamzadeh Yahya and Jameh Mosque were also located in the northwest and southeast of it.

In 1932, following the widening of the streets and the modernization of the cities, the endowments of Haj Darvish Ali were destroyed and the central square of the city was established instead. Schools were built around the square, due to its proximity to the Jameh Mosque and Imamzadeh Yahya. On the west side of this newly built square was the entrance of Imamzadeh Yahya. Around the square, dirt roads were constructed for the use of people and carts. There were one-story buildings around the square and a beautiful order could be seen in them and it seemed that they had continuity and an almost unbroken structure. Apart from the strong commercial and religious utilization, it was not used for other occasions at that time.

In 1934, a tower was built in the middle of the square. On the other hand, after the construction of Nader Street on the west side of the square, the Imamzadeh Yahya shrine entrance, which had a large clock with a bell on it, was destroyed. Therefore, the clock of Imamzadeh Yahya entrance was installed on the tower of the central square of the city, and the square became known as Sa'at (clock) Square.

Later on, dirt roads were

further constructed around the Sa'at Tower. And for the same reason, its body and architectural continuity were damaged. Thereafter, the shape of the square became circular. Due to the height of the buildings around the tower and the area around the square, no limitation could be seen for its additional development. At this time, a series of new shops (herbal medicine stores, bicycle shops, bakeries, etc.) were built around Sa'at Square. Two-story buildings were constructed. However, all these buildings together with the increased height of the tower, made it look fragmented and fractured, and from the architectural aesthetics viewpoint, it had no continuity. Also, with the paving of the street and the passing of countless cars, there were fewer pedestrians around. However, in those days, government orders and news were announced there and the execution of the criminals was carried out in the square. Therefore, along with these functions, the square had also commercial and religious functions for the citizens. Now, due to the fact that the square is located between the Babol and Gorgan gates, it has maintained its connective function until now.

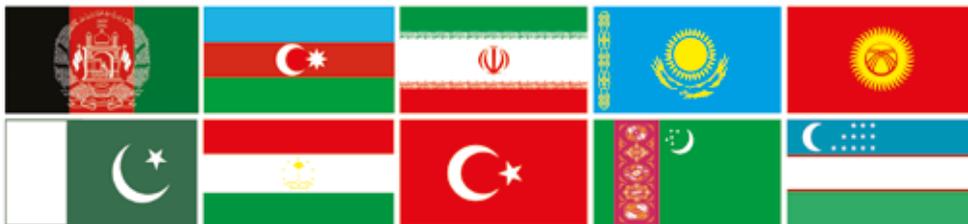


Established in 1995, ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) is a specialized, international organization, located in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, which aims at fostering public awareness and preserving the rich cultural heritage of its member states.

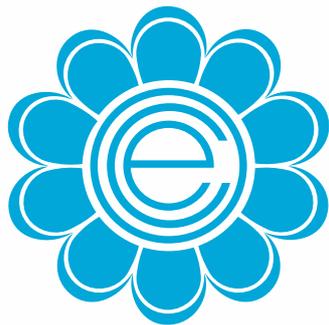
Within the framework of its Charter, which has been approved by the member states, ECI has been entrusted with the key mandate to preserve and promote the common cultural heritage of the ECO region to encourage understanding among the nations of the region.

To this end, ECI has always organized a diverse range of art, cultural, literary, research, academic and sporting events and has published books and journals in English, Farsi, Russian and Urdu with the approach to strengthen cooperation and preserve the common cultural heritage of the member countries.

The ECO region is a vast territory with centuries-old history, rich civilization and culture which includes 10 member states, namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.







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