

## **Geography of Rafsanjan**

The city of Rafsanjan is located on the southern border of Lut desert and in the northwest of Kerman province at 30 degrees north latitude and 56 degrees east longitude. The distance between Rafsanjan and the provincial capital, Kerman, is 110 km. Rafsanjan is located on the communication routes of Kerman, Yazd, Fars, Hormozgan and Sistan and Baluchistan provinces. Tehran-Bandar Abbas railway passing by this city and also having an airport have given this city a special position.

Rafsanjan is located at an altitude of 1460 meters above sea level, and with an area of about 10,687 km, it is limited to Bafaq and Zarand counties from the north, Bardsir county from the south, Anar and Shahrabak counties from the west, and Kerman and Zarand counties from the east. Rafsanjan has cold winters and hot and dry summers. Its average annual rainfall is 100 mm. According to the 2005 census, the population of this city is about 300,000 people, and the population of Rafsanjan alone is about 140,000 people. Rafsanjan city includes 3 urban centers (Keshkoiyeh, Sarcheshmeh and Rafsanjan) and 3 districts (Keshkoiyeh, Nuq and Keshkoiyeh). It should be noted that Anar district, which was considered a function of Rafsanjan city in the country divisions, was separated from Rafsanjan city in 2008 and became Anar city. The city of Rafsanjan has two seasonal rivers named Shur and Giudari, the first of which flows through Abbasabad neighborhood and the second of which flows through Kamalabad neighborhood. And sometimes they cause damage.

The main mountains of Rafsanjan are the continuation of the Zagros mountain range and the central plateau of Iran and are in the northwest-southeast direction, the most famous of these mountains are the heights of Sarcheshmeh, the heights of Davaran and Mushremkouh.

The plant species available in the region include Karvankesh, Qeech, Goon, Kesoor, Bene, fig, wild almond, tag, skanbil, and salt.

The animal species found in the mountainous areas are: goats, goats, rams, sheep, deer, ibex, leopards, wolves, hyenas, wild cats. Birds such as partridges and tiho, eagles, pigeons, grouse, and hawks can be found in the region.

## **History of Rafsanjan**

In the outskirts of the city, there have been traces of several thousand-year-old civilizations before the Achaemenid period, which have been completely erased and destroyed due to the passage of time. And in this regard, it is possible that it was one of the oldest civilizations in the land of Iran, and it seems that a tribe called "Ese-Kerte" of Aryan race settled in this land many years ago. The name of Rafsanjan was mentioned for the first time in the historical texts of the 8th century related to the period of Al-Muzaffar (713-95 AH).

According to historical texts, the ancient cities of Rodan, Anas, Aban, and Azkan were located in the Rafsanjan region, and their exact locations have been found except for Azkan. The city of Rodan was in the place of the villages of Shahrabad, Malekabad and the surrounding lands to the village of Lahijan, located in the northwest of the city of Rafsanjan. The exact location of Anas city was located in the lands of Gergin, Saadat Abad and Faiz Abad, after Sarcheshmeh T-road connected to the current city of Rafsanjan, and finally the city of Aban was located in the place of the current city of Anar. Throughout history, the Rafsanjan region has changed hands between the

states of Fars and Kerman. In the early days of Islam, this region was part of Kerman, then it became part of Fars province, and later it returned to Kerman.

## **Denomination**

There are several traditions about the reason why this city was named Rafsanjan. According to a dominant narrative, since there are rich copper mines in this area, the name of this city was Rafsenkan in the past. Rafsenkan is composed of two words, Rafsen and Kan, which in ancient Persian language means copper and Kan means mine. Over time, the word "Rafsankan" has become its Arabic form, "Rafsanjan". Also, according to another tradition, its original name was Sanjan, and because it was located in the path of floods, it was damaged and destroyed many times by floods, it was known as "Roft Sanjan" and finally became Rafsanjan.

## **Economy of Rafsanjan**

This region is the largest pistachio production hub in the world, so that more than one third of the country's pistachio orchards are located in Rafsanjan. Its cultivated area is about 100 thousand hectares. Therefore, Rafsanjan has a significant share in the annual export of about 200-150 thousand tons of pistachios and earning a huge income of 2-1 billion dollars for the country. It should be noted that pistachio is the second non-oil export of the country after carpet.

Also, Rafsanjan has rich mines of copper, marble, silica, travertine, salt, lead, mineral pumice, gypsum, limestone, zinc, sodium sulfate, barium and fluorine. The copper production capacity is estimated at 1044 tons. Sarcheshme copper complex, which is located 50 km south of Rafsanjan, has more than 5 thousand employees. The most important industrial factories in Rafsanjan city include copper-related industries, agricultural machinery, pistachio processing, chipboard, cheese, optical fiber, technobaking, carpeting and tiles. Handicrafts of Rafsanjan can be named patte, carpet, rug.

## **Higher education in Rafsanjan**

The city of Rafsanjan has a large collection of scientific and educational centers, including the University of Medical Sciences, Wali Asr University (AS), Islamic Azad University, Islamic Work Center, Payam Noor University, Allameh Jafari Higher Education Center and teacher training centers for boys and girls. And also Imam Sadiq (AS) education center mentioned. Due to the existence of 6 university centers with about 14 thousand students, Rafsanjan city can be called a university city. The approximate number of faculty members and students of these 6 academic centers is as follows:

1- Wali Asr University (Aj), Rafsanjan: 150 faculty members and 4,500 students

2- Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences: 136 faculty members and 1314 students

- 3- Payam Noor Rafsanjan University: 98 faculty members and 2,932 students
- 4- Rafsanjan Islamic Azad University: 104 faculty members and 2,200 students
- 5- Higher education center: 50 faculty members and 1050 students
- 6- Allameh Jafari Higher Education Center: 38 faculty members and 870 students

## **Sights and historical attractions of Rafsanjan**

1- Haj Agha Ali Collection: This collection is a beautiful and magnificent example of Qajar era architecture, which is located 5 kilometers southeast of Rafsanjan in Qasim Abad village. This complex consists of eight parts, which are: the market (commercial center), the reservoir (the water supplier for the residents, which has a headland decorated with flowery bricks and its walls have brick motifs and beautiful tiling), mosque, caravanserai, bath, Hosseiniyeh, Yakhdan (which is 2 km away from Qasim Abad and in the village of Abbas Abad Haji and was a supplier of ice needed by the residents). This building is 130 years old.

2- Bagheri Gardens: among the old houses with traditional architectural style with beautiful brick facades, ceilings with patterns and the entrance gate decorated with angel tiles and an inscription with the name of Mubarak Panjton on it. Bagheri Garden is located on Imam Street and its building is attributed to the Qajar era.

3- Kabuter Khan Caravanserai: It is one of the remaining works of the Qajar period and is almost 250 years old.

4- Qutb Abad old caravanserai: among the historical monuments that are 400 years old and have been renovated in recent years and used as a hotel, restaurant, coffee shop and traditional tea house.

5- Shah Abbasi Caravanserai Rafsanjan: located in the city center (Shahid Mirafazli Square) with an infrastructure of 3000 square meters and dates back to the late Safavid period.

6- Qutb Abad Gate: Beautiful and surviving designs on the body of the watchtowers on both sides of this gate are a testimony of its past glory. This gate was one of the four gates of the city.

7- Moradi Reservoir: Located on Beheshti Street next to the Museum of Anthropology, it is considered one of the must-see places with its beautiful and spectacular architecture.

The fence of Rafsanjan city: This fence and its gates, which were built around Bahramabad by -8 the order of Emir Mofkham Bakhtiari, the ruler of Kerman, around Bahramabad, have several towers and strong ramparts and four gates (Qutababad, Aliabad, Mazar and Kamalabad). have been.

9- Shahr Market: This market, which used to be the center of trade in Rafsanjan and today still stands against the authority of street trade, is nearly 250 years old. Next to this market, there is a 200-year-old Caesarea, which was the seat of major merchants.

10- Museum of Anthropology: This museum is located on Shahid Beheshti Street and its former use was a bathhouse, old doors with special handles, statues that display the clothes of old women and men of Rafsanjan.

## **Sightseeing, recreational and sports facilities**

1- Cultural, sports and service complex of Rafsanjan Museum: The idea of building the building was formed in 1371 and was approved by the then president and after 8 years of day and night efforts, it was completed in 1379. This complex is located in the northwest of Rafsanjan, next to Modares Boulevard. The size of the garden is about 30 hectares and the infrastructure of the cultural section is about 10,000 square meters and includes three floors: the basement of the document storage and research center; The ground floor includes various administrative departments; The second floor includes a library, a mosque, a restaurant, an amphitheater, and a precious museum that showcases Iran's contemporary history.

The surface area of the museum is 12,000 square meters. The most important function of the museum in the audience sections is history, Islamic revolution, war and Rafsanjanology. In the History Spectator Gallery, the illustrated and complete map of ancient Iran from the ancient times to the present and the exquisite objects donated by the heads of different countries are exposed to the public. The contemporary era gallery includes exquisite paintings, statues, dishes and objects and lasting images of Iran's contemporary history and includes the gallery of the presidential and parliamentary era, the construction era gallery, the holy defense gallery including the images of 900 martyrs of the holy defense of Rafsanjan, the Rafsanjan history gallery; Addiction prevention gallery, government document gallery, exhibition gallery of the activities of the Maarif El-Englab publishing house.

This valuable complex also has various cultural sections, numerous sports fields, outdoor and indoor swimming pools, gyms, skating rink, 3000-seat stadium, boating lake and other amenities and service and commercial sectors.

2- Baharestan Cultural Recreation Complex: It is a beautiful and spectacular place not far from Sardar Square on the right side for fun and relaxation with beautiful and cool gazebos and also has a trap club (shooting), a small bird garden and wooden play equipment.

3- Javan Park: located at the end of East Shariati Street, which has playground equipment, boating lake, wind park, sports therapy equipment, traffic park and beautiful green space.

4- Traffic Park: inside the youth park located in this park, children learn about traffic rules, including pedestrian areas, bus stops, and traffic signs.

5- Moalem Park: a beautiful park located on Imam Reza Blvd., which has all kinds of playground equipment, wind park, etc.

6- Motahari Park: Located in Basij Square, it has a beautiful green space, playground equipment, boating lake, therapeutic sports equipment, etc.

7- Banvan Park cultural and recreational complex: The Banvan Park cultural and recreational complex with an area of one hectare was built by Rafsanjan Municipality in 2006. This complex is a beautiful and safe environment for women and has facilities such as fountains, water curtains, therapeutic sports equipment, skating rinks, children's play equipment, cycling track, bicycle and car parking, furniture, etc.

8- Municipal Wildlife Museum: It is located in Javan Park and various types of taxidermied birds and animals are placed there and it has an aquarium of different fish species and also a library.

9- Motorcycle and car racing track: The motorcycle track is located on a 5-hectare land at the beginning of the Kerman road and is a safe place for motorcycling enthusiasts.

10- Quds Playground: It is located in Sardar Sazandgi Square at the beginning of Sarcheshmeh Road, and it has created a happy and exciting place with a beautiful green space and various play equipment.

11- Karting club (car racing): It is located in Quds amusement park and is a recreational place for karting enthusiasts.

12- Municipal riding club: for ladies and gentlemen, located in the old fruit and vegetable square, located in Imam Khomeini square (Rah), with a total area of 22,000 square meters, for those interested in this sport.

13- Trap Club (Shooting): This club with flying targets is located in the Baharestan area of the municipality, not reaching the Sardar Sazandagi square and on the right side.

14- Paintball Club: It is located in the cultural, sports and service complex of Rafsanjan Museum, which is a happy and fun group sport.

## **shrines**

1- Bibi Hayat: in Khunaman mountain, which is 400 years old.

2- Imamzade Bibi Gohar in Davaran village.

3- Imamzadeh Abbas: It is located 55 km from Rafsanjan and 60 km from Bardsir.

4- Imamzadeh Bibi Hayat: It is located in the Barji area and in its recreational and touristic heights and has an old dome.

5- Imamzadeh Bibi Hayat: It is located in a place called Bab Haya of Sarcheshmeh villages.

6- Imamzadeh Abdullah: It is located in Gud Ahmad and 40 kilometers south of Rafsanjan and Sarcheshme region.

7- Imamzade Bibi Safieh, which is located on the Sarcheshme road.

8- Imamzadeh Ibrahim: It is located on the western side of Behrman village and in the area of this old cemetery.

9- Imamzade Seyyed Jalaluddin: It is located near the village of Shamsabad, 50 kilometers west of Rafsanjan and in the Nuq district.

10- Imamzadeh Reza known as Pir Gharib: It is located in the southwest of Rafsanjan and at the beginning of the Yazd road.

## **natural attractions**

1- Mount Purkan: This mountain is located in the northeast of Babak city and west of Rafsanjan city, and it consists of mountains such as Najib, Sepza, Mohammadabad, etc., the height of which is more than 2500 meters. Many dry rivers and canals originate from this mountain, the most important of which is the Jaruchi River, which flows northward and falls into the salt marshes around Anar.

2- Hossein Abad Spring: This spring is located 36 kilometers southwest of Rafsanjan. The source of the fountain is located in the basement that goes down with a step and in the alluvial ground of the fourth era, which is covered by folds. The water of this spring is of chlorine, sodium, calcium sulfate and sulfur type. In relation to the therapeutic properties of this type of water, it has been said that due to the presence of sulfur and chlorine compounds, they cure rheumatic, skin, ear, nose and throat diseases, and gynecological and urinary tract diseases.

3- Qasim Abad mineral water spring: This spring is located 6 km east of Rafsanjan in Qasim Abad village and it is actually an old aqueduct whose water has been used for treatment by the people of the region since the past years. The water of this spring is effective in the treatment of rheumatic, ear, throat and nose diseases and also has an invigorating effect.

4- Davaran mineral spring: this spring is located 58 km northeast of Rafsanjan. The manifestation of the spring is located in the mouth of a mountain called Dare Zard, which is along Davaran Mountain.