



## RESEARCH PAPER

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## Touristic land area of ghalat (fars province)

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### Abstract

Ghalat Village is located in the north-west of Shiraz city (Fars Province, Iran). The beautiful scenery of the area include fountains and three falls like Fig Springs (Cheshmeh Anjiri), Ghezel Arsalan Castle, Pachenar of Ghalat, and Church of the Epiphany, Aghahm Pino Holy Shrine (Pirno), and recreation resort of Shab Shotori. Ghalat district is the most popular tourist attractions in Fars province. . On warm days of the year, it receives large numbers of our citizens, but lack of infrastructures, unpredictability of earning sources capacity for Dehyari (unit governing the village), pale monitoring of the condition of hygiene and lack of a practical and effective plan to prevent environmental degradation by tourists are among the considered problems. Ghalat may be a suitable place for investors in the field of tourism, spaces without destruction or damage to the natural environment appeal to the tourists in the region. Therefore, introducing the different geological potentials; and at the same time the protecting and effective utilizing of natural resources and its greatly high functionalities are essential so that for keeping this world heritage, based on the principles of sustainable development and the commitments of the present generation to the future generations, we take steps for the progress our country.

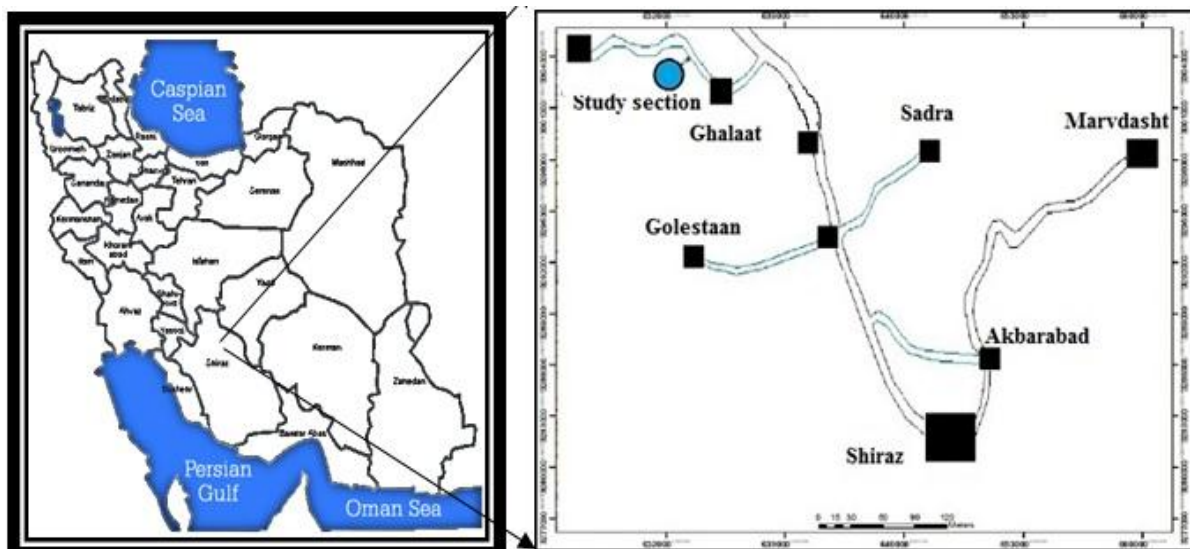
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## Introduction

Ghalat district is located 15 km from north-west of the city of Shiraz on the southwestern flank of the syncline line with geographical coordinates of  $28^{\circ}00', 52^{\circ}30'$  eastern longitude and  $28^{\circ}00', 45', 29^{\circ}30', 52', 29^{\circ}$  of northern latitude. The region altitude from the sea level varies from 1000 to 3000 m. Ghalat district is one of the cities of Shiraz which is situated in Fars province and is comprised of the villages of Ghalat, Heydaraabad, Maroon Valley and Ali Abad. Ghalat is the largest village in the area to the main road, 2 km away from Shiraz to Sepidar (Fig. 1).

Geotourism deals with the two words of nature and built environments. In fact, geotourism is one of the subfields of tourism that is dependent upon nature which introduces the geological phenomena to the tourists with maintaining their local identity. Different sciences of geology come to the help of geotourism and lovers of nature and geological phenomena are invited to visit the beautiful attractions of the Earth. Geotourism or geological

tourism has attracted a wide tourists today who are not only experts in geology, but are the lovers of nature and ordinary tourists. During the geotourism activities, visitors, while visiting the unique geological phenomena, get familiar with the principles of creation and realize the significance of their existence. Ghalat village has been among the target villages of Iran and Fars and is thousand years old that is geologically formed in the Sorkh (Red) mountain range which is lead to a cold rural area. In the area of Ghalat sheet the oldest deposits of Oligocene – Miocene dating back to Cenozonic era with compounds contain carbonate deposits and impregnated with iron. In this area Oligocene-Miocene sedimentary basin depth is generally low and its time has been somewhat short and transient. In the previous Miocene, the continental conditions have governed this zone that has been the result of fuzzy effects of Savin. The aim of this study is finding different geological potentials; and at the same time the protecting and effective utilizing of natural resources and its greatly high functionalities.



**Fig. 1.** The map of access roads to ghalat.

## Materials and methods

### Ghalat Village Roads

The measured cuts can be accessed in several ways. One is a paved road, from Shiraz to Ghalat and from there to Koudian village north of Ghalat Mountain

from which there is a dirt road to the south-east of the village Heydarabad. The other one is the road from Shiraz to the village of Pas Kohak and from there to the village of Ali Abad Gharacheh which is a paved road.

### *Ghalat Geomorphology*

From the viewpoint of geomorphology, Ghalat area is comprised of two parts. One is the mountainous part and the other is the relatively flat slopes part. The mountainous parts are from south-east to north-west and by the same token, it has sheet with raised edge formations of stalagmites, high and impassable walls.

## **Result and discussions**

### *Ghalat Lithostratigraphic Characteristics*

In Ghalat region, there are Asmari formations and formations of Traditional Persian, Aghajari, Bakhtiari and Quaternary sediments.

### *Ghalat Economic Significance*

Within the sheet of Ghalat, there have been no valuable metal materials or resources. Since the structure of the region is sedimentary, it is expected that the martials with sedimentary origin would be

available for studying and examining. Based on their antiquity they will be as follows: Rock, stone, stucco, stone foundations, water and sand.

### *Tourist Attractions*

Ghalat village is located in the mountainous region of Shiraz city and its concentrated rural area, which was a residential place for inhabitants, has got terraced houses on the hillside which are drawn to the altitude part (Fig.s 2, 3 & 6).

### *Waterfalls*

In different parts of Shiraz Sorkh Mountain, there are various springs that make numerous waterfalls to gush along the way to reach the village. Three large waterfalls have been formed in the Sorkh Mountain area of Shiraz and the margin of the village of Ghalat among which two are more conveniently accessible and customary tourists can easily visit them (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 2.** A view of Ghalat village



**Fig. 3.** A perspective view of ghalat mountains to the north-west.



**Fig. 4.** A view of two waterfalls of the village.

### *Rivers and springs*

Shab Shotori River and Anjiri Spring with a coating of plants and vegetation of wildflowers and herbs yarrow, marshmallow, thyme, oregano, savory etc., are among the unique tourist attractions of Ghalat.

### *Church and Castle and Shrine of Ghalat Village*

The old church of village, with its noticeable and interesting stone architecture, has remained among the tall trees in the calm streets of the village. This

church, which has been the house of worship for its Christians in the past, has already been destroyed due to migration.

Its watermills, cemetery and sculpted and carved stones, its old and paved market, Gezel Arsalan Castle, Holy Shrine of Agham Pinou and other tourist attractions are among the natural and historic treasures of Ghalat village (Fig. 6).



**Fig. 5.** A view of the kuh sorkh (Red Mountain).



**Fig. 6.** A view of the church of the epiphany.

#### *Classification of Geological Phenomenon of Ghalat Based on Tourist Attraction*

From the point of view of experts, each geological tourist attraction has a rank based on its value and importance and also its extent of charisma that it bears in attracting the tourists. Based on the geological classification proposed by Nabavi, they are grouped into six classifications based on their value for age work groups and also their attraction for domestic and foreign tourism: Uniqueness, provincial uni-phenomenal, scarcity, pattern and identifier, multisack and navandeh. According to the

characteristics of Ghalat region which is an indicator of level and pattern kinds, it is of great value for training purposes and appealing for normal tourists.

#### **Conclusion**

Ghalat is an unmatched capacity for attracting domestic and foreign tourists. On warm days of the year, it receives large numbers of our citizens, but lack of infrastructures, unpredictability of earning sources capacity for Dehyari (unit governing the village), pale monitoring of the condition of hygiene and lack of a practical and effective plan to prevent environmental degradation by tourists are among the considered problems. Ghalat may be a suitable place for investors in the field of tourism, spaces without destruction or damage to the natural environment appeal to the tourists in the region. Therefore, introducing the different geological potentials; and at the same time the protecting and effective utilizing of natural resources and its greatly high functionalities are essential so that for keeping this world heritage, based on the principles of sustainable development and the commitments of the present generation to the future generations, we take steps for the progress our country. The following guidelines are recommended to achieve the desired objectives:

- Encouraging students to conduct research projects in order to learn more of these geological phenomena and allocating funds for practicing such research projects.
- Training graduates in geology and geography and other disciplines to introduce such phenomena to domestic and foreign tourists. This helps the improvement of occupational and economic condition and honors these disciplines more than before.
- Research on physical changes of these phenomena over time under the impact of natural and artificial factors such as human activities and preventing human degradation and planning for maintenance, preservation and keeping these phenomena.

- Conducting appropriate national, international and scientific advertisements to introduce Iran's beautiful natural phenomenon.

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