

KURDISTAN

Tour Guide



2015-2016



Achillea Millefolium
(common name
"Yarrow")



Papaver Rhoeas
(common name
"Poppy")



Cnicus Benedictus
(common name
"Blessed Thistle")



Matricaria Chamomilla
(common name
"Camomile")



Althea Ficifolia
(common names
"Alcea Rosea/
Hollyhock")



Lolium Temulentum
(common names
"(Poison) Darnel" /
"Cockle")

reportedly the basis for the Clan's cave in the movie, *The Clan of the Cave Bear* by Jean Auel.

HIGHLIGHTS

There are 300 steps leading up to the cave and a memorial to Solecki, which was constructed in 2014. Numerous improvements were recently made to the cave site, which has made visits easier and more informative.

The nature of the Cave is important. It is in the shape of a triangle of 25 m (82 ft.) wide and 8m (26.ft.) high. This formation helped the Cave to be lit by sunlight across the day, which in turn made life possible for man, especially during the fierce winters and freezing seasons of the Stone Ages.

Quote from Ralph Solecki / Wall Street Journal - July 11, 2013

"Discovering my first Neanderthal skeleton in Iraq's Shanidar Cave in the spring of 1957 took my breath away. Archaeology is a time-consuming, labor-intensive science, so when you find remains in a former residential space dating back 40,000 years, you start to imagine what life must have been like then and how anyone could have survived for long."

Potts, director of the museum's Human Origins Program, describes as a "fossil treasure case." Shanidar 3, Potts adds, "Is the Hope Diamond of the Human Origins collection, and we treat it accordingly." Moreover he states, "There is quite a

severe and deep cut to a rib on his left side which would have been deep enough to collapse his lung, so Shanidar 3 is the oldest known individual who could have been "murdered."

Shanidar Cave was also





Tourist at Jirwana

want to climb the mountain and get a grand look at the growing city of Duhok below.

One should be cautioned: the climb to Halamata requires a fair degree of physical exertion and the track is not well developed. However, for those interested in the history of the region it is well worth the effort.

ter coming down the shallow valley ran under the aqueduct.



Ancient Cuneiform

How to get there? It is not easy to find unless you have a guide as the way is not marked and the road is small and sometimes impassable when it rains. There are surprisingly few people aware of or who have visited this incredible site. The aqueduct is visible on Google Earth and the coordinates are: 36.669692N, 43.393878E elevation: 407 meters.

It is located about ten minutes off the main road from Erbil to Duhok via Ruvia and Chraa. It is not visible from the main road. Coming from Erbil, the turnoff to the aqueduct, to the right, is opposite Mahad collective town, which is on the left side of the main road. A ways back from the main road, toward Mahad, there is a noticeable pinkish compound wall with white arches. There is also a large *Arcelik* billboard advertising washing machines. The dirt road opposite Mahad to the aqueduct might be muddy and deeply rutted but no problem for a four-wheel drive Land Cruiser except during the very heavy rains that sometimes deluge the area. The road goes toward low hills. Jirwana is one of the oldest if not the oldest aqueduct and bridge ruin in the world. It is over 2,700 years old (690s BC), built

JIRWANA (JIRWAN - JERWAN)

GENERAL INFORMATION / HISTORY

Sennecherib's aqueduct at Jirwana is an impressive structure with cuneiform writing on the side. Jirwana is a roughly one-hour ride east of Dohuk or 60 km (37 mi). The aqueduct carried water across a shallow valley between two hills. Wa-



Tourists investigate the site

QUBAHANI MADRASSA RUINS

GENERAL INFORMATION / HISTORY

The ruins of the Qubahani School are located across the valley from the Amediye Citadel, in the Duhok Governorate. Recently a well-paved road has been built for easier access and there are plans for restoration. The road to the site is off the main highway leading to Amediya several miles before the city and there is

sign indicating the turnoff. One can also hike across the valley from Amediye it self beginning from the old Amediye Gate – a great walk through the natural surroundings of the valley, which takes about 40 minutes at a leisurely pace.

The Madrassa was reportedly built in the 17th cen-

tury as an extension of the famed University of Cairo during the reign of Sultan Hussein Wali (1534-1576 AD). Imams and scholars studied the Islamic religious sciences at this site for hundreds of years.

HIGHLIGHTS

The site has a number of remnants of the original walls in intact although they are in an advanced state of ruin. The site has not received a great deal of attention and little factual information is available.

