

# Nowruz!

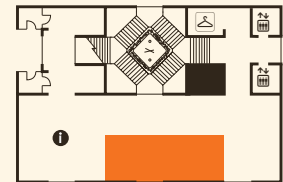
## A PERSIAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

### GROUND LEVEL

*Haft sin* table display

**Food trucks on the National Mall**  
(Located outside the S. Dillon Ripley Center entrance)

Exit to Independence Avenue, Smithsonian Visitor Center, and Haupt Garden



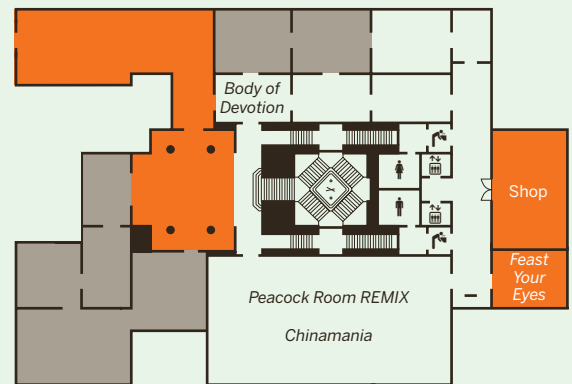
### SUBLEVEL 1

Backgammon and chess

Make your own *Shahnama* puppet

Sackler Shop

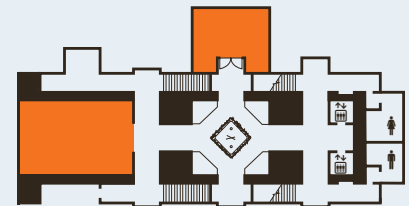
**Featured exhibition**  
*Feast Your Eyes:*  
*A Taste for Luxury in Ancient Iran*



### SUBLEVEL 2

Make your own *Haft sin* table collage  
ImaginAsia classroom

Slideshow of Iran in early photographs

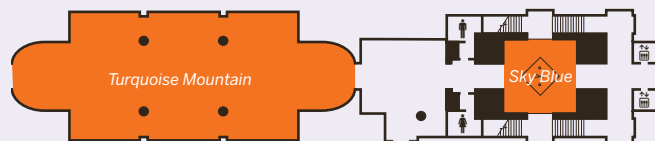


### SUBLEVEL 3 (S. DILLON RIPLEY CENTER)

**Music**  
Persian Music: Classic and New  
Sahba Motallebi with Naghmeh Farahmand  
In *Turquoise Mountain*  
11:30 am, 1:30, and 3:30 pm

**Storytelling**  
Persian stories told by Xanthe Gresham  
Discovery Theater  
12 pm, 2 pm (with ASL interpretation), and 4 pm

**Film**  
*Window Horses: The Poetic Persian Epiphany of Rosie Ming*  
89 minutes; subtitled  
Lecture Hall  
1 and 3 pm



**Calligraphy**  
Timed tickets required

**Food for sale**

**Featured exhibitions**  
*Turquoise Mountain: Artists Transforming Afghanistan*

*Sky Blue: Color in Ceramics of the Islamic World*

↓  
To S. Dillon Ripley Center

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 5  
2017**

Made possible by the Jahangir and Eleanor Amuzegar Persian Cultural Celebrations Fund.

All events are 11 am–5 pm unless noted otherwise

## NOWRUZ FESTIVAL

**Nowruz, the Persian word for “new day,”** coincides with the vernal equinox and the first day of spring. Rooted in Zoroastrianism, the religion of Iran before the founding of Islam, Nowruz was celebrated in much of the ancient Near East as early as 3000 BCE. Today,

people in many countries—from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Albania, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan to India and Pakistan—participate in the thirteen days of Nowruz festivities with their own local variations.

## HAFT SIN TABLE

**The centerpiece of the Nowruz celebration is the *Haft sin table*.** It includes at least seven (*haft*) items that refer to new life and renewal. Although the custom has regional variations, in Iran each of the seven items begins with the letter *s* (pronounced *seen* in Persian).

***sib*** (apples) fertility and beauty

***sonbol*** (hyacinth) fragrance

***serkeh*** (wine vinegar) immortality and eternity

***senjed*** (wild olives) fertility and love

***sabzeh*** (wheat, barley, or lentil sprouts growing in a dish) rebirth

***samanu*** (wheat sprout pudding) sweetness

***sekkeh*** (coins) wealth

**Other symbols of good luck can also be placed on the table, such as:**

**A mirror**, to reflect the light of wisdom and creation

**A book of poetry** by the fourteenth-century writer Hafiz or a copy of the Qur'an

**An orange floating in a bowl of water**, to represent Earth floating in space

**Candles**, to symbolize holy fire

**Decorated eggs**, to represent fertility

**People in Afghanistan celebrate their Nawruz with a few regional changes.** Red tulips, a symbol of spring, are featured during the Guli Surkh festival, particularly in Mazar-e Sharif. Similar to the *Haft sin table*, Afghan families prepare *Haft mewa*, or Seven Fruits. This fruit-and-nut compote often contains raisins, pistachios, hazelnuts, dried apricots, walnuts, almonds, and *senjed* (dried fruit of the oleaster tree). Other special dishes, such as the spinach-and-rice *sabzi chalow* and *kulcha-e* cookies, are prepared and enjoyed on family picnics.

## FOOD FOR SALE

mobydick



Located on the S. Dillon Ripley Center concourse



Located on the National Mall outside S. Dillon Ripley Center entrance

## VISIT US ONLINE

[asia.si.edu/nowruz](http://asia.si.edu/nowruz)

Festival photos are posted on [facebook.com/FreerSackler](https://www.facebook.com/FreerSackler)



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Smithsonian