

SICHAL (Abt. 3600 meter)

November 8, 2002

Sichal is actually the name of the main peak of the Dizzin ski resort. The peak is about 50 m higher than the last station of the gondola.

For those of you who have not skied in Iran, Dizzin is the major ski area near Tehran. It is 1 ½ hour drive from Tehran by the Shemshak - Tehran road and about 2 hours by the Tehran – Chalous road.

The slopes are mostly wide, long and not very steep making for pleasant and fairly easygoing skiing. There are 2 gondolas and at least six or seven lifts. One should not venture to Dizin on Fridays because it is very overcrowded and with the usual “respect” most us Iranians have for queuing it is unpleasant. On weekdays however, with the sun and very good quality snow both of which are at the rendezvous during most of the winter it is very enjoyable.

It had rained a few times in Tehran and there was some snow on the Elbourz slopes North of Tehran. So Marco D. and I thought we would drive up to Dizzin and “check it out”.

Yuppie! There was some snow!

Because of very little snow at the start we had to walk for about 20 minutes before we could start going up with the skis and sealskins. The little snow being heavy and wet it took us about 2 ½ hours to reach the Sichal peak.



I was sure that we could manage at least a few good turns on the way down (we did).

It turned out that we skied practically all the way to the parking lot from where we had started our ascent - granted mostly on very thin snow sparkled with rocks and mud, as you can see in the photo, courtesy of Tezi B., who accompanied us part of the way up on foot.

Tezi's dog Rex and of course Tommy (my dog) were also of the party!

Micky Houtcieff