

Qeshm an Ideal Tourist Spot



Qeshm Island, located between the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, is Iran's second free trade zone and a tourist attraction.

One of the largest islands in the world, Qeshm boasts of natural, historical and trade attractions, Press TV reported.

The beautiful sights in Qeshm have not only made the island an ideal vacation spot, but also a suitable place for pursuing higher education.

The tropical island has an average temperature of 26 degrees centigrade. Qeshm experiences its hottest period from the end of June well into September when the temperature reaches nearly 33 degrees while its coolest period from late December to mid February sees a temperature of around 18 degrees centigrade.

Namakdan Cave is a stunning cave with breathtaking icicles and hosts large numbers of tourists daily. The Valley of Stars and Chah-Kou are among two of Qeshm Island's numerous breath-taking mountains.

The Hara forests, dominated by saltwater trees known as Avicennia marina, are among the natural wonders of Qeshm. The mangroves, which grow as high as three to eight meters and have external roots, are often submerged at high tide.

Home to some 10 species of migratory tropical birds, the trees on the island have bright green leaves and bear sweet almond-like fruit from mid-July to August.

The wondrous flora and fauna of the island cannot fail to enchant. It hosts 11 species of crab and numerous kinds of fish, Qeshm is a breeding ground of a diverse range of marine animal and plant species.

Nearly 70 ancient wells, now known as Tala wells, are reminders of the advanced Achaemenid water supply system.

In the Achaemenid and Sassanid eras, the inhabitants of Qeshm Island built dams in the mountain passes and valleys to collect rain for use as drinking water and for irrigation, the remains of which can be seen to this day.

The ancient Anahita Temple represents the island's rich history—a time when the people of Qeshm paid tribute to the Persian water goddess, Anahita.

Tourists or those visiting the island on business can enjoy recreational activities such as fishing, horse riding, auto racing and water sports or refresh themselves at the natural springs.

Visitors can also spend a day at the island's numerous malls or experience from close the workings of a traditional Persian bazaar.

The island also provides an opportunity for students to gain a first-class academic education at the Qeshm Institute of Higher Education,



which offers degrees from Canada's Carleton University.

With its beautiful sunsets and numerous tourist sights, Qeshm can be a perfect destination for those seeking a truly memorable experience of visiting an Iranian island.

Call for Iranology Center

The Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) has proposed a plan for establishment of an Iranology center for children.

IIDCYA managing director, Mohsen Chiniforoushan, said that Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and the municipalities can help our children to know their homeland better by holding exhibitions in Tehran and other cities, reported MNA.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of 'One Week with IIDCYA', festival exclusive to Tehran, he said national identity is linked to cultural identity.

"Cultural identity is not to be sought only in stone and bricks of our ancient monuments. Our literary heritage of proverbs, poetry and lullabies are integral parts of the Iranian cultural identity," Chiniforoushan remarked.

He expressed regret over the fact that Iranian children and adults are not sufficiently familiar with classical Persian literature.

"In my trips to Persian-speaking countries, I noticed that the people of these countries were more familiar with Persian poets and knew much Persian poetry by heart," Chiniforoushan added.

Commenting on globalization, he said that unfortunately the phenomenon called globalization is targeting the cultural and historical identity of nations, and even countries like France and Germany have expressed concern and are implementing plans to prevent penetration of foreign languages and cultures in their countries.

Chiniforoushan added that IIDCYA's libraries throughout Iran play a major role in enhancing the children's knowledge and understanding of the Persian language and literature.

"Iran shall ever live, and introducing our ancient homeland to children would never be boring or repetitive."

Chiniforoushan also announced that his center will be holding the nationwide festival 'One Week with IIDCYA' concurrent with the World Children Day in autumn.

Tabriz Has Largest Park

The first phase of construction of Shams Tabrizi Garden covering an area of three hectares is complete.

Tabriz District One mayor noted that upon completion of the second phase, the park's area will extend to 10 hectares, reported IRNA.

Mohammad Reza Qorbanian pointed out that the park is the largest of its kind nationwide and includes renovated old gardens which were on the verge of destruction in Chaykenar of Tabriz.

Qorbanian emphasized that the first phase took less than six months to be completed.

"Over 170 billion rials have been spent on building the facilities of the garden," he added.

Upon completion of the project, Tabriz' green areas will increase significantly. Tabriz Mayor Ali Reza Novin said, "The important project has been named after Shams Tabrizi and his statue has been installed in the middle of the garden".

Shams Tabrizi is a towering mystic of the sixth century AH.

"There was an old building in the garden. We have decided to renovate it and use it as a venue for the meeting of artists," he observed.

In Case You Missed

Mashaei Calls for India Cooperation

Head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization Esfandiyar Rahim-Mashaei said Iran is keen on attracting foreign investments in its tourism industry.

According to the Cultural Heritage News Agency, Rahim-Mashaei made the remark while addressing the gathering themed "Expansion of Tourism Between Iran and India" during Iran's Cultural Week held in Mumbai.

"Iran guarantees capital return and profit on investments," he said.

Underlining the need for more interaction between Iranian and Indian tourism companies, the official said, "Expansion of tourism leads to expansion of ties between countries. And the influx of tourists in any country is the sign of that country's security and stability."

Referring to Iran's 2025 Vision plan, based on which some 20 million tourists should visit Iran in 2025, he emphasized that tourism can become a large socioeconomic resource alongside oil and gas reserves.

Rahim-Mashaei noted that despite the propaganda launched against the Islamic Republic, tourism industry has grown significantly.

"Iran is among the top 10 countries in terms of historical monuments. There are over one million historical edifices in Iran, each of which has unique characteristics," he said.

Protecting Cheetahs

Sons of the Land of Cheetahs Festival started in Bafq in Yazd province. The two-day event aimed at protecting cheetahs, which are on the verge of extinction, IRNA reported.

Some 400 local school students presented their findings on efforts to help save the big cats. The festival also sought



to raise alertness of the people of Bafq and villages near the cheetahs' habitats.

Meanwhile, an exhibition on accomplishments of governmental and non-governmental organizations of Bafq themed 'Asian Cheetah' was set up in seven pavilions. Films were screened in the festival. It also displayed wall newspapers and brochures.



Asian cheetah is found in the protected zones of Yazd province. Bafq is some 120 kilometers east of the city of Yazd.

Chayghah Castle Is Nat'l Heritage

The historical castle of Chayghah Village near Behabad was registered as national heritage. Yazd's Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Department announced.

A small and unique castle, it is situated 10 km from Behabad on the road to Bafq, IRNA reported.

It has two circular towers, each six-meter high with two stories. Inside the castle are five rooms and outside it are 10 residential units where residents of Chayghan Village resided in the past. There is also a well inside the castle, which was built during the Qajar era.

Behabad is located 200 km east of Yazd.