

Climatic Conditions

Iran's plateau enjoys a relatively dry climate. Its location on the global arid belt of Alborz and Zagros mountain chains traps the humidity and air currents of the Caspian Sea and Mediterranean and prevents their penetration to the inner parts.

According to Tarannomtour website, Iran enjoys considerable climatic changes due to its location between 25 and 40 degree latitude. The average annual temperature increases from northwest to southeast of the country and varies from 10 degree Centigrade in Azarbaijan to 25-30 degree Centigrade in the south and south-east.

The northern and southern shores of Iran, in different seasons, have diverse climates, compared with central and mountainous regions. The average annual temperature of Bandar Abbas in the south of Iran in January is 18.5 degree Centigrade. The difference of average annual rainfall is also very high in different parts of the country. These changes vary from 2000 mm in Gilan to less than 100 mm in central parts of Iran. Average annual precipitation in Iran is 275 mm.

>Diversity

Iran enjoys a considerable climatic diversity, experiencing various seasons in different parts of the country, in a way that in some areas, the coldness of winter and the warmth of summer can be si-



multaneous. Thus, the weather in Iran must be judged regionally.

In January and February, there are three climate zones in Iran. Shores of the Caspian Sea have mild and relatively cold weather, central parts with wintry weather and southern parts enjoy moderate and pleasant weather. The whole of Iran enjoys a pleasant weather in spring, especially in June. But the weather in southern parts grows very hot unexpectedly.

Climatic conditions of the country become complicated in summer. Due to high humidity, the weather of the coastal parts of Caspian Sea changes in summer. During the day it is hot, but it is relatively cool at night. Along the southern coastlines of Iran, the days are very hot and nights are relatively warm with very high humidity, which is intolerable to non-native residents.

The cities of Shiraz, Isfahan, Mashhad, Tehran and Tabriz, which are the main tourist centers of Iran, enjoy different climates. Shiraz, with four months of warm weather, takes first place and Tabriz with only one month of warm conditions is at the last spot. Azarbaijan, Kurdistan, Hamedan and Khorasan provinces are famous as cool places in summer.

The entire north of the country, especially the Alborz slopes like Noor Valley, Kelardasht and Katalam, as well as Azarbaijan, Khorasan and central regions of Zagros mountains between Tooyserkan and Golpayegan, has very suitable conditions for spending weekends and holidays by domestic as well as foreign tourists in summer. Tourists may visit the southern region of Iran, for 5-6 months of the year, especially in the fall and winter.

Those foreign tourists, who visit the southern coasts of Iran in winter, face a very pleasant weather. During this period, the cities of Isfahan and Fars provinces are rainy and snowy with a very



cold weather.

In summer, the weather in most parts of the country is warm but not intolerable. Spring and autumn, especially during Norouz holidays (the Iranian New Year starting March 21) are suitable for touring all parts of the country.

D8 Tourism Ministers Convene

The 4-day meeting of tourism ministers from member-states of the Developing 8 countries opened in Tehran on Monday.

The tourism ministers of eight developing Muslim countries will discuss ecotourism, infrastructure and investment in tourism sector, reported PressTV.

The eight developing Muslim countries, namely Iran, Egypt, Pa-

kistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Turkey, are to present a variety of strategies and approaches to develop their countries' tourism sector.

The meeting is to run till May 16 in Tehran and Isfahan, with an ecotourism exhibit scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the meet-

In Case You Missed

Khomartash Dome

To Be Restored

Iranian experts will start restoration of the ancient Khomartash Dome, located in the northern province of Qazvin.

The passage of time has severely damaged the interior walls and decorations of the Khomartash Dome, reported PressTV.

The monument, a unique example of Islamic architecture, was built about 1,000 years ago during the Seljuk dynasty



(1038-1194).

A team of Italian architects partly refurbished Khomartash Dome about 30 years ago. The mosque has ever since been closed to the public and stands upright only with the help of scaffolds installed by the Italian group.

Ardebil Bazaar

Renovation Planned

Deputy head of Ardebil's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department for cultural heritage affairs gave word of the start of renovation of the historical bazaar of the city of Ardebil on Imam Khomeini Avenue.

Speaking to IRNA, Behrouz Nedaei added, "The base, ceiling, floor, body and roof of all shops opposite the Imam Khomeini Avenue, from the entrance of the bazaar to the entrance of Qeisarieh Bazaar, will be renovated this year based on the historical texture of the bazaar."



He noted that Ardebil Municipality and the bazaar's board of trustees cosponsor the renovation operation.

Nedaei also stressed that different buildings in the bazaar will be reinforced and the slopes of their roofs will be modified during the operation.

Saltmen Transferred

To Museum

The remains of saltmen were transferred from Zanjan's Chehrehabad salt mine to Zanjan's Zolfaqari Archeology Museum upon completion of the museum.

Head of archeological excavation team of Chehrehabad Mine, Abolfazl Aali, and discoverer of four of the saltmen, told Cultural Heritage News Agency that with a small budget allocated for converting the house of Zolfaqaris into museum, the four saltmen who were in Zanjan's laundry house were transferred into Zanjan museum.



"The saltmen have been situated in a glass container equipped with damp removal apparatus," Aali added.

He pointed out that since the saltmen have soft skin tissues and even some of their body organs have remained intact, transferring them to museum should be handled with care.

"The first saltman is currently being kept in the Iranian National Museum," Aali opined.

He further noted that the fourth saltman is in better conditions than the other three because it was discovered during archeological excavations which took place with extra care.