



Imam Khomeini International Airport has transported some 49,000 passengers from Tehran to Iraqi cities of Najaf and Baghdad to participate in the Arbaeen pilgrimage in a span of four days. "Since the beginning of Arbaeen flights [scheduled] on October 9, 288 flights have been carried out and 48,934 passengers were transported from the airport to Najaf and Baghdad," IKAC news service quoted deputy director of the Airport Operations Department at Imam Khomeini Airport City (IKAC) on Monday. Hassan Khoshkhoo noted that Arbaeen flights from IKIA to Najaf and Baghdad began last week on October 9, managing to transfer 48,934 pilgrims and around 342,915 tons of cargo, adding 288 flights took off through Terminal 1 and Salam International Terminal in the mentioned period.

**IKIA Transports
49,000 Arbaeen
Pilgrims in 4 Days**

Visit Hormuz Island: Mystery of Persian Gulf

Southern Iran is attractive destination for fall and is known as the mystery of Persian Gulf in terms of beautiful landscape and sightseeing; let's say Hormuz Island is fundamentally different from the other islands.

Somewhere in the bottom of the map near Qeshm island, Hormuz Island, the first thing that catches your eyes from the boat is the redness of the soil and this is where the red and blue of the sea merge, Hormuz is an ancient island and according to records, the island dates back 3 million years.

Located in the Persian Gulf, Hormuz is the island of colorful beaches and many people refer to it as the Rainbow Island. The island is a center of geological studies. Hormuz Island is known for its red soil though it is not its only attraction. Stepping on silver, golden, and white sand of the shore, you can see the red and orange mountains and the unforgettable sunset. Hormuz Island is located in a part of the Persian Gulf where the depth of the sea is low enough for the giant tankers to leave the gulf easily. As a result, this island has been geographically important to the sailors through time. If you look at this island from above or on a map, you will notice that it looks like a shell. A beautiful road is constructed around the island that makes riding a bike and walking possible.

The soil color around you keeps changing as you walk or ride and you can visit a unique red edible soil and other 70 colorful minerals in Hormuz Island. Wonderful views, untouched nature, and various attractions all in Hormuz Island are the magnificent features of this beautiful island. Winters in Hormuz Island are pleasantly mild. You can enjoy many entertainments, lifestyles, traditions, clothing, and local dishes of the south of Iran when in Hormuz Island.

The people of Hormuz have their own special way of cooking. They take the fresh fish of their waters, such as sardines, kilka and another kind called 'momagh', clean them and marinate them in the peel of sour oranges and this particular sauce in a large container and leave it in the sun for two days. Then its cooked to become a delicious meal called 'suragh'.

Its appetizing taste and color is very popular among tourists from both Iran and abroad. Very few visitors to this island leave without having tasted the dish.

The same red soil is also used in baking the local bread called 'tomshi'. The same bread is cooked in neighboring islands with cheese or dabbled with eggs; but Hormuz has its own special recipe made with 'suragh' which is rather popular.

Guelak and suragh are also known in other parts of Hormuzgan Province and are used in foods such as 'kalleh jush' made with walnuts and whey, lentil rice, and small shrimps and other seafood.

The wide ranging colors of the soil include white, yellow, red, green, orange, beige, brown, light turquoise, and even gold.

From a geology perspective, the island is one of the most important salt domes of the world; due to these features, it is given the name lithology lab.

The agile artists of the island also produce hand arts such as colorful paintings made with their valuable soil, also very popular among tourists.

Nevertheless, the exploitation of the island's soil has created environmental concerns for some years now, which is why the Environmental Protection Agency is seeking to protect and stop its use.



Khorramabad Festival to Feature Tribal Lifestyle Rituals, Crafts and Arts

A major festival, intended to turn the spotlight on the lifestyle, rituals, crafts and arts of various tribes and nomadic people across Iran, is scheduled to be held in Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province, from October 30 to November 2. Exhibitors from all over the country have been invited to take part in the event, which will also reflect tourist attractions, natural sceneries and historical sites of the western province. Over 60 stalls and 20 Siah-Chadors ("vast traditional black tents") are set to be set up for the exhibit, provincial tourism chief Seyyed Amin Qasemi said on Saturday, Mehr reported. Local cousin contests, live music performances, and demonstrations of culinary art are amongst other programs for the event that will be held in a park nearing the historical Falak-ol-Aflak fortress, Qasemi added. A destination for domestic and foreign travelers, the fortress dates from the Sassanid era (224-651). It seems particularly imposing and dramatic when floodlit at night offering picturesque views of its encircling crenellated battlements. Bisheh Waterfall, Snow Tunnel, Pol-dokhtar ponds, Soltani Mosque of Borujerd, Shapouri Bridge, and Shirez Canyon are amongst other tourist sites of the mountainous province.

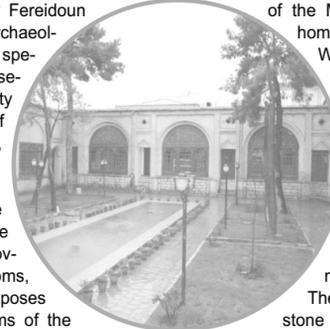


Zagros Paleolithic Museum in Iran's Kermanshah

The unmatched museum in the Middle East, Zagros Paleolithic Museum, in Kermanshah, exhibits an invaluable collection of stone objects and skeletons from Paleolithic era. Developed in 2008 by Fereidoun Biglari, the Iranian archaeologist and Paleolithic specialist and Moradi Bise-touni, Former Deputy Director General of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism of Kermanshah province, the museum is a favorite ground for history lovers. Holding four rooms, the museum exposes to view ancient items of the Paleolithic and Neolithic eras, some as old as 100,000 years.

The first room offers an interesting documentary on stone tools and their functions and the way they were made as well as a complete model of a Neanderthal. Among the most interestingly-built models in the globe, they are in real sizes and have been

made by a couple of skilled sculptors under the supervision of Dr. Biglari. The second room displays bones of humans and animals from Zagros region, and human skulls excavated in Europe and parts



of the Middle East. It also is home to fossils gained from Wezmeh Cave, in Islam Abad-e Gharb in Kermanshah. The third represents stone gadgets from the Paleolithic era, explored in Kashafrud in Khorasan, and Ganj Par in Gilan. The items here are the most ancient.

The fourth belongs to the stone instruments and animals' bones from the late Stone Age and Neolithic era. Additionally, the maps of caves, shelters, and habitats in Iran's Paleolithic era are on public display, which is an unparalleled attraction in itself. Rich mountains of Zagros has been a favorite hunting spot in ancient times. The mighty mountain still remains intact.

Iran's Travel Balance Remains Positive in H1

Iran's travel balance remained positive in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21), deputy tourism minister said on Monday. "Foreign arrivals in Iran grew by 26 percent during the first half of the current year in comparison with the same period last year," Vali Teymouri said, CHTN reported. The country's travel balance kept being positive taking inbound and outbound passengers [in the six-month period] into account, the official noted. "Getting over the last year's economic shock and experiencing

relative economic improvement let 4,258,944 people travel abroad in the first six months of this year, which represents a 15.95 percent increase [year on year]." The official reminded that the number of Iranians traveling abroad stood at 3,673,092 in the same period last year. He put the number of international arrivals at 4,998,215 for the first half of the current [Iranian calendar] year, adding the number corresponding for the same period last year stood at 3,956,071. The official forecast that the rise would continue in the second half of the year. "Neighboring countries are a major source

of tourism for Iran," he said, adding, "Travelers from neighboring countries always hold the biggest share of arrivals in each country, and Iran is no exception." "Target countries have been identified based on [Iran's] capacities in the fields of health tourism, religious tourism, natural and historical attractions... and planning to attract more tourists is underway," Teymouri explained. Tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said in August that [Nearly] 7.8 million foreign nationals visited Iran over the past [Iranian calendar] year [ended March 20] that a significant num-

ber of whom were medical tourists. "During the first three months of this year, the number of tourists arriving in the country increased by 40 percent, again [significant] part of whom was health tourism," he said. "Medical tourism is one of the most important fields of Iran's travel sector and a [average] spending of \$2,400 per tourist indicates its importance." The country hosted a record high of nearly 600,000 medical travelers during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 21), nearly equal to the figure for the whole past year, according to the Iranian Association for promoting

health tourism. People from the Persian Gulf littoral states, Iraq and Syria, as well as Iranian expatriates residing in Canada and Germany, constituted the majority of medical travelers to the Islamic Republic, who received plastic, cosmetic, open-heart and orthopedic surgeries amongst other treatments, Mohammad Panahi, a deputy for the association, said in July. Medical tourism fetched Iran some \$1.2 billion last year, Panahi said, adding that the figure has increased by 20-30 percent in the first four months of this year.

The Islamic Republic has set its goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around 2 million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).



cooking

Broccoli Soup

Broccoli Soup contains very high amounts of vitamin C and calcium. Broccoli benefits are well known. Broccoli reduces cholesterol, promotes heart health, eye health and more. Broccoli is also well credited for its ability to help prevent cancer.

Ingredients:

- 8 oz (227g) Broccoli
- 3.5 oz (100g) Swiss Processed Cheese
- (5 Slices) 1/2 Cup Half & Half Milk
- 1 Russet Potato
- 1 Onion
- 1 Garlic Clove
- 2 Tbsp Unsalted Butter Salt, Black Pepper Powder



PreparAtions:

Dice the onion. Slice the Broccoli. Dice the Potato.

Directions:

Fry the onions with unsalted butter until golden. Mash in a garlic clove. Stir in broccoli. Over medium heat, fry the broccolis for 5 minutes. Stir in diced potatoes. Pour in enough water to cover the ingredients. Cover the pot. Over medium-low heat, boil for 25 minutes. Add as much as salt and pepper as you'd prefer. Stir in swiss cheese. Keep stirring until the cheese is completely melted in the soup. Add half and half milk. Stir well. Over medium-low heat, simmer the soup for 20 minutes or until the soup thickens.

Chinese Museum House of Sheikh Safi in Iran's Ardabil

The Chini Museum is 400 years old and is in the eastern part of the main Ravagh of the Sheikh Safi al-Dowleh Ardabili complex. Sheikh Baha'i, a celebrity and a scholar of the Safavid dynasty is the designer of this complex. The museum is a hall composed of four magnificent and valuable arches. In this part of the tomb of Safi al-Din, you can see great decorations with paintings, gildings, colorful Mogharnas, and Islamic designs; however, its reputation is for its high resistance to earthquakes. The china dishes donated from the Chinese emperor to the Safavid Shah Abbas are kept in this museum. The local artists in Ardabil engraved these dishes. In this museum, there is a Qur'an volume written with the Kufi's script on deerskin. This Qur'an is from 1100 years ago. Also, silver coins and a set of commandments of the Safavid kings are kept in the museum.

