



The tourism sector has created 240 jobs across Iran's North Khorasan province during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-December 20, 2020), a provincial tourism official announced.

The job opportunities were generated in collaboration with the private sector, Abolfazl Esmaili said.

Some 2.5 trillion rials (\$59.5 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) were also invested in tourism-related projects across the province during the period, the official added.

Experts believe though the northeastern province may not be the first choice of travelers, its tourism industry is getting momentum.

**Tourism Generates
240 Jobs in
North Khorasan
in 9 Months**

New Properties in Qom Gain National Heritage Status

A total of 21 historical monuments and aging structures, scattered across Iran's Qom province, have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Monday in a letter to the governor-general of the central province. Khadijeh Khatoon ancient hill, Brick Castel of Deir-e Gachin, Keshmiri Mansion, and Shams Abad cistern are on the list, which also includes Mohammadieh and Fatemeh mosques. The country's second-holiest city after Mashhad, Qom is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools). Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage at the holy shrine, the city is also a top destination for Shiite scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops. The city's antiquity goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE-651) and several historical mosques, mansions, and natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.



Mirror Work in Iran's Fars

Mirror work is the art of creating regular forms by using small or large pieces of mirror mosaics, and is used as a decoration in internal architectural spaces.

Mirror works not only enhance decorations of architectures, but also illuminates the space by multiplying the reflection of the light. It is considered as the Iranian's last innovation in the field of architecture and internal decoration. Since many glass artifacts belonging to Parthian and Sassanid dynasties have been discovered, it has been concluded that glass work has also been practiced from a long ago. In Iranian culture mirror and water have been symbols of purity, fortune, honesty and light. It is possible that the use of mirror relates to this very symbolism. In 19th century mirror works gained popularity. Fine mirror vases were made in Germany

and then sent to Iran. Iranian could simply cut the vases into mosaics of their desired forms and use them. At the beginning, a common practice in mirror works was to install one-piece panels of mirror in the building. One example is the "Chehel Sotoun (literally Forty Columns)" palace in Isfahan. In the past a mirror was installed over one of the entrances, so large that the reflection

of the people passing through the entrance were quite visible. However, the size of the pieces gradually grew smaller. By the end of the 19th century, mirrors were used in small triangle, diamond or hexagonal pieces. In addition, Iranian architects used convex glasses that were turned to mirror. In the Qajar dynasty, a new style of architecture was born, even though the architects were following the trends that were common in Safavid dynasty. But generally architecture is considered to have declined. It was only during the reign of Naser al-Din Shah of Qajar that western art trends influenced Iranian art, and architecture and applied arts such as stucco, mirror work and mosaics improved. At that time, mirror works were greatly used to ornate of royal buildings and also shrines. That is why mirror work grew in Qajar, and fascinating ornate in forms of Muqarnas, arabesque, and also painting and calligraphy on the mirror were created. "Mirror Hall" of Golestan Palace, or "Shams-ol-Emarat" are only two examples of many unmatched works of art remained today. Shiraz, Isfahan and Tehran are the major centers of mirror works of Iran.



Iran Tourism to Return to Normal Next Year, Expert Says

The tourist flow from across the world to Iran will return to normal in 2022, the Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association has announced. Although there are requests for traveling to Iran in the current year (2021), most travel agencies and tour operators believe that the flow will go back to normal in the next year, ISNA quoted Ebrahim Pourfaraj as saying. Beginning mass vaccination against the coronavirus will provide better and safe conditions for international travels in 2022, he added. Currently, most trips are made in short distances and small groups and tours, mainly with the family members, however, till the virus is contained, there is not much hope for international tours and trips during 2021, he explained. Last November, the World Tourism Organization announced that international tourist arrivals to Iran plunged 72% during the first eight

months of 2020 when compared to 2019, highlighting the severe impact of COVID-19 as the main factor. Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan in October warned that Iran's cultural heritage and tourism will be in a critical situation if the crises caused by the outbreak of the coronavirus continue. In August, Mounesan said that Iran's tourism has suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. He also noted that the coronavirus pandemic should not bring traveling to a complete standstill. "Corona is a fact, but can the virus stop tourism? Certainly not. For us, the coronavirus is a new experience in dealing with crises that teaches tourism experts around the world how to deal with such a disaster, and thankfully governments are turning this into an opportunity for better planning."



Intl. travels Slump by 84% in Iran Due to Coronavirus

The average of international travels to and from Iran fell by 84 percent during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2020) from a year earlier.

"Passenger traffic from land and air borders during the first nine months of this year compared to the same period last year, decreased by 84.57% in incoming passenger traffic and 84.33% decrease in outgoing passenger traffic," Mehr quoted Arezou Ghaniuni, an official with the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration, as saying. "During this period, some 2.7 million passengers entered the country.... and this number of incoming passengers included 2,388,134 Iranian nationals, and 318,965 foreign passengers," the official said.

"During this period, 2,619,507 people traveled as out-bound passen-

gers," she added.

International tourist arrivals to Iran plunged 72% during the first eight months of the year when compared to 2019, according to data compiled by the World Tourism Organization. Restrictions on travel introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to hit global tourism hard, with the latest data from the UNWTO showing a 70% fall in international arrivals for the first eight months of 2020. Iran, however, has experienced different rates of downfall for inbound passengers over the past months. In the first three months of 2020 (January, February, March), the tourism industry of the country recorded negative rates of 90, 92, and 94 percent, respectively, compared to the same period last year, according to the organization. The fall reached 96 and 97 percent in April and May. And in June, a negative 84% was recorded. But the interesting point in the statistics published by the World Tourism Organization is a steep slope of the improvement of Iran's tourism arrivals during the last two months, as such growth has leaped 35% in July and August.



cooking



Mushroom Stew

Mushroom stew looks just like any other stew at a glance but in fact it is more than a stew.

Mushroom stew contains very high amounts of iron, niacin, riboflavin, vitamin B6, vitamin C, and high amounts of vitamin A, selenium, potassium, phosphorus, pantothenic acid and dietary fiber.



Ingredients:

- 20 oz (557g) Mushrooms
- 1 Red Onion
- 1 Bell Pepper
- 1 Lime
- 2 Tbsp Vegetable Oil
- Turmeric, Salt, Crushed Red Pepper

Directions:

- 1- Fry red onions with vegetable oil until golden.
- 2- Stir in bell pepper and fry for 5 more minutes or until fried.
- 3- Garnish with turmeric and crushed red pepper.
- 4- Stir in mushroom and immediately squeeze a fresh lime over the mushrooms, stirring thoroughly.
- 5- Over medium-low heat, simmer the mushrooms for 5 minutes.
- 6- Stir in salt and continue simmering for another 5 minutes.

Heidarzadeh Museum of Coin, Anthropology in Iran's Yazd

The Heydarzadeh Coin and Anthropology Museum of Yazd is the country's only specialized coin museum. The museum houses ancient gold, silver, copper, brass coins from 42 different historical eras.



Of the 4,800 items housed at the museum, 4,500 are old coins from various periods. The museum has coin displays that date from the Achaemenid (550-330 BC) era until the present day. A collection of paper money from the Nasser-al Din Shah (1831-1896) era up to the present day is among items showcased at this museum. The museum also has items of anthropological value such as more than 100 old locks and silver jewelry as well as amber, silver-embellished and agate prayer beads. Chains, clothing irons, agate rings, weapons, cookware (stone pots, bronze pots, vats and crocks), oil lamps, kerosene lamp, fuel lanterns, candle lanterns, and trainman's lanterns are some of the other items of anthropological value showcased at the museum. This private museum was opened by Hossein Heydarzadeh, a native of Fahadan Neighborhood in the old texture of Yazd City, in 2005. Heydarzadeh, who is a cultural heritage enthusiast, has been collecting the items showcased in the museum since 1956. Heydarzadeh Coin and Anthropology Museum is located in Fahadan Neighborhood in Arabzadeh House, which is sometimes also referred to as the Fahadan House. Arabzadeh House is a Qajar era (1785-1925) mansion with unique poem and arabesque stucco reliefs, ceiling woodwork decorations, lattice doors, stained glass windows and light wells.