



Iranian photographer Sasan Moayyedi won the main prize at World Peace Choral Festival, in Vienna Austria and his photo was selected as the "Peace Image Of The Year 2020". The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Austria received the award from Moayyedi. The Iranian photographer attended the festival with a photograph of "Love Story" in the festival, a collection of photographs of the life of Salah Saaidpour and his wife Sarveh Amini. Sasan Moayyedi is an Iranian photojournalist who has been working for more than 38 years. As one of the most important choral events in the world, the World Peace Choral Festival aims to provide a platform for the young generation as well as enthusiastic adult choirs of different countries to perform, to learn, to compete, to communicate and to create better intercultural understanding.

Iranian Photographers' Success at World Peace Choral Festival

96 Tourism Projects underway in East Azarbaijan

A total of 96 tourism-related projects are currently underway across Iran's East Azarbaijan province, the provincial tourism chief said.

An investment value of 100 trillion rials (about \$2 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar), has been channeled into the projects, Ahmad Hamzehzadeh added.

The northwestern province is ranked third in terms of attracting investments in the tourism sector behind Tehran and Khorasan Razavi provinces, the official said. "The tourism infrastructure of East Azarbaijan is the critical element in attracting investors, and the more we improve it, the greater the chances of attracting tourists," he noted. East Azarbaijan's historical monuments and tourist attractions are great, but without supporting infrastructure, it will be impossible to attract tourists, he explained. Moreover, tourism-related projects worth five trillion rials (\$119 million) were launched across the province during the recent visit of Iranian tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan, the official said. Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz, which is the capital of East Azarbaijan, embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295-1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz. The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.



Waterfalls, Gardens in Gilan Registered as National Heritage

A total of seven natural properties scattered across Gilan province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced the inscriptions on Monday in a letter to the governor-general of the northern province, CHTN reported.

Milash and Dodozan waterfalls, Falahat and Salar gardens, and Amir Bekandeh Wetland Forest were among the properties added to the prestigious list. Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent

Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567. Sophisticated Rasht, capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

Having an opulent tourist circuit with 24 UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which the vast Hyrcanian Forest and Lut Desert are among the natural properties, Iran seeks to acquire a greater share of the global tourism industry by 2025.



Bagh Sheikh Caravanserai, a Candidate for UNESCO Status, Undergoes Restoration

The centuries-old Bagh Sheikh Caravanserai, which is a candidate for UNESCO status, has undergone restoration. Also called Abdol Ghaffar Khan Caravanserai, the monument dates back to Qajar-era (1794-1925) epoch and is located in the city of Saveh, central Iran. "Pillars, columns, cracks, brick arch ceilings, the façade, and worn-out bricks of the caravanserai are subject to the restoration project," Saveh tourism chief Reza Ayyaz announced. "The monument is one of [Iran's] candidates for the [possible] UNESCO registration, which its preliminary work is carried out," the official said. Bagh Sheikh is one of Iran's mag-

nificent comprehensive caravanserais in terms of plan form, decorations, proportions as well as the patterns and arrangements of its functional spaces, he explained. The roadside inn is one of the Iranian caravanserais prepared for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In 2019, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values. Caravan-

serai is a compound word combining "caravan" with "serai". The first stands for a group of travelers and serai (or sara) stands for building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard. Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country. Such roadside inns were originally built in various epochs along ancient caravan routes in the Mus-



lim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Roads may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais. For many travelers to

Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!

Duydukh, The Turkmen Carpet



Handwoven carpet has long been regarded as a genuine Iranian art, since all Iranian ethnic groups have been connected to it one way or another in villages, cities, and tribes.

Carpet has been deeply rooted in Iran, free from all colors and languages and religions. That is why the Iranian carpet shows unity despite plurality. Iran's cultural diversity has been symbolized in various carpet patterns of different regions of the country, and at the same time retains the specific identity of being Iranian.

The Turkmen carpet is an ancient heritage and among few goods which is popular among the people of this region and other places and even abroad. Silk carpets are specific to the Turkmen cities of Raz and Jurgalan in the village of Duydukh-e Olya in North Khorasan.

This type of carpet is 2 x 1.40 m, which, if woven by two weavers, will take about a year. This type of carpet is the result of the working of two carpet-weavers behind the carpet loom together at the same time.

Woven patterns are done by mental images and all of them represent the symbols of the lives of these artistic people. Turkmen women and girls give meaning to Turkmen carpets and convert imagination into reality, and with this miracle, they show their talent, capability and love.

The weaving of this carpet exists only among the Turkmens of North Khorasan, and no proof has been found on its weaving among other ethnic groups in the country so far. The origin of the Turkmen carpet is Duydukh village.

cooking



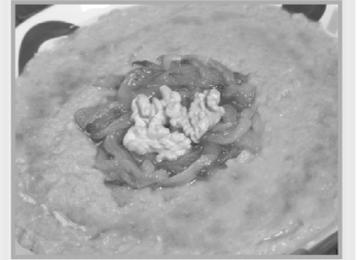
Boz Ghormeh Stew

Boz Ghormeh Stew is a traditional recipe from Kerman. Kerman is located in the southeast of Iran.

Boz ghormeh is a Grade A food. It contains more than 59 percent iron (DV), and very high amounts of vitamin B6 and B12 and high amount of selenium.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb (454g) Stew Beef
- 1 Cup Garbanzo Beans
- 6 oz (170g) Whey Kashk
- 1 Onion
- 2 Garlic Cloves
- 1/4 Tsp Saffron
- Turmeric
- Salt, White Pepper
- Vegetable Oil



Directions:

- 1- Fry the onion with vegetable oil until golden.
- 2- Mash 2 garlic cloves into the pot.
- 3- Stir in turmeric and white pepper powder.
- 4- Stir in the beef and continue frying for 5 more minutes.
- 5- Add enough water to cover the beef.
- 6- Cover the pot and simmer for 90 minutes over medium heat. (Or until the beef is fully cooked)
- 7- Transfer the garbanzo beans into a pot.
- 8- Pour in water to cover the beans.
- 9- Cover the pot with a lid (leave a crack open for the steam to escape).
- 10- Boil the beans for 40 minutes or until cooked over medium heat.
- 11- Add the garbanzo beans into the beef pot.
- 12- Mash the ingredients together thoroughly.
- 13- Stir in the saffron and kashk.
- 14- As much as salt you would prefer and stir.
- 15- Simmer for 5 more minutes over medium heat.

Khajeh Baruch House in Iran's Kermanshah



Khajeh Baruch House, KakehBarookh's House or Randeh-Kesh House (Mal-KakehBaroukh in Kurdish) is the name of a historical house in Kermanshah, west of Iran. The owner of the house was Khajeh Baruch, one of Jewish merchants in Kermanshah and it was built at the time of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar. The house is located in the Jewish district called FeizAbad. Khajeh Baruch House is now used as the house of artist in Kermanshah.