



A tourism festival and exhibition dedicated to children and young adults will take place from June 9 to June 13, at the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran. The event, themed "Expanding the Tourism Market with Children," aims to promote tourism dedicated to younger generations, according to festival secretary Kambiz Aqaei. The festival will bring together a diverse range of participants, including child-friendly tourism facilities, recreational centers, hotels, eco-lodges, amusement parks, themed attractions, tour operators, and nature tourism organizers. These exhibitors will showcase their services and achievements to industry professionals and families interested in youth-focused travel opportunities. Highlighting the need for new experiences and entertainment for children, Aqaei stated, "Today's children and teens seek fresh activities, opportunities to explore new destinations, and the thrill of discovering unseen places."

Tehran to Host Tourism Festival Dedicated to Children and Young Adults

Makkoran Coast is a Potential Platform for Iran's Development, Tourism Minister

The Makkoran Coast, which is located in Sistan-Baluchestan province, stands among the finest coastal regions in the world and serves as a significant platform for Iran's development, said Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri. Speaking on the sidelines of the Iranian President's visit to the southeastern province, Salehi-Amiri highlighted the critical role of infra-

structure in the country's progress. "Infrastructure in the country operates on multiple levels," he stated, adding, "The first level includes essential utilities such as roads, water, electricity, and gas. The second involves establishing accommodations like hotels, eco-lodges, and tourist facilities, which provide rest and lodging for visitors." He noted the high costs associated with these projects and empha-

sized the government's strategy to involve the private sector. "Creating attractions to draw private investment to this region [Makkoran Coast] is crucial," he said. Salehi-Amiri pointed out that in Sistan-Baluchestan, elements such as tourism, security, and infrastructure are interconnected. He stressed the need for marine-based tourism development in the province, noting that Makkoran Coast offers prime

opportunities for tourism. "Improving the condition of roads in some southern villages of Sistan-Baluchestan could attract a large number of tourists," he said. The Makkoran Coast, he concluded, is a cornerstone for Iran's future development and holds immense potential for tourism growth. Makkoran, aka Makran or Mokran, is a semi-desert coastal strip, along the coast of the Sea of Oman.



Perspective

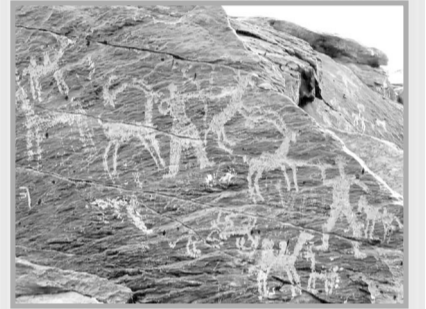


Human Activities Threaten Teymarih Petroglyphs, Researcher Says

Human activities pose one of the most significant threats to the treasured Teymarih petroglyphs of Golpayegan, said archaeologist and researcher Mohsen Jamali.

Petroglyphs, defined as any carvings or engravings created by humans on rocks and boulders, are among the oldest forms of cultural expression. However, Jamali emphasized that mining activities near these archaeological zones, particularly in the Teymarih petroglyph site, have become a major threat to these ancient artworks.

Jamali, author of "Golpayegan Petroglyphs" and "The Passage of History", also highlighted unregulated tourism as another critical factor causing damage to these historical treasures. "Uninformed visitors often leave graffiti or disturb the surrounding areas, further endangering the petroglyphs," he noted. To mitigate these risks, Jamali called for increased protection of these historical artifacts and the promotion of guided, well-regulated tourism in the region.



Having dedicated over 17 years to studying Golpayegan's petroglyphs, Jamali revealed that the area boasts some 36,000 carvings depicting images and inscriptions. These petroglyphs serve as a testament to Iran's ancient culture and civilization, offering a rare glimpse into the lives of its ancestors.

"These carvings represent history and culture created by ordinary people rather than under the orders of rulers or elites, making them some of the most genuine and unaltered records of human life globally," he explained. Jamali also noted that these petroglyphs offer valuable insights into extinct wildlife species that once roamed Iran. Among the animal depictions are tigers, leopards, cheetahs, lions, deer, wild goats, and mountain sheep. "Through anthropological and archaeological studies, we can uncover hidden narratives and mysteries depicted in these carvings, shedding light on the distant past," he added. Golpayegan, home to these extraordinary petroglyphs, is situated 170 kilometers west of Isfahan.



The head of Mahabad's department for environmental protection has reported a significant increase in migratory birds at the Kani Barazan Wetland, the first birdwatching site in the western Iranian region.

Farough Soleimani stated that the Kani Barazan Wetland, spanning over 927 hectares, is one of the most important satellite wetlands south of Lake Urmia. It is considered among the most valuable habitats for various species of migratory and native waterfowl and

shorebirds in northwestern Iran, the official said. Soleimani added that the wetland annually hosts migratory birds such as teal, green-winged and ruddy ducks, crested grebes, northern pintails, whooper swans, great crested grebes, little grebes, shelducks, common coots, lapwings, various sandpipers, Armenian and black-headed gulls, and terns. He noted that this year, the number of birds has exceeded 70,000, marking a 20% increase compared to the same period last year.

Mahabad Wetland Experiences Boom in Migratory Bird Numbers

The increase is attributed to the restoration of the wetland and improved living conditions for the birds.

Soleimani described the Kani Barazan Wetland as a paradise for nature photographers, attracting numerous artists from across the country and around the world. It remains a favorite destination for visitors year-round.

The wetland spreads over an area bigger than nine hundred hectares and is situated thirty kilometers north of Mahabad in West Azarbaijan province.

Tehran-Kashan Tourist train Launched after Years of Halt



A special tourist train connecting Tehran to Kashan has commenced service following years of pause.

"The new train service follows high demand from travelers and operates on the Tehran-Kashan route," Kashan's tourism chief has said.

According to the official, the inaugural journey welcomed approximately 300 tourists

departing from Tehran. "The service is scheduled to operate every 14 days, providing a consistent option for visitors." The benefits of this initiative include cost-effectiveness, improved travel safety, reduced road traffic, and making rail travel accessible to all social groups, the official added.

The train departs from Tehran Railway Station at 6:00

a.m. and offers tourists the opportunity to explore Kashan's historical attractions and the desert landscapes of Abu Zeydabad before returning to Tehran at 6:45 p.m.

Kashan is situated on a route that connects Tehran to the giant destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd. Moreover, the ancient town is a gateway to many sights,

and surrounding attractive villages to discover. Amongst the highlights of the city are the lavishly decorated houses of Borujerdi, Tabatabai, Ameri, and Abbasi, as well as the UNESCO-listed Fin Garden to name a few. Situated approximately 200 kilometers north of Isfahan, Kashan continues to grow as a key hub for tourism in Iran.

2024 was a Deadly Year for Air Travel, but Flying is still the Safest form of Transport

With the recent spate of air accidents, travellers may well be feeling less confident about stepping onto an aircraft. But is flying really becoming unsafe? With the recent spate of air accidents, travellers may feel less confident. But is flying really becoming unsafe? 2024 has fanned the flames of worries over flying, particularly in recent weeks, when more than 200 people lost their lives in two separate incidents just days apart. Thirty-eight

later, part of a plane fell off when it was departing from Portland, Oregon, leaving a gaping hole in the side of the fuselage. Again, all 177 passengers survived the emergency landing, but the fallout from the event has seen major manufacturer Boeing in the spotlight all year. During the summer the tragic loss of a Voepass flight in Brazil claimed the lives of 62 passengers and crew. On top of this,

ried if we've got an upcoming trip booked? Dr Hassan Shahidi, president and CEO of Flight Safety Foundation, a non-profit involved in all aspects of aviation safety, put things in perspective for Euronews Travel. "In all of 2023, there were zero commercial jet fatalities," he says. "By the time 2024 was over, the aviation industry had transported 5 billion passen-

major decrease from the 1 per every 350,000 boardings in 1968 to 1977. The gaping hole where the panelled-over door had been at the fuselage plug area of the Alaska Airlines flight from Portland. "We work with other regulators, for example the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the United States and with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), to ensure that aviation safety standards are high globally, not only



people died when an Azerbaijan Airlines plane crashed in Kazakhstan; four days later, 179 perished when a Jeju Air flight crash landed in South Korea. While recent events are still ringing in the minds of many, 2024 was a year of disasters in aviation. In early January, a fiery crash in Tokyo shocked the world, leaving five members of the Japan Coast Guard dead, although passengers on the Japan Airlines plane escaped safely. Days

multiple reports of aircraft hitting severe turbulence and injuring people, including one fatality on a Singapore Airlines flight, have given travellers cause to worry about their safety. According to the Aviation Safety Network, a total of 318 people died in aircraft accidents last year, making 2024 the deadliest year in aviation since 2018. But is flying really becoming less safe, and should we be wor-

ried just the past few days, 2024 was poised to repeat that safety record. "According to research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), flying is safer today than ever. In the 2018-2022 period, the risk of dying through air travel was calculated to be 1 per every 13.7 million passenger boardings. That's down from 1 per 7.9 million boardings in 2008-2017 and a ma-

Europe. "While manufacturers, airlines and regulators work hard to maintain safety in the skies, Northcote highlights that safe travel is a team effort. "Aviation has in general an excellent safety record, but this is no cause for complacency," she says. "This strong safety record can only be maintained by many individual people fulfilling their role every day to ensure that operations are safe."

Zayandeh-Rood's Revival Underlined as National Heritage

Isfahan province's deputy governor-general for political and social affairs, Ayoub Darvishi, has reaffirmed efforts to restore the Zayandeh-Rood River as a national and tourism heritage site. Speaking at a regional tourism development meeting held in the ancient city of Delijan, Darvishi emphasized the critical importance of the river for the Central Iranian Plateau and its potential to boost tourism and address environmental challenges in the region. Darvishi highlighted that drought has severely impacted the Central Plateau, leading to the drying up of Zayandeh-Rood, historically considered the lifeline of the area. "We are committed to reviving this river as a national and tourism asset," he stated, adding that tourism represents the most viable path to overcoming Isfahan's environmental crises. The meeting, which brought together representatives from Isfahan, Semnan, Markazi, and Qom provinces, was part of a broader initiative to create a "golden rectangle" tourism hub aimed at fostering domestic and international tourism. Darvishi noted that such gatherings provide an opportunity for mutual understanding and collaboration, paving the way for sustainable tourism growth. He also stressed the importance of identifying and promoting lesser-

known attractions, stating, "By recognizing and introducing these hidden gems, we can create significant cultural and economic capital, contributing to sustainable development." Over the past couple of decades, a temporary release of water, primarily intended to meet agricultural demands, has renewed profound cultural and historical connections for the people of Isfahan.

For residents and visitors alike, the river is a living narrative of the city's history and a testament to its resilience. The ancient city of Isfahan, situated at the crossroads of Iran's north-south and east-west trade routes, reached its zenith between the 9th and 18th centuries. During the Safavid era, it became Iran's capital under Shah Abbas the Great. Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and

diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people. The Persian proverb "Isfahan nesf-e-jahan ast" (Isfahan is half the world) reflects the city's cultural and historical prominence.

