

Inverted tulips or "Fritillaria" is one of the 120,000 identified plants in Iran. There are more than 170 species of tulips in the country. It is said that the tulip has some remedial use for arthritis and rheumatic pains. Juniper is a very valuable and long-lasting species that grows in mountainous and high areas and has a special place in the legends and myths of Iranian people. It has long been a symbol of immortality in Iranian culture and it can be seen in historical Iranian miniatures. Some more three natural properties in the region including rhubarb plain, salt spring, and a Juniper forest were also added to the National Heritage list. 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.

**"Fritillaria" one of
120,000 Identified
Plants in Iran**



Palangan

Prepares to Host Hezar-Daf Festival with Enhanced Infrastructure



The historic village of Palangan is gearing up to host the annual Hezar-Daf festival, one of the region's most significant cultural and spiritual events celebrating the traditional music of the western Iranian region.

This year's edition of the festival, which means "One Thousand Drums," is being supported with wide-ranging infrastructure improvements and safety measures to ensure a smooth and memorable experience for visitors.

Kiumars Habibi, Deputy Governor of Kurdistan Province, announced on Saturday during a planning session with local officials and cultural heritage representatives that Palangan is fully prepared to welcome tourists and participants. "This event draws large numbers of visitors each year, and we have taken extensive steps to improve both infrastructure and public services in the village," he stated.

The festival, known for its mystical and communal drumming ceremonies, attracts traditional music enthusiasts, spiritual seekers, and tourists from across Iran and beyond.

As mentioned by Habibi, preparations have focused heavily on ensuring visitor comfort and safety. These include providing wheelchairs for people with disabilities, installing directional signs throughout the main village routes, and identifying accident-prone road sections leading to Palangan, where warning signs and traffic restrictions are being enforced.

To maintain order and security, law enforcement will be deployed across key locations in the village and along access roads. Additionally, the Red Crescent Society will be present in the area to offer emergency and medical services during the event.

Upgrades are also being made to the village's communication systems and Internet connectivity, while public amenities such as restrooms and prayer areas are being renovated. Clear signage will guide visitors from entry points to the main festival grounds.

In addition, environmental protection has also been prioritized. "We're committed to preserving Palangan's unique natural setting," Habibi noted, adding that eco-friendly trash bags will be distributed throughout the area to minimize environmental impact.

He emphasized that the cultural authenticity and ecological integrity of the festival must be preserved. "This is not only a significant cultural celebration, but a potential pathway to future global recognition of Palangan as a unique cultural heritage site," Habibi said.

The Hezar-Daf festival is expected to draw large crowds once again this year, celebrating not only the rhythm of traditional Kurdish-Persian music but also the harmony between culture, spirituality, and nature.

Perspective



Tourism Triangle: special rail tour to connect Tehran to Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz

The Railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced the launch of a dedicated rail service aimed at boosting cultural tourism across three of Iran's most iconic historical cities: Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz—collectively known as the "Tourism Triangle of Iran."

The first train is set to depart from Tehran on May 12.

The five-day cultural tour, developed in coordination with regional tourism and railway officials, offers passengers a unique opportunity to explore the architectural, historical, and cultural richness of central and southern Iran. The itinerary includes guided visits to major landmarks in all three cities.



"This rail initiative is designed to strengthen Iran's tourism sector and showcase the rich cultural heritage of Yazd, Shiraz, and Isfahan to both domestic and international travelers," said Seyyed Reza Sadat-Hosseini, Director General of Yazd Railways. "We aim to create an unforgettable journey through Iran's historical heartland."

Last November, the "Golden Triangle" tourism agreement, originally signed in 2016, was revitalized amid hopes to establish a world-class tourism route, showcasing Iran's rich cultural heritage and unparalleled historical sites. Key points of the agreement include joint research projects aimed at tourism development, utilizing international networks of the three cities, and organizing conferences, workshops, and special visits between them.

Once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy, Isfahan remains one of Iran's most prominent tourist destinations. Situated in the heart of Iran's desert, Yazd is a city of ancient ingenuity and timeless charm. Known for its maze of winding lanes, traditional bazaars, and mud-brick architecture, Yazd showcases the clever use of limited resources to create a sustainable urban environment.

Known as the heartland of Persian culture, Shiraz has a rich history stretching back over 2000 years. This city is synonymous with poetry, education, and the arts, and has been a hub for creativity and intellectual pursuits.

Iran's Hamadan Old Land of Civilization, Pristine Nature

Hamadan Province, as one of the oldest centers of Iranian civilization, is home to many poets, cultural celebrities, historical places, and natural attractions.

Hamadan is one of the oldest cities in Iran and is the first capital of the first empire of Iran, the Medes. Hamadan is home to many poets and cultural celebrities, apart from this, dozens of sights and historical places in this city confront us with one of the most historic cities in Iran and in the world. Hamadan has special and famous sights and tourist attractions that are suitable for a pleasant trip in spring.

The geographical conditions of Hamadan have made this city have a pristine and unique nature.

The province is also well known for handicrafts such as leather, ceramics, and carpets.

A site not to be missed during a stay in Hamadan is the excavations of Hegmataneh (Ecbatana) and its museum.

This ancient city was the first capital of the Aryans and, along with Athens in Greece, Rome in Italy, and Susa in Khuzestan, is one of the few ancient cities in the world that still survives and is important.

The Median kingdom was founded in the 8th century BC by Deioces or Dia-oku and Hegmataneh was built as a Capital.

Hegmataneh is the largest archaeological

site in Iran, a treasure laid bare at the end of the 20th century which allows you to discover the ancient and almost perfectly geometric city.

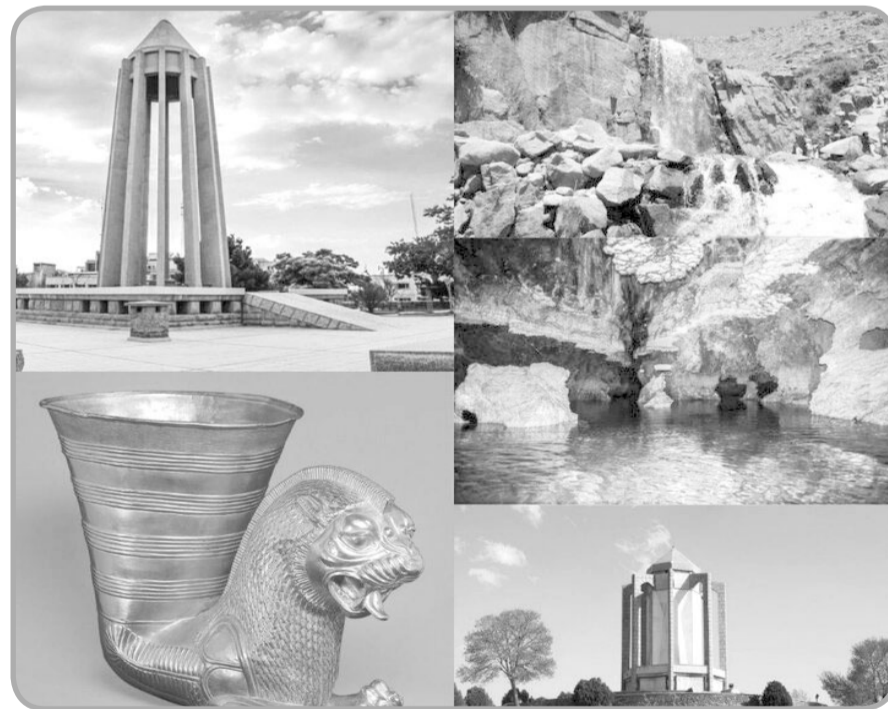
One can admire their houses built back to back and similar to each other and perpendicular streets.

In the museum dedicated to the excavations, many Achaemenid, Sassanian, and Median objects are exhibited and offer a real plunge into the past, to the time when Ecbatana was still the capital of the Median kingdom and one of the most influential cities in the world.

Geographically located southwest of Hamedan, Ganjnameh inscriptions are the historical monuments dating back to the Achaemenid era.

They were inscribed on Alvand Mountain at the end of Abbas Abad Valley. These inscriptions are in 3 columns of 20 lines and are written in three languages of Old Persian, Neo-Elamite, and Neo-Babylonian. By looking at the inscriptions, you would definitely feel the magnificence of the history. Next to the Ganjnameh inscription, there is a waterfall that is full of water in every season. This really adds to the beauty of the environment.

As one of the biggest attractions of Hamadan province and the world's largest water cave, Alisadr is ranked among the most



popular sites of Iran with thousands of visitors year-round, especially in spring and summer.

The small town of Lalejin celebrated its designation as the World Pottery Capital by the World Crafts Council in 2016.

Around 80 percent of Lalejin's population are potters, ceramists and involved in related jobs. Undoubtedly Lalejin is one of the important centres of pottery and ceramic production in Iran

By: Marzieh Rahmani

Passenger Traffic in Iran's Airports up 6% in Year to March



Iranian airports saw a new record in passenger traffic in the past calendar year despite a continued regime of sanctions imposed on the country's aviation industry by the United States and its European allies.

The CEO of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company said on Saturday that airports across the country had processed more than 40.75 million passengers in the year to March 20, an increase of 6% compared to

the previous year, Press TV reported.

Mohammad Amirani said that more than 0.359 million flights had been recorded in 64 airports in Iran in the past calendar year, up 8% from the year before.

Amirani said that domestic passenger traffic in the Iranian airports had increased by over 5% year on year in the year to late March to reach more than 36.83 million.

He added that interna-

tional passenger traffic had reached more than 3.19 million in the past calendar year, up 21% from the year to March 2024.

The figures come as the Iranian aviation industry is still under an extensive regime of US and European sanctions.

The sanctions have prevented Iranian airlines from accessing brand-new planes and parts and barred them from flying to busy airports in Europe.

Iranian government figures show the Mehrabad airport in the capital Tehran was the country's busiest airport in the calendar year to late March as it handled nearly 0.116 million flights carrying more than 13.75 million passengers.

More than 8.42 million passengers used Shahid Hasheminejad airport in the northeastern city of Mashhad, making it the second busiest airport in the country in the year to March.