



Iran has taken part in the 29th edition of the EMITT 2026 International Tourism Exhibition, which opened in Istanbul, Turkey. The Iranian pavilion was inaugurated in the presence of Hossein Alaei, who presides over the Touring and Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI), and Bahram Kian, Iran's cultural attaché in Istanbul. Designed with a unified visual concept, the pavilion showcases Iran's tourism potential across cultural, historical, natural, health, pilgrimage and ecotourism sectors, providing information and services to international visitors. Ten companies active in travel services, traditional accommodation and hotel reservations from the provinces of East Azarbaijan, Khorasan Razavi, Kordestan, Fars and Tehran are represented at the pavilion.

### Iran Highlights on View at EMITT 2026



## Flamingos Migrate to Makran coast, Official says, Highlighting Tourism Potential

More than 2,000 flamingos have migrated to Makran coasts in southern Iran this winter that could support nature-based tourism, an environmental official has said.

Meysam Qasemi, deputy head of Hormozgan's provincial Department of Environment, said the birds have settled along the province's tidal shores and coastal wetlands since December and are expected to remain until the end of winter, Mehr reported.

Hormozgan province has more than 2,000 kilometers of coastline, multiple coastal wetlands and mangrove forests, making it a seasonal habitat for migratory birds, particularly flamingos, Qasemi said.

He said the birds use food-rich tidal zones and wetlands during winter to survive colder conditions and prepare for their spring migration.

The official said the presence of flamingos reflects the condition of local ecosystems and has drawn public interest, particularly in coastal areas around the provincial capital, Bandar Abbas.

According to a mid-winter census conducted last year, more than 2,000 flamingos were identified across Hormozgan's coasts and wetlands, he said. At least 230 of the birds were recorded along the shores of Bandar Abbas, including areas near Dowlat and Velayat parks.

The Makran coast, also known as Makkoran or Mokran, stretches along the Sea of Oman in southeastern Iran, mainly within Sistan-Baluchestan province. The region is characterized by semi-desert terrain and long, undeveloped shorelines.

Earlier this year, the minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri said the Makran coast is among the world's leading coastal regions and a key platform for the country's future development.

## Iran Tourism has Potential to Rebound Quickly, Guides' Head Says



Iran's tourism industry has the capacity to recover quickly if security, stability and policy coordination are strengthened, the head of the Iranian Tourist Guides Association said on Thursday.

Mohammad-Hossein Yazdani said experience showed that whenever confidence-building conditions were in place, Iran's inbound and outbound tourism grew and hotel occupancy rates improved, contributing to job creation and economic activity. "Security is the first and most fundamental factor for tourism growth," Yazdani told MIRAS Aria.

"Periods of relative calm and stability have coincided with acceptable growth in tourism flows and employment levels in accommodation facilities."

He said Iran has significant historical, cultural and natural assets, but regional tensions have made some foreign tourists more cautious in choosing the country as a destination, a situation he said could be quickly reversed by improving the country's security image.

Yazdani also pointed to operational challenges, saying the continuous operation of tourism and historical sites, along with effective insurance mechanisms to cover potential incidents, could help increase tour-

ists' sense of safety and confidence.

He said that while general tourism may face limitations during certain periods, religious tourism remains relatively resilient due to deep cultural and religious ties and can serve as a pillar of the sector's stability.

At the same time, Yazdani said attention to all segments of tourism was necessary to fully utilize the sector's capacity and expand employment opportunities for tour guides. He said economic stability, prudent management of exchange rates, inflation control, stronger coordination among state institutions, improved professional status for tour guides and more balanced travel costs were key factors in helping Iran's tourism sector emerge from recession.

Yazdani said a coherent plan based on close cooperation between the government and the private sector could support a gradual recovery, rebuild confidence among industry stakeholders and help restore Iran's position in regional and global tourism.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 29 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

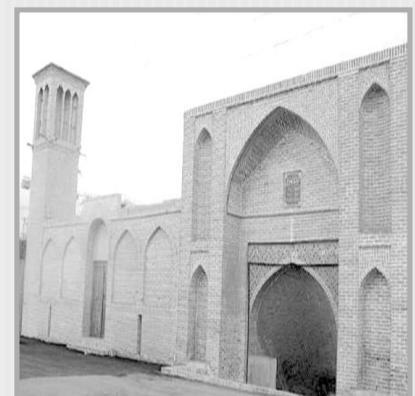
### Perspective

#### Restoration of 400-year-old Mosque in Varamin Completed

Restoration of the historical mosque of Hazrat Baqiyatullah in Bagh-e Khavas village, Varamin city, has been completed after two months of specialized work.

According to IRIB, Head of Varamin Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department Mohammadreza Tajik said that with the completion of the restoration of two arched fountains in the former Abdarkhaneh (small pantry), the comprehensive restoration plan for the historical monument of the mosque has been completed.

He added that the project was implemented under the supervision of the technical experts from Tehran Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, and during it, the removal of plaster, cement and additional masonry on the facade, replacement of the worn and broken bricks, collection of water facilities, brickwork jointing and



strengthening of the walls and niches were carried out.

Tajik said that the mosque is one of the valuable historical and religious buildings in Varamin city, which has been registered on the country's National Heritage List, and its comprehensive restoration plan had been started in four stages in the past years.

He added that in the previous three phases, the removal of plaster and cement accumulation, the sealing and restoration of the seven arches of the Shabestan (an underground space prevalent in traditional Iranian architecture observed in mosques), the restoration of the windcatcher, and the restoration of the steps of the reservoir beneath the mosque had been carried out in recent years.

Tajik said that given the abundance of valuable historical monuments in the ancient city of Varamin and the need for many of them to undergo fundamental and periodic restorations, the implementation of the restoration plans requires the participation of the governing bodies, districts, villages, Islamic Councils, and donors to provide financial support.

"In this project, the cooperation of the Central District, village, and Islamic Council of Bagh-e Khavas village, played an effective role."

Jameh Mosque of Varamin, Borj-e Ala ad-din, Imamzadeh Yahya, Iraj Fortress, and the Hesarak Qanat Varamin's are among notable attractions of Varamin city.

Varamin served as Ray's main agricultural hub until the 1220s.

The raiding of Ray by the invading Mongols led to a migration wave and economic growth.

Varamin became a major city as a result. The Jameh Mosque of Varamin was constructed by Yusuf Quhadhi, a vizier of Ilkhanid Abu Sa'id.

Imamzadeh Shah Husayn, Imamzadeh Yahya, and Sharif Mosque are a few other noteworthy structures since this period.

Due to invasions by the armies of the Timurid Empire, Varamin began to decline at the beginning of the 14th century.

Castilian traveler and writer Ruy González de Clavijo described the city as mostly deserted in 1405 CE when he was the ambassador of Henry III of Castile to the court of Timur, founder and ruler of the Timurid Empire.

## Yazd, a Warm Refuge of History in Winter

Yazd, a UNESCO-listed adobe city, is not merely a winter destination but a refuge, where the ingenuity of ancient architecture tames the cold and preserves the warmth of the sun within its earthen walls.

Media activist Maliheh Fakhri wrote in a note: A trip to Yazd in February is not like a typical trip; it is an encounter with the living history, Miras Aria said. When you walk through [the narrow] Ashti-Konan alleys in historical neighborhoods such as Fahadan, the first thing that fascinates you is the intelligence of the architects who, centuries ago, without any modern tools, defined the concept of climate comfort in the brick texture of the city. This season, Yazd is a showcase of the splendor of its cultural heritage,

where the windcatchers, although temporarily resting from the hot summer winds, still line the city's skyline with all their grandeur. One of the scientific and fascinating themes to look at winter season is the phenomenon of 'thermal inertia' in the traditional architecture of Yazd. Eco-friendly materials such as clay and mud, with their high thermal capacity, store the gentle heat of sunny desert days in their hearts and slowly breathe life into interior spaces on cold nights.

This is the sustainable heritage that the world is looking for today. A tourist who stays in an eco-friendly accommodation in the heart of Yazd's historical fabric this month is not just booking a room, but is also experiencing a 1000-year-old biotechnology.

The Sabats (mudbrick sun shelters) of Yazd also find a different and attractive

function in winter. These magnificent structures, known for providing shade in the summer, prevent the Earth's heat from escaping on cold days and create warm corridors for passersby. Here, the cultural heritage is intertwined with people's daily lives. The sound of a bicycle passing under a Sabat, or the smell of local Taftoon bread blowing through the humid atmosphere of the alleys, are part of that intangible heritage that comes to life again in month of Bahman (January-February).

On the other hand, Yazd in winter season is a manifestation of the handiwork of women and men who weave the warmth of their love into the fabric of Termeh (fine and precious handmade cloth with traditional patterns) and Darayee (a type of fabric woven by interlacing threads of silk or cotton, which are pre-dyed using a tie-

dye technique).

Yazd's handicrafts flourish as much during the long winter nights. Sitting at the feet of traditional textile looms in cozy workshops of historical weaving is itself a form of experience-based tourism. The combination of these nights with intimate gatherings in houses with central courtyards and turquoise pools also provides an opportunity to redefine culinary tourism. More than a snack, Ash Shooli (a kind of Yazdi soup) and Yazdi coffee are part of the historical identity of this land, warming tourists in the bone-chilling cold of the desert. The UNESCO-registered Yazd has placed a heavy responsibility on our shoulders to preserve this living texture. Yazd should not lose its identity under the pressure of mass tourism. Tourism development in winter season should move towards responsible tourism;

that is, viewing the splendor of its heritage without damaging its fragile body.

Yazd needs constant rereading so that new generations can learn how to reconcile with nature and build a civilization that has stood firm for thousands of years in the heart of the desert.

Ultimately, Yazd in February is more than a point on the map; it is a feeling. The feeling of security in the embrace of high adobe walls and the feeling of peace in a city where there is no rush.

Yazd in this season is the best suggestion to return to oneself and watch the splendor that time has not been able to put dust on its face. This year, winter should be spent in Yazd; where history, with hot tea and the smiles of the desert people, will give you the warmest welcome.

