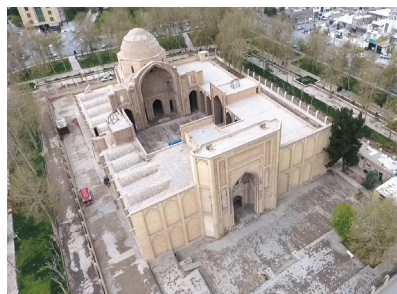




Iranian animation to compete at Annecy

Directed by Ashkan Rahgozar, the Iranian animation 'Juliet & the King' is set to vie at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival in France, slated to be held on June 11-17. Rahgozar's second animated feature is scheduled to be screened in the Work in Progress section of the French festival. The animation is a comic narration of the history of theater in Iran.

Varamin historical monuments attract tourists



Grand mosque of Varamin
IRNA



Tomb of Imamzadeh Yahya
trippyar.com



An overview of Varamin
seeiran.ir



Ab-anbar of Qal'eh Boland village
hamshahrionline.ir

Iranica Desk

With regard to its historical places and geographic features, the city of Varamin is a tourist destination located 35 kilometers from southeastern Tehran. Excavations carried out in Varamin's historical places show that human habitation in the area pertains to more than 7,000 years ago, IRNA wrote. Varamin has two luxurious hotels and five important ecotourism houses. Travelers can stay in these houses, visit villages, vast fields and enjoy organic food. Varamin has several tourist villages. Travelers can take advantage of the unique attractions of these villages, buy souvenirs such as unique pottery, dairy products and rugs.

Grand mosque

The city has 400 historical sites, 75 of which have been registered on the country's National Heritage List. These include Varamin Grand Mosque; a 14th century masterpiece, with its tiling, plastering and brickwork style, which is rare. Architect Ali Qazvini began the construction in the 16th century during the Safavid era. The use of bricks to write Qura'nic verses and brickwork in the façade of the southern porch is impressive. The plastered mihrab (a niche in the wall of a mosque that indicates the qibla, the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca towards which Muslims face when praying) of the mosque is a rare masterpiece. The building was registered on the country's National Heritage List in 1931. It is located on Beheshti Street.

Aladdin Tower

The Aladdin Tower, or Aladole Tower, is situated 200 meters away from Varamin Grand Mosque and on the southeast edge of Imam Square. It is an old brick tower next to the city's mosalla (a place where worshippers gather for religious ceremonies and weekly prayers). Aladole Tower consists of two parts. The first part has a circular body with a height of 12 meters. The second part includes a large cone-shaped dome with a height of five meters.

Varamin shrines

Imamzadeh Yahya (a shrine) is among Varamin's unique historical monuments, which is also famous beyond Iran's borders. It was built in 1307 CE. Tourists have praised its transparent and beautiful tiles in their travelogues.

The main core of the tomb consists of an octagonal design from the inside and a quadrilateral design from the outside, with an entrance from the north. The inside of the tomb has been decorated with polished indigo tiles. A mihrab-shaped tombstone is another exquisite and rare work of the shrine. It has the signatures of two tile masters, dated 1305 CE. They were from the city of Kashan. Imamzadeh Mohammad is located eight kilometers southeast of Varamin, on the outskirts of Ijdan village. The shrine has a very tall, beautiful and turquoise dome, which has an octagonal design from the outside. The main entrance of the building is located in a large porch which is 8.5 meters high. The dome is decorated with beautiful mosaic tiles consisting of a beautiful combination of colors and geometric shapes. The interior of the shrine's building has a quadrilateral design. Plaster work has been used around the sides of the dome. It is a combination of vases and flowers that are repeated harmoniously. Inside the dome, there are decorative plasters composed of several flower bushes in a diagonal frame, which are very beautiful. Above this entrance, there is a tile inscription in Nastaliq script, on which are written the Holy Qur'an's Al-Alaq chapter and the name of Naser al-Din Shah (the Qajar Dynasty's fourth king, who ruled from 1848 to 1896). Ab-anbar (cistern) of Qal'eh Boland village is one of the most important relics left from the end of the Qajar era (1789 to 1925 CE). It played a significant role in providing water to the residents of this village, which was very prosperous at that time. Qal'eh Boland village is located near the Tehran-Mashhad national railroad and the Qom-Garmsar road, 20 kilometers east of Varamin. This important historical monument has been renovated over the past years with funds allocated by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Tehran Province. It has been registered on the country's National Heritage List. According to the official census, the population of Varamin is about 300,000. Its land is very fertile and suitable for agriculture. In some areas, there are firebrick kilns due to the presence of good-quality clay. The Kavir National Park has a main route via Varamin. This national park is located in the west of the central desert of Iran and east of the "Salt Lake". This area, in general, has valuable fauna and flora, as well as a variety of wildlife.



Aladdin Tower
trippyar.com



Tomb of Imamzadeh Mohammad
borna.news

Iranian delicacy crowned best herbal dish in the world



Social Desk

EXCLUSIVE

Zeytoon Parvardeh (marinated olives) is a delicacy, hailing from Iran's northern province of Gilan, with the capability to transport ones taste buds to a world of pleasure. These little fruits, soaked in a blend of spices and oils, offer a unique flavor profile that is both tangy and savory. The experience of eating marinated olives is more than just satisfying ones hunger; it is a sensory journey that engages all the senses. Zeytoon Parvardeh has recently been crowned the best herbal dish by TasteAtlas users, ranking first on their list of 100 herbal dishes, which is a testament to its irresistible flavor profile. The pleasures of eating it is not limited to taste. It also has a visual appeal. The vibrant colors of the olives, ranging from deep green to purple, create an appetizing sight. The glistening sheen of the oil coating the olives adds to their allure, making them irresistible. The presentation of marinated olives in a dish or jar adds an aesthetic element to any table setting. Another pleasure comes with the aroma of marinated olives. The combination of spices and oils creates a tantalizing scent that is difficult to resist. The aroma is both pungent and alluring, making one salivate at the mere thought of consuming these little fruits. The scent of marinated olives is a prelude to the taste experience that awaits. The main pleasure is the taste itself. The unique blend of spices and oils creates a complex flavor that is both tangy and savory. The initial burst of flavor comes from the saltiness of the olives, followed by a tangy sensation from the savory ingredients used in the marinade. The herbs and spices used in the marinade add depth to the flavor profile, creating a symphony of flavors that dance on the tongue. Eating marinated olives is coated in yet another pleasure: its texture. The firmness of the olives creates a satisfying crunch when bitten into, releasing their flavorful juices. The oil coating the olives creates a smooth texture that is easy to swallow, making them a perfect addition to any meal.

Tajikistan picked as guest of honor at TIBF

Arts & Culture Desk

Tajikistan was selected as the guest of honor at the 34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), announced Iran's Deputy Culture Minister, Yasser Ahmadvand. The Tajik delegation includes Zulfiya Davlatzoda, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as cultural managers and a number of Tajik writers, who will be in attendance at the TIBF. Ahmadvand revealed that the motto for the 2023 book fair is "The Future Is Readable," according to IRNA.

He also stated that a memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed with Tajikistan during the book fair. "Last year, during the Tajik Culture Week, various cultural sectors showcased their cultural products. However, in the field of books the country could not have an active participation, which will be strengthened in the book fair," Ahmadvand added. The book fair's first guest of honor was Afghanistan in 2014, which was followed by Oman, Russia, Italy, Serbia and China, Ahmadvand noted, adding that last year

Qatar was the book fair's special guest. Majid Sahhaf, director of the public relations committee of the 34th TIBF, said the motto "The Future Is Readable" was selected from 40 submitted suggestions in response to a public call for ideas. The speaker of the book fair, Ali Ramezani, announced that 3,000 foreign and domestic publishers and 200 bookstores have registered to participate in the event. The 34th edition of TIBF will be held from May 10 to 20, and promises to be a rich celebration of literature and culture.

