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Tourism ties

Iran's deputy tourism minister highlighted the development of tourism relations with Saudi Arabia. Emphasizing the significance of tourism from Saudi Arabia, particularly among Shia Muslims who consider Imam Reza (PBUH) Shrine as their main destination, Ali Darabi stated that arrangements are being made to provide pilgrimage packages for these visitors. Darabi further added that the Tourism Ministry is actively working on a well-organized distribution of travel destinations for both domestic and international tourists, aiming to diversify and increase tourist attractions.

Fascinating museums of Shemiranat district



Military museum of Sa'dabad Complex
wikipedia.org



Darabad Museum
ito.org

Iranica Desk

Tehran is home to famous, fascinating and prestigious museums which host many tourists from around the world. Most of the museums of the Iranian capital are located in downtown areas. However, museums in the Shemiranat neighborhood in the north of the metropolis also lure visitors.

Military museum of Sa'dabad Complex

This museum features a valuable collection of military weapons in nine halls. In the first hall, there are clothes, flags, tools and military equipment related to the parade of military forces of different historical eras, IRNA wrote. In the second hall, cold weapons including swords, spears, bows, maces and shields are displayed. Military medals and insignia of the Pahlavi era are showcased in the third hall, while equipment related to the veterans of the Iraqi-imposed war in the 1980s is exhibit-

ed in the fourth and fifth halls. Visitors can see firearms including rifles, various kinds of pistols and machine guns of historical periods in the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth halls.

Water Museum of Sa'dabad Complex

Water Museum of Sa'dabad Complex has four exhibition galleries in the main building and one exhibition gallery in the adjacent building. It features ancient and traditional techniques and instruments for supplying and distributing water. One of the sections of the museum was the special office of ousted Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (former Iranian monarch), which was used to receive officials. It was completely renovated over 20 years ago.

Darabad Museum

Nature and Wildlife Museum of Darabad is one of the biggest museums in Iran, located in the Darabad area.

It was the residence of Shams Pahlavi, the sister of the former shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was deposed in 1979 in the wake of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. The museum has remained open to the public since then.

Visitors who enter the museum are amazed by the sculpture of an herbivorous dinosaur dating back to the Jurassic era. The museum has a two-story building and consists of different sections allocated to different species such as marine mammals, birds and butterflies. It also contains taxidermy and geology sections. The Nature and Wildlife Museum of Darabad is the first Iranian museum which joined the World Wide Web.

Niavaran Palace Complex

The Niavaran Palace Complex, with its breathtaking architecture and decoration, is located in the northern side of Niavaran Park.

This complex consists of several parts including palaces, museums and gardens. Sahebgharanieh Palace, Niavaran Palace, and Koshk-e Ahmad Shahi are three main palaces in the complex. The Jahan Nama Museum is located in the western part of Sahebgharanieh Palace. Visitors can see valuable objects from all over the world there.

There is also a car museum in the complex. Visitors can see beautiful classic cars that once belonged to the Pahlavi family. Passing through the green space of the complex, you won't miss Garden Museum of Inscriptions, which offers a chance to see replicas of brilliant engravings selected from across Iran. The museum exhibits dozens of inscription models from the historical periods of the Medes in Urartian, Assyrian, and Aramaic languages belonging to the Ahar and Sarab regions. Some of



Water Museum of Sa'dabad Complex
waterhouse.ir

these inscriptions also pertain to the Parthian and Sassanid eras in ancient Persian, Akkadian, Elamite, Aramaic and Pahlavi languages. The history of Niavaran Palace Complex dates back nearly 300 years, when Fath-Ali Shah (the second shah of the Qajar Dynasty) ordered a summer residence to be built over the then countryside area of the capital.

Compassion with Wildlife: Public campaign launched



The Department of the Environment (DoE) of Tehran Province launched its second public environmental protection campaign, titled "Compassion with Wildlife," on Friday, May 26th, in the restricted hunting area of Damavand's Koohsfid (White Mountain).

Alireza Mazinani, the director of the DoE in Tehran Province, announced the campaign's goal is to encourage public participation and collaboration in preserving wildlife and habitats for animals and plants in the region, according to IRNA.

Mazinani emphasized the ecological and economic importance of animal habitats, citing the value of wildlife and biodiversity. The campaign aims to raise awareness and engage people and target groups in protecting natural resources and wildlife habitats throughout Tehran Province.

Since the beginning of the year, more than eight species of animals, totaling around 45 individuals, have been rehabilitated and released into Tehran Province habitats. Mazinani stressed the shared responsibility of preserving the environment and nature for future generations, contributing to sustainable development goals and upholding Article 50 of the Constitution.

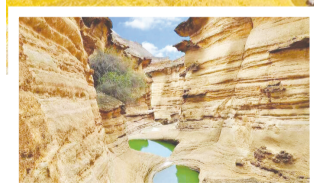
The director expressed gratitude to citizens, nature enthusiasts, and environmentalists supporting the campaign and urged people and officials to actively participate in the ongoing and future programs addressing various environmental aspects. Ali Amrollahi, head of the Natural Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Department of the DoE in Tehran Province, outlined additional objectives of the "Compassion with Wildlife" campaign. These include constructing water troughs, disinfecting old water troughs, and planting specific indigenous species in managed areas to enhance wildlife protection and increase vegetation coverage. Amrollahi also reported the release of several birds of prey into the wild and the implementation of measures such as new water troughs and disinfection of old ones.

In the first public campaign for environmental protection in Tehran Province, the "Waste-Free" campaign commenced on April 27th, focusing on cleaning the Jajrood River from the Latian Dam to the Mamloo Dam. These campaigns are set to continue until the end of September this year in other parts of Tehran Province, following a scheduled plan.

Two Iranian geoparks added to UNESCO list

Arts & Culture Desk

The United Nations' esteemed Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), officially approved the inclusion of 18 captivating new sites from various corners of the globe into its esteemed network of extraordinary Geoparks, which showcase some of the most awe-inspiring natural wonders worldwide. Among the recently added geoparks are two remarkable Iranian destinations: Aras Geopark and Tabas Geopark. These sites have been deemed of immense geological importance on an international scale. As detailed in a report by un.org, Geoparks fulfill a vital role in their local communities, seamlessly combining conservation efforts with public engagement and sustainable development strategies. With these recent designations, the number of Geoparks now stands at 195, covering a stag-



gering surface area of 486,709 square kilometers—equivalent to twice the size of the United Kingdom. Notably, this expansion also marks the first-ever participation of two UNESCO Member States, namely New Zealand and the Philippines, in this prestigious network.

Aras Geopark, nestled in northwestern Iran and marked by the Aras River, represents the northernmost boundary of this geological treasure. Positioned at the southern extremity of the Lesser Caucasus Mountain range, this awe-inspiring landscape acts as a natural barrier, fostering an assortment of climates while boasting rich geodiversity and biodiversity. Furthermore, it serves as a vital

link between diverse cultures residing on either side of the mountain chain. Often referred to as "the geological paradise of Iran" by renowned intellectuals, Tabas Geopark is located within the sprawling 22,771 square kilometers of desert in northwest South Khorasan Province. Here, visitors can embark on a captivating journey through time, tracing the evolution of our

planet from its earliest geological era, the Precambrian, which dates back a staggering 4.6 billion years, all the way to the Early Cretaceous period, approximately 145 million years ago. This uninterrupted chronicle of Earth's history has earned the geopark its well-deserved reputation. Notably, the geopark is also home to the Naybandan Wildlife Refuge, the largest sanctuary of its kind in Iran, covering a vast expanse of 1.5 million hectares and serving as a critical habitat for the Asian cheetah.

The inclusion of Aras Geopark and Tabas Geopark in UNESCO's renowned network underscores their exceptional value and contributes to the global recognition of Iran's geological heritage. These geoparks will undoubtedly continue to inspire awe and captivate visitors from around the world with their extraordinary natural wonders and historical significance.