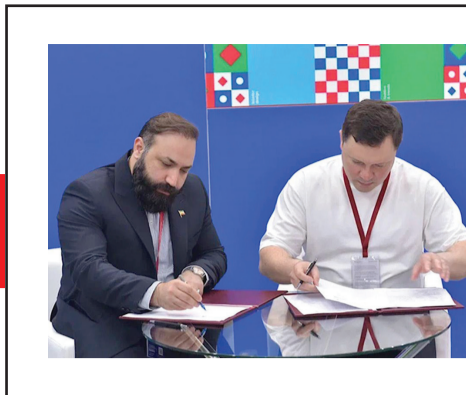


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# IRAN

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## Iran, Russia ink cinematic deal

Farabi Cinema Foundation signed a joint cooperation agreement with Red Square Media, one of the largest content producers in Russia. The CEO of the Iranian foundation, at the invitation of Anton Kubikov Advisor to the President of Russia and Executive Secretary of St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, signed the agreement during his visit to the country and participation in the SPIEF 2023. According to the report, this agreement has been signed in five areas of content expansion, joint production, networking of professionals, distribution and marketing, and organizing t

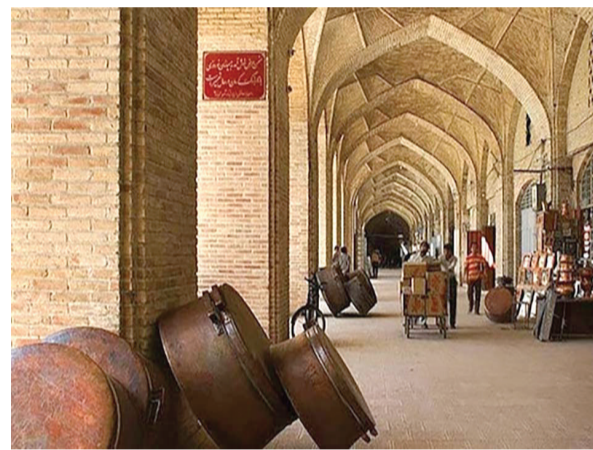
# Bustling Kerman Grand Bazaar, a vibrant hub of commerce and culture



apochi.com



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ranparadise.com

tries), and komach sehn (date-filled pie). Shop for handmade jewelry, pottery and other crafts made by local artisans at the Kerman Grand Bazaar.

### Best times to visit

Kerman's Grand Bazaar is located in the center of the city, starting from the Arg Square and continuing until Mirza Reza Kermani Street. Its main entrances are Arg Gate and Mosque Gate, which were once the city's gates.

The bazaar is open every day from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., except on Fridays and national holidays when all shops are closed. The best time to visit the bazaar is either in the morning, when merchants start to open their shops and the market starts being busy but isn't yet too crowded, and after 5 p.m. when it is full of life.

You can wander into the alleys to explore Kerman's Grand Bazaar, but the best way to visit it is to hire a local guide who will show you amazing places you might not discover otherwise.

The Grand Bazaar of Kerman, a desert city located in the southeast of Iran, is one of the country's most interesting bazaars to visit. Considered by UNESCO as the second largest bazaar of the country, it is one of the main tourist attractions of the city as well as its beating heart. Comprised of several bazaars built over centuries, it reflects the rich architecture and artistic traditions of ancient Persia. In this article, you will see why you shouldn't miss your chance to visit Kerman's Grand Bazaar, surfiran.com wrote.

Anything can be found in Iranian bazaars. They are busy crowded places, where locals and tourists come to do their shopping. But Kerman's bazaar takes the experience to a higher level, as it's one of Iran's largest bazaars. It's a cluster of narrow alleys, high-cellar courtyards, encompassing caravanserais and bathhouses. From Persian carpets to intricate metalwork, the Kerman Grand Bazaar offers a wealth of unique souvenirs. Not yet recognized as a world heritage site, Kerman's Grand Bazaar is on the tentative list to

become a UNESCO site, as the complex is one of Iran's most beautiful bazaars and a "masterpiece [that] proves man's creativity". In time, the bazaar has become a real cultural landmark of Kerman, mentioned in many local proverbs and is still as alive today as it was centuries ago. The construction of Kerman's Grand Bazaar started 600 years ago, under the Timurid Dynasty, a Persian-Turco-Mongol Empire that ruled over the region in the 15th century. This empire, whose capitals were Samarkand and

Herat, was famous for brining Islamic art to its pinnacle, which can be perceived in Kerman's bazaar. Over the centuries, various parts were added, most under the Safavid era (1501-1732 CE), giving the bazaar the blend of various architectures we know today. Like other Iranian bazaars, Kerman's Grand Bazaar is comprised of several sections. The most famous is the Ganjali Khan Complex, which is the heart of the bazaar. Built around a square, the complex has a stunning Safavid architecture, with deli-

cate tile work, as well as paintings that display the daily lives of people under this dynasty. Inside the complex is a caravanserai, a bathhouse, and a mosque. Another important area is Chahar Sooq that marks the intersection of the two main bazaar alleys, and was thus once the busiest point of the city. Dating back 400 years, it is beautifully decorated. Arg Bazaar is another major market, with beautiful high ceilings, where music once played to announce the market's closure. Then comes the Wakil

Complex, which contains a bazaar, a caravanserai, a mosque, and a bathhouse, considered one of the most beautiful from the Qajar era. Finally, Ekhtiari Bazaar is another must see of Kerman's Grand Bazaar. It's the oldest part of the bazaar, and contains a mosque, a caravanserai, and a bathhouse, now turned into a cozy teahouse.

### What's famous in Kerman's Grand Bazaar?

Strolling into the alleys of Kerman's Bazaar, be sure to get your hands

on some local specialties. Kerman is well-known for its spices, coming from southeast Iran and India, and for cumin. Pistachios cultivated in the region are among the best in the world. Once famous for its carpets, during the 17th century, Kerman remains a great place to find antique pieces. It's also famous for copper, coming from the Sarcheshmeh Copper Mine in the region. Don't miss tasting some local sweets while in Kerman's bazaar, such as kolompeh (walnut and date cookies), qottab (pistachio and walnut pas-

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran firmly adheres to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Ali Darabi, the deputy tourism minister, said on Monday. In the 5th Ordinary Governing Council Meeting of the Regional Research Center for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, Iran has been elected as the president of the council for a period of three years, with a majority of votes. Additionally, Atousa Momeni has been appointed as the president of the Tehran International Cultural Heritage (ICH) Center for a duration of four years. The meeting, organized by the Regional Research Center for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, is currently taking place at Tehran's Laleh Hotel, June 26-27, according to IRNA. Darabi highlighted the

## Iran selected as president of Ordinary Governing Council

Iran firmly adheres to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage convention: deputy minister



significance of this specialized council meeting in the context of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in West and Central Asia. He emphasized that intangible cultural heritage is the essence of a nation's culture and, without it, tangible cul-

tural heritage cannot truly manifest itself. He stated that tangible heritage is the product of intangible heritage and is considered an invaluable asset in the progress and sustainable development of societies, representing the wisdom and intellect of humans throughout

history. This intangible heritage encompasses a wide range of knowledge, including cosmic and natural sciences, traditional arts and crafts, and social practices that promote harmony, peace, rituals, festivals, performing arts, and the embodiment of coexistence

among human beings. Darabi continued by highlighting the numerous unparalleled manifestations of intangible heritage in the West and Central Asia region that have thrived due to the rich cultural legacy of identity-conscious nations and their intelligent intergenerational transmission. Since 2006, Iran has been a signatory to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and is recognized as one of the most active countries in implementing the convention. With nearly 3,000 national registrations of intangible heritage and 24 elements inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Iran has achieved success in preserving cultural identity and participating in the development of multinational dossiers, promoting social cohesion among nations within the framework of the aforementioned convention.

## English Heritage said no to Dutch loan request for 'fragile' Vermeer painting



English Heritage refused to lend one of its most precious paintings to a blockbuster Vermeer exhibition, claiming it was too fragile to travel, despite expert assurance that the risk of damage was "negligible", documents reveal. Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum tried to gather all of Johannes Vermeer's 37 surviving paintings in one place for the largest ever exhibition of work by the Dutch master. 'The Guitar Player' at London's Kenwood House was one of only nine known Vermeer paintings not to appear at the show, which ended earlier this month. Now correspondence released after a freedom of information request reveals the lengths

gone to by the Rijksmuseum's curators to try persuade English Heritage, which runs Kenwood, to temporarily part with the painting. At the start of the charm offensive last July senior figures from the organisation, including its chief executive, Kate Mavor, were treated to breakfast at the exclusive Wolseley restaurant in Mayfair by a Rijksmuseum delegation led by its director, Taco Dibbits, to discuss the potential loan. The Rijksmuseum even commissioned a report by "the world's leading expert [on] vibration mitigation" to try to convince English Heritage that the painting could be safely transported to Amsterdam using the latest technology.