



# IRAN

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## Global release of 'Zalava' on Amazon

The Iranian film 'Zalava,' directed by Arsalan Amiri, has been released worldwide on the Amazon platform, along with its online release on domestic platforms such as Filimo and Namava. Produced by Samira and Rouhollah Baradari, the film has received significant acclaim, winning three Crystal Simorgh awards and garnering 10 Crystal Simorgh nominations at the 31st Fajr Film Festival.

## Hengam Island: Home to wild dolphins



Many people worldwide are familiar with the beautiful architecture and ancient past of Iran, but only a few know about its rich wildlife. From cheetahs to dolphins, many animal species are endemic to Iran and can be observed while visiting the country. Hengam Island, in southern Iran, is one of the best locations for that. It's a small island famous for the many dolphins that inhabit the water part of the year. In this article we'll show you why you should definitely add Hengam Is-

land to your travel list.

### Where is Hengam Island?

Hengam is a tiny island in the Persian Gulf, close to Qeshm Island, Hormuzgan Province, two kilometers from Shibderaz village and Kandaloo port. Hengam extends in an area of 36.6km, so approximately the same size as Hormuz Island. However, the two islands are very different, surfiran.com wrote. Hengam has only two small villages and almost no cars, which makes it particularly peaceful.

With crystal clear waters and sandy beaches, the island's coast is a paradise for those who want to enjoy the beauty of the sea. In Iran, Hengam is well-known for one thing in particular: its dolphins. The sea shore hosts several species of dolphins that come for mating from fall to spring. Among these species, the most commonly found in Hengam waters is the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, a small-sized dolphin with a long rostrum. This specie is unfortunate-

ly listed as "near threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). These dolphins usually live in small groups of five to 15 individuals, and are very playful. That's why they can be easily observed in the bay of Hengam. If you decide to go on a boat excursion in Hengam to observe dolphins, here are a few facts to have in mind: Dolphins are talkative. They communicate with a large variety of sounds and each dolphin has a distinctive whistle.

To breathe, dolphins need to come to the surface, but they have the ability to hold their breath for up to 10 minutes. Like apes and humans, bottlenose dolphins are one of the rare species to be able to recognize themselves in a mirror. Research has demonstrated that they are highly intelligent animals. When they sleep, dolphins turn off half of their brains and keep one eye open to stay alert and regulate breathing. The beauty of Hengam

resides in the fact that it has remained widely untouched, even though things are changing at a fast pace. However, until now, most parts of the island are uninhabited, leaving plenty of space for the fauna and flora to flourish. Besides dolphins, one of the most iconic animals of the island is its endemic gazelle. This species is called Jabeer, or Chinkara, also known as the Indian gazelle. This species can indeed be found in India, and also in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This beauti-

ful animal is of small size, usually a 20 kilogram gazelle is about 65cm long. Both males and females have horns. These gazelles live in arid regions, and thus are able to live on very few plants and water. Not only are they capable of not drinking for long periods of time, but they also have the capacity to drink salty water. They are pretty shy and avoid human habitations, but in Hengam, you can easily observe them up close, as they roam freely in nature, far from houses and constructions.

## Iran to host 16th Mariwan Int'l Street Theater Festival



### Arts & Culture Desk

Iran is set to host the 16th Mariwan International Street Theater Festival from October 3 to 9, marking its return after a one-year break. Artists from Iran and around the world have been invited to participate in this event, announced Rahman Houshyari, the president of the festival. Reflecting on the previous year, Houshyari shared, "In late August and early September, we announced the festival's call for participation, which resulted in an impressive influx of about 170 submissions. These submissions were meticulously assessed and selected across various categories." Elaborating on the festival's structure, Houshyari explained, "This artistic

event will encompass six exciting sections: Open, Traditional-Ceremonial, Children and Adolescents, Inclusive (specifically designed for individuals with disabilities), Innovative Performances, and a special section dedicated to Sacrifice and Martyrdom." Each section's works have undergone a thorough review and selection process led by a distinguished three-member jury. Emphasizing a notable feature of this edition, Houshyari expressed that in the international section of the 16th festival, "we have witnessed an extraordinary level of enthusiasm among participating groups, particularly in producing exceptional works exclusively for the prestigious event." "We anticipate the presentation of approximately

11 performances from a diverse array of countries including Mexico, Italy, Mongolia, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Afghanistan, Qatar, and Iraq. The detailed names and information of these groups will be announced separately." Houshyari stated that this year, his team has extended a special invitation to around 10 festival organizers from various parts of the world to witness the extraordinary works showcased during the event. The aim is to facilitate artistic exchange and introduce remarkable Iranian groups to other countries. He added, "In recognition of the performance groups that expressed their interest in participating last year, we have decided not to issue a new call for submissions this year. However, in the 'Festival of Festivals' section, we will proudly host selected groups from other renowned festivals." "Our approach in inviting artists for selection and judging their works has been to include experienced individuals, preferably with academic qualifications, while also maintaining a youth-oriented perspective to ensure a fresh and vibrant artistic atmosphere."

## Iran's immense health-tourism potential

### Social Desk

Iran's health tourism sector has generated one billion dollars in foreign currency income, according to the vice president of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education. Speaking at an international conference and exhibition of hospitals and medical centers held on Monday, Saeed Karimi highlighted the advanced state of Iranian medicine, which he described as the best in the region, according to IRNA. "Currently, no patient is sent abroad to be treated, but we receive millions of foreigners in the country every year," he said. Karimi noted that Iran has approximately 1,100 hospitals, 700 of which are state-run, and 250 are licensed to accept and provide medical services to international patients.



"We have 155,000 hospital beds that provide services to patients with the best equipment and treatment staff," he said, adding that the occupancy rate of Iran's hospitals is 70 percent, and the other 30 percent should be allocated to health tourism. The deputy minister of health also mentioned the recent opening of two modern mega-hospitals — Mahdi and Ghadir — and the ongoing construction of similar facilities in major cities. These hospitals, he

said, will not only provide treatment but also operate in the field of health care and health education, and can cater to foreign patients. The official emphasized that the majority of foreign patients' referrals to the country's hospitals are related to issues of infertility, obstetrics, gynecology, ophthalmology, cosmetology, orthopedics, and transplantation. Mohammad Ali Mohseni Bandpei, a member of the parliament, echoed

Karimi's sentiments, citing the country's specialized and experienced medical personnel, lower medical tariffs, and high-quality services as key advantages in attracting health tourists. Mohseni Bandpei also highlighted the government's efforts to boost health tourism, stating, "Within the country's first six development plans, health tourism did not have a strong presence, but in the bill proposed by the government in the seventh plan, we have dedicated a special chapter to tourism." He further stressed the need for domestic insurance organizations to increase their insurance relations with different countries that are going to send health tourists to Iran. "The establishment of insurance coverage can create a double incentive to treat foreign patients in Iran," he said.



## 'Still Streaming' exhibition to open in Tehran

ILNA - The 'Still Streaming' exhibition, a retrospective of the reflection of the Ashura movement in contemporary visual arts, will open at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art today, coinciding with the beginning of the lunar

month of Muharram. The exhibition will feature 80 artworks by 35 artists, including pieces from the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art's collection and artworks from the art community. Art enthusiasts can visit the exhibition

until September 13. 'Still Streaming' is a research-oriented event that presents this collection for observation and examination, free from any prejudice, to provide a platform for reinterpretation and contemplation.