



Iran's Kalhor to stage concert in Germany

Iranian musician Kayhan Kalhor, a virtuoso on kamancheh (Persian stringed instrument), is set to perform his latest concert in the city of Zurich, Germany. The renowned artist will stage the 'Voice of Hope' concert on September 15. He will be accompanied by Kia Tabassian (tar player) and Behnam Samani (percussionist).

Sirik Port, situated in Hormuzgan Province along the southern coast of Iran, is a hidden gem renowned for its extensive and impressive mangrove forests. These unique tidal forests play a critical role in the region's ecological balance, providing a myriad benefits, from habitat preservation to coastal protection and support for local industries.

Flora and Fauna: a diverse ecosystem

The mangroves of Sirik Port serve as a vital habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna. The mangrove trees are uniquely adapted to thrive in the challenging conditions of the intertidal zone, possessing specialized root systems that can tolerate both saltwater and oxygen-poor soil. These adaptations allow the mangroves to create a vibrant and diverse ecosystem that supports countless plant and animal species, kental-travel.com wrote.

In addition to the mangrove trees, the island is home to various other plant species, such as seagrasses and salt-tolerant shrubs that contribute to the overall biodiversity of the area. The mangrove forests of Sirik Port also provide refuge for numerous endangered species, including the vulnerable green sea turtle and the critically endangered hawksbill turtle.

Sirik Port, a hidden gem in Hormuzgan Province



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IRNA

Ecological balance: a crucial role

The mangroves of Sirik Port play an essential part in the region's ecological balance. They offer several vital services, including: Coastal protection: The dense, intertwined roots

of the mangrove trees form a natural barrier against storm surges, erosion, and flooding. This helps protect the shoreline and the communities that rely on the coastal ecosystem. Carbon sequestration: Mangroves are highly efficient

at capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, making them invaluable in the fight against climate change. Water filtration: The mangroves' intricate root systems trap sediment and pollutants, helping to main-

tain water quality in the surrounding estuaries and coastal waters. Nursery grounds: The sheltered environment of the mangrove forests serves as a nursery for many fish and crustaceans, supporting local fisheries and the broader marine food web.

Immerse yourself in lush greenery

The dense mangroves of Sirik Port create a mesmerizing maze of intertwined roots and branches, providing an otherworldly setting for your explorations. As you venture into the heart of the forest, you will be

surrounded by a rich tapestry of green hues, from the vibrant leaves above to the intricate root systems below. The mangroves' unique adaptation to tidal fluctuations creates a dynamic landscape that is constantly changing, offering a new perspective with each visit.

Discover fascinating wildlife

The mangrove ecosystem is home to an incredible array of animals, including various bird species, aquatic creatures, and even reptiles. As you traverse the tangled maze of roots, keep an eye out for the following wildlife. Birds: The mangroves serve as a critical nesting and feeding ground for a diverse range of bird species, including herons, egrets, and kingfishers. With the guidance of your Iran Tour Guide, you may even spot the elusive mangrove pitta, a vibrantly colored bird that is rarely seen outside of this unique habitat. Aquatic Life: Sirik Port's mangroves are teeming with marine life, providing the perfect opportunity to observe creatures such as mudskippers, crabs, and fish that have adapted to the challenging conditions of the tidal forest. Reptiles: The elusive mangrove monitor lizard can be found lurking among the tree branches and roots, while other reptiles, such as snakes and turtles, also

call this habitat home. Essential tips for a memorable mangrove tour to make the most of your Sirik Island tour, consider the following tips:

Choose the right time

The best time to visit Sirik Port is during the cooler months of October to April when the weather is pleasant, and the mangroves are teeming with life.

Wear appropriate clothing Comfortable, quick-drying clothes are ideal for a mangrove tour, as you may encounter water and mud. Be sure to also bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat for protection.

Bring a camera

Don't miss the chance to capture the breathtaking scenery and wildlife encounters that await you in the mangroves.

Beyond the mangroves

Consider exploring other attractions in Sirik Port, such as: The local markets: Experience the vibrant local culture by visiting the bustling markets, where you can shop for unique souvenirs and sample the delicious local cuisine. The ancient port of Sirik: The historic port, with its centuries-old architecture, offers a fascinating glimpse into the region's rich maritime history.

Iran to overtake Europe as top destination for Russian tourists

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has become a preferred destination for Russian tourists, surpassing some European countries, thanks to an increase in demand for tours during the peak autumn season. The introduction of visa-free group travel has further attracted more Russians to explore the country.

Dmitry Arutyunov, the General Manager of Art Tour Company, highlighted that Iran is now seen as an alternative to countries with visa requirements, particularly European countries.

Russian media outlets, as reported by IRNA, cited several reasons for the rising interest in Iran, including its rich historical and cultural heritage, affordable hotel prices, and flight tickets. The recent visa-free group travel announcement by the Ministry of Economic Development, scheduled to begin on August 1, has played a significant role in drawing more tourists than ever. Intourist, a Russian tour operator, revealed that



tour sales to Iran have surged by 15 to 20 percent compared to the previous year, with bookings extending well into October. The demand for tours to Iran usually peaks during spring and autumn, with both individuals and organized groups of 30 to 40 people heading to the country. Despite the increasing interest, experts point out the lack of an active advertising campaign in Russia to promote Iran as a tourist destination. Arutyunov emphasized that many Russian tourists are unfamiliar with Iran's potential as a fascinating spot for spring and autumn trips. Notably, Iran's

excellent skiing facilities have also garnered interest from winter travelers seeking an alternative to the Alps as a ski resort. Maria Novoikova, a manager at Star Tour Company, agrees with Arutyunov's assessment, stating that Iran has emerged as a replacement for European countries, offering lower travel prices. In recent developments, Russian Minister of Economic Development, Maxim Reshetnikov, announced plans for the first visa-free trips to Iran and China starting August 1. Under this arrangement, tourists from both countries can travel without visas in organized groups

of five to 50 people for a duration of two weeks. Additionally, Iran and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding in May, aiming to strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector. The objectives of the memorandum include promoting tourism as a crucial area of collaboration, increasing the number of tourists in both countries, and developing human resources in the travel and tourism industry. The two nations also highlighted their focus on exchanging experts in the tourism sector, sharing experiences related to various types of tourism, and developing new maritime tourism routes.

Over 1,000 new classrooms ready to use this September

Social Desk

There has been a noticeable improvement in "educational spaces" within Tehran Province, announced director general of Renovation, Development, and Equipping of Schools of the province. This was achieved "through the efforts of school building enthusiasts" in the renovation department of schools in Tehran, ILNA reported. The official further stated that continuous endeavors are being made to enhance existing conditions. Zaare further mentioned that with strategic planning, 100 schools comprising 1,091 classrooms and infrastructure covering 142,000 square meters will be constructed and handed over to education departments by September 2023. Notably, Tehran Province ranks first among all provinces in terms of delivered classrooms across the country. "This achievement exemplifies our tireless work and dedication towards creating suitable educational environments for



our dear students," the official said. Zaare emphasized that upon completion of these educational projects by September, approximately 33,000 students will have access to modernized and standardized schools. "It is worth mentioning that while considering necessary educational equipment and auxiliary facilities for this year's newly renovated schools, our group strives towards construction as well as development and improvement of schools under the Ministry of Education's purview." The director general also highlighted the escalating progress made in constructing and delivering educational spaces throughout Tehran Province. "Thanks to divine blessings along with generous contributions from school-building benefactors combined

with unwavering support from government, we are witnessing substantial growth in school construction within the province," Zaare said, adding, "In 2020-21, we delivered 48 educational spaces, followed by another 88 being completed in 2021-2022, and culminating in 100 new educational spaces scheduled for delivery this year." Currently, there are 183 ongoing educational projects encompassing 2,029 classrooms and an infrastructure spanning 289,000 square meters. A significant portion of these projects will be ready for operation in September 2024, according to Zaare. Zaare then expressed gratitude for the invaluable support rendered by school-building benefactors in various parts of Tehran Province.