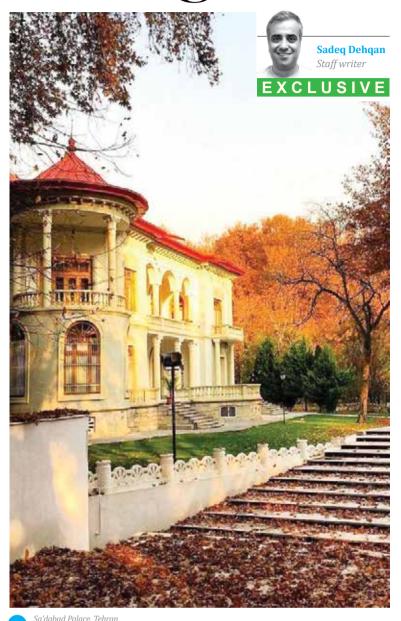
Iranica

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## Tehran lures many tourists during holidays









The Iranian capital Tehran is a top tourist destination for a large number of people from across the country during the holidays, an Iranian lawmaker said.

"Since Tehran is largely empty of its population during the holidays, many people think that it is not among important tourist destinations. This is while the capital city hosts a large number of tourists from all over the country during the holidays," Somayeh Rafiei told Iran Daily in an exclusive

"If you visit important tourist centers during the holidays in Tehran, you will see a large number of tourists who flock to the city to visit its tourist attractions."

She also touched upon the significance of Tehran's tourist attractions.

"Tehran is full of tourist attractions. The metropolis enjoys huge potentials in the tourism sector with respect to its cultural, historical and natural attractions. But its tourism capacities have been largely neglected," the MP noted.

Rafiei said many of those who live in Tehran, or were born in the city, have not visited its tourist attractions.

"Hence, we can conclude that scant efforts have been made to introduce these attrac-

She said precious monuments from differ-



Reza Abbasi Museum, Tehrar

ent historical eras and important historical developments have turned Tehran into an attractive tourist destination.

The lawmaker said lack of knowledge of tourist attractions in Tehran pertains to the abundance of tourist sites across the country. She added that if other countries had such attractions, they would do their best to lure tourists.

She said various museums in Tehran such as the Treasury of National Jewels which displays precious and unique gemstones can

The Treasury of the National Jewels is a collection of the most expensive jewels of the world, collected over centuries. It is owned by the Central Bank of Iran.

The value of its objects is not limited to their economic value. They demonstrate creativity and taste of Iranian craftsmen and artists over different historical periods, and represent the artistic and cultural heritage of the country.

Rafiei also highlighted Tehran's natural potentials to entice visitors.

"In terms of ecology, Tehran offers unique natural capacities and as a city with foothills, it has an attractive nature. The villages, waterfalls and lakes around Tehran, which are 10 to 15 kilometers from the city, are very beautiful but remain unknown among the people," she pointed out.

The parliamentarian touched upon issues that adversely impact tourism in Tehran.

"As the country's capital, Tehran is grappling with problems such as water shortage, air pollution and traffic, which have negatively affected tourism in the city. Officials should explore ways to tackle these problems in order to promote its tourism sector."

The MP said historical sectors of Tehran are located in its center, calling for efforts to preserve them in the wake of urban devel-

Rafiei added that precious monuments are scattered across Tehran, which are indicative of the antiquity and originality of the metropolis.

## Iranica Desk

The southwestern province of Fars has many natural and historical sites which are popular and well worth a visit. There is a beautiful region in the land with a mesmerizing landscape near the city of Marvdasht, called Tang-e Bostanak.

Located 120 kilometers northwest of the provincial capital city of Shiraz, the region, also known as 'The Lost Paradise,' hosts a huge number of tourists throughout the year, especially in the spring, IRNA wrote.

The unique and natural beauties of this area have attracted the attention of many tourists and nature lovers. In addition, numerous mountaineering groups visit the area throughout the year.

Although Tang-e Bostanak has relatively warm weather, its flowing rivers, bubbling springs, green mountainous and dense forests have turned it into a heaven, which is why the region is called The Lost Paradise.

In fact, Tang-e Bostanak, located in the Kamfiruz district of Marvdasht, with the pleasant sound of its roaring waterfalls and rivers, gentle breeze, mountain scenery and beautiful plains is one of the most popular resorts of the province.

Extending in an area of 20,000 hectares. The Lost Paradise has an elevation between 1,700 and 3,700 meters above sea level. An asphalt road leads you to this mesmerizing region, in which several barbecues, benches and

tables have been installed.

## A lost paradise in Fars Province



Pleasant weather and sufficient water have led to the prosperity of the agricultural and horticultural sectors of the Lost Paradise, which supplies water to the village in the region.

The road leading to the region passes through green villages with beautiful garden alleys and

Many types of birds of prey as well as brown bears, otters, squirrel, foxes, sheep, rams, wild goats and rabbits live in this area.

Tang-e Boraq canyon, 45km from Tang-e Bostanak, is among the other attractions of the area, having several waterfalls and rivers as well as an historical stone inscription.

Although the area can be chosen as an ideal travel destination in all seasons, April, when its rivers are full of water and its gardens are covered by blossoms, is the best time.

Moreover, the beauty of Tang-e

Bostanak forests multiplies in the fall, because wherever you look, you can see a combination of yellow, orange and red colors. Marvdasht is as ancient as the history of Iran and the Persian Empire. Its former capital, Persepolis, is in the vicinity of the city, and few kilometers farther, Nagsh-e-Rostam, Nagsh-e Rajab and the ruins of the ancient city of Estakhr are reminiscent of the region's importance in ancient





