

# 39 percent growth in Iran's tourism industry in 2022

## Foreign tourists bring in \$6.2 billion in revenue

### Arts & Culture Desk

The World Travel and Tourism Council has reported a 39.2 percent growth in Iran's tourism industry in 2022, with the industry's value reaching 454 trillion Iranian rials (one billion dollars).

It has also announced that foreign tourists spent \$6.2 billion in Iran during the same year.

According to IRNA, the World Travel and Tourism Council has revealed a 22 percent growth in the tourism industry's share of global GDP in 2022. This industry managed to capture 7.6 percent of the world's GDP in the same year. In 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the global tourism industry faced a significant decline of 50.4 percent in its share of the global economy, resulting in a reduction of \$4.9 trillion in its value. However, in 2021, with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, the industry experienced a growth of 21.7 percent, and in 2022, it witnessed a 22 percent growth in its contribution to the global economy, reaching an increased val-

ue of \$7.7 trillion.

During the previous calendar year, the tourism industry created 22 million new jobs worldwide, reflecting a 7.9 percent growth compared to the previous year. The number of people employed in this industry reached 295 million, accounting for 9 percent of global employment.

Domestic tourists' expenditures had a growth rate of 20.4 percent, while foreign tourists spent 81.9 percent more compared to the previous year.

Based on this report, we have witnessed the revival of Iran's tourism industry in the past two years. While in 2020, Iran's tourism industry faced a 45 percent decline in its contribution to the country's GDP, in 2021, it experienced a 40 percent growth in its share. According to the latest statistics from the World Travel and Tourism Council, the share of the tourism industry in Iran's overall economy also increased by 39.2 percent in 2022, reaching 4.6 percent of Iran's total GDP.

With the flourishing of tourism, the employment rate in this industry in



Iran witnessed an 11.2 percent growth in 2022, and the number of people employed in this sector increased to 1.44 million. Consequently, the tourism industry's share of total employment in Iran reached 6.1 percent in 2022.

The statistics show that foreign tourists spent \$6.2 billion in Iran during 2022,

reflecting a growth rate of 73.5 percent compared to the previous year. Domestic tourists in Iran also spent over 316 trillion Iranian rials (632 million dollars) in 2022, showing a growth rate of 40.1 percent compared to the previous year. According to this report, out of all the tourist visits to Iran in 2022, 97.9 percent were for recreational

purposes, while 2.1 percent were for business purposes.

Among all foreign tourists who entered Iran in 2022, 55 percent were from Iraq, followed by tourists from the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey, each accounting for 6 percent, Pakistan with 5 percent, and Kuwait with 2 percent, respectively.

## Iran celebrates Eid al-Ghadir



In commemoration of Eid al-Ghadir, a festive celebration spanning a remarkable 10 kilometers took place on Friday, encompassing Imam Hussein Square and Azadi Square. The Tehran Municipality took the initiative to adorn the streets by illuminating the squares, adorning them with decorative elements, and casting a vibrant glow on the alleyways and thoroughfares. The event was designed to captivate the senses and create a lively atmosphere for all attendees.

A diverse array of cultural, artistic, and entertaining programs were organized to enrich the festivities. As a gesture of hospitality, food and drinks were generously distributed among the guests, all of whom were ordinary citizens. The organizers aimed to ensure that every member of the community could participate and indulge in the festivities.

The event featured a wide range of enjoyable activities suitable for all age groups, fostering a joyous atmosphere that allowed families to spend quality time together on the bustling streets. One particularly enticing attraction was the construction of an extensive amusement park that stretched along the carnival route. Remarkably, the dedicated lane of the Bus Rapid Transit system along this 10-kilometer path was transformed into a playground, creating the longest amusement park experience for children on Eid al-Ghadir. This innovative concept aimed to provide Iranian families with an enticing and unforgettable adventure.

However, the 10-kilometer amusement park was not the sole source of entertainment for children during this event. Along the way, numerous booths and stations were set up to offer children their favorite activities, including painting and group play.

Between the two main squares of the Iranian capital, approximately 300 tents and special stands, known as Moukebs in Arabic, were erected. These designated areas added to the festive ambiance, providing spaces for various cultural and religious activities.

Eid al-Ghadir holds significant importance as a unifying event for the Islamic nation. It marks the day when Imam Ali (PBUH), the first Imam of the Shia, was appointed as the successor to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This celebration serves as a reminder of the spiritual heritage and unity within the Islamic community.

## Iran's music gets kudos in Russia



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The Iran's National Orchestra and the Russian National Youth Symphony Orchestra performed their second joint concert as part of the Iran Culture Week program in St. Petersburg, Russia, which was met with a passionate reception and applause from culture and art enthusiasts in the city.

According to IRNA, the ceremony took place on Thursday at the Kapella Hall in St. Petersburg, in the presence of Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and his accompanying delegation. During the ceremony, Iranian minister expressed his gratitude for the hospitality extended by the federal government and the Ministry of Culture of Russia, appreciating the days dedicated to Iranian

culture in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

He stated, "We, as representatives of a 7,000-old culture and civilization, have come to Russia, a culture and civilization of great significance that its artists and intellectuals have made significant contributions to humanity."

In this ceremony, Iranian and Russian artists performed authentic pieces of music from Iran. The program was carried out in collaboration between the National Orchestra of Iran and the Russian National Youth Symphony Orchestra, which was well-received by the audience in attendance.

During this concert, 19 Iranian musicians and 16 Russian musicians performed authentic Iranian music using traditional instruments such as the *qanun*, *tar*, *ney*, and *tombak*. Arash Amini, the conduc-

tor of the orchestra, and Amirhossein Samei, a vocalist, also performed some pieces during the concert.

The event was attended by the Vice Chairman of the Cultural Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Russia, two deputies, as well as the advisor to the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Prior to this, the group had performed music in the presence of the Ministers of Culture of both countries on Wednesday at the Mali Theater in Moscow.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, on July 3, traveled to Moscow with the aim of developing bilateral relations and participating in the cultural ceremonies of Iran Culture Week in Russia.



## Iran section is the "jewel" of Hermitage Museum: Director

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The director of the renowned Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, has bestowed high praise upon the Iran section, referring to it as "the jewel" of the museum.

Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran, paid a visit to the State Hermitage Museum as part of the programs of Iran Culture Week in Russia, with a particular focus on exploring the Iran section housed within the museum's grand halls.

Accompanied by officials such as the vice-chairman of the cultural committee of the Iranian parliament, Iran's ambassador to Russia, and the cultural attaché, Minister Esmaeili had the opportunity to tour various sections of the museum. During this visit, an enlightening meeting took place between the minister and the director of the State Hermitage Museum, Mikhail Piotrovsky.

Director Piotrovsky emphasized that the Hermitage Museum proudly showcases a vast collection of artifacts representing different historical periods of Iran. He went on to bestow the title of "jewel" upon the Iran section, highlighting its significance and magnificence within the museum's overall collection. Additionally, he expressed his satisfaction with the flourishing cultural exchanges and collaborations between the Hermitage Museum and its counterparts in Iran, emphasizing the positive trajectory of relations between the two nations.

In response, Minister Esmaeili warmly welcomed Director Piotrovsky's proposal for further expanding cooperation. The discussions encompassed various pertinent matters, reflecting the mutual commitment to strengthening ties and fostering cultural dialogue between Iran and Russia.