

Mahalat's autumn splendor, a catalyst for tourism and economic growth

Iranica Desk

Few experiences rival the enchanting sound of rustling autumn leaves beneath one's feet, especially when those leaves come from majestic plane trees that have stood tall for centuries. In the historic city of Mahalat, Markazi Province, autumn and plane trees come together to create a symphony that captivates tourists, eagerly awaiting the chance to complete this mesmerizing performance. The delightful sound of rustling autumn leaves stirs up countless memories in the minds of all who encounter it.

With approximately 5,300 plane trees, ranging from 700 to 1,200 years old, Mahalat's neighborhoods are transformed into a mesmerizing wonderland, as a carpet of vibrant autumn leaves covers the ground, ISNA wrote.

Visitors have a unique opportunity to explore these neighborhoods and indulge in a delightful autumn experience, knowing that this is just one of the many enchanting moments this beautiful city has to offer. As autumn sets in, tourism officials and neighborhood authorities should seize the opportunity to invite people from across the country to visit Mahalat, encouraging them to spend a few days immersing themselves in the wonders of this season through diverse programs designed to boost tourism.



● IRNA

Of course, the fallen leaves of the plane trees and other leafy trees in the city serve various purposes. They attract customers, ranging from florists seeking decorative foliage to farmers collecting leaves for fertilizer.

Municipal workers diligently clean the streets and water channels, ensuring the city remains pristine amidst the colorful foliage. Some travelers

may even be drawn to Mahalat, especially for its renowned autumn scenery, having heard tales of its breathtaking neighborhoods. And, of course, the residents themselves take immense pleasure in the arrival of autumn, reveling in the beauty of fallen leaves and allowing their souls to be filled with the magic of the season in their beloved city. While the municipality

strives to preserve the fallen leaves in Sarcheshmeh Park, ensuring the park remains adorned with nature's carpet for a few days of people's recreational enjoyment, this effort alone is not enough. Creative measures must be taken to fully harness the potential of autumn's natural splendor, increasing social enjoyment and, ultimately, boosting tourism. Organizing an autumnal festival

could be a simple yet meaningful step in this direction, bringing communities together to celebrate the season and further highlighting Mahalat's allure as a tourist destination.

This festival of a thousand autumn colors only seems to yield family photos, selfies, and social media posts. Unfortunately, this output fails to truly capture the potential of this occasion.

Even after many years, no one has come up with an idea to fully utilize this unique opportunity. While it is true that the geographical slope of the neighborhoods and the possibility of rain and flooding preclude leaves from lasting long, this does not detract from the opportunity at hand. In fact, locals engage in an unwritten competition over collecting leaves, especially during off-hours when traffic is light. Pickup trucks are often seen gathering the leaves to transport them to farms or greenhouses.

Seeing how the tourism industry can heavily rely on creative ideas and attention to existing potentials, it is clear that exploiting this natural opportunity doesn't require heavy expenses. Rather, it presents a chance to generate income, promote economic growth, and create social enjoyment. In short, this occasion should be properly leveraged to boost local urban economies and livelihoods alike.

Qajar Bathhouse, a window into Qazvin's history and culture

Iranica Desk

The Qajar Bathhouse is a historical monument and one of the prominent tourist attractions in Qazvin, the capital city of Qazvin Province. It was constructed during the Safavid period and is now registered on Iran's National Heritage List. Currently, the Qajar Bathhouse serves as the Qazvin Anthropology Museum, offering visitors the opportunity to not only appreciate its architectural and historical features but also to gain insights into the culture and customs of the people of Qazvin, IRNA wrote. The Qajar Bathhouse, located in the Obeid Zakani neighborhood, is one of the oldest and

largest bathhouses in Qazvin. In the past, it served as a popular bathing place for the city's residents, serving various practical purposes. However, over time its popularity waned, and it fell into a state of neglect and obscurity. Fortunately, the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization of Qazvin Province stepped in, purchasing and restoring the bathhouse to its former glory. The construction of the Qajar Bathhouse was commissioned by Shah Abbas II and carried out by Amir Goneh Khan, one of his ministers. Initially known as Shahi Bathhouse, it earned its current name during the Qajar period due to the fact that the architect belonged to

the Qajar dynasty. In 2,000, the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization of Qazvin Province acquired the historical structure, overseeing its restoration process with the support of the Qazvin Municipality and the Municipality Renovation Organization. The Qajar Bathhouse spans an area of approximately 1,045 square meters and is divided into separate sections for men and women. It follows the typical layout of Iranian bathhouses, consisting of three main parts: the entrance hall (*sarbineh*), the intermediate area (*miandar*), and the thermal room (*garmkhaneh*). These bathhouses are architecturally designed in accordance with

traditional medicine, gradually increasing temperature and humidity from the entrance hall to the thermal room. The main entrance of the bathhouse faces south and leads to the entrance hall through a captivating spiral staircase. There is another entrance from the west, possibly intended for women. The intricate tilework adorning the bathhouse is a prominent feature of Iranian architecture. Alongside the formal arches, this tilework serves as one of the main decorative elements of the Qajar Bathhouse. The floor is elegantly covered with marble, adding to its visual appeal. A notable feature of the bath-

house is its grand brick dome, which encompasses a central section with a distinct skylight. This skylight allows natural light to permeate throughout the entire complex, creating a serene atmosphere. In the past, bathhouses were constructed slightly lower than street level, and cupolas were incorporated into their ceilings to provide both lighting and ventilation, enhancing the aesthetic charm of Iranian bathhouses. Currently, the Qajar Bathhouse, which has been transformed into the Qazvin Anthropology Museum, has three sections: the Hall of Ethnicities, Occupations, and Traditions. Each section showcases

the vibrant daily lives of people through meticulously crafted life-sized wax sculptures. The entrance hall specifically highlights the predominant ethnicities residing in Qazvin, including Tat, Kurd, Lor, and Turk. The museum has taken great care in accurately portraying these ethnic groups, documenting their traditional attire down to the finest details. Moreover, the occupations and traditions depicted in the museum are based on well-documented and reliable information. Extensive research has been conducted to establish this museum, ensuring a comprehensive and authentic representation of the region's historical and cultural heritage.



● IRNA