

Neor Lake, a hidden gem attracting nature enthusiasts



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For nature enthusiasts seeking pristine and exciting attractions, Neor Lake is a hidden gem nestled in the Talesh Mountains, near the cities of Ardebil and Khalkhal in Ardebil Province.

This stunning lake offers a captivating environment that allows visitors to immerse themselves in nature's beauty. Surrounded by lofty mountains, the area experiences a cold climate and abundant rainfall throughout the year, making it an ideal destination for all seasons, IRNA wrote.

Neor Lake, despite being less known compared to its neighboring attractions, sees a steady flow of tourists year-round. The lake itself is formed during spring when the snow melts, merging the two separate parts

into one. In the spring, the depths of different areas of Neor Lake range from 5 to 13 meters. The smaller part covers approximately 40 hectares, while the larger section spans close to 180 hectares, offering ample space for exploration.

Under the supervision of the Department of the Environment, Neor Lake's ecosystem and climate are held in great importance. The region boasts a diverse array of plant and animal species, drawing the attention of experts and nature enthusiasts alike.

Around Neor Lake, more than 70 species of fragrant and medicinal plants can be found, adding to the area's natural charm. Additionally, the lake serves as a habitat for over 90 animal species, including majestic bears, graceful deer, elegant horses, various types of bats, and even

domestic animals like cows and sheep.

Thanks to its delightful location in a pleasant and forested area with a mild climate, Neor Lake has become a magnet for nature enthusiasts and tourists throughout the year. Despite its relative anonymity compared to other natural attractions nearby, Neor Lake retains its untouched and unspoiled allure. With each passing day, the interest from nature lovers and tourists in this area continues to grow.

The surroundings of Neor Lake also hold significance as vital habitats for tribal settlements, preserving their cultural heritage and traditional ways of life. During late spring till the end of summer, the plains encircling the lake burst into vibrant colors, with an abundance of blooming flowers and lush

meadows, creating a picturesque scene to behold.

To reach Neor Lake, one must embark on a winding mountainous road that offers breathtaking views of the foothill plains. The journey takes approximately 30 minutes and the road is well-paved for a comfortable drive. However, once you arrive at the lake, the surrounding path becomes a dirt road, perfect for those who enjoy hiking and exploring on foot.

Neor Lake is a true treasure waiting to be discovered. Its natural wonders, ecological importance, and peaceful ambiance make it an ideal destination for anyone seeking solace and inspiration in the embrace of nature. Witnessing the breathtaking views of the Talesh Mountains near Neor Lake can create lasting memories. Don't forget to cap-

ture your experiences through photography as you explore the area. During winter, the lake freezes and transforms into a vast ice skating rink with an impressive 80-centimeter depth.

The surrounding landscape is also ideal for cycling, attracting mountain biking enthusiasts. In fact, many cyclists challenge themselves by traversing the approximately 20-kilometer distance between the lake and the Subatan highlands during spring and summer.

Horseback riding and boating are popular recreational activities at Neor Lake as well. While you can rent horses nearby, make sure to bring your own inflatable boat if you wish to go boating. It's important to note that swimming isn't permitted in the lake due to unsuitable water conditions and marsh-like

vegetation in certain areas.

Birdwatchers will delight in observing various bird species during migration seasons in the nearby vicinity. Neor Lake and its surroundings are protected areas where hunting is strictly prohibited. Please respect safety guidelines and help preserve the well-being of the local wildlife and ecosystem. For many tourists, picnicking in nature and spending a day immersed in the great outdoors is a cherished experience. This region's unspoiled natural beauty and pleasant summer climate offer an excellent environment for a one-day nature excursion.

If you're a fan of such recreation, be sure to plan a trip to Neor Lake and its surroundings. Additionally, the lake's abundant fresh water makes it a suitable habitat for fish to thrive.

Tourism development and international connections significant for Kish Island



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The tourism industry plays a crucial role in the global economy and can significantly contribute to economic development when properly utilized. Kish Island in the southern province of Hormuzgan with its unique geographical conditions and tourism potentials, has always been recognized as a prominent tourist destination in the region.

In recent years, the government has made substantial efforts not only to promote this industry but also to highlight the rich national, religious, and cultural heritage of the country through tourism development on both the national and international levels. Today, Kish Island stands out as a captivating coral island that has successfully captured

the attention of tourists from Islamic countries in the region, gaining recognition as an Islamic tourist destination in the international media.

Azizollah Mohammadi, the managing director of Kish Port and Airport Development and Management Company, emphasized the necessity of establishing direct international flights to Kish Island for the growth and prosperity of tourism in visitor-friendly areas.

He commended the recent international negotiations conducted by the management of Kish Free Trade Zone Organization to establish these flights as highly impactful. Mohammadi highlighted the exceptional geographical location of Kish Island and its numerous tourism opportunities, making it an ideal destination for foreign tourists,

particularly those from Arab and Persian Gulf countries. He acknowledged that the absence of direct flights from foreign origins to Kish Island has been a significant hindrance to the development of foreign tourism, which these ongoing efforts aim to overcome.

Mohammadi announced the successful launch of a direct flight from Baghdad to Kish, resulting in the arrival of 150 Iraqi tourists.

As per the current plans, Iraqi tourists will initially visit the island on a weekly basis, with the intention to increase the frequency to two flights per week in subsequent stages. These developments mark an exciting step forward in expanding tourism opportunities and fostering international connections for Kish Island.