## Iranshahr, a city full of attractions in Sistan and Baluchestan Province



Iranshahr, situated in Sistan and Baluchistan Province, is bordered by Khash and Zahedan to the north, Chabahar to the south, Bam, Bampour, and Fanouj to the west, and Saravan and Zabol to the east. Additionally, it is close to Irandegan to the northeast, Rask and Pishin

to the southeast, Nikshahr, Qasr-e Qand, and Lashar districts to the southwest, and Delgan to the north-

At an elevation of 591 meters above sea level, Iranshahr experiences an average annual temperature of 32°C and an average annual rainfall of 1.53mm, characteristic of its warm and dry desert climate. The best times to visit are during the spring, autumn, and winter.

The city's main agricultural prod-

ucts include grains, while active industries encompass livestock and poultry farming, fish farming, as well as the production of milk, red meat, chicken meat, and honey. Iranshahr is also home to major mines, such as lime, marble, manganese, and talc, and hosts the combined-cycle power plant, a significant energy source for the country.

Previously known as Pareh or Pahreh, Iranshahr showcases remnants of ancient human settlements. Notably, the city features numerous castles, underscoring its historical significance and defensive role in Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Key attractions in Iranshahr and its

- Nasseri Castle, constructed during the Qajar period
- Bampour Castle, dating back to the Parthian and Sassanid eras
- Espidej Cemetery, an ancient site
- datingback 5,000 years Molla Soleiman Cave, a historical

site in Lashar District

- Bampour River, originating from the highlands of Karvandar District
- Bazman Hot Springs, located in Bazman village
- Maksan Hot Springs, situated 110km northwest of Iranshahr
- Katookan Mineral Spring, known for its high mineral water content
- Daman River, a natural attraction with water all year round, located near Chabahar-Zahedan transit road

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in Mazandaran Province

The promotion of health tourism is considered a top priority by senior officials in Mazandaran Province for the current Iranian year, which began on March 21, 2023. This sector is currently undergoing significant development as evidenced by recent data. In April 2023, the former director general of Mazandaran Province's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization emphasized improving the health and medical tourism sector as the primary strategy adopted by the organization in the current year.

The province's unique natural resources and health care infrastructure make it an ideal destination for health and medical tourists. The province's Governor General Seyyed Mahmoud Hosseinipour also highlighted the significant efforts being made to develop health and medical tourism in the northern part of the country, emphasizing its importance as an integral part of the province's overall tourism sector. In response to the need for developing the sector, several actions have been tak-

en, including the operation of medical

centers in cities such as Babol, Sari, and

Nowshahr. These centers, both special-

ized and non-specialized, offer services

in cosmetic surgery, ophthalmology, and

open-heart surgery to both domestic and foreign tourists, particularly those  $from \, the \, Persian \, Gulf \, littoral \, states.$ 

The deputy chancellor of the Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences has announced that eight hospitals in the province are equipped to admit foreign health tourists. Both public and private hospitals are actively preparing to receive medical tourists.

Kazem Mahmoudi also specified that Khatam Hospital in Behshahr specializes in ophthalmology, Fatemeh Zahra

(PBUH) Hospital in Sari in heart disease, Sari's Imam Khomeini (RA) Hospital in oncology and infertility, and Ramsar and Chalus hospitals are ready to admit foreign patients in the fields of surgery and gastroenterology.

Emphasizing the high capacity of medical services, Hosseinipour stated: "We have specialist physicians in this field, which presents a great opportunity that we should capitalize on."

Hossein Izadi, the director general of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Mazandaran Province, also announced, "A strategic committee has been established for health tourism in the province."

He further explained, "The primary focus of the committee is to streamline health tourism in the province in order to achieve tourism goals, and this matter has been given significant consideration and emphasis."

Taking into account the emphasis made by the minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, as well

as the governor general of Mazandaran Province, he said, "Regarding its significant potential, investors select this province for making investments." He also emphasized the need for increased communication between tour and travel agencies, universities of medical sciences, medical centers, and hospitals in the province to ensure that both parties can benefit from each oth-

er's activities and capacities. He continued, "With the establishment of the strategic committee for health tourism in Mazandaran Province and the selection of members, efforts have been made to include a representative from tour and travel agencies, private and public hospitals in this committee." Izadi said, "Out of 198 travel agencies active in Mazandaran Province, 12 have received licenses to accept health tourists, and six others are in the process." He further added that 10 hospitals in Mazandaran Province have received the IPD license, allowing them to en-

gage in health tourism activities. The IPD license stands for International Patient Department. Obtaining this license is mandatory for hospitals and clinics intending to admit international patients. In fact, it can be said that only hospitals that have obtained the IPD license can engage in medical tourism activities.





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