



Tourist arrivals surged 43% in 2023

Arts & Culture Desk
Iran saw a significant increase in international tourists in 2023, with a 43% rise in arrivals compared to the previous year, according to a report by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). This growth has elevated Iran six places in the glob-

al tourism ranking, now positioned at 34th among top destinations. The data, released by the UNWTO and cited by IRNA on Tuesday, indicates that approximately 5.9 million tourists visited Iran in 2023, up from 4.1 million in 2022. This surge follows a previous quadrupling of tourist numbers in 2022, which

rebounded from a pandemic-induced slump in 2021 when only 880,000 tourists visited Iran. The remarkable increase in tourism has placed Iran ahead of many countries, with only 33 nations attracting more international tourists. France led the global rankings with 100 million visitors, followed by Spain with 85 million,

and the United States with 66 million. Other top destinations included Italy, Turkey, Mexico, the UK, Germany, Greece, and Austria. Iran's tourism sector has shown resilience and significant recovery post-pandemic, as evidenced by the substantial rise in international arrivals over the past two years.

'In the Shadow of the Cypress' wins top prize in Spain

Iranian film 'In the Shadow of the Cypress,' won the Best International Short Film prize at the 19th Spain's Animayo Gran Canaria Fest. The Iranian animation centers on a war veteran struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) who takes out his pent-up rage on his daughter until something unexpected washes up on the beach before their house, Variety wrote. Last year, the Animayo Grand Jury prizewinner, Yeganeh Moqaddam's Iranian stop-mo-

tion/2D hybrid short 'The Uniform,' was among the five nominees shortlisted for the animated short film Oscar. Disney animation legend John Musker ('The Little Mermaid,' 'Aladdin'), who served as jury president, praised 'In the Shadow of the Cypress' by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani for its scenography, use of light, script and story. Aside from winning the Grand Jury Prize, it also took home the best 2D Award. With Animayo being the first and only ani-

mation festival in Spain designated a qualifying festival by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 'In the Shadow of the Cypress' gets a direct pass to vie for the Oscars in its short film categories. For this 19th edition held May 8 to 11, 59 works competed in four Official Competition sections: International, Animation with N, Cinematics, videogames and commissioned films, and the children's and young people's section, 'My First Festival.'



Aggression, irresponsibility common problems in children: *Iran's SPRC*

Social Desk
A psychologist and official from Iran's Society for Protecting the Rights of the Child (SPRC) reported that 360 calls were made to the Yara Hotline from December 22 to March 19. The most common issues reported by mothers included behavioral problems such as aggression, defiance, depression, stubbornness, irresponsibility, inattention, and concerns about internet addiction. In an interview with ISNA, Somayyeh Omid noted that 76% of the mothers were homemakers, while the rest were employed in various professions including as office workers, university professors, nurses, salespeople, hairdressers, accountants, freelancers, child caregivers, factory workers, sales managers, drivers, insurance agents, teachers, and plastic goods manufacturers. Among the fathers who called, 47% were between 35 and 40 years old, and 40% were between 40 and 45 years old. On average, 68% were employed as freelancers, office workers, drivers, salespeople, accountants, company managers, doctors, university professors, manufacturers, farmers, and teachers. Omid highlighted that the most common issues reported by mothers included aggression, defiance, depression, stubbornness, irresponsibility, inattention, internet addiction, cyberbullying, school problems, lack of motiva-

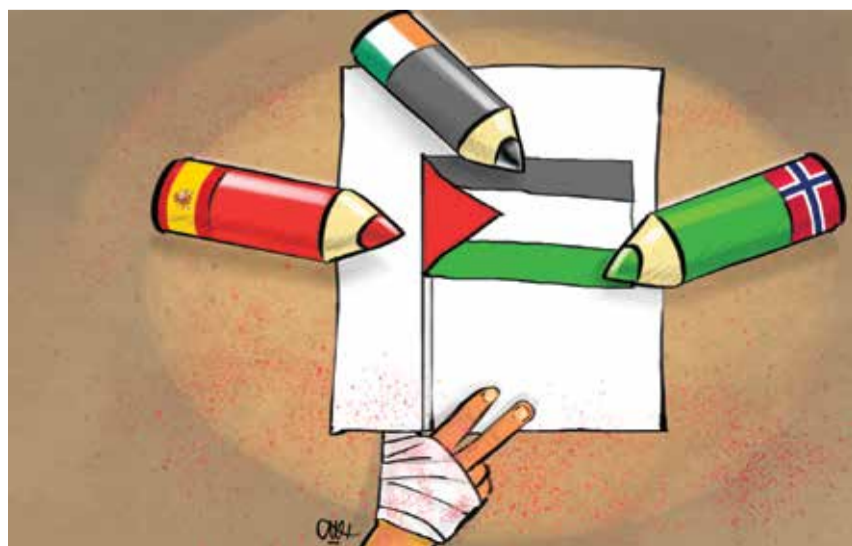
tion for studying, relationship issues with friends and peers, disorganization, and lack of self-confidence. These issues were most frequently reported for children aged 12 to 18 (46% of calls), followed by children aged 5 to 7 (33%), children aged 7 to 12 (24%), and children aged 0 to 2 (8%). For children aged 12 to 18,

the main problems including lack of parenting knowledge, behavioral issues like aggression and depression, school problems like lack of motivation, feelings of loneliness, irresponsibility, relationship issues with peers and parents. For children aged 5 to 7, the main problems were anxiety about starting school, issues related to

the home environment such as migration or parents' separation, emotional stress, separation anxiety, difficulty in social interactions, lack of parenting knowledge, aggression, stubbornness, issues related to the arrival of a second child, hyperactivity, medication use, speech problems, bedwetting, and habitual issues like teeth

grinding, nail-biting, and tics. For children aged 7 to 12, the main problems were relationship issues with peers and parents, lack of self-confidence, hyperactivity, aggression, lack of focus, incorrect information about puberty from peers or social media, problem-solving skills, stubbornness, irresponsibility, neglect by parents with the arrival of a second child, disorganization, and the need for interpersonal skills training. Omid added that 53% of callers were from Tehran, while 47% were from other provinces including Shahr-e Kord, Karaj, Pardis, Parand, Isfahan, Shiraz, Zanjan, Abhar, Bushehr, and Varamin.

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**
Cartoonist




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