

# Beauty, history of Moshir Bridge



## Iranica Desk

The first phase of restoring the historic Moshir Bridge in Bushehr has been completed, according to the deputy head of Bushehr Province’s Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization. Nasrallah Ebrahimi stated that the Moshir Bridge is one of the most significant historical bridges in Iran in terms of length, span, and foundation, with its origins dating back to the Sassanid period. It has been refurbished during both the Safavid and Qajar periods. He added that due to the collapse

of one of the bridge’s spans, the restoration work was very complicated, as one of the arches had been destroyed, and during the restoration process, it has been completely recreated. He continued: “In the second phase, we will focus on the arches and spans that were partially damaged. Additionally, during the first phase of restoration, efforts were made to reinforce the roots of the bridge and strengthen the adjacent caravanserai.” The Moshir Bridge is a valuable structure from the Qajar period, rebuilt in 1869 CE concurrently with the Borzajan Caravanse-

rai, upon the order of Haj Mirza Abolhassan Khan Moshir al-Molk Shirazi, by a renowned architect from Fars, Haj Mohammad Rahim Shirazi. The bridge features six spans and has a total length of 285 meters. The main materials used in its construction are large and small hewn stones, which are connected by lime mortar and, in some areas, secured with iron nails and rods. Historians and travelers who have mentioned this bridge and its important role on the trade route from Bushehr to Shiraz include Forsatodolleh Shirazi and British explorer and writer

Lord Curzon. The Moshir al-Molk Bridge features a hybrid design, combining triangular and linear bridge styles, as well as two types of arches: pointed and Roman. Its length is 130 meters, with six pointed arches — one being the largest and another the smallest, while the remaining four are of equal size. The height of the tallest span is 11.40 meters, and its width is 10.50 meters. Like all ancient bridges, the Moshir al-Molk Bridge operates on a weight-based principle, transferring its weight through its foundations to the riverbed. The stones used in

the construction of the bridge’s foundations are large and rectangular up to a height of three or four meters, becoming smaller at greater heights. The larger stones are secured to each other and to the structure of the bridge’s foundations with long iron nails, and the arches are reinforced with wooden bracing. The stones used in the foundations are sandstone, which poses a serious risk of erosion to the bridge’s structure. The dimensions of the larger foundations of the bridge are approximately 10 meters by 13 meters, making it one of the thickest ancient bridges in Iran

in terms of cross-sectional area. Bushehr itself is a city rich in history and culture, known for its beautiful coastal scenery and historical sites. It has been a significant port city for centuries, playing a crucial role in trade and commerce. Visitors to Bushehr can explore various attractions, including the old port, traditional bazaars, and other historical landmarks that reflect the city’s vibrant past. The Moshir Bridge, with its architectural beauty and historical significance, stands as a testament to the region’s rich heritage and continues to attract tourists and history enthusiasts alike.

## Discover ecological riches of Lavandevil Wildlife Refuge

Spread over more than 1,000 hectares, the Lavandevil Wildlife Refuge is located just five kilometers from Astara in Gilan Province. The name Lavandevil translates to “Habitat of Flowers” in the Taleshi language. The area has become a critical wildlife refuge, particularly for birds. It encompasses part of the Hyrcanian forests, which merge with those along the Caspian Sea, surrounded by an intricate landscape of sea, lagoons, trees, and sand dunes. In the distance, fields of pomegranate and rice can be seen, adding to the region’s picturesque beauty. The Lavandevil Wildlife Refuge stretch-

es from the city of Lavandevil in the south to Astara in the north, bordered by the Caspian Sea to the east and the Astara-Landvil road to the west. Nearby villages include Gholam Mahaleh, Imamzadeh, Dadashabad, and Sibli, contributing to the area’s vibrant cultural tapestry. The average elevation of the Lavandevil Wildlife Refuge is approximately twenty meters below sea level, and it experiences high rainfall, enhancing its lush environment. Though Lavandevil is located in Gilan Province, it is significantly influenced by Taleshi culture; additionally, its proximity to Ardebil brings further

cultural diversity. The residents of this northern region of Iran communicate in Farsi, Azari Turkish, and Taleshi languages, reflecting the area’s rich cultural heritage. The Lavandevil Wildlife Refuge serves as a sanctuary for various species, including wild boar, foxes, Persian fallow deer, golden eagles, Eurasian golden orioles, pelicans, martens, whooper swans, a variety of ducks, herons, slender-billed curlews, and cranes, totaling around 125 species. The trees within Lavandevil provide habitat for the ring-necked pheasant, regarded as one of the most beautiful birds in Iran.

This wildlife refuge also attracts numerous migratory bird species that come here to escape the harsh winter weather; it lies along the migratory route connecting Siberia to warmer regions of the globe. Approximately one hundred plant species, fifty medicinal plant varieties, and sixty-five ornamental plants have been recorded in the area, some of which are endemic. Noteworthy among them are straw, cattail, local pomegranate, alder, common medlar, Pterocarya fraxinifolia, Gleditsia, raspberry, and various lagoon plants. In addition to Lavandevil Wildlife

Refuge, several other attractions are sure to captivate tourists, including the mausoleums of Baba Hassan, Mohammad Doust, and Baba Ali, the 17-hectare Sadaf coastal promenade, the ancient village of Sibli, Laton jungle, and Laton Waterfall, which boasts a height of about one hundred meters. Visitors can also explore Mieh Kumeh waterfall, Kuteh Kumeh hot water spring, the coastal park of Lavandevil city, and the Sibli rice fields. However, it is worth noting that the region is a significant source of sand and shell extraction, leading to some environmental degradation.

