

Nowruz-e Sayyad welcomes fishing season in southern Iran



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Nowruz-e Sayyad, an age-old ceremony deeply rooted in the traditions of southern Iran, specifically on Qeshm Island in Hormozgan Province, marks the commencement of the primary fishing season. In this region of Iran, the sea and the practice of fishing hold profound significance in the daily lives of its inhabitants. For those residing on islands like Qeshm, nestled alongside the Persian Gulf, the sea is inextricably linked to their very existence, [surfiran.com](#) wrote. Here, the sea is synonymous with life itself, providing sustenance and vitality to the

communities that depend on it. Fishing is not merely an occupation but a defining element of life on the island, with distinct seasons and periods shaped by its cyclical nature. While the rest of Iran observes the traditional Nowruz in late March, the fishermen of southern Iran celebrate their own unique New Year, known as Nowruz-e Sayyad (Fisherman's Nowruz). This celebration coincides with the beginning of the main fishing season in late July. Nowruz-e Sayyad, which translates to “a new day for the fishermen,” is a ritual that has been observed by southern Iranians for generations.

On this day, fishermen abstain from fishing and refrain from consuming seafood, allowing the fish population to replenish. In addition, the local community celebrates the occasion by immersing themselves in the sea. People of all ages and genders participate, believing that this act of purification will protect them from illness throughout the year. This ritual is particularly vibrant in the Salakh village on Qeshm Island. The entire community of Salakh participates in the ceremony, engaging in traditional rituals such as *razif khani*, a traditional ritual

in which the sailors sing, and performing the *shushi* dance to the accompaniment of local musical instruments. Typically, a group of men dressed in white attire plays drums, while another group sings traditional songs and dances to the rhythm. As previously mentioned, the avoidance of fish consumption on this day stems from the belief that it provides fish with an opportunity to reproduce, thereby ensuring an increase in their numbers. It is a day when fish can enjoy moments of freedom and tranquility in the vast expanse of the sea, undisturbed by

fishermen. The people of Qeshm Island believe that on this particular day, all springs flow into the sea, and it is imperative to safeguard the fish population to ensure the continuation of divine blessings upon the islanders through the propagation of their species. Moreover, families bring the sick and elderly to the sea, pouring water over their bodies with the hope of healing. Similar to the traditional Nowruz, the people of southern Iran don new attire on this day, symbolizing good fortune for the year ahead. They also adorn their animals with a

red mud called *gelak* and lead them to the sea to partake in the festivities. Women prepare a special pastry made from dates, known as *ranginak*, and participate in various games and contests such as rowing and tug-of-war. The essence of these games is rooted in coastal living and fishing, with older generations imparting the rules to children and adolescents. Additional rituals include two men dressed in black to represent bandits, a wooden camel to symbolize the carrying away of spoils, and a man disguised as a white bird to evoke purity.

Siahgel Fire Temple; ancient treasure of Ilam Province

Iranica Desk

The Siahgel Fire Temple, also known as Siahgel Chartaqi, is a significant historical site located in Eyvan, Ilam Province. Dating back to the Parthian era, this temple has undergone several restorations over the years, reflecting its enduring importance. According to Habibollah Mahmoudian, a faculty member at the Islamic Azad University of Ilam, the temple is situated approximately 10 kilometers from Sartang village, alongside the Gangir River, amidst an archaeological site rich with remnants of ancient civilization, [ISNA](#) wrote. Constructed with stone and plaster, the Siahgel Fire Temple is attributed to the Sassanid period. It stands out among other fire temples in Ilam Province due to its remarkable preservation and completeness, having benefited from multiple restoration efforts in recent years. Mahmoudian noted that the temple's four-arch and dome-like structure suggests it may have served as a Mithraic temple during the Parthian period. As one of the best-preserved fire temples from the pre-Islamic era in Ilam Province, the Siahgel Fire Temple showcases a design characterized by four foundational

bases and a single-layer dome. The side corridors and various surrounding artifacts enhance the site's grandeur, indicating that this religious center may have been associated with prominent rulers of its time.

Ilam's historical significance

Ilam Province, located in western Iran, has a rich tapestry of history influenced by various cultures and civilizations. The region has been inhabited since ancient times, with evidence of human settlement dating back to the Elamite period, around 3000 BCE.



The province's strategic location along trade routes has made it a melting pot of diverse cultures, contributing to its historical significance. Throughout history, Ilam Province has witnessed the rise and fall of various empires, including the Parthians and Sassanids, each leaving their mark on the region's cultural heritage. Today, the remnants of these ancient civilizations serve as a testament to the province's rich history and its significance in the broader narrative of Iranian heritage.

Eyvan's heritage

Eyvan, as a city within Ilam Province, has played a crucial role in

the region's history. The area's archaeological sites, including the Siahgel Fire Temple, reveal insights into the religious practices and architectural advancements of ancient Persian civilizations. Eyvan's strategic location has made it a crossroads of cultures and a focal point for various empires throughout history. Archaeological evidence suggests that the area has been inhabited since ancient times, with remnants of settlements and structures offering glimpses into the lives of those who once called this land home. The city's proximity to vital trade routes has also contributed to its historical significance, fostering an exchange of ideas, goods, and traditions that have shaped its unique identity. Beyond the Siahgel Fire Temple, Eyvan offers a wealth of attractions for history enthusiasts and cultural explorers. The surrounding landscapes are dotted with ancient mounds and archaeological sites, each holding clues to the region's past. Eyvan is known for its vibrant local culture, including traditional music, and crafts. The warm hospitality of the local people adds another layer of charm to this historic city, making it a rewarding destination for those seeking an authentic Iranian experience.