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Iran, Egypt open ‘new chapter’ in tourism ties, minister says

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts said on Monday that Tehran and Cairo have entered a “new and strategic phase” of cooperation in tourism, signaling a shift in relations between the two regional heavyweights.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival in Cairo for the 4th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism, Reza Salehi Amiri said the fresh momentum in Iran-Egypt ties stems from a recent high-level meeting between the countries’ presidents, IRNA reported.

“A new chapter has opened,” he noted, adding that tourism now stands at the heart of this budding relationship.

“The goal is to move beyond general diplomacy and tap into areas where mutual interests can be pursued in a



Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri (2nd R) and his delegation arrive in Cairo, Egypt on May 5 to attend the 4th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism.
● dolat.ir

targeted and strategic way,” he said. The minister emphasized that boosting people-to-people exchanges through tourism would strengthen broader economic and cultural ties.

The visit follows last year’s meeting between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Egyptian Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. It marked a turning point after decades of diplomatic strain. Since then, both sides have been working to rebuild trust and identify common ground, particularly in cultural and historical sectors.



Salehi Amiri highlighted the deep civilizational roots shared by the two nations. Calling Egypt “a pioneer of Islamic and

Arab civilization,” he said Iranian tourists are eager to explore its heritage. In turn, he noted Iran’s UNESCO-listed

treasures could offer Egyptian visitors a glimpse into its “unmatched cultural depth.”

“The potential is enormous,” he said. “It’s time we show the world what unites us.”

The Iranian minister also underlined the role of media and academia in fostering public awareness. “We need to get the word out—through national media, social platforms, and cultural figures,” he said.

Salehi Amiri’s visit to Cairo, made at the official invitation of the Egyptian government, also includes side meetings with tourism ministers from Turkey, Azerbaijan, and other D-8 nations. The D-8, or Developing-8, is an organization of eight Muslim-majority countries promoting economic and cultural cooperation.

This year’s summit runs May 5-6 and features participation from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia, and others.

One key topic is Egypt’s recent move to officially allow Iranian tourists to visit—a decision viewed by Tehran as a potential “turning point” in bilateral ties. Discussions on how to operationalize the policy are expected to take place on the sidelines of the summit.

Iran, Tajikistan eye stronger relations as visa-free travel boosts cultural exchange

Arts & Culture Desk

The lifting of visa requirements between Iran and Tajikistan has paved the way for a surge in “cultural, scientific, and artistic” exchanges, a senior Iranian official said on Monday, as the two countries work to deepen their strategic cooperation.

Mohammad Vali Alaeddini, head of the Center for International Affairs of the Ministry of Energy, and co-chair of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Commission, made the remarks at the opening of the commission’s 17th session, held in Shiraz.

The historic city—long regarded as a cradle of Persian art and mysticism—hosted delegates from both sides in what Alaeddini called a “decisive” moment for bilateral ties. “This year offers a unique opportunity to align our economic strengths and build on complementary capacities,” Alaeddini told participants.

The gathering brought together more than 25 business leaders from Tajikistan and over 30 Iranian counterparts for a series of technical meetings.

Alaeddini pointed to the recent visit by



Head of the Center for International Affairs of the Ministry of Energy Mohammad Vali Alaeddini addresses the audience at the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Commission, held in Iran’s southwestern city of Shiraz, on May 5, 2025.
● [ILNA](http://ilna)

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Dushanbe, during which 23 cooperation agreements worth over \$450 million were signed.

He described the deals as a “milestone” that now demand swift and serious implemen-

tation.

“Our goal is clear: raise bilateral trade to more than \$500 million annually,” Alaeddini said. “This is within reach if we stay committed and work hand in hand.”

Beyond trade, he underlined key areas of potential growth—including technology transfer, joint investment in Tajikistan’s free trade zones, energy cooperation, and transit infrastructure.

Alaeddini emphasized that the mutual cancellation of tourist visas had not only eased travel for intellectuals and entrepreneurs but also strengthened people-to-people ties. The move, in place since early 2022, has helped both countries “break new ground” in cultural diplomacy.

Tajikistan’s Energy Minister Daler Juma, who also co-chairs the joint commission, attended the meeting—seen by many as a sign of political will to push cooperation beyond formal agreements.

The Shiraz meeting coincided with the city’s annual day of celebration, underscoring the symbolic link between heritage and development.

Italian official sees Iran as ‘fertile ground’ for attracting tourists

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran holds strong potential for international tourism and investment, the head of Italy’s tourism committee told ILNA in an exclusive interview.

President of CTO San Marino Luca Ruco said Iran is “well-organized,” offers “fertile soil,” and could prove highly attractive as an “emerging product” in global markets.

“Iran will surely appeal to new markets,” he said, pointing to its underexplored potential and growing interest from European stakeholders. Ruco’s remarks came during a conversation focused on the role of Italy’s tourism commission, which was launched during the COVID-19

pandemic.

The committee, he noted, was established “to stand up to the crisis that hit tourism hard — a crisis no one saw coming.”

“Thanks to the committee, especially in San Marino,” Rocco added, “we got through that tough time. Not only did companies survive, but many bounced back stronger, creating new jobs and continuing to grow even post-COVID.”

Italy’s tourism sector contributes about 13% to the country’s GDP, making resilience planning critical. The San Marino initiative he referred to has been praised for supporting small businesses and sustaining employment during the pandemic.



Looking ahead, Ruco suggested that deeper cooperation between Italy and Iran could unlock new opportunities. “You’ve got the infrastructure, the history, the charm — the makings of something truly promising,” he said.

Iran has been working to diversi-

fy its economy away from oil, and tourism has featured prominently in its 2025 plan. The country hopes to attract 20 million tourists annually by the end of the decade, a goal that would require increased international investment and collaboration.

Sobh International Media Festival announces winners



The third edition of the Sobh International Media Festival, which is underway in the Iranian capital Tehran, has announced outstanding contributions in media that emphasize regional issues and spirituality.

The six-day festival, which began at the International Conference Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), on Saturday, has showcased a diverse array of works from around the globe, Press TV reported.

The event received 4,160 entries from 40 countries, including the Netherlands, Argentina, Tunisia, Afghanistan, Russia, Peru, South Korea, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria, Italy, the UK, Singapore, Germany, Brazil, the United States, China, Ireland, and Palestine.

Among these, 533 entries were allocated to the Palestine section, while 3,627 were part of the main competition.

The festival’s categories encompassed television programs, news blogs, visual



Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) Peyman Jebelli addresses the 3rd day of the 3rd edition of the Sobh International Media Festival at the IRIB’s International Conference Center in the Iranian capital Tehran, on May 5, 2025.
● [PRESS TV](http://press.tv)

arts, music videos, short films, documentaries, and animated shorts for the Palestine section.

It, as well, welcomed entries comprising social media output, radio programs, podcasts, written content, motion graphics, news reports, documentaries, and television programs for its main section.

The festival has addressed critical topics in four specialized sessions, including developments in the West Asia region after the Al-Aqsa Operation Storm, a historical resistance operation against the occupied Palestinian territories that took place in October 2023.

The third edition of the festival accepted entries from January 5 until February 3.

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company

Tender for Steel Wheel Disk Machinery

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase 9 steel wheel disk making machines. Interested companies are requested to offer their quotes based on the specifications mentioned in the RFP on www.kswco.com. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to commercial2@kswco.com by May 10 2025.

Please write Tender No in email subject.
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