

# Geno Mountain blends nature, health, cultural heritage

Iranica Desk

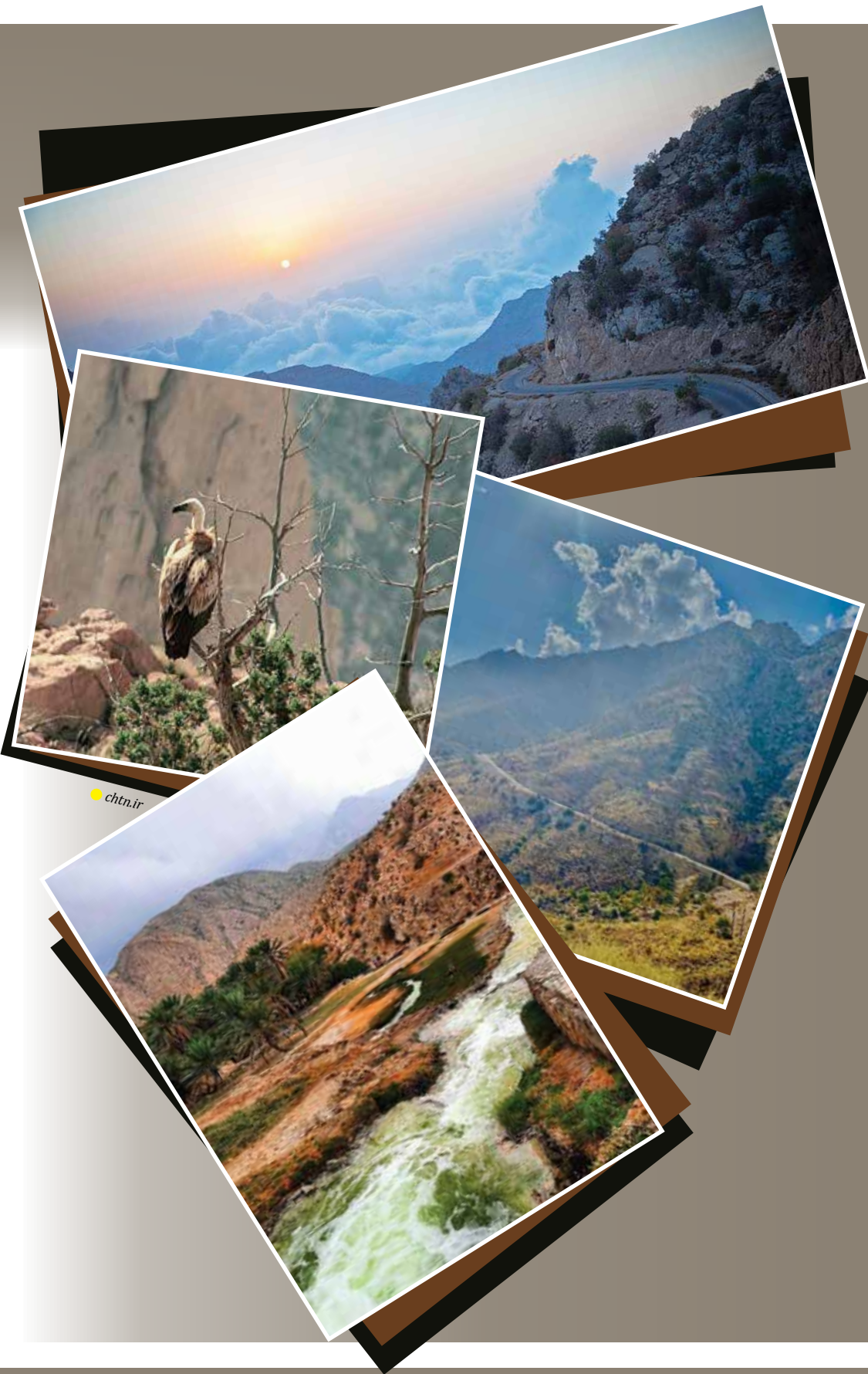
In southern Iran, in a land where the scorching sun and humid climate are intertwined with the lives of the people, a mountain rises to the skies, offering a cool, green, and vibrant nature to its inhabitants and visitors. Geno Mountain, with its lush heights, bubbling springs, and unique ecosystem, is one of the most beautiful nature tourism destinations in Hormozgan Province, attracting travelers and nature enthusiasts from across the province and the country each year. Geno Mountain is located 30 kilometers northwest of Bandar Abbas, in an area between the cities of Bandar Abbas and Hajiabad. This mountain, part of the southern Zagros Mountains, stands at an elevation of over 2,300 meters, making it the sixth tallest mountain in the province. Consequently, its temperature is always 7 to 10 degrees cooler than that of Bandar Abbas. The climate in this region, especially in spring and autumn, is very pleasant and cool, making Geno Mountain the first destination for families from Hormozgan Province to escape the summer heat and spend a relaxing day in nature.

Biosphere reserve

Geno Mountain was declared a protected area in 1972, and in subsequent years, due to its unique natural characteristics, it was listed as one of the thirteen biosphere reserves in Iran by UNESCO. This 43,000-hectare

region is home to dozens of rare plant and animal species, some of which are found only in this area. In the heights of Geno Mountain, a diverse range of vegetation grows, including sparse forests, shrublands, fruit-bearing trees, and medicinal plants. Trees such as figs, pomegranates, apples, apricots, grapes, as well as date palms, tamarisk, acacia, and wild almonds enhance the natural beauty of this region. In terms of fauna, Geno Mountain is home to species such as the Persian leopard, hyena, jackal, mountain goat, ram, ewe, fox, rabbit, and wild boar. Birds of prey and migratory species such as partridges, golden eagles, rock partridges, and skylarks can also be observed in this area. Additionally, rare species of amphibians and reptiles live in the flowing waters and springs of Geno Mountain, indicating the ecological health of the region. One of the most attractive features of Geno Mountain is its famous hot spring. With high temperatures and mineral-rich water abundant in sulfur, chlorine, and calcium, this spring is beneficial for treating various skin and joint diseases. The existence of separate pools for women and men, along with recreational areas around it, has made Geno Spring one of the most important health tourism destinations in the southern part of the country. Geno Mountain is a unique destination for nature lovers, climbers, and nature photographers. The diverse hiking trails, stunning landscapes at sunrise and sunset, camping in the heart of

the mountains, and paragliding are among the activities available in this area. This region is currently recognized as one of the priorities for ecotourism development in Hormozgan Province, and with the completion of tourism infrastructure in the Geno Mountain, it is expected that more tourists from other parts of the country will travel to this winter paradise in southern Iran. The local people living around Geno Mountain are often engaged in cattle ranching, agriculture, and handicrafts. Many tourists, while visiting the nature of Geno, are also interested in learning about the lifestyle of the locals, their traditional music, local foods, and handicrafts. This aspect has transformed Mount Geno into a platform for promoting sustainable tourism, creating jobs, and enhancing local livelihoods. Accessing Geno Mountain from Bandar Abbas is easy via the Bandar Abbas-Sirjan road. This route is paved and safe, and the secondary paths leading to the hot spring and tourist areas are also passable by car. Nature tours are also active in this area during the cooler seasons of the year. Geno Mountain is not just a natural area; it encompasses a collection of climatic beauty, biodiversity, local culture, and tourism potential in the warm climate of southern Iran. If you find yourself in Bandar Abbas or are looking for a unique destination for nature tourism, Geno awaits you with open arms, a cool sky, and a warm heart.



## Amir Nezam House; an architectural, historical icon in Tabriz



Tabriz, the capital of East Azarbaijan Province, has a rich history marked by numerous struggles and significant historical events, particularly during the Persian Constitutional Revolution and later the Pahlavi era. Among the city's many historic buildings stands the Amir Nezam Garousi House, which dates back to the Qajar dynasty. Amir Nezam, originally named Hasan-Ali Khan, was one of the most influential politicians during the Qajar era. During his mission in Tabriz, he constructed a mansion that exemplifies traditional Qajar architectural style. This house was so remarkable that Nasereddin Shah himself mentioned and described it during his third journey to Europe, visitiran.ir wrote. Hasan-Ali Garousi held several high-ranking positions in the Qajar government. In addition to serving as a steward, he was Iran's ambassador to France, where he brought back coin punch machines. He also played a pivotal role in the Tobacco Protest. In his later years, he was exiled to Kerman, where he eventually passed away. After Amir Nezam, subsequent rulers of Azarbaijan occupied his mansion. Recognizing its historical significance and cultural value, the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization of East Azarbaijan took action to acquire the house in 1991. Following its registration as a national heritage site and subsequent restoration efforts, it was opened to the

public in 2006 as a specialized museum dedicated to the Qajar era. The Amir Nezam House is a two-story structure set on a foundation covering approximately 1,500 square meters. The estate features two courtyards: one serving as the Andaruni (private quarters) and the other as the Biruni. Both courtyards are decorated with flower gardens, water pools, and intricate tile works. Sixteen pillars support the terrace ceiling. The second-floor windows are adorned with latticework and colorful glass, while the north and south facades feature stucco and mirror works. Like many traditional Iranian mansions,

the basement houses a large Howz Khaneh, a columned water hall that is one of the main sections of the building. Its ceiling showcases masterful brickwork, adding to the mansion's architectural grandeur. Today, the mansion's halls are filled with various displays. On the first floor, visitors can explore exhibitions of coins, weavings, ceramics, glassware, music, inlay works, and metal artifacts. The second floor features halls dedicated to stones, weaponry, politicians and their decrees, architecture, and urban development, offering a comprehensive insight into the rich history and culture of the era.

