

# Mehrabad Mosque of Bonab among 40 UNESCO nomination candidates

## Bonab Kebab; key cultural asset of city

Iranica Desk

Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Ali Darabi, announced during an official visit to Mehrabad Mosque of Bonab, in East Azarbaijan Province, that the ancient structure is among 40 mosques across 15 Iranian provinces nominated for UNESCO World Heritage status. During his tour, Darabi also visited the Red Mosque, Ali Qapu Square, the historical villages of Savar and Tutah Khaneh, and the traditional bazaar of Bonab. In addition, he inspected a series of development, restoration, and infrastructure projects related to tourism in the region. These site visits aim to evaluate the progress of ongoing heritage and tourism projects, identify new tourism capacities, and accelerate the completion of development plans. Local authorities continue to emphasize infrastructure enhancement as a key strategy



● gardeshgari724.com

for strengthening the cultural and economic vitality of Bonab, according to IRNA.

Darabi was accompanied by several local and provincial officials as they toured major



● IRNA

heritage sites and reviewed restoration efforts throughout the county. A meeting held later at the Bonab Governor's Office focused on upgrading tourism infrastructure, expediting restoration projects, and addressing financial requirements. During the session, Mohammad Bagheri Bonabi, Bonab's representative in the Parliament, stressed the

importance of seeking global registration for Bonab Kebab and Mehrabad Mosque, while also highlighting the need to further develop tourism infrastructure — particularly in the villages of Savar and Tutah Khaneh. Darabi stated that Bonab Kebab, Mehrabad Mosque, and the historic village of Sur are all moving toward international recog-

nition. He expressed hope that next year's Bonab Kebab Festival — expected to host ambassadors from several countries — will help pave the way for achieving global listing for the city's famous culinary tradition. Meanwhile, Mohammad-Hossein Qale'hei, the Governor of Bonab, emphasized the importance of nationally registering "Bonab Kebab" and preparing the necessary groundwork to elevate the annual festival to an international event. Citing the economic significance of the dish, he noted that nearly 370 kebab establishments currently operate in the city, providing substantial employment and underscoring the major economic impact of Bonab Kebab on the region. Qale'hei added that national registration and the expansion of the festival would further promote Bonab's culinary identity and tourism potential, contributing to economic growth and sustainable employment.

## Hike, swim, trek in Buchir Canyon of Hormozgan Province

Iranica Desk

Buchir Canyon is one of Hormozgan Province's hidden treasures — lesser known than many of southern Iran's natural attractions, yet remarkably generous in the beauty it offers every visitor. With its towering rock walls, crystal-clear waters, and winding natural pathways, the canyon provides a unique encounter with the untouched landscapes of Iran's southern region. Visitors can experience the gentle sound of flowing water, the cool mountain breeze, and the rich palette of autumn colors simultaneously — sensations rarely found together elsewhere in the country.



Located in Parsian near the village of Buchir, the canyon stretches roughly 1,000 meters, with depths reaching up to eight meters in certain areas. Access begins from the main Parsian-Bandar-e Moqam road, leading travelers through villages and lush farmlands before the route turns into a rugged, mountainous dirt path, IRNA wrote. Navigating this trail requires patience and care, but the scenery along the way — from palm groves to striking rock formations — more than compensates for the effort. Carrying a local map or a reliable GPS device is strongly recommended to ensure

accurate navigation. One of the key elements that makes Buchir Canyon so captivating is its unique route, which combines hiking, swimming, and light water trekking. In some sections, visitors must wade through cold, clear water, while other parts of the path are rocky and uneven. This combination creates an adventurous and exciting experience, ideal for nature enthusiasts and fans of outdoor thrills. Buchir is known not only for its striking beauty but also for its diverse plant and animal life. Around the canyon, visitors can spot native desert vegetation such as wild thyme and various small bush species. The area is also home to local birdlife, includ-

ing finches and nightingales. For nature photographers, this biodiversity offers excellent opportunities to capture truly exceptional moments. Autumn is the best time to visit Buchir Canyon. During this season, the weather is mild and pleasant, and the intense summer heat has completely subsided. In addition, the autumn leaves and the changing colors of the surrounding trees create stunning and eye-catching scenery. For photography enthusiasts, visiting in the fall offers the perfect opportunity to capture unforgettable images. Staying near the canyon makes the trip more convenient and

enjoyable. The best options include the village of Buchir and nearby towns such as Parsian and Bandar Maqam. In these areas, eco-lodges and small guesthouses provide visitors with the chance to experience local culture and daily life up close.



● alibaba.ir

Tasting local cuisine is an essential part of the Buchir Canyon experience. Freshly baked Kak or local bread, often served alongside traditional dishes, adds extra delight to the trip. Local beverages, such as tea infused with cardamom and cinnamon or freshly made Doogh (a traditional Iranian yogurt-based drink), offer visitors an authentic and enjoyable taste of the region, providing a closer connection to its culinary culture. Visiting Buchir Canyon requires physical readiness and attention to safety. Some of the most important considerations include proper non-slip footwear, life jackets and swimming gear, traveling with a guide, checking weather conditions, and having basic swimming and first-aid skills. Possessing foundational knowledge in swimming and first aid can help ensure the safety of you and your companions.

### Surrounding attractions

Exploring the attractions around Buchir Canyon makes the trip

even more rewarding. Highlights include a 15-meter waterfall with crystal-clear water flowing within the canyon, and the historic village of Buchir, featuring traditional architecture and ancient sites such as the old citadel, which showcase the local

culture and history. Additionally, nearby mountains and nature trails offer hiking and trekking enthusiasts the chance to experience breathtaking and unique landscapes. An important aspect of visiting Buchir Canyon is practicing sustainable tourism. Avoiding litter, refraining from damaging plants and wildlife, and respecting local culture ensure a responsible and memorable journey. By doing so, the natural environment is preserved, allowing future visitors to enjoy this remarkable site. With its combination of natural scenery, adventurous activities, and local life, Buchir Canyon is one of southern Iran's most exceptional destinations. Visiting the canyon provides opportunities for relaxation, excitement, and immersion in local culture. With proper planning, adherence to safety guidelines, and the right equipment, a trip to Buchir Canyon promises an unforgettable experience that will remain in your memory for years to come.

## Kerman is timeless heart of Iran's carpet heritage

Iranica Desk

Today, the name of Kerman — one of Iran's major and historic provinces — is inseparably linked with the art of carpet weaving. As one of the oldest cities in the country, Kerman has long upheld its status as a leading center of this craft. The history of Kerman carpets stretches back many centuries, even predating the Safavid dynasty. One of the oldest surviving examples is a carpet fragment preserved in a museum in Mashhad, estimated to be over 500 years old. Like the products of many other regions, Kerman carpets have evolved significantly over time. This craft reached a remarkable level of prosperity during the Safavid era. However, by the Qajar period, carpet production witnessed a dramatic decline. By the late 19th century, only six workshops remained active in the region, operating no more than thirty looms. After this period of stagnation, the industry experienced a revival. Numerous workshops were established once again, primarily to meet the growing demand

for exports to Europe and the United States. By the early 20th century, hundreds of workshops and thousands of looms were operating throughout Kerman, visitiran.ir wrote. Beyond their originality and rich diversity of design, Kerman carpets are renowned for the distinctive colors and dyeing techniques used in their yarn. Their color palette includes nearly 30 shades, created through the blending of herbal dyes and traditional dyeing methods. Among these colors is a unique and vibrant non-herbal red derived from cochineal, highly prized for its depth and brilliance. The motifs and patterns seen in Kerman carpets are equally varied. Some of the most celebrated include the Lachak-o-Toranj (paisley), Khouche Angoori (grape bunch), and Derakhti (tree) designs. The Derakhti motif itself appears in numerous stylistic interpretations. The Shah Abbasi pattern — related to the grape bunch motif — was especially prominent in earlier centuries, and continues to inspire many contemporary designs derived from its classic form.



● IRNA