

Sistan and Baluchestan boasts unique potential in marine tourism



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Sistan and Baluchestan Province, with its rich historical and cultural heritage, is located in southeastern Iran. Due to its strategic geographic position and extensive coasts, it has become one of the most important tourist destinations in the country. With its Makran coasts, serving as a gateway to the Gulf of Oman, the province boasts unique potential in the field of marine tourism and can play a significant role in economic prosperity and coastal economic development.

Sistan and Baluchestan Province is not only notable for its beautiful coasts, but also for its rich cultural heritage. Spring travelers visiting this province will encounter a blend of rich heritage, handicrafts, tourist attractions, and ancient historical sites, creating a memorable experience, according to chtn.ir. The handicrafts of Sistan and Baluchestan, with their unique diversity and beauty, are one of

the most important elements of tourism in the province. These handicrafts, stemming from the traditional arts of the region's people, can serve as valuable souvenirs for tourists and a source of income for local artists. Chabahar, as a gem of maritime tourism, with countless attractions, has become one of the most important tourist destinations in Sistan and Baluchestan and is considered one of the region's maritime tourism poles. Maritime tourism in the province provides unique opportunities for the economic development of this province including the establishment of beach hotels and accommodations, the development of restaurants and cafes, the creation of recreational and tourist centers, and the support of local handicrafts. Given the unique capabilities of maritime tourism in Sistan and Baluchestan, the government and the private sector must collaborate and coordinate to develop comprehensive tourism

plans for this province. These plans should include investment in infrastructure, support for local artists and artisans, marketing and advertising, and human resource training. The development of maritime tourism in Sistan and Baluchestan can contribute to job creation, increased income, and economic development in the province, as well as help preserve the environment and the culture of this region. The tourism industry, as a key driver of economic growth, job creation, and improvement in people's health and quality of life, has significant potential in Sistan and Baluchestan, with its rich history and culture. The region should take steps to better utilize this potential through increased promotion and introduction of its attractions. However, one of the most significant challenges in developing marine tourism in this vast province was the provision of fuel for vessels. In this regard, the governor of Sistan and Bal-

uchestan Province made considerable efforts to resolve this issue. The provision of subsidized fuel for domestic and international tourist vessels was approved by the Cabinet. This important decision followed an initial proposal by Mansour Bijar, the Governor of Sistan and Baluchestan, and his continuous and serious follow-ups at a meeting of coastal governors of the country. Subsequently, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, by raising the issue in the Cabinet, created the conditions for the approval and implementation of this strategic resolution. After approval by the Cabinet on the proposal of the Ministry of Oil, this plan has been notified to the ministries of Cultural Heritage, Oil, Road and Urban Development, and Agricultural Jihad for implementation. Bijar stated, "The implementation of this decision creates a unique and ideal opportunity

for private sector's investors, marine tourism activists, and related economic sectors, and can play a significant role in boosting tourism, developing a marine-based economy, and increasing investment attractions on the country's coasts, particularly in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan. He added that according to this plan, all recreational and tourism vessels, both domestic and foreign, regardless of the country's flag, will be able to use subsidized fuel after entering the coastal strip and meeting the necessary standards. In this framework, vessels are initially required to obtain a certificate for passenger transport based on the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and national standards, and later, with a license for activity from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, they are introduced to the Ministry of Oil for receiving subsidized fuel. This plan, which has been re-

alized for the first time in the country and is being implemented with the emphasis of the governor in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, can play an effective role in the development of marine tourism, attracting investments, and strengthening the position of this province on the country's tourism map.

The deputy head of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization for tourism affairs, referring to the importance of fuel prices in determining the cost of tourism tours in this province, announced the positive effects of the subsidized fuel plan for domestic and international tourist vessels.

Alireza Shahbakhsh said, "Considering the vastness of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, the cost of fuel has a significant impact on the final price of tourism tours. Therefore, the approval of the subsidized fuel plan is an important step towards reducing costs and increasing the competitiveness of this sector.

He continued that the most significant impact of this plan will be an increase in the number of tourists, the development of tourism infrastructure, and the creation of new job opportunities.

He emphasized that the revival of marine-based economy will lead to the development of related sea industries and the creation of diverse business opportunities.

He also referred to the licensing of homestays and hotels centered on cultural heritage and said, This plan provides a suitable opportunity for investment and the development of tourism accommodations with a focus on the cultural and historical attractions of Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Four natural wonders of Kermanshah gain national heritage status



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The national registration of natural landmarks — encompassing ancient trees, lagoons, springs, and rare botanical species — is playing a vital role in preserving the environment and natural resources of Kermanshah Province.

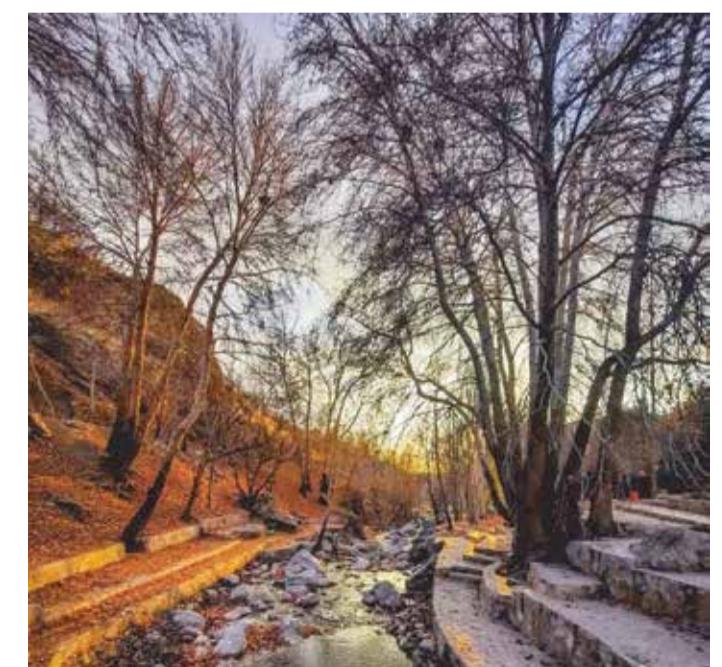
Moslem Karami, an expert at the Kermanshah Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization, announced that 53 natural heritage sites from the province have been officially added to the national list to date, according to chtn.ir.

Highlighting a recent session of the Registration Council at

the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Karami confirmed the national registration of four additional natural sites. Among these are the ancient Ash trees of Sarab-e Shinh in Sar Firuzabad village, which are estimated to be approximately 450 years old. Furthermore, an ancient Pistacia atlantica (Mt. Atlas mastic tree) located in the northern reaches of the scenic Satyari tourism village has been officially recognized. This 650-year-old tree remains in remarkably healthy condition. Following a proposal by environmental advocates

and subsequent evaluations by heritage experts, it was deemed qualified for inclusion in the National Natural Heritage List. The list now also includes a massive ancient Plane tree in the Darband village of Sahneh. Estimated to be 400 years old, this robust and valuable tree was registered following a formal proposal by the Sahneh Municipality.

In addition to these botanical landmarks, the picturesque Qareh Daneh spring and lagoon in Qeysevand village have gained national status. Selected for its significant water discharge,



stunning landscapes, and high potential for tourism, this permanent spring flows year-round — maintaining its volume even during periods of drought. Its registration was a primary request from local residents and natural heritage enthusiasts. Karami concluded by emphasizing that the identification and protection of these ancient trees and sites represent a shared priority for both the local community and provincial authorities. He noted that the Kermanshah Cultural Heritage Organization remains steadfast in its mission to identify and document such invaluable assets to ensure their long-term survival.

Kermanshah Province, often referred to as the "Gateway to the Zagros," is a land of dramatic landscapes and ecological diversity. Its nature is characterized by a breathtaking contrast between rugged limestone peaks, lush oak forests, and fertile valleys. The province's unique geography creates a sanctuary for a wide array of flora and fauna, making it one of Iran's most significant biodiversity hotspots. The province is particularly famous for its abundant water resources. Numerous springs

emerge from the heart of the mountains, giving life to dense orchards and ancient woodlands. The oak and wild pistachio forests that carpet the slopes of the Zagros serve as the lungs of the region, providing a habitat for rare species like the Persian Squirrel and the endangered Caucasian Leopard. This vibrant natural tapestry not