

Tabriz pushes forward with heritage restoration



Tabriz Grand Bazaar
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Recent heavy rainfall has not caused significant damage or destruction to the historical monuments of East Azarbaijan Province, according to the Deputy Head of the Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, Vahid Navadad. He stated that no credible reports of such damage have been received so far. Despite budget constraints, Navadad confirmed that archaeological excavations, restoration projects, and research programs are actively ongoing in Tabriz and other parts of the province. He highlighted the recent completion of an emergency excavation at a mosque within the historical fabric of Tabriz's Grand Bazaar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Plans are also in place to resume excavation work at the historical Rab'-e Rashidi complex in Tabriz, according to ISNA. Furthermore, studies on the preservation and restoration of Tabriz's historical zones have been completed and are now awaiting funding allocation to proceed. Navadad announced that a portion of new projects will commence before Nowruz (the Iranian New Year, beginning March 21), including initiatives related to the Tabriz Regional Museum and emergency restoration of historical buildings. He emphasized the continuous activity of restoration workshops, noting that a significant number

operate with private sector participation throughout the year. Particularly in the Tabriz Grand Bazaar, restoration efforts are carried out directly by property owners under the technical supervision of the Tabriz Bazaar's World Heritage Site and the provincial Cultural Heritage Organization. This model extends to several nationally-registered historical buildings with private ownership in Tabriz and other provincial cities, where defined operational plans are being implemented through owner collaboration. Navadad pointed to a positive shift in recent years regarding Tabriz's historical fabric. "A favorable trend in investment and economic activity within historical fabrics and buildings has emerged and even intensified in recent years," he stated. This has increased the interest of investors and local residents in reviving and utilizing historical buildings, contributing not only to cultural heritage preservation but also to the economic vitality of these areas. This growing interest has led to a significant rise in collaborative projects, with many owners of historical houses and buildings directly seeking to undertake restoration and revival projects. Navadad added that the provincial Cultural Heritage Organization supports these projects to the best of its ability, both technically and through financial and credit assistance.

Visit Teben Beach as gateway to history, tranquility

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Teben Beach is located in the southwest of Hormozgan Province, within Parsian. Just seven kilometers away lies the historic and culturally rich town of Kushk-e Nar. Kushk-e Nar, anciently known as "Qasr-e Kenar," once served as the seat of power for the Al-Harm tribe. Traces of this history remain evident in the local language, culture, and way of life of its people. The residents speak Persian with the local Kushk-e Nar (Lari) dialect and are known for their characteristic southern Iranian hospitality, warmly welcoming travelers. Before the Islamic Revolution, Teben Beach was a commercial port with a customs office. Today, its function has shifted, and it has been transformed into a fishing harbor. Its pier shelters fishing boats and Lenjes (traditional wooden vessels), with the daily lives of the fishermen lending the place a vibrant, authentic atmosphere — a sight that is both captivating and tangible for visitors. Just about 100 meters west of Teben Beach lies the sandy Badu Beach. Together, Teben and Badu present two distinct yet complementary faces of the region's natural landscape. These two beaches are separated by a hill approximately 50 meters high.



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Atop this hill stands a historic water reservoir dating back to the period of Portuguese presence and occupation. It stands as a silent testament to the influence of extra-regional powers in centuries past. Teben Beach and its surroundings offer a rare blend of sea, mountains, valleys, and history — a significant potential for developing sustainable tourism in the south of the country. It is a destination still untouched by the crowds of mass tourism and can offer nature lovers, and those seeking tranquility and authenticity, a unique and memorable experience. The city and district of Kushk-e Nar in Parsian represent the westernmost

point of Hormozgan Province, neighboring South Pars and bordering Bushehr Province. Parsian itself, with a population of over 50,000, is located 450 kilometers from the provincial capital and lies at the westernmost edge of Hormozgan. The media event "Iran Jan" is currently underway in Hormozgan Province from January 24 to January 30. These special programs, organized under the slogan "Hormozgan: Land of Sea-Based Opportunities," focus on presenting the province's diverse capacities, capabilities, and strengths in various fields through more extensive and artistic expression.

Intangible embrace of winter in Yazd

Iranica Desk

While much of Iran lies blanketed in white under winter's icy grip, the beating heart of the central desert tells a different story. Yazd, the world's first city of adobe, is more than just a destination these days — it is a sanctuary; a place where the ingenious architecture of our ancestors has subdued the winter, entrusting the sun's warmth within its earthen walls. Yet what secret lies woven into the very fabric of Yazd that makes it the most compelling narrative for tourism amid the cold? Journalist Maliheh Fakhari observed that a journey to Yazd in February bears little resemblance to ordinary travel; it is an encounter with "living history." Walking through the harmoniously narrow alleys of historic quarters like Fahadan, one is first captivated by the brilliance of architects who, centuries ago and without modern tools, instilled the concept of "climatic comfort" into every brick of this city. During this season, Yazd stands as a showcase of cultural heritage, where windcatchers — though resting from the hot summer winds — still command the skyline with majestic presence. One of the most intriguing and scientifically noteworthy features to appreciate in this season is the phenomenon of "thermal inertia" in Yazd's

traditional architecture. Native materials such as adobe and clay, with their high thermal capacity, absorb the gentle warmth of sunny desert days and slowly release it into interior spaces during the cold nights. This is the very essence of "sustainable heritage" that the modern world seeks. A visitor staying in an eco-lodge nestled within Yazd's historic core this month is not simply booking a room — they are immersing themselves in a thousand-year-old feat of bioclimatic design. The Sabats — covered passageways — of Yazd also take on a distinct and captivating role in winter. These elegant structures, renowned for providing shade in summer, help retain the earth's warmth during colder days, forming cozy corridors for pedestrians. Here, cultural heritage is seamlessly interwoven with everyday life. The sound of a bicycle passing beneath a Sabat, or the aroma of freshly baked Taftoon bread drifting through the damp alleyways, forms part of an "intangible heritage" that is vividly revived in February. Moreover, Yazd in this season serves as a living exhibition of the handicraft artistry of its people, who weave genuine warmth and care into textiles such as Termeh and Darai. Handicrafts thrive during the long winter nights, and sitting beside traditional looms in snug workshops within the old city is itself an act of experiential tourism.

These evenings often coincide with heartfelt gatherings in homes built around central courtyards and turquoise pools, offering a chance to redefine "culinary tourism." Dishes like Ash-e Shooli and Yazdi coffee are more than mere sustenance — they are emblems of this land's historical identity, bringing warmth and community to visitors amid the desert's penetrating chill. Yazd's inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site has placed upon us a profound duty to protect this "living fabric." The city must not lose its identity under the weight of mass tourism. Tourism development in this season ought to shift toward responsible tourism — that is, appreciating the grandeur of heritage without damaging its delicate form. This city demands continual reinterpretation so that new generations may learn how to harmonize with nature and, even within the harsh desert, sustain a civilization that has persevered for millennia. In the end, during February, Yazd is less a point on a map and more a sensation — a feeling of security within the shelter of towering earthen walls, and a sense of serenity in a city untouched by hurry. For those who cherish heritage, Yazd in this season stands as the finest invitation to return to oneself and behold a splendor that time has failed to tarnish.



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