

# Historic tea garden in Fuman to undergo major development

## Iranica Desk

During a ceremony held concurrently with the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations, marking the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the groundbreaking for the development and revitalization of the first tea garden in western Gilan Province was held in Fuman. The project, which aims to establish a boutique hotel and a specialized tea museum, was attended by Ali Darabi, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, along with

a number of provincial and local officials, chtn.ir wrote. This historic tea garden, dating back to the mid-18th century, is set to be transformed under this national tourism project into a hub for introducing the history, culture, and art of tea production in Iran. Speaking at the ceremony, Darabi highlighted Gilan Province's unique potential for attracting tourists, stating that the implementation of this project represents a strategic and significant step toward the development of sustainable tourism, the strengthening

of the national brand of Iranian tea, and the stimulation of economic growth in western Gilan. He added that reviving this valuable heritage will not only preserve the identity of Iranian tea but will also create employment opportunities and promote local development.

The development plan includes the construction of a three-story building, part of which will be dedicated to a boutique hotel with a capacity of 40 guests, while the remaining sections will house a specialized tea museum and a live tea-making

workshop. The museum will showcase historical tea-farming tools, related documents and images, as well as the tea production process from plantation to cup.

This initiative, being carried out through the efforts of the Gilan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization in cooperation with private-sector investors, is considered a milestone in the development of tourism infrastructure in Fuman and in introducing the region's lesser-known capacities.



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## Turkish consul highlights tourism potential of West Azarbaijan



Maku

IRNA

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Regional tourism attractions in West Azarbaijan Province continue to draw significant attention from Turkish travelers, with cities such as Maku and Khoj, Lake Urmia, and several UNESCO-listed sites ranking among the most visited destinations, Turkey's Consul General in Urmia said. Muslim Aygun noted that Turkey itself is home to more than 20 World Heritage sites and stressed that, given the substantial tourism capacities on both sides, expanding cooperation with Iran holds particular importance, according to chtn.ir.

Addressing cross-border travel trends, Aygun pointed to the steady flow of Iranian tourists to Turkey through the Bazargan, Sero, and Razi border crossings in West Azarbaijan Province. He said the Razi crossing accounts for the highest volume of tourist traffic, prompting ongoing efforts to expand and reinforce road infrastructure at the site. He also referred to the reconstruction project at the Bazargan border crossing, explaining that road infrastructure development there has been underway for the past five years and is expected to come into operation in the

near future. Aygun expressed hope that similar infrastructure projects at the Sero border crossing would advance more rapidly. Stressing the need to remove existing barriers to tourism cooperation between the two countries, the Turkish consul general said the head of tourism agencies in Turkey's Van Province had raised concerns in a letter over prolonged road infrastructure projects on the Iranian side. He added that such delays have negatively affected traveler satisfaction. Aygun further highlighted existing direct flights from Urmia to Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz, Mash-

had, and Istanbul, calling for the launch of a direct air route between Urmia and Ankara. He emphasized that increasing the number of air connections should be prioritized to support tourism growth. Turning to cultural cooperation, he also underscored the importance of handicrafts in West Azarbaijan Province, noting that Turkey likewise produces high-quality handicraft products. He said organizing joint handicrafts exhibitions between the border provinces of Iran and Turkey could play an effective role in strengthening cultural and economic relations.

## Iran's hot springs fuel wellness tourism across diverse regions

## Iranica Desk

Hot springs are among Iran's most popular tourist attractions, scattered from Dehloran in the west to Sarein in the northwest, and from Geno in the south to Morteza Ali in the east. Rich in minerals, these springs are known for their therapeutic properties, offering relief for skin conditions, muscular pain, nerve disorders, high blood pressure, and kidney ailments. Beyond their health benefits, hot springs play a vital role in promoting wellness tourism, drawing visitors and boosting local economies. The ideal season to visit a hot spring depends largely on its location. In warmer regions, autumn and winter are recommended, while in colder areas, spring and summer are best, according to IRNA.

### Sarein

Sarein is home to one of Iran's most famous hot springs. Each year, the city attracts a large number of tourists. Each year, the city attracts a large number of domestic and international tourists. Visitors come not only for the therapeutic benefits of the hot springs but also to enjoy the region's stunning natural scenery. The hot spring complexes in Sarein are thoughtfully designed with multiple

sections that are easily accessible for men, women, and children. Facilities include accommodations, restaurants, dry and steam saunas, jacuzzis, Turkish spa baths, massage services, and hydrotherapy areas. The mineral-rich waters contain compounds such as carbonate and bicarbonate anions, chlorides, sulfates, and cations including calcium, magnesium, sodium, and potassium. While these minerals give the water a slightly acidic taste, the springs remain completely clear and colorless.

Sarein's appeal goes beyond its hot springs. In addition to the thermal waters, the city also features two cold pools with carbonated water that is safe to drink.

Within a 30-kilometer radius of Ardabil, numerous other renowned springs can be found, each celebrated for its unique therapeutic properties. Together, these natural attractions make the region one of the most popular destinations in Ardabil Province.

### Baliran

Located about 25 kilometers south of Amol in Mazandaran Province, Baliran Hot Spring is set amid lush forests and natural scenery. Recognized as the country's second-best tourist desti-



Baliran Hot Spring

IRNA



Geno Hot Spring

alibaba.ir



Morteza Ali Hot Spring

rokna.net

nation in the early 2000s, this site offers relief from joint and muscle pain, improves blood circulation, treats skin disorders, reduces stress, and boosts immunity. Visitors with heart conditions should consult a doctor before using the waters. Baliran enjoys a temperate, humid climate influenced by the Caspian Sea, though seasonal variations occur. The spring is accessible via main roads from Amol, with Tehran approximately 205 kilometers away.

### Dehloran

Among Ilam Province's most unique natural attractions, Dehloran Hot Springs are renowned as a therapeutic center in western Iran. Registered as a national natural monument in 1976, the springs reach temperatures of around 50°C and include both hygienic thermal

pools and mud therapy baths. Located three kilometers northeast of Dehloran at the foot of Siyah Mountain near the Bat Cave, the sulfur-rich waters are believed to treat rheumatism, allergies, abscesses, deep wounds, joint and bone pain, and general fatigue. Visitors can also explore the nearby Bat Cave. Due to the high sulfur content, those with heart conditions are advised to avoid the water.

Surrounding facilities and mud pools make the site attractive for tourists beyond its therapeutic value.

### Geno

Geno Hot Spring, located 35 kilometers northeast of Bandar Abbas in Hormozgan Province, is a major tourist attraction known for its mineral-rich waters and scenic surroundings. Situated at the foot of the Geno Mountains, the spring maintains

visitor safety. The village also features a shrine believed to be associated with the Prophet Ayoub. Spring is the best season to visit, when the surrounding nature is lush, though the site is accessible year-round. The water temperature is around 47°C, and a nearby cold spring feeds into the pool, creating a balanced and pleasant swimming temperature.

### Morteza Ali

Located in the eastern part of Tabas, South Khorasan Province, at the southern slopes of a mountain, Morteza Ali Hot Spring consists of several main and secondary springs. They differ in temperature: Qanbar Spring is cold, Morteza Ali Spring is warm, and Jafari Spring merges the two. Interestingly, the waters remain separate, creating noticeable temperature variations within the same river, allowing visitors to experience warm water with one foot and cold water with the other. The site is best visited in autumn or spring. Its mineral-rich waters are believed to have therapeutic properties, while small fish provide a natural foot massage by eating dead skin cells. Visitors should bring water-friendly shoes and extra clothing, as deeper parts of the spring may fully submerge them.