

# Specialized plans underway to protect trees at Chehel Sotoun Garden

## Iranica Desk

The director of the Chehel Sotoun Garden World Heritage Site in Isfahan said that problems including fungal pests, environmental damage, and the impact of air pollution on the garden's trees have been identified, and that specialized plans have been drawn up to control pests and improve their condition.

Speaking to IRNA, Mostafa Hadipour said the current condition of the garden's trees and green spaces not only directly affects the visual integrity of the Persian garden, but also has consequences for the wooden architectural decorations and parts of the palace itself. Addressing these issues, he added, is among the site's top priorities.

Hadipour stressed that all treatment and pest-control measures will be carried out only after the preparation of specialized plans and with the input of leading experts in the field. He noted that the plans must first be reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, then endorsed by the site's Strategic Council, the Technical Council of the Provincial Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization and the Technical Council of World Heritage Sites, before being formally communicated to the province and implemented under strict supervision.

He also said a specialized meeting to review the challenges and needs of the Chehel Sotoun World Heritage Site was held at the headquarters of Iran's World Heritage Sites, during which a comprehensive report on the current condition of the complex was presented.

The meeting addressed issues such as shortcomings in in-



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frastructure and facilities, the need for conservation work on parts of the architectural decorations, a shortage of specialized human resources, and the necessity of securing sustainable funding. It was agreed that a more expert-oriented approach should be adopted in allocating budgets to this World Heritage Site.

Describing Chehel Sotoun as not only a historic monument but also a valuable museum collection and a Persian garden, he said plans are under way to enhance the training of museum guides, update methods of communicating with visitors, and carry out urgent conservation works.

He added that further measures have been proposed to control humidity caused by the central pool, complete the restoration of columns and architectural decorations, and develop long-term interpretive and museum plans



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to better organize visitor flow and improve the overall tourist experience.

Hadipour expressed hope that with the support of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage in staffing and operational budgeting, conditions for protection, restoration and management of

the site will improve in the near future.

Noting that Chehel Sotoun Garden, as a property inscribed on the World Heritage List, is under continuous monitoring by UNESCO, he said experts from the organization periodically assess its protective, conservation

and management status. As a result, safeguarding the site has become an even higher priority for Isfahan's provincial cultural heritage authorities.

According to IRNA, Iran has nine gardens inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, registered in July 2011. Isfahan Province's share in this serial nomination includes Chehel Sotoun and the Fin Garden of Kashan. Other Persian gardens on the list include Pasargadae in Fars, Eram Garden in Shiraz, Abbasabad Garden in Behshahr, Shazdeh Mahan Garden in Kerman, Dowlatabad Garden in Yazd, Pahlavanpour Garden in Mehriz, and Akbariyeh Garden in Birjand.

The Chehel Sotoun Garden, covering an area of more than 67,000 square meters, represents only a small portion of the vast Jahan Nama Garden, whose history dates back to the pre-Safavid era.

During the reign of Shah Abbas I, a pavilion was built at the center of the garden, forming the original core of Chehel Sotoun Palace and comprising the central hall and four corner chambers. Significant transformations took place under Shah Abbas II, when the columned portico, the Mirror Hall, additional halls on the northern and southern sides of the columned portico, side porticos flanking the central hall, two pools on the eastern and western sides, and the wall paintings of the main hall were added to the structure.

The palace was officially designated in 1057 AH (Islamic calendar) for ceremonial purposes and for hosting monarchs and high-ranking officials of states contemporary with the Safavid dynasty. In 1118 AH, during the reign of Sultan Hossein, the palace suffered a major fire, after which the damaged sections were reconstructed and restored.

## Nir to become major health tourism destination

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The governor of Ardabil Province said that the establishment of health tourism village in Nir is a strategic step taken toward the development of health tourism in the country.

Masoud Emami-Yeganeh made the remarks during the signing ceremony of an agreement for the construction of the Nir health tourism village. He said that with the implementation of this project, Nir will be transformed into one of the country's major health tourism destinations and will play an effective role in boosting the regional economy, chtn.ir wrote.

Referring to the features of the project, he added that the tourism village will be developed by modeling modern hydrotherapy practices in Tajikistan, noting that this complex will be constructed for the first time at the national level.

He further pointed out that Nir, due to its rich natural resources, mild mountain climate, and proximity to major tourism hubs such as Sareyn and Ardabil, enjoys significant potential for the development of health-oriented tourism. The city is home to several mineral hot springs and natural attractions that have long attracted visitors seeking therapeutic and



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wellness services, making it a suitable location for the implementation of large-scale health tourism projects.

Recalling that Ardabil Province introduced five flagship tourism projects during the International Investment Conference held in November 2025, Emami-Yeganeh said the projects include two health tourism villages in Nir and Sareyn counties, two five-star hotels in Ardabil and Namin counties, and one large-scale tourism complex.

One of these projects is the health tourism village of Nir, for which a four-party memorandum of understanding has been signed with one of the country's

large and active tourism holding companies.

Pointing to Ardabil Province's extensive tourism plans, Emami-Yeganeh said that at present, 89 tourism projects in various sectors are under implementation across the province, with physical progress ranging between 60 and 70 percent.

Emphasizing that a major portion of these projects will become operational in the coming months, the Ardabil governor said efforts are being made to activate tourism capacities and bring Ardabil Province's unique opportunities to the stage of implementation and operation. Nir is located 35 kilometers

west of Ardabil, along the Ardabil-Sareyn transit road. The highlands of Mount Sabalan rise to the north and west of Nir, creating numerous peaks and valleys that give the region a distinctly mountainous character. This results in cold winters and relatively mild summers, which has led many tourists traveling on Ardabil-Sareyn tours to visit the city and explore its attractions.

With its wealth of ancient and historical sites, hot and cold mineral springs, natural landscapes, pleasant climate, and location on the lush foothills of Mount Sabalan, Nir holds a special place in attracting tourists.

Every year, it welcomes a large number of visitors from across the country. The presence of several hot springs along with its cool weather and green, inviting nature in spring and summer, all indicate the city's strong potential for tourism development.

In addition to Nir's growing health tourism sector, Ardabil Province as a whole continues to cement its reputation as a prime destination for both domestic and international tourists. The province boasts a diverse array of attractions, including the famed mineral springs of Sareyn, the scenic landscapes surrounding Mount

Sabalan, historic sites such as the Shrine of Sheikh Safi al-Din Complex, and vibrant local culture. With ongoing investment in infrastructure, luxury accommodations, and integrated tourism projects, Ardabil is positioning itself as a year-round tourism hub, where wellness, nature, and cultural heritage converge to offer visitors a unique and memorable experience. The development of Nir's health tourism village is expected to complement these attractions, creating a comprehensive tourism circuit that highlights the province's natural beauty, therapeutic resources, and rich historical legacy.



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