

# Iran logs 29.7m Nowruz trips as police oversee 'peace of mind' travel



IRNA

## Social Desk

Iran recorded 29.7 million domestic trips during the Nowruz holidays, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri said on Saturday, crediting traffic police with safeguarding "peace of mind" for travelers and streamlining nationwide mobility. Speaking at a joint session with senior traffic police commanders, Salehi-Amiri pointed to coordinated road management, emergency coverage and public-service delivery as key to maintaining social order and easing holiday congestion, IRNA reported. He described the police as the state body "closest" to citizens, whose conduct helps shore up public trust and social

capital. "Psychological security" during travel, he said, is integral to quality of life. The visible deployment of traffic police, rescue teams and service agencies over the Persian New Year period played a "notable" role in fostering calm across busy corridors. The minister also flagged evolving travel patterns in the Iranian calendar year which started on March 21, 2026, with more families opting for rural destinations and staying with relatives. The shift, he said, stresses the country's deep-rooted social and cultural ties while easing pressure on formal accommodation. Low complaint volumes during the peak season reflected "effective" inter-agency coordination

and broad public satisfaction, according to the ministry's readout. Looking ahead, Salehi-Amiri called for scaling up tourism infrastructure, expanding lodging capacity and backing private investment to meet rising demand. Upgrading the transport fleet and diversifying tourism vehicles, he added, are "necessary" to deliver safer, higher-quality journeys. Traffic Police Chief Brigadier General Teymour Hosseini said special traffic schemes, cross-agency coordination and fuel supply management kept flows orderly on high-traffic routes. He stressed that improving vehicle standards would curb road incidents while lifting driving culture and overall satisfaction.

## TMoCA stages 'Art & War' show with global pop art icons

### Arts & Culture Desk

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) opens its 'Art & War' exhibition today, presenting works by leading international pop artists, including Robert Indiana, James Rosenquist and Roy Lichtenstein, museum officials said, in a showcase that probes how global conflicts have shaped modern artistic expression. Drawn from the museum's renowned collection, the opening section features six hallmark pieces that channel artists' responses to war and crisis through bold visual language



and conceptual critique, ISNA reported. The display foregrounds what curators describe as art's "reflective" and "resistant" role in times of upheaval, inviting visitors to engage with narratives of conflict beyond conventional historical accounts. The week-long program, run-

ning through May 10, shows the museum's international outlook, bringing globally recognized voices into dialogue with local audiences. The series will roll out additional works in phases, broadening the scope for examining how contemporary wars have informed evolving artistic movements. By framing conflict through the lens of pop art, the exhibition offers a rare opportunity to revisit pivotal global episodes as interpreted by influential Western artists, while fostering cross-cultural understanding within Tehran's vibrant arts scene.

## Tehran cinemathèque to screen five anti-war films under 'American Lie' banner

### Arts & Culture Desk

The Cinemathèque of Iran's House of Artists will present a curated package of five internationally recognized anti-war films under the title "American Lie" from May 4 to May 8, in Tehran. The program spotlights cinematic works that interrogate the moral and psychological toll of conflict within American and Western narratives. Screenings open at 6 p.m. in Naser Hall and aim to frame war through critical, introspective lens-

es, Mehr News Agency reported. The lineup includes Clint Eastwood's 'American Sniper' (2014), Jasmila Žbanić's 'Quo Vadis, Aida?' (2020), Alex Garland's 'Civil War' (2024), Scott Z. Burns' 'The Report' (2019), and Gavin Hood's 'Official Secrets' (2019). Organizers describe the series as an exploration of "American Lie," a curatorial label highlighting perceived contradictions between public narratives and lived wartime realities. The selection spans investigative



drama, political thriller, and war commentary.

## Iran tallies \$119m in school damage in recent aggression, vows swift rebuild

### Social Desk

Iran's Education Minister Alireza Kazemi said on Saturday that damage to schools and education offices during the recent war reached 220,000 billion rials, roughly \$119 million at current rates, as authorities press ahead with reconstruction and pursue an international case over a deadly school attack. Speaking on the sidelines of a Teachers' Day ceremony marking educators' renewed pledge of allegiance, Kazemi said 1,200 schools sustained "serious" damage nationwide, many requiring full demolition and rebuilding, IRNA reported. "Through round-the-clock efforts," he added, most sites have already been readied and students relocated, underscoring the system's rapid response. Only 20 campuses remain due to the



scale of destruction, he said, noting they will be redesigned as "symbolic" and modern facilities and delivered by the start of the academic year in September 2027. The ministry is coordinating with planning and administrative bodies to upgrade standards while expanding equitable access and quality, he said. Kazemi framed teachers as a national backbone whose influence extends beyond classrooms. Their visible presence in public life, he said, helped galvanize families and students during the conflict, while the country's professionals, from pi-

lots to physicians, are "all shaped" by the teacher's craft. He also thanked President Masoud Pezeshkian, First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, and budget and civil service authorities for sustained support to education despite constraints, citing stepped-up measures on welfare and system quality. On the attack on the Shajareh Tayebah school in Minab, where students and teachers were killed on February 28, Kazemi said a legal dossier has been opened at the international level. He described the site as a future "museum" of the enemy's crimes and a major cultural and educational hub, drawing visitors in organized caravans to bear witness to what he called Iran's "Karbala." Iran observes Teachers' Day annually on May 2, with ceremonies that reaffirm the role of educators in national development and cultural life.

## Sea route reopens as tourists return to Kish after two-month pause

### Social Desk

Iran's Kish Free Zone Organization said on Saturday it has resumed maritime travel for tourists to Kish Island, reopening a key leisure corridor after two months of wartime restrictions, with the first passenger vessel docking earlier in the day. The move follows the lifting of limits imposed after the outbreak of the war on February 28, which led to a suspension of flights to the Persian Gulf resort island after attacks by US-Israeli forces. During that period, sea routes served as the

sole lifeline, though access was restricted to residents, business operators, and those with immediate family ties on the island. On Saturday, the first group of tourists arrived aboard the passenger vessel Berlian, sailing the Bandar-e Charak-Kish route, marking a cautious restart of the island's tourism flow. Authorities described the reopening as a "gradual normalization" of travel conditions. In its statement, the organization urged travelers to secure accommodation in advance, noting that many hotels remain temporarily

closed as services scale back up. Officials said efforts are underway to fully restore air connectivity. Managing Director of Kish Free Zone Organization Mohammad Kabiri said the island has been prioritized in coordination with the Civil Aviation Organization, expressing hope that flights to Kish International Airport will resume in the coming week. Kish, a flagship tourism hub in southern Iran, is known for its coral beaches and duty-free commercial zones, drawing both domestic and regional visitors.