

# Iran sets out tourism roadmap for postwar era in Spain



Iranian Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri (C) and members of his delegation, including Deputy Minister Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey (R), pose for a photograph on the sidelines of the UN Tourism Executive Council meeting in Toledo, Spain, June 10, 2026.  
 ● CHTN

## Arts & Culture Desk

Iran launched a new national tourism initiative aimed at strengthening its position in global travel markets and preparing for postwar recovery, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi-Amiri said on the sidelines of the 128th Executive Council meeting of UN Tourism in Madrid on Wednesday. Speaking at the gathering, Salehi-Amiri said Iran had adopted a forward-looking strategy centered on sustainable and resilient tourism, aligning its plans with international efforts to shape the sector through 2027, CHTN reported. The minister unveiled the national program, 'Iran; The Beginning of a Story,' describing it as an effort to present a comprehensive and

authentic image of the country to international audiences. "Iran is among the few countries that simultaneously possess exceptional natural attractions, cultural heritage, civilizational tourism, religious tourism, health tourism and diverse cultural experiences," Salehi-Amiri said. "These unique advantages must be introduced to the world through a coherent national and international narrative." He said regional markets, particularly neighboring countries, the Persian Gulf region, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan and the broader Muslim world, remain at the center of Iran's tourism development strategy. Salehi-Amiri also stressed the need for what he called a "comprehensive, coherent and future-oriented" roadmap for the post-war period,

adding that discussions with tourism officials and policymakers in Madrid focused on expanding cooperation and preparing the ground for renewed visitor flows. The minister said Iran intends to leverage tourism diplomacy and international partnerships to amplify its presence in the global tourism industry. As part of that strategy, Tehran is prioritizing coastal tourism development along the country's southern shores, including Hormozgan, Khuzestan and Abadan, areas he described as possessing significant untapped potential for investment and growth. "With its immense cultural and civilizational capital, Iran is pursuing constructive engagement with the world through tourism," Salehi-Amiri said.

## Tirana crowns Iranian short 'Pasta Alfredo'

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian short film 'Pasta Alfredo,' written and directed by Leila Noei and produced by Roham Rasouli, won Best Student Short Film at the 13th Dea Open Air International Film Festival, held in Tirana, Albania, from June 1 to June 5. The award marks another international milestone for the Iranian production, which screened in competition at the festival and received the top prize in the student section following its June 5 screening, Mehr News Agency reported. Dea Open Air brings together filmmakers, students, critics, researchers and audiences from around the world, serving as a platform for cultural exchange and emerging cinematic voices.



Pasta Alfredo has continued to build momentum on the international festival circuit. The film previously competed at the 21st DecimiNuti Festival and the 23rd CortiSonanti Festival in Italy, the 33rd Saint Anna Festival in Russia, and the competitive section of the 14th FERFILM Festival in Kosovo. Shot over two days in Tehran's Ekbatan residential complex, the film

stars Mahna Seydi, Saeed Nejati, Sima Khanvakili, Barbod Farshidzadeh and Mohammadreza Ariansadr. The story follows Niloofar, a 14-year-old girl who tries to bring warmth to a cold household by organizing a birthday celebration for her cat and cooking pasta, a simple act that becomes a quiet gesture of hope and human connection.

## Minab school story prize draws 4,000 entries from five continents

### Arts & Culture Desk

More than 4,000 entries from five continents have been submitted to the international Minab School Six-Word Story Award, themed "168 Untold Stories," organizers said on Wednesday, as writers from around the world joined a literary initiative promoting children's rights, peace, patriotism and hope. The contest, organized by the Office of Persian Literature and Language under Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, has received over 3,000 entries in Persian and around 1,000 in Arabic and English from countries including Italy, Pakistan, the United States, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Serbia, Egypt, the Philippines, Algeria, Libya, Mali and Tunisia, ILNA reported. The award challenges writers to tell a complete story in just six words, a highly disciplined literary form that prizes brevity while leaving room for interpretation and reflection.



Organizers described the initiative as a platform for concise narratives that can resonate across borders and cultures. The competition also commemorates the children of Minab, a southern Iranian city, including 168 children who were killed in US-Israeli strikes on February 28, turning personal loss into a global call for peace and human dignity. "The Minab window remains open to stories only until July 21," organizers said, stressing that the submission deadline will not be

extended. Each participant may submit up to six stories. An international panel of judges and literary experts will review the entries. Winners will be announced at a closing ceremony and will receive a commemorative statuette, a certificate of recognition and cash prizes. The volume and geographic spread of submissions have positioned the Minab School Prize as an emerging international forum for minimalist storytelling and cross-cultural dialogue.

## First motorcycle licenses to be issued for Iranian women within weeks

### Social Desk

Iran will begin issuing motorcycle licenses to women within the next month, Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs Zahra Behrouz-Azar said in Tehran on Wednesday, signaling the final stage of a long-awaited nationwide program that formalizes women's access to motorcycle training, insurance coverage and road safety protections. Speaking on the sidelines of a cultural event at Tehran's Vahdat Hall, Behrouz-Azar said all administrative procedures had been completed and implementation was delayed only after driving schools temporarily sus-

pending licensing-related services during the recent conflict, IRNA reported. "Less than a month from now, licenses will be issued," she said, adding that the first permits would be granted to instructors who will train future applicants across the country. Authorities plan to draw on women already active in Iran's motorcycle sport federations and provincial associations to build a network of certified instructors. The minimum licensing age will mirror existing rules for men at 18. The announcement marks a major step in the rollout of a government framework approved

in January 2026 that established formal training, testing and safety requirements for female riders. The regulation tasked law enforcement authorities with organizing practical instruction and examinations while prioritizing safety standards and insurance coverage. Behrouz-Azar said the initiative responds to practical realities as more women use motorcycles for daily mobility. "Today our daughters are present in these fields, and we are concerned about their safety and insurance," she said. The vice-president framed the development as part of a broader effort to remove barriers

facing women and expand opportunities in public life, citing policies aimed at strengthening women's participation and access to services. She also highlighted another priority for her office: improving women's access to finance. Despite growing participation in the workforce, women, particularly entrepreneurs and female heads of household, continue to face obstacles in securing credit and investment capital, she said. To address the issue, the government has submitted proposals to Parliament's Economic Commission to increase loan-guarantee ceilings and ease access to financing. "Wom-



en work alongside men today, but their access to financial resources remains lower," Behrouz-Azar said.