



Iran to allow foreign tourists to exchange up to \$10,000 at entry points



Iraqi pilgrims at the holy shrine in Qom, Iran

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran has finalized a scheme allowing foreign tourists to exchange up to \$10,000 in

foreign currency at banks at the country's entry points, with transactions to be conducted at the unofficial market rate less a 2% commission, the tourism

minister said on Saturday. "Under the scheme, banks at airports, land border crossings and seaports will be able to convert visitors' foreign currency into rials," Reza Salehi-Amiri told a meeting with tourism industry associations, according to IRNA. He said Bank Shahr, Bank Mellat and Refah Bank had agreed to participate, although preparations for the scheme's implementation were still under way. "The \$10,000 limit will apply separately to each tourist, including every member of a family," Salehi-Amiri said. Visitors will be able to keep any unspent foreign currency for a future trip or receive its equivalent in rials when leaving

Iran, calculated at the prevailing rate after deduction of the commission. Currency exchange has long been a problem for foreign tourists visiting Iran. Salehi-Amiri has previously said that, in the absence of an adequate formal mechanism, visitors had been forced to exchange money through brokers and intermediaries. The government has also pursued a separate scheme to issue rial-denominated tourism cards. In June 2026, the Central Bank of Iran revised the rules for the tourism card scheme. Under the regulations, tourists' foreign currency is exchanged at a rate agreed between them

and a bank or exchange office. Cards can be loaded with up to the equivalent of €5,000 or its value in dollars, and each tourist may receive two cards. It is not yet clear whether the new mechanism announced by Salehi-Amiri, with its \$10,000 limit, is separate from the central bank's tourism card scheme or will be implemented under the existing framework. The difference between the two limits and the exchange-rate arrangements leaves questions over how the schemes will be coordinated. At the same meeting, Salehi-Amiri said Iran and Iraq had set a target of 10 million tourist trips between the two countries annually. The target covers

travel in both directions, rather than only Iraqi visitors to Iran. In September, the minister said about 3.6 million Iraqis visited Iran each year, while a similar number of Iranians traveled to Iraq. The figures exclude trips for the annual Arbāeen pilgrimage. Iraq is one of Iran's main sources of foreign tourists. About 6.2 million foreign visitors traveled to Iran in 2025, including more than 3.6 million Iraqis, according to figures from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. The scale of arrivals from Iraq makes it a major market for Iran's efforts to increase tourism revenue and attract foreign visitors.

Iran, Armenia plan talks on joint peace park to protect wildlife

Social Desk

Iran has proposed a joint "peace and friendship park" with Armenia and closer cooperation to protect the Aras River, a transboundary river between two countries, seeking to safeguard biodiversity and wildlife corridors along their shared border.

Hamid Zohrabi, deputy head of Iran's Department of Environment for natural environment and biodiversity, put forward the proposals at a meeting with Armenian Deputy Environment Minister Aram Meymaryan in Yerevan, IRNA reported. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 17th

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) on Friday. Zohrabi thanked the Armenian government and people for hosting the conference and welcoming its participants. He identified protection of the Aras River and creation of a cross-border park as two key areas for bilateral environmental cooperation. "The proposed park would support biodiversity protection in northwestern Iran and the Caucasus region," he said. It would also help preserve important wildlife corridors used by species such as the Persian leopard, Zohrabi added.

Meymaryan welcomed both proposals and thanked the Iranian delegation for its active participation in COP17. The two sides agreed to establish a joint working group after the conference to pursue the initiatives. At the end of the meeting, the Iranian delegation presented Meymaryan with a sculpture of the Asiatic cheetah as a memento. COP17 is being held in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, from October 18 to 31, 2026. Participants are reviewing progress under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and discussing ways to accelerate conservation, secure funding and strengthen international cooperation.



A general view of Aras River

China's pottery capital ...

Wuxi Vocational Institute of Arts & Technology has

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played an important role in preserving and promoting the craft by passing down traditional skills and nurturing a new generation of artisans. Its efforts extend beyond formal education, with training programs also targeting rural craftspeople. These initiatives have helped develop rural cultural industries while contributing to broader efforts to revitalize the countryside. Today, hundreds of pottery shops and artisan workshops line Dingshan Road, reflecting the craft's continued importance to the city's cultural identity and local economy. Yixing continues to promote its purple clay heritage as a distinctive cultural brand, seeking to keep its centuries-old pottery tradition alive and expand its reach.

Experience that inspired

In late October, Wuxi officials organized a tour of the city for journalists, giving them an opportunity to try their hand at pottery making and learn from local masters at a creative industrial park

converted from a former purple clay pottery factory. For Iran Daily reporter, the experience immediately brought to mind Lalejin, Iran's own pottery capital, despite the differences in style, materials and techniques between the two places. Located near the city of Hamedan, Lalejin was designated a World City of Crafts for Pottery in 2016. Its products are sold across Iran, with the town particularly known for its blue tableware and distinctive ornamental glazes. Lalejin has developed an extensive pottery ecosystem, encompassing everything from clay processing and production to workshops, retail outlets and showrooms. Around 80% of the town's nearly 20,000 residents are involved in the pottery industry, which operates through around 1,000 workshops. Although Yixing and Lalejin work with different types of clay and have developed distinct pottery styles, these differences could be a source of opportunity rather than an obstacle to cooperation. Both cities have built strong identities around a traditional craft, supported by established



A pottery store at Zisha Handicrafts Experience Hall, Yixing City, China

artisan communities and generations of accumulated expertise. This shared foundation provides a compelling case for exploring a sister-city partnership. Such an arrangement could go beyond symbolic cultural exchanges. It could create practical opportunities for artisans, educational institutions and municipal authorities to work together through joint exhibitions, craft workshops, artist exchanges and technical cooperation. Artisans from each city could introduce their counterparts to different production techniques, designs and approaches, opening up new creative possibilities while helping both traditions reach wider international

audiences. "Perhaps you can become the ambassador for Yixing and promote the idea of sisterhood," said Maple, a Wuxi local, after learning that Iran also has a city renowned for its pottery.

Beyond pottery

The potential for cooperation, however, extends beyond ceramics. Both cities have long histories and considerable cultural and tourism assets, offering another promising area for collaboration. A partnership could allow them to exchange experiences in cultural heritage preservation, tourism promotion and the development of local creative industries. Joint cultural events and

tourism initiatives could also introduce each destination to new audiences, giving travelers more reasons to explore their respective regions. Wuxi, for its part, has diversified its tourism offerings through attractions and activities such as a yacht club on Lake Tai, cycling facilities, tourist resorts, and themed towns and parks that draw on traditional Chinese culture. Its entertainment programs include live performances featuring music, dance, molten-iron fireworks, sky lanterns and drone displays. The city has also invested in exhibition and hosting venues capable of hosting national and international events. During the journalists' visit, Wuxi hosted the 2026 World Internet of Things Exposition, held under the provisional theme "IoT: Connecting Everything, Co-creating the Future." The event showcased emerging technologies, including robots and flying vehicles. For Yixing and Lalejin, a sister-city initiative could therefore serve as a starting point for a broader relationship that combines traditional craftsmanship with

cultural exchange, tourism development and economic cooperation. By building on their shared pottery heritage while learning from each other's distinct experiences,

the two cities could help preserve their artisanal traditions, create new opportunities for local communities and strengthen cultural links between Iran and China.



Notice of AMENDMENT for the bid submission tender for export sale No. Z/1405/18(renewed)

With reference to Tender Notice Z/1405-18, we hereby informed that the bid submission and bid opening have been revised as follows: All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 14:00 P.M. on 04. Nov.2026- to Golgohar complex in Sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission office of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 14:00 P.M. on 04. Nov. 2026 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.