



Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC AND MEDIA DIPLOMACY



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Political-Diplomatic

WHO, Foreign Ambassadors Briefed on Iran's Battle with COVID-19

27th February 2020: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted a meeting to inform the World Health Organization (WHO) representative and the foreign ambassadors residing in Tehran about the country's measures to contain the novel coronavirus epidemic.



The meeting was held at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, attended by the WHO representative, the ambassadors of foreign countries residing in Tehran, and the Iranian Health Ministry authorities.

The participants in the meeting were briefed on the latest preventive and therapeutic measures that Iran has taken amid the outbreak of coronavirus.

In comments at the gathering, the WHO representative said Iran has the necessary fundamental capacities to address the disease.

The Iranian Health Ministry officials also provided information on the latest status of the battle with the coronavirus epidemic in the country, and reaffirmed Iran's commitment to the internationally-recognized health regulations. The Health Ministry

authorities also emphasized that Iran enjoys the whole necessary technical and specialized capabilities to counter the coronavirus.

Elsewhere in the meeting, the WHO representative hailed Iran's capabilities and performance as a successful and exemplary example in the region and the world.

Considering Iran's transparent measures in this regard and the sufficient and effective information provided about the disease, the health authorities, the relevant officials and the WHO representative demanded that the international community avoid imposing strict policies beyond the international standards and regulations, particularly in the trade interaction sphere.

In the meeting, the Iranian Health Ministry also presented a list of the necessary supplies for controlling, curing and containing the coronavirus disease to the representatives of the countries willing to provide assistance.

The participants also described the international cooperation and maintenance of medical stances on the problem of coronavirus as key factors in the fight against the disease.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the ambassadors asked the Iranian authorities a series of questions.

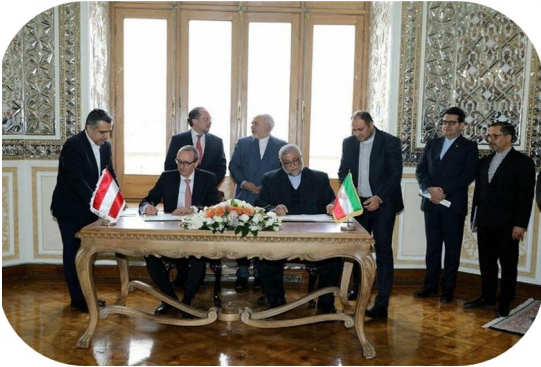
Iran, Austria Ink Deal to Boost Art, Cultural Cooperation

23rd February 2020: High-ranking officials from Iran and Austria signed an agreement to boost cooperation between the two sides in various fields of art and culture.



The document was signed at the end of the second round of talks between Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Austrian counterpart, Alexander Schallenberg, in Tehran.

During the first round of their talks earlier today, Zarif and Schallenberg praised the close relations between Tehran and Vienna and called for further efforts to cement the ties.



The two top diplomats also exchanged views about the latest efforts to save the JCPOA, and the non-commitment of the European parties to the international accord.

Schallenberg and his accompanying delegation also met with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

Iranian, Dutch Foreign Ministers Hold Meeting in Tehran

22nd February 2020: Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met and held talks with his Dutch counterpart Stef Blok .

During the first round of talks, the two weighed in on the latest regional developments including those in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria.

Referring to the good and traditional relations between the two countries, the two sides called for the expansion of bilateral ties.

The second round of talks followed a private exchange of views and the two sides talked about the most important bilateral, regional and international issues.



The JCPOA, the INSTEX, the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, the current situation in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria, as well as the crash of the Ukrainian aircraft were the most important topics of discussion.

Photo News on Diplomatic Missions



23rd February 2020: H.E. Kallayana Vipattipumiprakes, the outgoing ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand bid farewell to FM Zarif in Tehran.



25th February 2020: H.E. Rahim Hayat Qureshi, Pakistan's new ambassador to Tehran submitted a copy of his credentials to FM Zarif.



Twiplomacy

The Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei Praises the Efforts of the Medical & Nursing Community to Defeat the Coronavirus



Khamenei.ir
@khamenei_ir

Your efforts to help those who are ill are very valuable. These efforts enhance the value of the medical and nursing community in the society, and more importantly, the Almighty God will surely reward you. #ThankYou



The Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei Appreciates the Combat Against Coronavirus by the Medical Staff



Khamenei.ir
@khamenei_ir

I would like to appreciate the respectable brothers & sisters, physicians, nurses & medical staff for confronting & combating the recent disease, which has come into the country. I would also like to thank the colleagues of the Minister of Health for their efforts. #Coronavirus

FM Zarif's Calls for Regional Cooperation to Fight the Coronavirus



Javad Zarif ✓
@JZarif

Like other viruses - incl terrorism - #COVID19 knows no borders and doesn't distinguish between ethnicities or faiths.

To combat it, neither should we.

In line with #HOPE, Iran calls for more regional cooperation incl long overdue Joint Center for Disease Control & Prevention.

Spokesman Mousavi on the Iranians Defeating the Coronavirus



S.A MOUSAVI
@SAMOUSAVI9

#Iranians will definitely defeat #Coronavirus without caring for US malign distractions. It is not noble to cheer at fellow humanbeings' suffering.



Deputy Foreign Ministry Araghchi on US Attitude Towards the Coronavirus in Iran



Seyed Abbas Araghchi
@araghchi

It's shameful and downright inhuman to cheer for a deadly Virus to spread - and enjoy seeing people suffer for it, but at least @mdubowitz understands that the American economic sanctions were not -- and will not -- as effective as a Covid-19 Virus.
#Coronavirus



FM Zarif on Trump's Admitting Iran's Hate and Fight Against ISIS



Javad Zarif
@JZarif

.@realdonaldtrump just admitted what we all knew: US troops in Syria to "have the oil"

Also, that Russia, Syria, & Iran can fight ISIS, confessing, "Iran hates ISIS"

But not only did US NOT fight ISIS, it cowardly murdered its #1 enemy —with ONLY Trump cronies & ISIS celebrating



Twitter Account of the Iranian Embassy in Uganda on United Iran Against Coronavirus



Embassy of the I. R. of Iran in Ugan...
@IRANinUGANDA

Iranians united to defend their fellow brothers & sisters, once during 8-year imposed war, now against coronavirus.
Forward with solidarity & hope.



Twitter Account of the Iranian Embassy in Japan on Iran's WHO Briefing Session Statement



IranInJapan/ 駐日イラン大使館
@IraninJapan

Statement by the I R of Iran WHO briefing session on COVID-19 an extensive list of implemented measures by the MOH in Iran has been shared with WHO
japan.mfa.gov.ir/en/NewsView/57...
#irancorona
#CoronaVirusUpdates





Public Diplomacy

CINEMA

'Weightlessness' Wins at North Carolina Film Awards

Iranian feature 'Weightlessness', directed by Mehdi Fard Ghaderi, won the Director's Award at the North Carolina Film Awards in the US.



The film centers around the disappearance of the groom the next day after a wedding reception held in a magnificent mansion. The bride, the groom's mother and sister, and his lover who came to the wedding uninvited are all looking for the reason for his disappearance. The next day, the women blame one another for this situation and their relationships are on the brink of explosion.

The film won the Director's Award, the award for superior effort, at the North Carolina Film Awards in the US.

'Weightlessness' has also been selected to open the 4th edition of Love International Film Festival (LIFF) in the US in September.

The film also achieved the best film award in the 'Films without Limits' section of the experimental film festival of Peru. The Iranian film grabbed the award in competition with nine other titles during an award ceremony in Lima, the capital city of Peru.

The 'Films without Limits' section of the festival is dedicated to experimental films that use elements of the genre as a starting point for making innovations in traditional filmmaking.

Iranian Director Narges Abyar Receives Pakistan's Women Leaders Award

Narges Abyar, the acclaimed Iranian film director, received Pakistan's Hum Women Leaders Award 2020 for her contributions for raising awareness about women and children's plight in her films.

The HUM Women Leaders Award was held at the Governor House, Karachi, and celebrated 11 iconic women from Pakistan and abroad and a dynamic man for their contributions and achievement in the fields of diplomacy, finance, social work, healthcare, adventure sports, human rights, journalism and women's rights.





The awards ceremony was attended by Pakistani President Arif Alvi, ambassadors, and other dignitaries and guests from the entertainment industry of Pakistan.



Narges Abyar, the Iranian film director of acclaimed movies such as “Track 143”, “Breath” and “When the Moon Was Full”, received her award in recognition of her contributions for sensitively highlighting the plight of women and children in her films and also for defying the war genre’s conventions by featuring female characters that rejected the gender norms expected of them, according to the website.

The Award is an initiative of Hum Network Limited, a Pakistani media company based in Karachi, Pakistan.

Iranian Actor Shahab Hosseini Receives France’s Chevalier of Legion of Honor

Shahab Hosseini, the star of Asghar Farhadi’s Oscar-winning movies “A Separation” and “The Salesman”, received France’s Chevalier of the Legion of Honor (Chevalier de la Légion d’honneur) medal.

He received the honor from French Ambassador Philippe Thiebaud during a ceremony held at the Embassy of France in Tehran.

The medal is one of the most coveted trophies in the world of art and culture awarded by the French government.

Hosseini is mostly famous for his role in Farhadi’s “The Salesman”, which brought him the Palme d’Or for best actor at the Cannes Film Festival in 2016.



Later on he dedicated the Award to the Iranian People in a post he published in Instagram, “In a career full of ups and downs, I dedicate any honors I’ve received for my achievements to every individual of my homeland; to those who hate me and to those who love me, because I love them one by one and wish them greatness and pride.”



1st Iran International Job Photo & Film Festival Calls for Entries

Organized by the Iran Job Center, the first edition of the festival, known as 'Jobax', is scheduled for April 20-23, concurrent with the third Iran Job Exhibition. The secretariat of the festival will receive photos by



professional and amateur photographers until April 3rd.



The event will be held in three sections of single photo, photo collection and a special section titled 'No to Child Labor'.

The themes of the festival include educational, cultural and artistic; administrative and financial; social; health; services; agriculture and environment; technical and engineering; and data processing.

The winners of each section will receive a cash prize as well as the festival statuette and an honorable mention.

Participating in the event is free for the public.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Iran Produces 1st Sample of Coronavirus Test Kit

The first prototype of the coronavirus disease test kit was produced by Iranian experts and scientists at Iran's Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics.



These kits are the main diagnostic tools for the patients with the new virus.

The novel Coronavirus, Covid-19, has so far claimed the lives of 2,464 people across the world.

Iran Pioneer in Cancer Innovation & Research among Islamic Countries

For the First time in the world, a team of researchers at Iran University of Medical Sciences has managed to detect bladder cancer up to 10 years before clinical diagnosis and early tumor formation in asymptomatic healthy individuals.

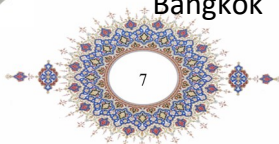


Led by the deputy health minister Reza Malekzadeh, the team has been able to detect the disease early in urine samples by examining a somatic genetic mutation.

According to WHO, to assess the test's ability to detect the mutations in urine samples before any clinical symptoms of bladder cancer occur, the World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) researchers collaborated with the Tehran University of Medical Sciences in Iran and the United States National Cancer Institute to design a unique pilot study within the Golestan Cohort Study.

Iranian Students Grab Colorful Medals at IPITEx 2020

Iranian students won gold and silver medals at the Bangkok International Intellectual Property,





Invention, Innovation and Technology Exposition (IPITEx 2020) which was held on February 2-6 in Bangkok, Thailand.



In the field of medical inventions, the Iranian team including Shahriar Shariati and Adel Ahmadi Fariman grabbed a silver medal and Fatemeh Ebrahimi Monfared won a gold medal.

In the field of medical equipment, information technology and electronics, the Iranian team consisted of Amir Abbas Mohammadi Koushki, Majid Nouri, Faezeh Karegari, Zahra Ghozavi, Ghazal Sohrabi, Negar Ataei and Ariana Nouri won the gold medal.

Moreover, Zahra Naderi, Maysam Pooryousefian and Ali Nouri won the silver medal and placed second.



Amir Abbas Mohammadi Koushki also won the special prize and the most prestigious prize in the world exceeding 60 countries from Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and became

one of the top three inventions of the world championship.

One of the selected projects was the “smart driving gloves” with the ability to display and control traffic”, which is equipped with LCD and can issue a fine bill.

In addition, the “smart bracelet” for people with Alzheimer's disease was another successful project presented by the Iranian team, which is capable of controlling, tracking and storing patient information.

UN Honors Iranian Scientist Mirzakhani for her World-Altering Career



The United Nations Women, a UN entity for gender equality and women's empowerment, have honored seven women scientists, including Iran's Maryam Mirzakhani, who have made significant contributions to the field of science, highlighting their world-altering and trailblazing careers.

Maryam Mirzakhani, Iranian-born genius mathematician and Stanford University professor, obtained her BSc in mathematics (1999) from Sharif University of Technology, Tehran.

Later, she earned her Ph.D. from Harvard University and was a leading scholar on the dynamics and geometry of complex surfaces. In 2014, she became the first female winner of the



Fields Medal, the most prestigious award in mathematics.

Although Mirzakhani passed away in 2017, her invaluable contributions to the field of mathematics endure, and her trailblazing career has paved the way forward for many female mathematicians to come.

93 Iranian Inventions Granted Patent by Foreign Patent Offices

So far, as many as 93 inventions by Iranian scientists have been granted patents by authentic foreign patent offices, according to Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

The Patent Center at the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has received as many as 1,740 patent applications from inventors all across Iran.



Of this number, 286 applications have been approved to be evaluated to receive the Center's support in a bid to contribute to the development of new technologies in the country.

According to the Center, as many as 93 applications have so far been granted patents by authentic foreign patent offices, through receiving support from the Center.

Iranian Traditional Medicine Recommendations Against COVID-19

The Iranian traditional medicine can play an effective role in strengthening the immune system

to resist the novel coronavirus infection, the Health Ministry's Director of Traditional Medicine Department declared.



Referring to the importance of health care, Alireza Abbassian explained some of the measures recommended in Iranian traditional medicine to strengthen the immune system.

He went on to say that medical fasting, reducing calories consumed in a day by 20 percent less than usual, can help strengthen the immune system and reduce inflammation. This method can improve the body's function against the disease.

"Pickles should be restricted and it is essential to avoid spicy food such as red pepper, mustard, and salts in addition to salty nuts or cucumbers," he said, adding, it is also advisable to limit the consumption of yogurt, tomatoes, bananas and thick food.

On the other hand, the consumption of juicy stews along with fresh vegetables, prune, barberry, zucchini, green bean, okra, and pumpkin are also helpful to boost the immune system, he noted.

He went on to conclude that thyme, cinnamon, fennel flower, turmeric, stachys lavandulifolia, viper's-buglosses, chamomile, saffron, rosemary, and cloves are also beneficial to the body.



CULTURAL TOURISTIC ATTRACTIONS

Northwest Iran: A Verdant Realm of Ancient Churches & Monasteries



To the untrained eye, Iran’s earliest churches may seem modest structures to some but they bear testimony to a vast panorama of architectural and decorative scenes associated with Armenian culture blended with other regional cultures: Byzantine, Orthodox, Assyrian, Persian and Muslim.

St. Thaddeus, St. Stepanos and the Chapel of Dzordzor are three photogenic ancient churches that constitute the Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran, which were collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage in 2008. They are dotted in fresh and green lands of northwest Iran and are important pilgrimage sites for Armenian-Iranians and others from across the globe.

Also known as the Qareh Klise (“the Black Church”), St. Thaddeus, as one of the oldest



surviving Christian monuments in the country, is

situated in Chaldoran county some 20 kilometers from Maku, adjacent to the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

The ancient Church shows off elaborate bas-reliefs of flowers, animals and human figures on its façade and exterior walls. It also bears verses of the Old and New Testaments in Armenian calligraphy.

St. Thaddeus Monastery plays host an annual religious ritual every summer. Last July, it hosted over 3,000 Christian worshippers coming together from Iran, Armenia, Syria, Lebanon, the Netherlands, France, Austria, Germany, Canada and some other countries.

Baptism of children and youngsters along with performances of traditional songs and dances are amongst highlights of the pilgrimage.



The festivity is of high importance for Iranian-Armenians who mostly come from the cities of Tabriz, Urmia, Tehran, Isfahan and Qazvin, to stage the reunion in groups and families. It also provides them an opportunity to go on holiday and visit distant relatives.

Northeast “Wooden” Village with Structures Made of Timber

Serenely sprawling in a well-watered and fertile plain at the southern foot of the Binalud Mountains, Choobin (“Wooden”) village is a special tourist destination situated near





The minarets are joined to the roof in a way that there are no pillars inside the mosque. Its walls are double-layered, and the framework is located between the layers. The framework of the minarets and the roof as well as the roof and the walls are connected in a spidery web style.



SPORTS

Iran Greco-Roman Claims Title of 2020 Asian Wrestling Championships

Gaining five gold, one silver, and two bronze medals, Iranian Greco-Roman team grabbed the title of the 2020 Asian Wrestling Championships in New Delhi, India.

Collecting a total of 190 points, Iran won the event on Wednesday while Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan ranked next with 146 and 136 points respectively.



The Iranian wrestlers won three gold and two bronze medals on the second day of the competition and claimed the title with 190 points. The championship was classified as a ranking tournament for the Tokyo Olympics.



Meanwhile, Iranian freestyle wrestlers grabbed four medals in the Championships. They defeated all their rivals to advance to the semi-finals of the Asian Freestyle Wrestling Championship.

Iran Gains Two Historic Silvers in 2020 Gymnastics World Cup

Iranian athletes snatched two silver medals in the International Gymnastics Federation World Cup in Melbourne.



The President of Iran's Gymnastic Federation, praised the results as 'historic'. "These medals are invaluable since our athletes faced many challenges ahead of being dispatched to the games," she said.

All three of the Apparatus World Cup series competitions, in Melbourne, Baku, and Doha, will serve as opportunities for gymnasts to earn points towards Olympic qualification through the FIG Artistic Gymnastics World Cup series route.



Foreign Missions in Iran

H.E. Christoph Hamelmann, WHO Representative in Iran on Visit to Masih Daneshvari Hospital



Christoph Hamelmann
@cahamelmann

.@WHO Mission to IR #Iran visited this morning Masih Daneshvari Hospital in #Tehran specifically designated for admitting #COVID19 patients 🦠

@BBCNews @SkyNews @cnni
@ARD_Presse @LawrenceGostin



H.E. Christoph Hamelmann, WHO Representative in Iran on Iranian Strength in the Health Sector



Christoph Hamelmann
@cahamelmann

The core strength of the Iranian health sector is the #PHC: it can be mobilized to timely interrupt #COVID19 transmission chain. IR #Iran has the resilience to manage the epidemic: @WHO will continue to support the efforts - at #Tehran Disaster Management HQ @BBCWorld @WSJ @AFP



Twitter Account of the UN on Support for Iran's Battle with Coronavirus



United Nations Iran
@UN_Iran

Landed in #Tehran a few minutes ago the 6th supply round with 100,000 @WHO tests and additional 20,000 tests and other lab supply from Robert Koch Institute 🇩🇪 🙏 to support #Iran's response to #COVID19 @WHOEMRO @DrTedros @UN @cahamelmann

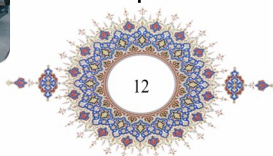


German Ambassador, H.E. Stefan Scholz on Closing Night of the Austria Week on Kish Island



Stefan Scholz
@stefanfjscholz

successful closing night of the #AUSTRIA WEEK ON #KISH ISLAND and agreement on annualization of exhibitions, classical music, Free Jazz, literature and culinary highlights



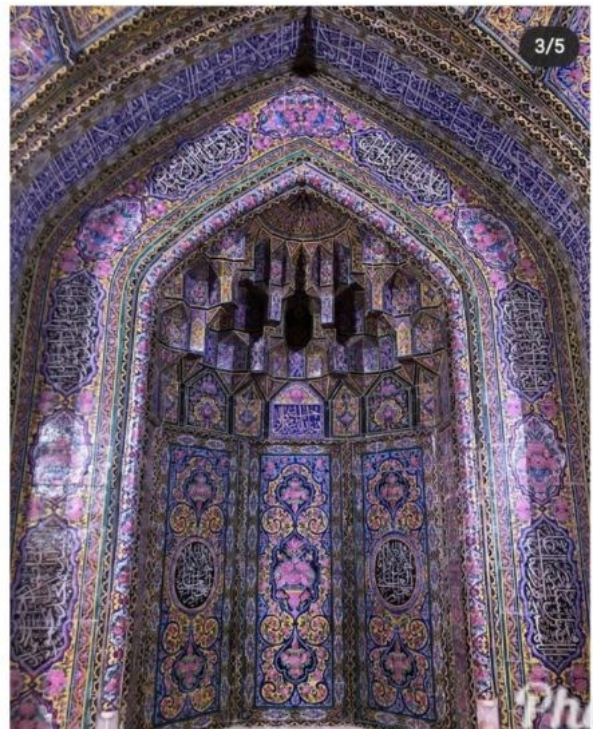
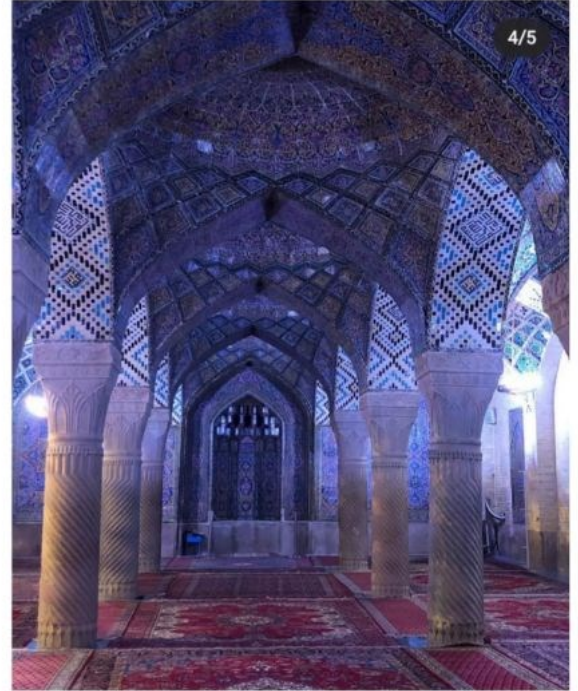


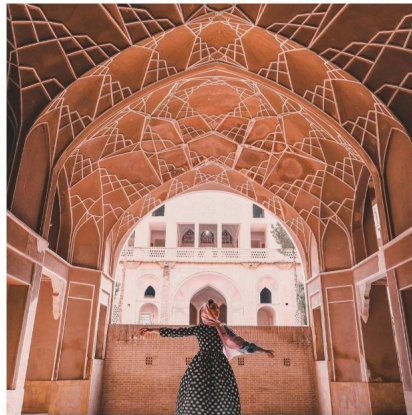
Discover Iran; The Tourist Experience



dkiniran Danish Ambassador to Iran, Danny Annan, during his official visit to Shiraz, had the opportunity of visiting Nasiralmulk mosque (@nasiralmulkmosque). We appreciate the warm welcome and hospitality of mosque management and tour guides.

سفیر دانمارک در ایران، جناب آقای دنی عنان در طول سفری رسمی به شیراز، فرصت بازدید از مسجد نصیرالملک (@nasiralmulkmosque) را داشتند. نهایت تشکر را از مدیریت مسجد و راهنمایان توره خاطر مهمان نوازی و استقبال گرمشان را داریم.





iddavanmunster Iran is NOT what you think and I'm so happy to share it in a positive light it deserves 🇮🇷

There's no way to announce you're going to Iran without causing a stir.

Before our trip to Iran we got reactions like "but why Iran?", "what are you going to do there?", "stay safe, it's dangerous?!"...

My husband and I will never be influenced by media, we'll always go, explore beyond stereotypes and prejudices, travel at it's truest and make up our own opinion. We just have to open our eyes, read, talk and travel. What make us fall in love with a country are its people and because of that Iran has our hearts now.

Persians are the most hospitable, kind and humble people that I've met in all my travels to 71 countries. Whether it's a casual conversation at the square, an invitation to drink tea with them at the corner café, or a full invitation to have lunch or dinner at their home, Iranians will make you feel fully welcome in their country. People and kids approached us in the streets and they were thanking us to come and visit their country, saying "Welcome to Iran!". We felt super safe. Iran is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations, delicious food, the most beautiful persian gardens, carpets, cats, the best poems, mesmerising mosques, traditional houses and more.

philippe_torres 🇮🇷 Iran was such a big positive surprise for me that I wanted to show how nice the people really were, so I did a 24h challenge which meant to be dropped in the center of Tehran with no passport, no wallet and no idea where to go and stay. I was completely depending on the kindness of strangers I met on the way. A crazy new experiences which ended up crazy good in this friendly country with new friends. we just up-loaded the video on it and its harder than you think still looking back one of the best things I have done in my life - seeking discomfort .

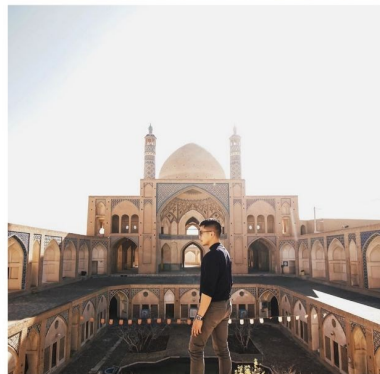


pratama_yogi Reputation precedes it, and rumors are knee-deep.

Country #39: Iran 🇮🇷

Despite the political turmoil, economic sanction, and bad reputation from western media. Every traveler I met told the opposite, that Iran can never be any safer and extremely magnificent as a travel destination.

I'm ready to unravel this penultimate destination to close 2019. Follow me for the next days to unravel the journey towards one of the richest yet under the radar country, far away from any of your Instagram darling. Shall we begin?



Brought to You by: **Sotoudeh Zibakalam**