

# IRAN VISION

A journey in the country of "Ancient Persia"

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City Sightseeing

## Qeshm Island

The only Geopark  
in the west of Asia



# Let's Change How We Think About Iran

***“Iran Vision”*** is an economic, cultural, and social knowledge platform helping to build new connections between Iranians and non-Iranians, as well as promoting more nuanced understandings of Iran through a journey in the country of ***“Ancient Persia ; IRAN ”***.

This platform, as an online photo publication, aims to intervene in the common connections and imaginations of Iran.

With a high contrast of culture, history, archaeology and nature, it's guaranteed that everybody will be shocked of their different images before and after the trip to this fantastic country. A research shows that almost all of the visitors of Iran, fall in love with this country, especially because of the friendliest and hospitable people of the world (according to the passengers' reviews). The strategic and classic link between East (Asia) and West (Europe) since thousands of years and covering a long piece of “Silk Road”, it has many attractions to offer all over the land.

UNESCO World Heritage sites such as “Naghsh-e Jahan” Square with astonishing and colorful historical buildings; “Persepolis”, the capital of ancient “Persian Empire”; “Yazd” old town, the world largest live adobe (sun-dried bricks) city in the world, one of Iranian cities that is visited by Marco Polo; “Chogha Zanbil” Pyramid temple, dating back to more than 3200 years ago, and magnificent eastern bazaars (or better to say, “Persian Covered Bazaars”, because of their typical architectures), all of them with many more attractions invite you to visit them and be impressed.

Nature-lovers also have many things to see. Vast deserts with their mysterious atmosphere and adventurous activities; rich rainforests facing the “Caspian Sea”, the world's largest lake; long white-sand beaches in Kish Island in the heart of “Persian Gulf”; mountains like “Damavand Summit” as highest volcano in all of Asia and 5th in the world (by elevation) and also 12th highest mount in the world and rich flora & fauna in a 4-seasons country, are some of the natural attractions to be discovered by you.

*Plant the tree of friendship, that, to fruit, the heart's desire bringeth:  
Up-pluck the bush of enmity that countless troubles bringeth.*

*Hafez, the Persian poet (1315-1390)*

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## City Sightseeing

# Qeshm Island

Qeshm, an Iranian island with a total area of about 1,500 square kilometers, is located in the Strait of Hormuz. It is the world's biggest dependent territory whose area is larger than 22 countries [combined], when comparing a country like Bahrain or Qatar with this island, you will find that Qeshm is at least 3.5 times that of the country. The island, which comprises 65 hamlets and three towns, is also the biggest island in the Persian Gulf.

Thanks to its strategic position, Qeshm Island has always had a unique position throughout history from the Elamites period to the present time. This island has multiple upsides, among them: access to high seas, domestic and Central Asian markets and to the southern part of the Persian Gulf; abundant skilled workforce; huge energy reserves, including gas; deep coastline waters which makes it ideal for building wharfs to allow high tonnage vessels to dock; and intact coral reefs, especially in Naz, Hengam and Larak islands which are adjacent to Qeshm.

The island is bounded to the north by the city of Bandar Abbas, the center of the pulp and part of Bandar-e-Lengeh, from the northeast to the island of Hormuz, from the east to the Lark Island, from the south to the island, and from the southwest to the large and small Tunbans and Bomus Islands.

The coastal features of the island are a variety of rocky, sandy, and muddy beaches that are found in lesser islands. Sandy beaches and sandy beaches and Simin Shrahk are also considered as other types of beaches on Qeshm Island. The rocky olive beach, the sandy beach and the beaches of Goliath and mangroves show the diversity of Qeshm beaches.

The Rigo Crusoe Beach, also known as the Turtle Beach, is also on the other beautiful beaches of Qeshm Island, where turtles come to the water to breath and feed.

The beautiful beaches of the island, two kilometers south of the coastline of southern Qeshm Island, are a clever and playful dolphin habitat that has attracted tourists interested in Qeshm and the island.

Perhaps you do not believe that the trip to Qeshm can surprise you. Isles filled with natural beauties. A journey where we visit the beautiful beaches and its magnificent waters and the series to the old markets. With the local music of Qeshm, we go to the mysterious Valley of the Stars.

The most obvious natural phenomenon in Qeshm is the diversity of its birds. Millions of years ago, about four million bird migrants regularly hunted in the Gulf as a special habitat in different seasons of the year.

In general, it is easy to see up to 100 species of birds in Qeshm Island during a few days' exploration. Birds have the most variety. The list of identified Qeshm birds was 98 species by the end of last year, but with the identification of 75 other species of birds, the list has already reached 173 species.

## NASA Image

### NASA Image

Qeshm Island is located a few kilometers off the southern coast of Iran (Persian Gulf), opposite the port cities of Bandar Abbas and Bandar Khamir. The island, which hosts a 300-square-kilometre (116-square-mile) free zone jurisdiction, is 135 km long, and lies strategically in the Strait of Hormuz, just 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the Omani port of Khasab, and about 180 kilometers (112 miles) from the UAE Port Rashid. The island, at its widest point, located near the center of the island, spans 40 kilometers (25 miles). Similarly, at its narrowest point, the island spans 9.4 kilometers (5.8 miles). The island has a surface area of 1,491 square kilometers (576 square miles) and is 2.5 times the size of Bahrain. Qeshm, located at the easternmost point of the island, is 22 kilometers (14 miles) from Bandar Abbas while the closest point of the island is but two kilometers (1 mile) from the mainland.



# Hara Forests

## Hara Forests

The Hara Forests in Qeshm are an important ecological resource in southern Iran.

The Hara Forests is the common name for mangrove forests on the Iranian island of Qeshm in the Persian Gulf. Dominated by the species *Avicennia marina*, which is locally known as Hara, the forests are an important ecological resource.

The Hara tree, a salt-water plant that is often submerged at high tide, grows to heights of three to eight meters and has bright green leaves and twigs.

Since the beautiful Qeshm Island has the most massive and vast mangrove forests, the UNESCO World Heritage List considers the forests to be very unique and have been named as the biosphere reserve on January 17, 1977. Is. Qeshm Hara Forests is one of the 11 biosphere reserves in Iran, because it also hosts amazing protective trees and 80% of the Gulf's aquatic fishes are spawning it.



# Portuguese Castle

## Portuguese Castle

The works of the Portuguese fortress in Qeshm and other fortresses equipped with large balls of that time are seen in Qeshm.

The fortress has been tasked with supporting the castle of Hormuz, which included providing fresh water for the Portuguese castle in Hormuz.

The construction of this castle in 1621 led Shah Abbas to fight against the Portuguese and expel them from the Persian Gulf coast.



# Geopark Qeshm

## Geopark Qeshm

Geoparks represent the Earth's 4.6 billion years history and its geological diversity and have contributed to the formation of human life and human societies.

Qeshm Global Geopark with an area of 30,000 hectares in the west of Qeshm Island as the first Geopark of Iran is one of the most unique Geoparks in the world. Due to its location along the beautiful Gulf Coast and the Hara Seaweed, there are several geological phenomena in the world. It is located in Iran's geological park.

Geopark Qeshm became the first and only Geopark of the Middle East in 2006 at UNESCO to register the Geopark's global network, and Iran, through which one of the six countries owning the Geopark on the vast continent of Asia, is one of the 19 countries of the world formally nominating the privilege of this privilege. Has been.

Geopark Qeshm has 25 Geosites.





# Valley of Stars

## Valley of Stars

The valley of stars dating back to about 2 million years ago, caused by erosion of soil, sandstone and sand caused by wind, rain and storms, is a rare masterpiece of nature on Qeshm beautiful island.



The beauty of the valley of stars in the moonlit night is twofold in the moments that surround silence everywhere and the sky and stars are felt in the immediate vicinity of the Earth. In the corners of the columns and valleys of the stars there are tight, narrow, and sometimes wide and wide roads that, with their particular order, staring at the eyes of every visitor.



## Strait of Chahkuh

### Strait of Chahkuh

Chaka Strait is the main site of Geopark Qeshm and is located in the middle of it. This Geopark is of global importance for its vegetation and animal life.

Two valleys perpendicular to a depth of 100 meters, and walls sometimes up to 20 meters high, have created a beautiful view of the volumes, cavities and natural statues that stare the eyes of any viewer. The flood rains and the artistic motion of wind and water from rocks and erosion over time create layers of sea-like structures and beautiful geometric shapes.



## Dolphin bay

### Dolphin bay

The glacial waters of the Gulf and a variety of marine species that can be found with abundance on Qeshm Island, and the most famous of them are dolphins, which are considered to be the tourist attractions of the island.

It is said that so far 13 species of 40 dolphin species have been recorded in Iranian waters, including the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea. The playful dolphins go up and down in water, creating a neat performance. They swim in small groups in the protected area. Tourists can visit the Qeshm from a safe distance from dolphin boats.

Nose dolphins Indian bottles are one of the most recognized dolphins in the world and are known for their intelligence and communication ability. The island is called Dolphin Bay when it is located in the southern part of Qeshm Island.



# The Valley of the Statues

## The Valley of the Statues

The valley of statues is another Geopark site, the surface of which is often covered with mud cracks. It is structurally similar to the valley of stars, with the difference that it is larger and the density of the phenomenon is less but more abundant there. In this valley of stone, erosion has carved statues that have created a beautiful view in the region.

The most fantasized and natural masses in this expansive land can be enjoyed in the Valley. One of the “statues” resembles an eagle, and another looks like Cleopatra’s head. By these characteristic appearances, the valley is called Tandis-ha (statues) Valley. These statues were formed by wind and rain.

At the entrance of the valley, several hills made by bivalve fossil are seen, which proves that the land was upheaved from the seabed, and at that age the temperature of the seawater was high. These fossils are originated from several million years ago.



## Eagle Snout Turtle

### Eagle Snout Turtle

The *Eretmochelys imbricata* tortoise is another attraction of Qeshm Island, which in addition to Iran has been seen in some parts of the world, but its main home is Iran. They are one of the five turtle types of the Gulf coast and one of the two turtle species that are laying on the egg in Iran.



They hide their beautiful, flat bodies underneath the stunning protective lacquer and have a spectacular and wonderful face.

The special feature of this species is tortoise, snout or its short beak. In their mouths, there is a small curved beak that helps them to eat a lot. They feed their food through these beaks, something like vacuuming the vacuum cleaner. For this reason they are called eagles or short beaks.



## Lenj (small ship)

### Lenj (small ship)

Lenj is a small ship or a large boat and passenger ferry that can be seen in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea. The coves are made on the basis of common sailboats in the Persian Gulf, with the difference that they move instead of sail with the engine.



Open or semi-open deck. Since the 1950s, a gasoline engine or diesel engine has been used to make lagoons, and today they have more engine Lorries.

Leaning is the largest handicraft in the world, and its construction is considered to be the heritage of mankind



# Kharbes Caves

## Kharbes Caves

### Kharbas Caves on Qeshm Island

The historic Kharbas Caves of Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf are one of the outstanding works of rock-cut architecture. There are indications – including multiple historical structures surrounding the caves and rock catacombs [man-made subterranean passageways for religious practice] which are scattered all across the island – which the caves date back to the Parthian and Sassanid periods.



Some experts say the caves were formed naturally more than 2,800 years ago due to receding water levels.



## Namakdan (Salt Shaker) Cave

### Namakdan (Salt Shaker) Cave

In the southwest of the island there is a dome-like mountain, 237 meters above sea level. It has salt caves which are among the island's most beautiful natural attractions. Strands of salt on the mountain create a beautiful scene from afar.

Marble, crystal icicles in different forms have blanketed the ceiling of the caves.

The salt in these caves is among the best common salt which is also rich in magnesium; that's why it can be used for medical purposes.

Studies conducted by geologists at Shiraz University and in the Czech Republic have revealed that the island's salt cave is the world's longest (6,400 meters long). So far more than 6,000 meters of the caves have been explored.

Salt caves in Qeshm are inside the salt dome which is one of the most elevated parts of the island. You will find no similar parts in the cave. Take a look at different parts and all you see are new forms and colors.





# Diving

## Diving

Beautiful coral reefs and biodiversity in the waters around Qeshm Island undoubtedly are an important attraction for swimming and diving.



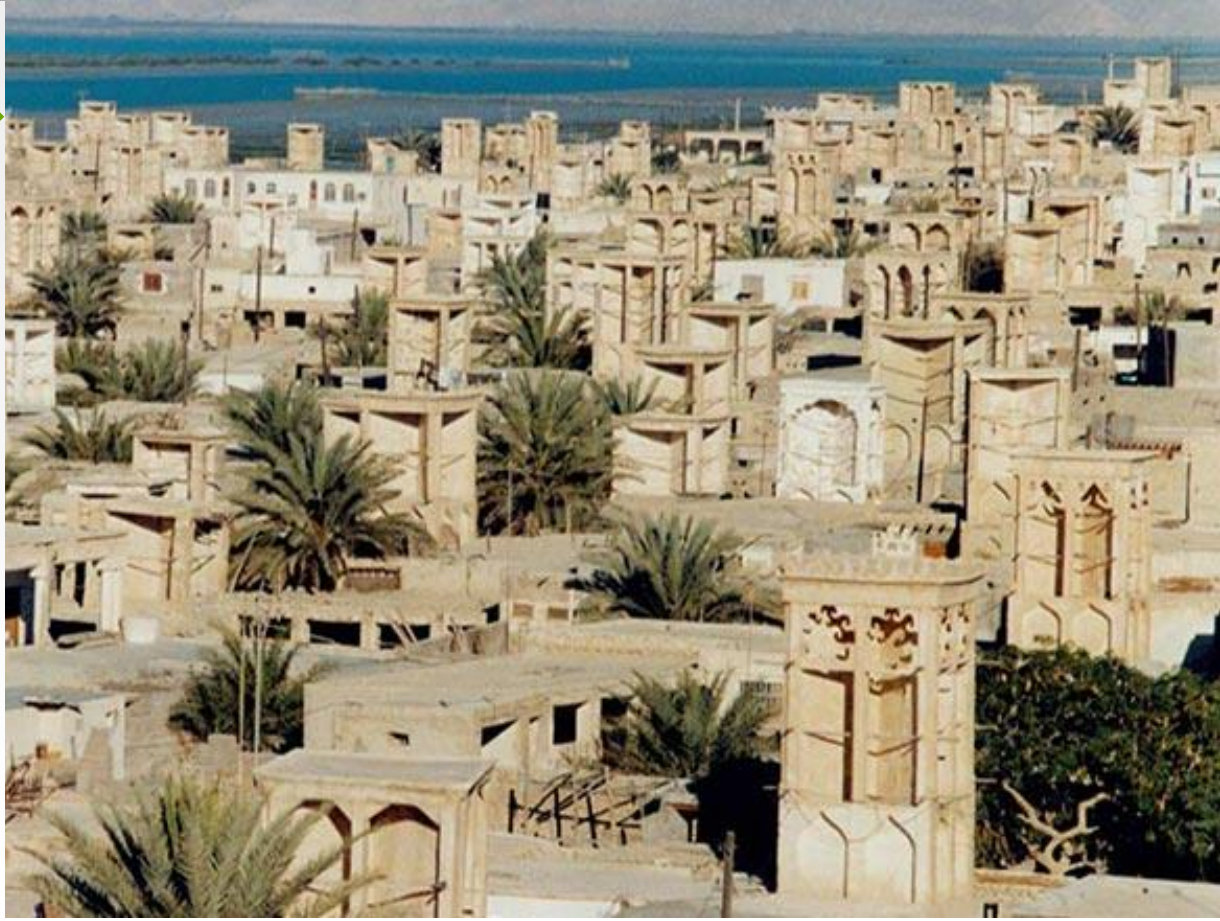
Undoubtedly, seeing the underwater world and the touch of tropical colorful fish around the coral reefs will be an exceptional experience in traveling to Qeshm.



# Laft Village

## Laft Village

Laft is a small, beautiful village on Qeshm Island. This coastal village, which is located in the northwest of Qeshm and east of Hara Forests, was registered as a national site in 2006.



Hara Forests, traditional dhow building workshops, and Tala water wells are among the attractions of Laft Village.

Green tropical trees and long palms as well as different kinds of wind catchers in different sizes have given special beauty to this village. Thanks to its architectural attractions, the village is one of the country's top ten villages



# Date

## Date

Dates is one of the most famous and most important souvenirs in southern regions of Iran.



Hormozgan province and Qeshm islands are no exception. There are about 12 thousand palm trees in 890 hectares of Qeshm lands. The palm cultivation on the island has a long history. A total of 20 different types of dates are taken from palm trees of Qeshm Island.



# Naz Island

## Naz Island

### Naz Island, one of Qeshm Seven Wonders

Some 22 km from Qeshm, you reach Naz Island, the only place you can wade on foot or by car one km into the Persian Gulf waters. It is one of the key tourist attractions of Qeshm Island.

Naz Island which is around three hectares in area does not have a sandy beach and is surrounded by rocky walls which are five to ten meters in height. The island's surface is completely flat. When the tide ebbs or the water flows outward from the land, a strip of land temporarily connects the island to Qeshm coasts.

This island is one of the areas favored by tourists visiting Qeshm Island.



# Geo-park Museum

## Geo-park Museum

### Qeshm Geo-park Museum, one of the best wildlife museums in Iran

The island's Geo-Park Museum is one of the most complete wildlife museums in Iran as far as biodiversity is concerned. In an area of over 1,000 square meters, the museum is home to more than 3,000 animal species.



The museum was established in 1995 by the Qeshm Free Zone Organization. That the museum has more than 95 percent of indigenous species in it is its standout feature.



# Marine Wildlife

## Marine Wildlife

In general there are 11 species of crabs from three families in Qeshm Island. Qeshm Island waters are rich in fish species. Green turtles are seen in the waters of Qeshm Island.



There are more than 50 species of mollusks on the coasts of Qeshm.



# Animal life

## Animal life

Among the vertebras of Qeshm, birds have the most variety. The list of identified birds in Qeshm was 98 species by the end of last year, but with the identification of 75 other species of birds, the list has now reached 173 species.



# The Beach

## The Beach

The beaches of Qeshm Island are considered the most spectacular beaches in the world. The island's cognitive features include a variety of rocky, sandy, and muddy beaches that are found in lesser islands.

Sandy beaches and Simin Shrahk are also considered as other types of beaches on Qeshm Island.





# Hannah

## Hannah

### The role of Henna on Qeshm Island

Hannah is a work of paradise for the people of Qeshm Island and a sign of happiness, affection and goodness in the local language of Hanir.



In order to become more familiar with the tradition of Qeshm people, visiting the island may be the best option.



# Spices

## Spices

A variety of spices used in southern cuisine is one of the main reasons for their unique and unique flavor. In Qeshm you can buy these different spices from different shops and add to your food a southern flavor.



## Traditional Carpets

### Traditional Carpets

#### Traditional carpets and roving's

One of Qeshm most important attractions is the local women's and girls' livestock production.



Gelimbafi, Roudouzi and Baroque in this area are one of the oldest traditions in this region and still has its beauty and originality.



# Auto Racing

## Auto Racing

**This Safari Road with an area of 520 hectares is Iran's largest safari pistol.**

The Qeshm Safari Pass is located on the northern strip of the Gulf Coast. One of the positive points is the beautiful landscape from Qeshm Beach.



**Motor racing, motor racing and aeronautics will be held on this track.**

Tourists and residents of Qeshm can also use this track to take the ultimate pleasure and excitement from the beautiful views of the Gulf Coast.



# Seafood

## Seafood

Qeshm Island is famous for having shrimp. Seafood is the most authentic food on Qeshm Island. Fish meal (or fish hake) and grilled fish serve in Qeshm restaurants.



While common Iranian cuisine is roasted everywhere, tourists can enjoy authentic island dishes prepared using seafood.



## No Judgment

The Central Desert of Iran or as it is locally known, Dasht-e Kavir, is home to beautiful, astonishing villages such as Mesr where attracts many visitors who embrace the traditional lifestyle that has been practiced for centuries.

Traditional yet renovated houses are where tourists stay for a relaxing night, while camel riding, desert trips, and sightseeing will excite you during the day.



Birdwatching tour in Iran plans to let you explore the birds in their Iran's natural habitats. Iran is a vast country, full of natural beauty, and rich in history. Birdwatching Breaks is therefore pleased to offer you a comprehensive birding tour of this fascinating country for birds and culture.



## STONE CROSSING ON A PRIVATE TRAIN

Travel on a scenic trains to run along the most beautiful railway routes in Iran. You can see and hear the story behind magnificent mountains and the railroad as it passes through the untouched and breathtaking nature of the Zagros Mountains and feel the beauty that is all around you.





What do you say  
to some amazing  
tasting **Iranian**  
**food?**







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