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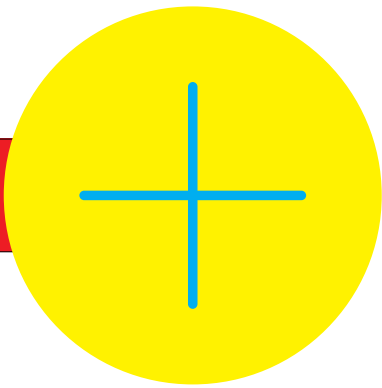
Nadal ‘confident’ he will be competitive in Australia

REUTERS – Rafa Nadal is aiming to successfully defend his Australian Open title at the first Grand Slam of the year in January after an injury-plagued 2022 despite arriving a bit short of his peak level, the Spaniard said.



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Tabriz: Jewel of Iran



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Once a major Silk Road hotspot, Tabriz is the jewel of Iran. Exquisite carpets, historical highlights, and natural treasures also make this city a hotspot in the world of tourism. If you would like to check out this northwestern jewel of Iran, a list of the city’s top attractions would come in handy. If you are staying in (or around) Tabriz for two to three days, begin at the top of the list and check out the must-see attractions. If you’ve got four to five days, move down the list, iranontour.com wrote.

Arasbaran

Arasbaran, a region of incredible nature and precious historical treasures, is a popular tourist destination in northwestern Iran. The attraction is a UNESCO-listed biosphere with beautiful forests that have created an indescribable world with their precious plant and animal life. In the mountainous landscapes of Arasbaran, you’ve also got the chance to mingle with the nomads and explore their unique lifestyle.

Blue Mosque

The sight you should not miss in Tabriz is one of the world’s four blue mosques. The Blue Mosque of Tabriz is a masterpiece of Iranian-Islamic architecture. The monument, which owes its fame to its stunning tile work, has a 600-year history. Above all, its azure color reflects the sky, which fills any visitor with spiritual joy.

Babak Castle

In the middle of breathtaking mountains and forests, Babak Castle lies as an impressive relic. This stone fortress is over 1,200 years old. The two-hour climb to the castle will bless you with great views. But don’t forget to wear comfortable shoes and take enough water. You will definitely fall in love with this legendary and mysterious place.



People from the capital city of Tehran attend the funeral ceremony of the deceased mystic Haj Hossein Ghanbari on December 22, 2022.

PAYAM SANI/IRNA



Bushehr has one of the richest treasures of Iranological documents

IRNA – Bushehr Department of the Iranology Foundation houses more than 4,000 historical documents, which is considered as one of the richest treasures of the southern part of the country, said the head of the foundation.

Abdolkarim Mashayekhi added that Bushehr department of the foundation has published 74 books on culture, history, folklore and customs of the people of the southern province. The Bushehr department was established in 1996 and has since published 42 volumes of books on the Persian Gulf, he noted.

He went on to say that the Persian Gulf has become a national unity issue and many scholars from around the globe are carrying out research on the history of the Persian Gulf.

In addition, nearly 50,000 book titles were donated to the foundation by Iranian writers and well-known figures, Mashayekhi said. Speaking about the photos of the province’s monuments, historical figures kept at the foundation, he said, the photo archive, consisting of over 6,000 documents, could be used for scholars who carry out research in various fields of culture, history, and society.

Iran regrets Taliban ban on women’s higher education

Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Thursday expressed regret over a decision by the Taliban in Afghanistan to suspend access to universities by female students. Kanaani called on Taliban rulers to immediately remove obstacles to university education for the Afghan girls and women so that they can have access to their classes and play a part in the development of their country. On Tuesday, Afghanistan’s Ministry of Higher Education, run by the Taliban, banned university education for Afghan women “until further notice.” The ministry said the move had been taken in accordance with a cabinet decision. UNESCO strongly condemns the decision by the Taliban to ban women from attending universities, which comes 15 months after excluding girls from secondary school. This is a profound violation of human dignity and the fundamental right to education. It will carry irreversible and severe consequences for the social, cultural and economic development of Afghanistan. There is no possible advancement for the country when half the population is not allowed to pursue an education and participate in public life.