

The Kish Island



Kish Island, with a history of more than two thousand years, is one of the most beautiful and popular islands in Iran. It is a 91.5-square-kilometre resort island in the Persian Gulf off the southern coast of Iran. It is part of the Bandar Lengeh County in the Hormozgan Province of Iran. Owing to its free trade zone status, it is touted as a consumer's paradise, with numerous malls, shopping centers, tourist attractions, and resort hotels. It attracts many Iranian and foreign tourists

throughout the year with its pristine nature, calm and beautiful sea, historical monuments, water entertainment centers, and shopping centers.

This island is so beautiful that it has become known as the Pearl of the Persian Gulf since ancient times. Its calm coasts are covered with coral sands that shine in the sunlight, creating a unique and fascinating sight. The clear coastal waters allow one to view several meters deep into the sea and watch the beautiful movement of the fish. Diverse plants and native trees, as well as a pleasant climate seven months a year, are among the outstanding characteristics of the island. The island has attracted many tourists, travelers, and writers throughout history due to these very characteristics.

To provide more information, we would like to mention that in 2010, the New York Times selected this island as one of the ten most beautiful islands in the world. Kish has an estimated 26,000 residents, and about 1 million people visit the island annually. Kish Island is the fourth most visited vacation destination in Southwest Asia after Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Sharm el-Sheikh. Foreign nationals wishing to enter the Kish Free Zone from legal ports are not required to obtain visas before travel. Valid travel permits are stamped for 14 days by airport and Kish port police officials.



The relative atmospheric humidity in Kish makes it like a sea island except in cold seasons. Kish has a warm and humid climate with an average temperature of 30 °C and about 60% humidity most of the year. The weather is pleasant in fall, winter, and two months into the spring, and from October to April, Kish's weather is mild, ranging between 18 to 25 °C.

The native people of Kish are a combination of Iranians and Arab-Iranians from the country's southern provinces who migrated to the island during its ancient prosperity. Thus, they speak Persian and Arabic.

Kish Island has tourist attractions for every kind of taste. The attractions of Kish include a series of historical sites, beautiful beaches, and recreational areas, each with its unique charm. Here, various of these attractions are introduced. There is not enough to say about the sightseeing places of Kish. This island is so spectacular that it cannot be described in words. To see all these sights, you must travel to this beautiful island and see and touch these attractions up close.

Historical Monuments of Kish



The *Kariz Underground City* is one of the unique historical attractions on Kish Island. This site, located about 16 meters below the surface, is over 2,500 years old. Interestingly, the purpose of this city in the past was to preserve and provide drinking water to the island, known as a large qanat (underground water channel). For this reason, it is called Kariz and has a cool climate throughout the year. Kriz or Kahriz is a Persian word meaning “aqueduct”. The aqueduct was invented by Iranians and has a historical background to the civilization of Ancient Iran. Despite its long history and the development of modern technologies, it is still vital for people living in many hot and dry areas. Aqueducts usually start from the heights of the mother well and finally end in Kariz, where water comes out of the ground. It has now become one of the most prominent tourist attractions on the island. Kariz Underground City includes three aqueducts and 274 wells. The total length of the Kariz tunnels exceeds 8 kilometers. Some of the wells are intact, and others have been turned into a conoid form for better ventilation of light and air. As a complex network of tunnels and chambers, it provides a cool and picturesque path for visitors. Considering the very low slope of the island, underground water leading to the surface in Kish is highly important and shows that the most advanced methods were

used at that time for digging the aqueducts. One of its exquisite features is its eight-meter roof, which is mostly filled with fossils, shells, and corals that date back to 270-570 million years ago in experts’ idea, and every one of them has been identified and has a formal identity. Visiting the Kariz Underground City offers a unique experience of the island’s history and culture.



Jenny Castle, located in the southwest of Kish Island, is one of the most important historical monuments. With its rectangular plan and two large towers on either side, Jenny Castle is an example of Sassanid-era defensive architecture. This fort served as a defensive base to counter sea attacks. The two towers feature small windows to observe and identify enemy movements during conflicts.



A historic and wonderful city in the north of Kish is the ruins of the **ancient city of Harireh**. Due to its location at the intersection of three gulfs, a cape, and a rocky coast, it served as a port for ships entering Kish. This city, with a thousand-year-old history and an area of about 120 hectares, is known as one of the tourist attractions of Kish. The ruins include the remains of a mansion with tiles from the Ilkhanid period (1256-1353), a public bath, and industrial workshops. Some believe that Harirah

was originally built between the end of the Sassanid era and the beginning of the Islamic era. The city was highly popular during the Seljuk period and the Atabakan of Fars.

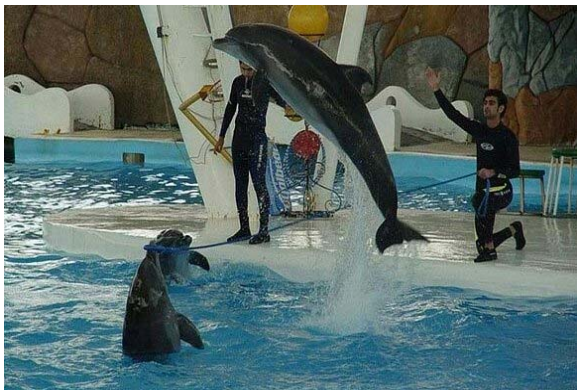


With a history of about 200 years, the museum house of **Kish Native Ethnographic House** is one of the cultural attractions of Kish, which introduces the traditional lifestyle of the people of southern Iran. The house of 1,200 square meters has 15 rooms, each of which has its own characteristics.



reservoir. Additionally, they create a distinctive architectural style reminiscent of the traditional architecture of Yazd.

Recreational Facilities



Dolphin Park or *Dolphinarium*, located in Kish Island, is the first dolphin park in Iran and one of the most beautiful recreational parks of the Middle East. The huge recreational and tourist complex with a 100-hectare area is located in the southeast of the island. The complex includes green space with different plant species, a bird garden, and a dolphin show. Visiting this beautiful complex with thousands of date trees and several other plant species, the wonderful show of dolphins, seals, and porpoises is fascinating for any tourist and can be enjoyed by all ages. In this complex, various marine mammals, including dolphins, northern sea lions, southern sea lions, northern sea cats, dolphins, and penguins, are kept. The green space of Dolphin Park has more than one hundred plant species, including thousands of palm trees, very large Benjamins, Hornbeam (Lur) trees, Eucalyptus, and more than 25 species of cactus and other plants that are unique considering the

climatic conditions of the island and its coral soil. In the bird garden, more than 50 species of various birds like pelicans, ostriches, parrots of Macau, peacocks, swans, and other types of aquatic animals like crocodiles are kept from all around the world. Due to the proper environment, these animals can breed and live naturally.



One of the most attractive tourist spots in Kish, where you can experience walking and wandering around in the water and observing various aquatic species, is the *Kish Aquarium*. In the larger part of this aquarium, you can see marine animals such as sharks. In the smaller section, there are various aquatic animals, such as crocodiles, snakes, and small fish. It is interesting to know that the Kish Aquarium is a separate aquarium with a capacity of 20 thousand liters for freshwater fish. There are nearly seventy kinds of decorative fish in it, which are rare in shape, natural color, scales, and appearance. There are some rare complexes in this area, and many salty water and freshwater fish are in some parts of it. Different reptiles, such as snakes and alligators, are in the other part. Rare birds and mammals can also be seen in another part of it.

Beaches and Parks

You can always spend hours in silence and peace along the blue and calm beaches of this Island. In the sand beach of Kish, the ground is coral and shines like silver under the Sun. The blue, transparent sea makes the bottom of the sea clearly visible. Coral is what creates this unique beauty. The corals around the island purify the water and make it see-through. Tranquil coasts along with the beautiful corals getting together provide a shelter for pretty colorful fish. Shining beach, blue sky, sea waves, and green coconut trees create spectacular scenery that no master artist can create. The other side of the island is also popular for its sunsets and evenings. When the water rushes, hits the rocky beach, squirts into the azury sky, and falls down again, a splendid view is provided. Fishing fans can catch fish on southern and western coasts. The color of the coasts of the island is coral shining white, a color that becomes more beautiful when mixed with the sunlight.



Kish Island has got lots of nice beaches. ***Maryam Beach*** is one of the best ones. Warm white sands, clear water, green trees, and everything necessary for a nice beach. It's a perfect beach for walking and relaxing. This beach is best on the island for its naturally beautiful collection of restaurants, shopping centers, and sea activity.



Marjan Beach (Coral Beach) is one of the most beautiful beaches on Kish Island, located in the southeast of the island. This rocky beach in Kish does not allow swimming, as it is home to valuable marine creatures like coral, jellyfish, and sea anemones. The Coral Beach of Kish is so blue and clean that any moving creature can be seen under the water. Corals in various shapes, colorful oyster shells, different snails, and sea stones are frequently brought to the coast by water. With its

blue waters and white sand, this beach is an ideal spot for enjoying the stunning natural scenery, viewing the sunset by the shore, and engaging in activities such as cycling, motorbike riding, and water sports like boating.



Simorgh Beach Park is another tourist attraction on Kish Island. This clean and beautiful park is an ideal place for families. In this tranquil setting, away from the hustle and bustle of the city, you can enjoy a pleasant and memorable experience among the large statues. The park is well-suited for children, as it features many play structures designed specifically for them.



The Greek Ship was a cargo ship and is famous for its Greek owner. It is one of the most famous sights in Kish Island. About 75 years ago, it docked on Kish Island and never moved again. There are many stories about this ship running aground and the economic situation of its owners, ranging from romantic tales to accounts of their financial troubles. Now, this ship has become one of the tourist attractions of Iran and can provide you with an unforgettable experience. On the shore of the

Greek Ship, you can enjoy the restaurants, cafes, and bicycle riding.



The Green Tree, the oldest tree of Laura, or the Sacred Fig Tree in Kish Island, is about 500 to 600 years old. This tree is one of the rare and weirdest trees in the world, with big and oval-shaped leaves. The Green Tree Complex is built around this tree, making it a nice park for picnics.



Hendorabi Island is located 28 kilometers from Kish Island and is often visited by people traveling to Kish. The island has a small population, making it a peaceful and tranquil destination. If you're looking for calm beaches for swimming, diving, sunbathing, or observing beautiful scenery and diverse marine life, we recommend this island.

Water Activities



Ocean Water Park is a 5.6-hectare outdoor water park on Kish Island. It is the first Iranian-themed outdoor water park, themed based on the story of the Mystery of the Sun Castle. It was opened in January 2017 and currently has 13 rides, 4 swimming pools, and one spa, in addition to numerous restaurants, beverage stops, coffee shops, and shopping areas.



Seeing the sea in all its magnificence evokes a unique and pleasant feeling for everyone. ***The large pier*** is one of the most visited in Kish, where you can spend hours enjoying the view of the sea and taking photographs. Activities such as hot air ballooning, flyboarding, shuttle rides, and water sports like boating and diving are organized in this area. Walking along the pier at night is also a stimulating experience.



One of the unique and different experiences on the beautiful Island of Kish is sailing on ***glass-bottom boats***. As the name suggests, the bottom of these boats is made of glass, and the sea can be easily seen. That is, when you are in these boats, you can see the bottom of the sea, its depth, and the creatures in it. Watching the clear water of the Persian Gulf and its unique sea creatures will be memorable.



One of the unique attractions of Kish Island is its various water sports and entertainment. For those interested, you can have exciting and memorable times with your friends in Kish Island. The peaceful water makes many sports possible, such as *scuba diving*. People who desire to take control of the sea a little for themselves should try these sports, as they cannot be experienced anywhere else.



Jet-skiing is one of the most pleasurable entertainments. The excitement of speed on the beautiful waters of the Persian Gulf with Jet-ski instruments provides sweet moments for tourists. By visiting one of the scuba diving and sea clubs of Kish, you can use a Jet-ski and experience pleasurable hours with this instrument.



One of the pleasurable entertainments for tourists, especially teenagers, is *sky diving* or Parasol in the sky of Kish Island. You board a Parasol parachute and become elevated quickly by a boat. You will observe a beautiful scene of Kish Island and experience a unique sense of peace and the highest level of excitement in the azure sky and the clear and beautiful waters of the Persian Gulf.



Kish flyboard is one of the exciting and new sports that makes you feel like flying. It needs to react and make urgent decisions for balancing on the water. You can see the city from up there, and the sea is under your feet. It is fun and thrilling.

Sports and Games



If you are a thrill seeker but do not like to enter the water, you can enjoy outdoor and indoor sports and games such as *Maryam Bowling Center*.



Since Kish is a dry region and does not experience snowfall, the *Summer Day Penguin Snow Complex* can also provide a unique and enjoyable experience in the snow.



Kish Horror Castle is one of the most exciting places for thrill-seekers. If you have anxiety or stress, this place may not be suitable for you. Designed for adventurous and passionate individuals, it offers a variety of small and large, captivating events that immerse visitors in a unique world of fear and excitement.



Iran's first *karting* track on Kish Island, with almost 800 meters in length and 7 meters in width, is among one of the biggest tracks in the Middle East. Thousands of tourists and fans visit this outdoor venue annually, and this track hosted the first round of Iran's Karting Championship, enabling this sport in Iran to get closer to world standards.



The sports, recreational, and tourism complex of *Kish Safari* has been formed to develop tourism and create a fun and safe environment for all ages, especially young people and tourists of the beautiful island of Kish. The complex is the first organizer of desert safari tours in Iran. One of the most popular safari tours is the Desert Tour, whose path and position are in the desert and wilderness. Vehicles used for these tours include two-differential and four-axle vehicles, such as Land

Rover, Toyota Land Cruiser, etc., and even camel. Hot and dry desert and semi-desert climatic conditions are required for a desert tour. Due to appropriate weather conditions and location for tourism, Kish Island has the potential for these types of tours.

Shopping Centers



Purchasing products from Kish markets has always been enjoyable for tourists and travelers. Anyone who has traveled to Kish with any intention won't return empty-handed. Bazaars and commercial centers of Kish Island, with their modern and delicate architectural designs, present all kinds of products. These bazaars are one of the main attractions aspects of Kish Island, and each year attract a considerable number of tourists and travelers.



Mica Mall Kish Cable Car is one of the popular recreational attractions on Kish Island, offering tourists an enjoyable aerial travel experience. This cable car operates between Marjani Beach and the Mica Mall Kish area, allowing travelers to enjoy stunning views of the sea and the island's beautiful beaches. During the ride, you can capture stunning photos and videos of the surrounding scenery. Additionally, the Mica Mall Cable Car, as one of the island's modern recreational facilities, provides

easy access to other sightseeing and recreational areas for tourists.