



Together for Sustainable Tourism

Information Note

Introduction

Gastronomy is one of the most valuable cultural products and along with accommodation, is among the basic requirements in tourist destinations. Besides local and traditional properties, food diversity has always been of primary attraction of tourist destinations. Due to recent economic developments, globalization and increasing cultural interactions, nowadays gastronomic traditions of different regions worldwide has suffered seriously, leading to gradual disappearance of healthy nutrition and replacing it with industrial foods. This trend has given a decline in food-related tourist attraction of ancient nations particularly ECO and Silk Road Region. Therefore, holding tourism events with an exclusive focus on gastronomy and healthy traditions will promote the old traditions across our region and help revitalize the ancient Silk Road. To contribute to this cause and also to promote friendship and peace among nations, the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism (ICHTO) of Zanzan Province (Iran) and Economic Cooperation Organization initiated

the ECO-Silk Food Festival, first of which was held in 2015. Investing on the two previous successful experiences in 2015 and 2016, the organizers are determined to continue this move on annual basis in Zanzan. The **Third International ECO-Silk Road Food Festival** on 10-12 of May, 2017 is once again the manifestation of will and desire to contribute to introduction and preservation of ancient traditions and help people better understand each other. The proclaiming the year 2017 as *International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development* by United Nations provided further encouragement to this effect.

Theme and the contents of the Festival

The theme of this year Festival will be: *Together for Sustainable Tourism*

Presenting and introducing various types of local food in ECO and Silk Road nations, the participants will have the opportunity to:

- 1- Exhibit tourism attractions of their countries;
- 2- Present anthropological background about local foods of their countries;
- 3- Provide information on food and cooking through brochures and booklets;
- 4- Perform cultural programmes including folk music and traditional programs.

How to participate?

The interested countries are kindly requested to inform their participation through their Embassies in Tehran or via the following contact persons:

1. Mr. Abolfazl Ajalli (ICHTO- Zanzan)

Tel: +9824-33362707

Cell: +98- 919 997 0700

Email: znajam.oh@gmail.com

2. Mr. Akbar Khodaei (ECO Secretariat)

Tel: +9821- 22831733 (ext. 120)

Fax:+9821-22831732

Cell:+98 (0) 9122408447

Email: res-off-ait@eco.int

Eligible participants

The Festival is meant for showcasing the local foods by individuals/groups from the ECO Member states and the Silk Road countries, namely, Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan,

Bulgaria, Albania, Bangladesh, China, Croatia, Republic of Korea, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Romania, Russia, Spain, Syria, Ukraine and Lebanon. Embassies of the above mentioned countries in Tehran as well as their nationals residing in Iran are also encouraged to participate in the Festival. expected to

Visa requirement

All the interested participants from outside Iran are required to hold valid passport and obtain entry visa through the Iranian Embassies or Consulates in their own countries prior to departure.

Important Note: Participants from the following countries are exempted from Visa requirements and are only requested to carry valid passport: ***Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Syria, Turkey***

Visa on Arrival will be issued for Lebanese nationals.

Hospitality Details

The host authorities will provide the following facilities to the participants during their stay (not exceeding 5 days and 3 nights):

- 1- Free accommodation + meals for **two participants** from each participating country;
- 2- Free local transportation including domestic airport transfer;
- 3- Free local transportation will also be provided for participants from Embassies\Missions in Tehran;
- 4- Free stalls for cooking and selling dishes,
- 5- Free cooking facilities and utensils,

Note 1: The participants are expected to purchase food ingredients and shall cover such expenses. All food ingredients are available in the local market. In exceptional cases, however, participants are required to prepare them in advance.

Note 2: The participants wishing to stay further should indicate while applying for participation and Visa. The host authorities will not cover any cost of further stay or extra service requested.

Note 3: All interested participants are required to arrive one day ahead of the start of the Festival.

Accommodation

There will be designated hotels and residential complexes for accommodation purpose. The interested participants are requested to inform confirmation of their participation well in advance for timely booking. The booking will be on the basis of first come first served.

The Currency

The official currency of the Islamic Republic of Iran is Rial, currently exchanged at below rates:

1 USD = 34700 Rials

1 EUR = 40800 Rials

International credit cards are not normally accepted for transactions.

Weather condition

During the month of May, the average temperature in Zanzan ranges from 22 to 26 degrees Celsius.

Electricity

The power plugs are supplying a nominal 220 V and a frequency of 50 Hz.

Time zone

Zanzan local time is GMT+ 3:30.

Medical Considerations

State/private hospitals and medical centers offer different types of medical services in Zanzan.

Emergency call

Medical emergency: 115

Police: 110

Sightseeing excursion

A one day tour will be organized for the participants on the sidelines of the Festival to visit Soltaniyeh (UNESCO Listed World Heritage). Soltaniyeh is one of the largest brick domes in the world and the third largest dome in the world after the domes of Florence Cathedra (Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore) and Hagia Sophia.

The participants may also visit the ancient city of Zanjan throughout the Festival.

Further considerations

- The participants are required to observe the Islamic dress code and the laws and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran during their stay.
- Alcoholic beverages and additives are legally prohibited in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- All foods to be served at the Festival shall be Halal products.