

## Bisotun World Registration

13th of July, was a big day for the cultural heritage of Iran as Bisotun historical site in Kermanshah province was finally registered in the list of UNESCO's World Heritage sites on a decision made by the World Heritage Committee on its 30th



session which was held from 8-16 of July 2006 in Lithuania. Some experts believe that by calling this day the «Bisotun day» and holding some special programs on this occasion, more attentions would be attracted to this historical site.

The fact that Bisotun was inscribed unanimously by all the members of the Committee without any debate or hesitation shows the importance of Persian archeological sites and their potentials in attracting the attention and admiration of cultural heritage enthusiasts.

The existing archeological sites in Kermanshah province indicate the existence of a rich civilization in this area during the very ancient times. Enjoying a picturesque nature as well as a large number of historical sites Kermanshah province has a huge potential in attracting domestic and foreign tourists

However despite enjoying an old history and civilization and a large number of natural and archeological sites. It seems that Kermanshah is not much known to tourists and the number of its tourists is far less than what it should be. Now with inscribing Bisotun historical site in UNESCO's world heritage lists, there is a hope to boost the tourism industry of the province by introducing its potential characteristics to the world.

Experts strongly believe that inscription of the Bisotun historical site in the list of UNESCO's world heritage sites,



will provide Iranian authorities the chance to introduce the other tourism attractions of Kermanshah province to attract more tourists and also to take advantage of UNESCO's support which will be provided in different ways to protect this historical site against the possible dangers due to natural disasters and development projects.

The city of Kermanshah is the capital of Kermanshah province. It is located 525 kilometers south west of Tehran. In the past, it was located a few kilometers

from the present town; and probably dates back to the 4th century AD. Its vulnerable position has been violated several times in the course of history, and it was later captured by the Arabs in 649 AD, then by the buyids in the 10th century, soon after by seljuks, and then sacked by Mongols in the early 13th century. And at last, after several centuries of peace and prosperity, its strategic position of the road to Baghdad brought trouble to this historical city as it was attacked several times by Iraqi missiles and bombs during the imposed war between Iran and Iraq which started in the 1980 and lasted for eight years.

Modern Kermanshah has a pleasant climate most of the year except for winters when it gets freezing cold. It is an important agricultural and a burgeoning industrial centre where different kinds of fruits are grown. One of the other important products



of this province is sugar-beet. Carpet weaving and manufacture of givehs (canvas covered shoes like the Spanish alpargata in appearance) have long been carried on in the town.