

Two-day holiday in Iran over extreme heat

August 1 2023



A motorcyclist takes a break in the heat of Tehran on July 11, 2023.

Iran on Tuesday declared a two-day holiday for government workers and banks nationwide as searing temperatures sweep across the country, state media reported.

The decision came after the meteorological office forecast temperatures

exceeding 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in many cities, and hovering around 50 degrees Celsius in the southwest.

State broadcaster IRIB has said many cities including in the provinces of Ilam, Bushehr, and Khuzestan have seen temperatures rise above 45 degrees Celsius in recent days.

"The cabinet agreed to the [health ministry](#) proposal to declare Wednesday and Thursday public holidays all over the country to protect [public health](#)," the official IRNA news agency quoted government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi as saying.

IRNA said the decision was taken because of what it described as an "unprecedented" heat wave across the country.

According to IRIB, Dehloran city in western Iran recorded the highest temperature of 50 degrees Celsius in Iran over the past 24 hours.

It added that temperatures were expected to rise in the north as well, including in the city of Ardabil as well as at the southern shores of the Caspian sea.

The health ministry has warned of the risks of heatstroke from over-exposure to the sun, and urged people to stay indoors between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Health ministry spokesman Pedram Pakain described the number of heat-related illnesses in recent days as "alarming".

In June, Iran changed summer working hours for [government employees](#) who now start earlier, in order to save electricity in offices when temperatures peak.

The southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan has been among the hardest hit by the heat wave.

Around 1,000 people have received hospital treatment there in recent days because of rising temperatures and [dust storms](#), IRNA said.

The region has long faced severe water shortages, which triggered protests on Monday over an upstream dam in neighboring Afghanistan restricting water flow, the Tasnim news agency said.

Iran, with a population of more than 85 million, is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change and the rise in global temperatures.

Like nearby countries, it has suffered extreme dry spells and heatwaves for years, which are expected to worsen as [climate change](#) continues.

It has also endured repeated droughts as well as regular flooding, a phenomenon made worse when torrential rain falls on sun-baked earth.

© 2023 AFP

Citation: Two-day holiday in Iran over extreme heat (2023, August 1) retrieved 29 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-08-two-day-holiday-iran-extreme.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.