

Geotourism Atlas of Qeshm
Geological Phenomena of Qeshm Island
at a Glance

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Preface

National Geosciences Database of Iran

Cultural Department of Qeshm Free Area Organization

Alireza Amrikazemi

■ One of the most obvious and fundamental factors of scientific and economic development in any country is the recording, storing and facilitating the access to the technical data related to geology, mining and the dependent disciplines. In Iran, in spite of the existence of considerable volumes of data related to geosciences, particularly geology and exploration, due to absence of a powerful database, the act of gathering, storing, and processing of data did not take place properly; therefore, the existing data were very fragmented and difficult to reach. While the research & educational centers particularly the programming centers in the country were in urgent need of such data, fragmented nature of the information in a national database had led to carrying out parallel studies and duplication of researches in so many fields followed by spending huge amounts of extravagant money and time, and this in itself had irretrievably detrimental effects on the country's sustainable development. The existence of massive volumes of various data and in particular the urgent need of governmental centers and private sectors in having access to the comprehensive information about the country's mining power, different exploration phases, equipment and exploitation of mines, and also awareness of the new findings related to geology and mining in advanced countries along with the trustable up-to-date statistics regarding the growing market of mineral substances and predicting the resources' status and evaluation- while taking into consideration the general trend of market in near and far future- justified the establishment of National Geosciences Database of Iran (NGDIR); and putting this great happening into effect was strongly approved by Great Leader in pursuit of the country's general policy so as to meet the following goals:

- **Gathering the fragmented and unavailable data**
- **Creating and organizing the data banks**
- **Facilitating the access and meeting the users' data needs in order for planning, decision-making, controlling, and orientating the infrastructure policies and ...**
- **Making a relationship in national, and beyond that, in regional and global levels with other informational databases so as to increase the awareness in the current technical knowledge.**

From the beginning phases of the activity of NGDIR (2001), a great volume of information relating to geosciences has turned to be accessible, among which one can name the glossary of geosciences, uniformed mapping information in various scales, earthquake database, geotechnic database, ground geophysics database, geochemical database, the detailed exploration data organization, ancient mines' database, minerals processing database, mining economic database, mineral market database, mining environment database, which are all made accessible through the internet in national and glo-

bal levels as well as the website of the database.

Regarding the general policy of the database, one of the steps taken is the publication as well as cooperation in publication of the collected data in various fields of geosciences, which are in accord with the database's goals.

The publication of Iran's first atlas of geotourism, which embodies a wide variety of eye-catching phenomena of Qeshm Island in the azure vastness of Persian Gulf, is among the informational sources that have been provided by the collaborative work of Geological Survey of Iran and Qeshm Free Area Organization to be finally published by NGDIR. Let's hope the publication of this atlas is a promising outset in sustaining the introduction of Iran's geological phenomena.

National Geosciences Database of Iran

■ Qeshm Island on the vastness of history millenniums is so mixed with concepts of Persian Gulf, Hormoz Strait, and the land of Iran that writing or talking of each is associated with the name of the other three.

Once this piece of lofty land peeped out of the water and bathed his body in sunshine, it got a wonderful existence formed by a wide variety of natural features; vales, caves, plains, rocks, and howling unbridled storms swept over the isle and the rainstorms fearlessly blew on its heights. Soil fell in grains, and layers of rocks get eroded till Star valley, gorges, and monsters, scattered here and there, were formed; and so were Roof of Qeshm, the giant stones, ridges and so many other geological phenomena to create an isle which has no match anywhere.

Qeshm is like nowhere. Qeshm is Qeshm; for those who wish to tell of love on seeing its peerless beauties; for those interested in touching the remnants of the geological periods past as well as those whose attitude and feeling get not satisfied but by visiting the virgin and noble places.

*"You've come with hundred thousands lights
Till I see you with hundred thousands eyes"*

It's upon us to thank the NGDIR and its knowledgeable experts who endeavored to author and publish the first geotourism atlas of Iran and through this paved the way to more broadly introduce the Qeshm Island.

Now, the present book is a window opened to the wonderful phenomena of Qeshm.

**Cultural Department of
Qeshm Free Area Organization**

■ It's hard as well as easy to write about Qeshm. It's hard for what pen can depict all its glory and beauty so lucidly, and it is easy because it will be so beautiful to talk of every corner of the island; for depicting the beauty in any language is graceful. The present book tries to open a window towards the wonderful Island of Qeshm before the earth and nature's lovers by the help of pictures and words.

Regarding the diversity and variety of readers, the author has tried to pen the book in a way the specialists and experts in earth sciences may benefit from the book and those who are less familiar with the earth's mysteries may know of the secrets of nature and earth sciences in this island, while enjoying the study of the book and eventually reaching a new recognition of this beautiful piece of land in our country. In this book, in addition to providing the explanations about the geology of the island, sometimes if necessary, there is a short and brief discussion on the identity of such phenomena whose aim is to make the general readers familiar with the subject on question. It has already been published an internal report titled: "Qeshm, the Island of the earth's beauties" by the author in which Jafar Sabouri of Geological Survey of Iran was my helper; the report was the result of a short visit to the island; in that report, the part related to general geology was contributed by this gentleman, which was also used in the present book. The geology professors: S.A. Aghanabati and M. Samadian edited the report. It's worth to be mentioned M. Samadian is among the first people who has traversed across the island and studied it scientifically; he has provided me with some valuable insights whose effect on the book is tangible. Another geological report by A. Haghipour, the member of Sweden Company of Soeco, is also a valuable one and studying this report has been a guiding light to the author in depiction and analysis of the phenomena. B.F.Darreshoori, whose greatly valuable involvement in the affairs related to the Qeshm Island's environment made him too busy to accompany me in all my visits to the island, did as well accompany me in some programs, which was of a great use to me. And at last, the one who encouraged me to author this book and followed the different phases of the work so persistently and with perfect interest, from the very beginning to end, was Houshang Fathi, the cultural consultant of the Qeshm Free Area Organization's general director to whom and his efforts and prudence we owe the publication of this book.

It's also upon me to mention the fact that the translation of this book has not been an easy job and demands artistic taste and meticulous work for which I owe my heart-felt thanks to A. Mehrpooya.

At the end, I should express my gratitude to M.T.Korehie the respectable deputy Minister of Industries and Mines who also holds the presidency of the Geological Survey of Iran as well as the National Geosciences Database of Iran. It is worth to be mentioned that NGDIR, which is a young and newly emerged organization has turned to be a very highly valued center in the field of information-providing on earth sciences, thanks to its experts' knowledge and perseverance along with its peerless management. The collaboration by NGDIR in publishing the first atlas of Iran's geotourism, is suggestive of a newly emerged attitude toward the environmental issues, sustainable development and reaching an understanding of the value of Earth's Global Heritage.

**Alireza Amrikazemi
Feb.,2005**

Introduction

Tourism sector is among the most successful industries in the world, since it involves considerable results and achievements among which one can name: making the scientific-cultural development, earning great incomes, direct and indirect employment rate increase, and demonstrating the stability and security in the country.

In the world today, tourism has adopted a broad approach towards the issue of ecotourism. The people tired of urban and mechanical life are always looking for a way out till they may spend a moment far from all the fuss and day-to-day living of the modern life. To these people, nature is the best refuge and haven and in the meantime, geotourism as one of the specialized branches of ecotourism enjoys so much attraction not only for the experts in the earth sciences, but also for all those interested in nature.

Iran is one of a few countries in the world that due to its geographically superior status enjoys a wide variety of beautiful natural and geological graces, and therein Qeshm Island can be considered as the gate to Iran's geotourism. This big island due to having various and, sometimes, matchless geological and biological phenomena is blessed with the potentiality to be the great pole of ecotourism and geotourism in Persian Gulf. In the book before, the attempt has been made to open a new door towards the island's geotourism through studying and introducing the geological phenomena in Qeshm.

The book has been designed to be accompanied by some general explanations and information about the island within a colorful atlas. The first chapter deals with the description of the geography, climatology, marine features and the environmental aspects of the island. In the second chapter, the general geology has been taken into account. Regarding the subject of the book, the scope of discussion is limited and those interested in getting much more specialized information may be referred to the reports and books introduced in the bibliography. The third chapter deals with the geological phenomena. The collection of photos is included in the fourth chapter. In the fifth chapter, there come the appendices, which include the satellite images and a couple of maps particularly the first geological map of the island by Richardson (1927).

It's obvious that the present book really needs the experts' much-valued ideas; let's hope in the next edition by involving such ideas, we may create a more perfect book.

The Natural Features¹ of Qeshm Island

