



# Iran Open-Air International Film Festival

## Introduction

Imagine a large cinema screen set beneath the open sky, nestled in Iran's stunning natural embrace. As a gentle drizzle falls, it adds to the magic of the moment, heightening the joy of watching films in such a setting. A unique open-air cinematic experience awaits!

While open-air film festivals have long been celebrated worldwide, this concept is a fresh addition to Iran's cinematic landscape. Filmmakers trade luxury hotels and formal cinema venues for backpacks and campsites, gathering in nature to screen their short and feature films, share meals around campfires, and take part in workshops among the tents. The festival fosters a spirit of creativity, connection and shared cinematic experience in the open air. For the first time, this unique event will bring international filmmakers and cinema lovers together in the breathtaking nature of northern Iran. Narrative films, animations, experimental works, and documentaries will be showcased in an atmosphere that blends art with the great outdoors, marking a new chapter in Iran's cinematic heritage.

The 2nd Iran Open-Air International Film Festival, organized by the Moj Fakhte Cultural and Art Institute, will be held in an open-air format in the north of Iran, in September 2026. The festival aims to encourage creative exchange and foster constructive competition among filmmakers, while celebrating the creativity of emerging cinematic voices through a shared open-air experience. It also seeks to strengthen connections between Iranian and international filmmakers and to support the growth of contemporary Iranian cinema through innovative storytelling, bold artistic approaches, culture travel, ecotourism, and connection with nature.

## Festival Goals

- To discover and support emerging filmmakers and young cinematic talents
- To support the development of Iranian cinema through professional exchange and artistic growth among filmmakers.
- To create a platform for showcasing the cultural, social, and ecotourism diversity of different regions around the world.

- To encourage cultural vitality and social engagement through cinematic experiences.

## **Festival Themes**

Road Movies

Travel & Tourism

Adventure & Ecotourism

Environment & Ecology

Indigenous Cultures & Local Communities

## **Festival Sections**

### **1. Competitive Section**

The festival accepts submissions in the following categories, which will be reviewed by the festival jury:

- Short Film Competition: Narrative, Documentary, Animation, and Experimental.
- Immersive Competition: VR and AI-based works.

### **2. Side programs**

The festival will host the following side programs:

- **Filmmaker Bootcamp:** A limited number of applicants will be selected to participate in an intensive skills development retreat focused on Short Narrative Filmmaking and Virtual Reality (VR) Film Production. Bootcamp participants will also have full access to the festival's other programs, including panels and workshops. By the end of the one-week bootcamp, participants will complete a short film.
- **Masterclasses & Workshops:** The festival will present a series of masterclasses and educational workshops led by film industry professionals, focusing on specialized areas of short filmmaking.

Previous edition included workshops such as:

“The Soft Light of Reality” focusing on cinematography, led by Arman Fayyaz (Crystal Simorgh- winning cinematographer)

“In the Mood for Cinema” led by Marjan Ashrafizadeh, an acclaimed Iranian filmmaker.

Note: For further information regarding the festival’s side programs, please contact the festival via email: [iranopenair.info@gmail.com]

## **Dates & Deadlines**

Opening Date: May 10, 2026

Early Bird Deadline: June 20, 2026

Regular Deadline: July 5, 2026

Late Deadline: July 23, 2026

Notification Date: August 6, 2026

Festival Date: September 8-12, 2026

## **Submission Fees**

There is no submission fee for 2026 edition.

## **Awards & Prizes**

- Grand Prize: Trophy + Diploma of Honor
- Additional Diplomas of Honor and special jury mentions may be awarded at the discretion of the jury.
- All officially selected films will receive a digital certificate of participation.

## **Submission Guidelines & Regulations**

- Films submitted to the competition must have been completed after January 2020.
- Films in all languages are eligible for submission and will be reviewed by the festival's pre-selection committee. Films not in English must include English subtitles.
  - To be eligible for competition, submitted films must have a minimum runtime of 3 minutes and must not exceed 30 minutes, including credits.
  - Applicants may submit more than one film.
  - Priority will be given to films that have not previously been screened or distributed in Iran; however, no premiere status requirement applies.
  - Officially selected films will be announced by August 15, 2026, and applicants will be notified via email.
  - Once a film is officially selected, it may not be withdrawn from the festival.
  - Upon official selection, participants must provide the final screening copy (without hardcoded subtitles) along with subtitle files (.srt) and transcripts in both the original language and English.
  - Films that do not meet the festival's required technical standards will be disqualified from competition.
  - Participants may authorize online screening access to their submitted films exclusively for preview purposes by the festival's selection committee.
  - By submitting a film to the Iran Open-Air International Film Festival, the producer or legal right holder grants Moj Fakhteh Cultural and Art Institute the non-commercial right to screen the film for educational purposes, including film screening, discussion and short film critique sessions.
  - The submitter bears full responsibility for any claims regarding copyright ownership or third-party rights related to the submitted work. The festival accepts no responsibility for such claims.
  - No screening fees will be paid to the film's owner(s) for films presented at the festival.
  - Although the festival does not cover travel expenses, accommodation for selected filmmakers may be provided during the festival dates.
  - The Festival President and Director of the Iran Open-Air International Film Festival reserve the right to make decisions regarding any matters not covered by these regulations.
  - Submission to the Iran Open-Air Film Festival implies full acceptance of all rules and regulations stated above.
  - No submission fee is required for the 2026 edition

## Technical Specifications

Submitted films must comply with the following technical specifications:

- Accepted file formats: MP4, MOV
- Accepted video codecs: Apple ProRes, H264, H265
- Preferred resolution: HD (1920×1080) or 4K

## Immersive Competition

### AI Competition

Works submitted to the AI Competition must involve substantial use of artificial intelligence tools in the production process, with a minimum of 70% AI-generated content. The festival reserves the right to request proof of AI tools usage in the creation of submitted works if deemed necessary.

The festival accepts works in the following formats and categories:

- a. Films in both vertical and Horizontal formats.
- b. Short films, in the following categories: narrative (fiction), documentary (non-fiction), experimental, hybrid AI-based, or animated films.
- c. Applicants must hold full copyright ownership or provide valid licensing agreements for all submitted materials.
- d. Running time must be between 1 and 10 minutes, including credits.

### VR Competition

Works submitted to the VR Competition must meet the following requirements:

- a. The work must be captured or produced either through a PC-based VR workflow or within a VR headset.
- b. Applicants must hold all copyright ownership or provide valid licensing agreements for all submitted materials.
- c. Files must be delivered in MP4 or MOV format, encoded in HD (1080p) or 4K.
- d. Running time must be between 1 and 10 minutes, including credits.

Note: Films submitted to the Immersive Competition must include subtitles and transcripts in both the original language and English.

## Contact Information

Email: [iranopenair.info@gmail.com]

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