



## DAŠTESTĀN

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**DAŠTESTĀN**, *šahrestān* (subprovince) on the Persian Gulf coast in Būšeher province, bounded on the north and east by Fārs province, on the south by the *šahrestān* of **Daštī**, and on the west by the *šahrestāns* of Būšeher, Tangestān, and Ganāva. The administrative capital is **Borāzjān**. According to the *census* of 1365 Š./1986, the population of Dašttestān was 175,406, 42 percent of which lived in urban, the remainder in rural areas (*Natāyej*, p. 2). The *šahrestān* of Dašttestān is 6,150 km<sup>2</sup> and comprises three districts, including a total of two towns, eight rural districts (*dehestāns*), and 197 villages. The districts are, first, Sa'dābād (ca 1,401 km<sup>2</sup>, population 6,654) in the northwestern part of the *šahrestān*, in which the town of Sa'dābād and the *dehestāns* of Zīrāh and Mazāre'ī are located; second, Šabānkāra (ca 1,042 km<sup>2</sup>) in the northwestern part of the *šahrestān* comprising only one *dehestān*; and the central district (ca 1,707 km<sup>2</sup>) in the south, comprising the rural units of Būškān, Hūma, Dālakī, Zīārat, and Gīsakān. Borāzjān is in this district.

The climate of Dašttestān is warm and dry. The land rises toward the north, with a corresponding drop in temperature and increase in agricultural productivity. The Šabānkāra dam on the Šāpūr river in Šabānkāra *dehestān*, near the village of Dorāhī, irrigates the villages and fields of the southern region, where the major products are tobacco, dates (see **DATE PALM**), cereals, vegetables, **cotton**, sesame, and limes. Of the 3 million date palms in the province of Būšeher, 2.5 million are in Dašttestān. People are also engaged in trade, manufacture of rugs, and weaving of 'abā's. In the Qajar period Dašttestān was a center for breeding Arabian horses (Afšār Sīstānī, pp. 829-38).



Archeological sites include two Achaemenid palaces, one in the town of Borāzjān, the other ca 12 km farther north in an area called Sang-e Sīāh (Sarfarāz). The town of Tawwaj, near the coast, was renowned for production of linen fabrics and linen garments known as Tawwazī; it was one of the *ṭerāz* cities of the Buyid 'Azod-al-Dawla (Eṣṭakrī, p. 153; Ebn Ḥawqal, p. 293; Moqaddasī, p. 435; Ebn al-Balkī, pp. 145-46; Yāqūt, *Boldān* I, p. 890; cf. Serjeant, pp. 80-84). Tawwaj was destroyed in the 12th century. A covered *bāzār* and the Mošīr-al-Molk caravansary date from the Qajar period (Sarfarāz); the latter was converted in the 1950s to a prison for political dissidents.

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