



KAZERUN I. GEOGRAPHY

KAZERUN

i. Geography

Covering an area of 4,062 sq. km, the sub-province (*šahrestān*) of Kazerun is bounded by the sub-provinces of [Shiraz](#) to the east, Mamasani to the north, [Bušehr](#) to the west and southwest, and Farrāšband to the southeast ([Figure 1](#)). Kazerun has been subjected to several administrative revisions within Fars Province. In 1874 Kazerun was a *boluk* (subdistrict) of Ayālat-e Qašqā'i (Ṭawāqeb, p. 268; *Rapport*, pp. 112-13, 118-20). In the national administrative reforms of 1915-16, Kazerun was designated as a sub-province with constituent districts (*baḵš*) of Ḥuma, Kuhmarra-ye Nowdān, Ḳešt, and Komāraj/Kamāraj (Ṭawāqeb, p. 268). Mamasani parted from Kazerun in 1966 (Behruzi, p. 56). The sub-province of Kazerun is now divided into five districts: Markazi (centered at Kazerun), Jera and Bālā-deh, Ḳešt-e Komāraj (with the towns Ḳešt and Kenār Taḳta), Kuhmarra-ye Nowdān, and Čenār-Šāhijān (centered at Qā'emiya). In the national census of 2006 the population was counted as 258,000, 129,000, and 87,000 for Kazerun sub-province, district, and city, respectively.

The sub-province is located in the southwestern Zagros range, which is oriented northwest-southeast in the normal folding zone and is seismically active. Kazerun comprises contrasting climates; there is a cold zone (*sardsir*) in the mountainous north, with summits up to 3,000 m, and a warm zone (*garmsir*) in the south, with elevations less than 2,000 m. In addition to rain,



water is traditionally supplied by *qanāts* (see [KĀRIZ](#)), springs, rivers, wells, and lakes. Outstanding natural features of the area are the lake *Parišān* (*Fāmur*) and the famous national park [Dašt-e Aržan](#), a vast green meadow on Kazerun–Shiraz highway (see Behruzi, pp. 12 ff., 81-89 on water resources; *Tawāqeb*, pp. 66-70). Kazerun is also renown for its gardens and more particularly for its narcissus meadows (*marġzār-e narges*) by the lake *Parišān* (Behruzi, pp. 19-20, *Tawāqeb*, pp. 173 f.).

Due to its climate the sub-province abounds in chestnut trees, date-palm trees, and a large variety of wild trees forests (Behruzi, pp. 110-18). Among the most famous gardens and orchards, the attractive *Bāġ-e Naẓar*, built by Hāj ‘Ali Khan Afšār in 1150/1737-38, is known for its orange trees; it now within Kazerun municipal boundaries (on the gardens, see Behruzi, pp. 45-47; *Tawāqeb*, pp. 174-75). The sub-province provides a large range of agricultural products: varieties of wheat, barley, rice, cotton, almonds, lentils, beans, tobacco, raisins, sesame, citrus fruits, and dates (Behruzi, pp. 91-103). In Qajar times, the production of tobacco was an important export of Kazerun (Abbott, p. 185). Crop sharing between farmer and landowner was done according to a set of specific rules (Lambton, pp. 315 ff.). Agriculture in the area is particularly subject to nuisances caused by [locusts](#) and [agricultural pests](#) (Behruzi, pp. 103-6). Animal husbandry and hunting are practiced by nomads and peasants (Behruzi, pp. 119-23; *Tawāqeb*, pp. 70-74).

The only distinguished town of the sub-province is Kazerun itself. It stands 860 m above sea level, at 29°37’ N and 51°39’ E, on a vast plain between two geosynclines. It is surrounded by limestone crests and situated on the old winding road with famous vertiginous passes: *Kotal-e Doġtar* and *Kotal-e Pirezān* eastward towards Shiraz (120 km away) and *Kotal-e Komāraj* and *Kotal-e Malu* southwestward toward *Bušeħr* (180 km away; Behruzi, pp. 126-30). Also noteworthy is the mountain village of [Davān](#), which has a distinct dialect and culture. It is located in a narrow gorge some 10 miles north of Kazerun. North by northwest of the city. on the road to the district capital *Qā’emiya*, lies the archeological site of [Bišāpur](#); 3rd-century rock reliefs of the Sasanian king Šāpur I and his successors are found there on either side of the Šāpur river, at the defile of *Tang-e Čowġān*; east of the defile, in a mountain cave overlooking the river, is a statue of Šāpur almost 7 m in height (see below). Altogether, these sights form a major tourist attraction.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

: See below, *ii*.