



Southeastern Iran

ایران جنوب شرقی

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Best Places to Eat

- » Restaurant Ganjali Khan (p228)
- » Akhavan Hotel Restaurant (p228)
- » Hamam-e Vakil Chay-khaneh (p228)
- » Bagh-e Khannevadeh (p233)
- » Ghana-at Faludeh (p228)

Best Places to Stay

- » Akhavan Hotel (p227)
- » Akbar Tourist Guest House (p233)
- » 'Million-star hotel' (p230)
- » Meymand Guesthouse (p221)

Why Go?

Southeastern Iran is frontier territory. It combines harsh landscapes, periodic banditry and warm welcomes to form a unique and exotic travelling experience. There are some dangers; see the box, p233, before heading this way. The region stretches east across ancient Kerman province, through high deserts scarred by brown snow-capped mountain ranges and coloured by occasional oasis towns and seasonal lakes. Kerman, the main city, is, in effect, the cultural border separating the Persians and the more eastern-oriented Baluchis, whose dress and customs feel more Pakistani.

Following old caravan routes southeast across the edge of the forbidding Dasht-e Lut, most travellers will stop in historic Bam and, if heading to Pakistan, in Zahedan, where smugglers criss-cross the deserts and the rule of law is tenuous. Kerman city is the launch pad for the surrounding historic towns and incredible desert landscapes, including Mahan and the Kaluts.

When to Go

Much of southeastern Iran is desert or semidesert and the best time to avoid the heat is between around November and March. During these times daytime temperatures are often quite comfortable between about 10°C and 20°C, but overnight temperatures regularly fall to -10°C. This is particularly so in Kerman city, where the 1754m elevation tempers the heat.

Most of the places in this chapter are very dry and towns depend on *qanats* (underground water channels or canals) for their water supply. The hottest months are June to August.



Southeastern Iran Highlights

- 1 Shop and explore in Kerman's **Bazar-e Sartasari** (p223)
- 2 Watch the sunset over the **Kaluts** (p230), then bed down under a million stars
- 3 Lunch with traditional music in Kerman's **Hamam-e Vakil Chaykhaneh** (p228)
- 4 Wander through the **Arg-e Bam** (p232), still a highlight despite the earthquake
- 5 Take a day trip to **Mahan** (p230), with its World Heritage-listed garden and monumental shrine
- 6 Sleep in a cave in **Meymand** (p221), the troglodyte village without a million tourists
- 7 Check out the 'new Arg' at picturesque **Rayen** (p231)
- 8 Tuck into some world famous **Bami dates** and date-filled **colompeh** biscuits