

# Ecological significance of Soharin Plain in Zanzan Province



● [handelizanzan.ir](http://handelizanzan.ir)

## Iranica Desk

The beautiful Soharin Plain in Zanzan Province is regarded as one of the most significant environmental regions in the country. This plain has the potential to attract numerous domestic and international tourists in the ecotourism sector. It serves as a habitat for valuable animal species, notably the stunning Iranian gazelles.

## Geographic features

The Soharin Plain spans approximately eleven kilometers and is situated at an altitude of 1,650 meters above sea level. The average slope of the plain in its southwestern part reaches

two to three percent. The total area of Soharin is about 30,000 hectares.

## Climate conditions

The climate of this region is classified as cold and dry, with an average annual temperature of around 10 degrees Celsius and relative humidity of about 71 percent.

## Ecological importance

One of the primary reasons for designating the Soharin Plain as a protected area is its role as a habitat for migratory species. During the summer, the plain hosts a large number of Iranian gazelles, which can be observed scattered across the area from June to De-

cember each year. These gazelles represent the last survivors of the Iranian *Gazella subgutturosa* in the northwest of the country.

## Protected status

The plain is part of the Sorkhabad Protected Area, located about 40 kilometers away, and lies within the district of the village of Soharin, close to Zanzan Airport.

## Flora and fauna

The highlands of the Soharin Plain are home to edible mushrooms, rhubarb, wild artichokes, savory, thyme, and a variety of medicinal and edible plants. Every year, residents from surrounding villages visit

the Soharin Plain to collect these valuable plants. In addition to gazelles, various other animal species can be found in this vast and beautiful plain, including wolves, jackals, foxes, wild boars, rabbits, numerous larks, golden eagles, kestrels, owls, and many more.

## Conservation efforts

In 1978, the Department of Environment recognized the significance of this plain as a natural habitat for various animal species and decided to protect the area. However, the expansion of roads, cities, residential areas, and power and gas transmission lines has disrupted the migra-

tory routes of these gazelles, increasing the likelihood of their extinction and hunting. Consequently, in February 1979, the Soharin Plain was designated as part of the Sorkhabad Protected Area, managed by the Department of Environment.

## Population decline

As of the last census in October 2017, only 1,105 gazelles were counted in the Soharin region, indicating a declining trend compared to several decades earlier. In 1979, the population of these migratory gazelles exceeded three thousand, but by 2021, it had dropped to below one thousand. This gradual decline in the ga-

zelle population serves as an environmental warning for the area.

## Challenges to conservation

Agricultural development in the Soharin Plain has placed the Iranian gazelle's habitat at risk. Unauthorized land-use changes and shifts in cropping patterns have prompted the gazelles to migrate toward the hunting-prohibited area of Fileh Khasseh, located at the end of the Sorkhabad region. Furthermore, the presence of hunters, livestock herds, overgrazing, the drilling of numerous wells, and increased agricultural machinery activity have deprived the gazelles

of the peace and security they once enjoyed in their natural habitat.

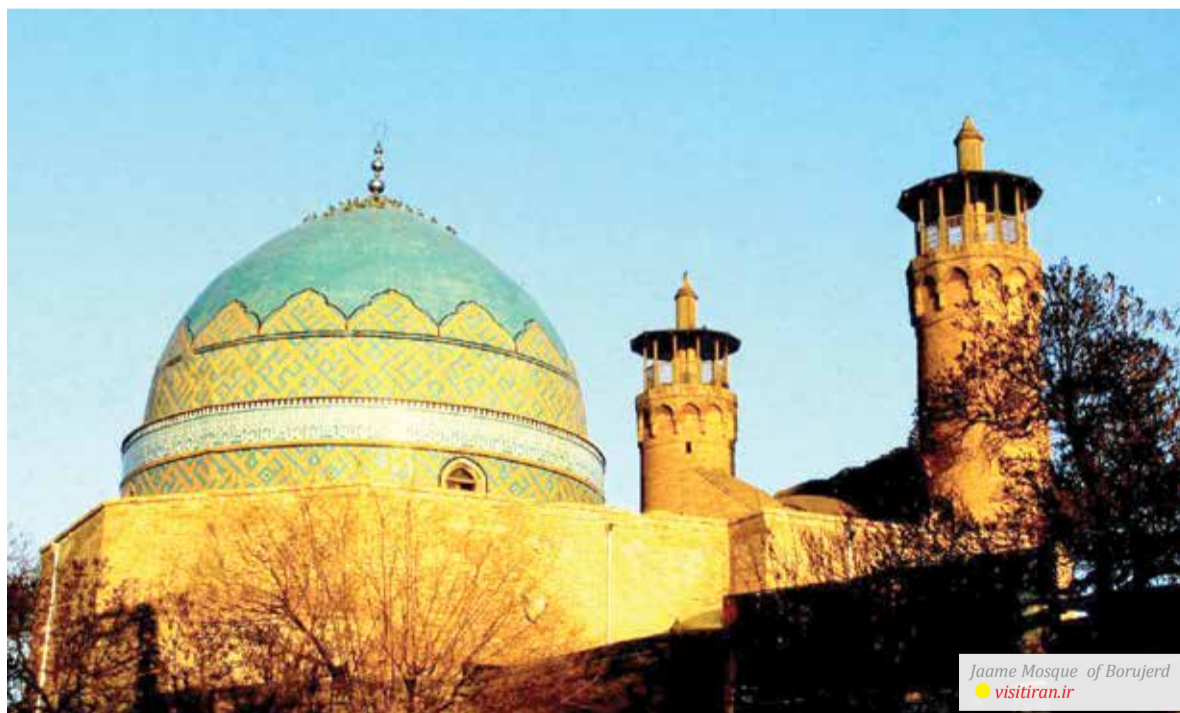
## Visiting guidelines

Given that the Soharin Plain is within a protected area and considering the risk of extinction of the Iranian gazelle, it is advisable to coordinate with the regional environmental organization before traveling to this area and to obtain any necessary permits if required. In light of the significance of the Soharin Plain and the valuable Iranian gazelle species, please help maintain the tranquility and silence of the area during your visit, and avoid leaving any traces in this natural habitat.

# Discovering historical and natural treasures of Borujerd

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The city of Borujerd in Lorestan Province is home to over 200 historical structures, which include unique houses, baths, bazaars, mosques, gardens, and garden mansions. Mehdi Goudarzi, the head of the city's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, announced that most of these monuments, which have been registered on Iran's National Heritage List, are situated within Borujerd's historical fabric. He emphasized that these sites can be utilized to promote urban tourism in the city. Borujerd features the most extensive historical fabric in the country, covering more than 280 hectares in the central and eastern regions of the city. Goudarzi highlighted that the significant sites, such as the shrines of Imamzadeh Jafar (PBUH) and Imamzadeh Qasem (PBUH), as well as Imam Khomeini Mosque and Jaame Mosque, are part of this rich historical landscape. Thanks to the Islamic-Iranian architectural style of its ancient buildings, Borujerd is re-



Jaame Mosque of Borujerd  
● [visitiran.ir](http://visitiran.ir)



Shrine of Imamzadeh Jafar  
● [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)



Bazaar of Borujerd  
● [salameno.com](http://salameno.com)

garded as one of the most historically significant cities in Iran, successfully preserving its heritage, chtn.ir wrote.

Most artifacts discovered in the region date back to the Qajar era and earlier. Among its historical treasures is the exquisite residence of Ayatollah

Borujerdi, a prominent leader in Shia Islam during the 1930s and 1940s. The Jaame Mosque of Borujerd, an architectural masterpiece commissioned by Fat'hali Shah Qajar, stands as a symbol of the city's cultural heritage. Resembling the famous mosque in Tehran, it captivates vis-

itors with its splendor. Adjacent to the majestic Jaame Mosque, the bustling bazaar of Borujerd continues to thrive, blending timeless tradition with modernity. This vibrant market is a haven of exquisite craftsmanship, showcasing renowned traditional arts such as knife-making

and woodcarving, earning the city the title of Iran's woodcarving capital. Every corner of the bazaar offers a visual feast, providing insights into the captivating traditions that have endured through the ages. Iran is filled with magnificent destinations for autumn tourism, each

possessing its own unique charm that deserves individual attention. Without careful consideration, the harsh chill of winter or the exhausting heat of summer could overshadow the joy of your journey. Borujerd, located at the foothills of the Zagros Mountains, is one such destination. The

onset of autumn offers an ideal opportunity to immerse yourself in the enchanting sunshine, vibrant nature, and rich historical and cultural heritage of the area. Should you encounter autumn rain during your visit, you'll carry home a priceless experience from this remarkable journey.