

Bushehr

[music: *Goli Goli* by *Habib Meftah and Salam Riazy*]

Hello and welcome to the *nomadamin* English podcast. I'm Amin Bahmani Yeganeh, an English teacher and the founder of *nomadamin*. Every episode, a fascinating subject is chosen to help you improve your English, and gain new perspectives on the world. I, the storyteller, will be using intermediate English with a **pinch of** higher-level language for you to learn. If you miss something, you can always skip back and listen again. Full transcripts are also offered at <http://nomadamin.com/podcast>.

[Introduction]

In today's episode, we'll be visiting the city of Bushehr, a coastal gem located in southern Iran. So, sit back and enjoy, [be]cause you're **gonna** love it.

[Geography]

Bushehr's situated on the southwestern coast of Iran, **overlooking** the waters of *the Persian Gulf*. It is known for its **stunning** beaches, **mesmerizing** sunsets, fruitful palm trees, and warm climate. I'd say it's a must-visit destination for any traveler; well, of course not during its **boiling hot** summers. Besides, its strategic position makes it a vital **port**, connecting Iran to the rest of the world.

[History]

The city **dates back** thousands of years. However, Bushehr was only a small fishing village in 1734, when *Nader Shah* established a military base there and renamed it *Bandar-e-Naderiya*.

In addition, it was once a business center along the *Silk Road*, connecting Persia to the rest of the world, which is one of the reasons why it has been influenced by various civilizations, including the Persian, Arab, and Portuguese. This **blend** of cultures has left a **lasting** impact on the city's architecture, cuisine, and traditions.

[Music]

[music: *Bandari* by *Mohsen Sharifian and Habib Meftah*]

The city has its unique style of music called *Bandari*, which is rhythmic and lively, often with traditional dance performances. In fact, I **dare** you to **stay still** while listening to this. [The music turns up.] Was I lying?

The melodies of *Bandari* music truly capture the warm spirit of the region and its natives. The music usually **features** a particular kind of bagpipe from southern Iran named *Nayanban*. Fortunately, this instrument, and more than that the whole genre of *Bandari*, have been introduced much more to the world in recent years, thanks to the **tireless** efforts of the native artist *Mohsen Sharifian* and his band *Lian*.

[Food]

You **gotta** be hungry after shaking it that much, right? So, let's **dig in** some Bushehri food. Well, it's no wonder seafood is the highlight of the local **cuisine**, given it's a coastal city. From **mouthwatering** shrimp kebabs to *Ghalieh Mahi*, which is spicy tamarind fish and herb, Bushehri dishes offer **foodies** an **exotic** experience. You can find high-quality local food **pretty much** all around the city, but if I wanted to pick one, I'd go with *Aamo Hussein's*, meaning *Uncle Hussein's* in Farsi, and it definitely gives you the joy and comfort of eating at your uncle's, if not better.

[Markets and Souvenirs]

When **strolling** through Bushehr, make sure to explore the **vibrant** street markets. These **bustling** bazaars offer a variety of local handicrafts, jewelry, and **aromatic** spices. Don't forget to grab some dates too. They are **abundant** in this region and could be a perfect **souvenir** to take back home.

[Khayyam]

[music: *Khayami* by *Mohsen Sharifian*]

Another fascinating tradition in Bushehr is the love for Persian poetry. The locals have a special bond with the **renowned** poet *Omar Khayyam*, so much so that if you ask any random Bushehri person, whether a child or an elderly, they could go on and on and on reading his poems **by heart**. So, it is common to see gatherings where people come together to appreciate *Khayyam's* beautiful **verses** while **sipping** tea, smoking cigarettes, and engaging in **thought-provoking** conversations. At this point, it's needless to say that you must put going to one of these events on your list of things to do when visiting Bushehr. As I said before, it's not difficult to find somewhere to experience it, but I do have two favorite cafés. I'd say either *Haj Raeis* or *Naji* is the café to look for *Khayyam* in Bushehr.

[Football Rivalry]

Lastly, we cannot forget the passion for football that runs deep in the **veins** of Bushehri residents. Bushehr is home to two rival football clubs, *Shahin* and *Iran Javan*, whose matches **ignite** the city with excitement. The football **rivalry** is a **testament** to the city's vibrant sports culture and the unity it brings among its people.

[Closing]

Well, that's all for this episode. [I] hope you enjoyed this **virtual** tour of Bushehr, a city that beautifully combines history and culture with nature. You can also find the photos I've shot in Bushehr on my Instagram account, [@nomadamin](https://www.instagram.com/nomadamin). Bushehr truly is a city that captivates with the warm hospitality of its people, natural beauty, cultural heritage, and so much more.

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Hopefully, this episode has **tempted** you to visit Bushehr, and keep on traveling with *nomadamin*. Thank you for listening, and until next time, keep shaking it with that Bandari music.



Words List

a pinch of: a small amount of something

gonna: going to

to overlook: To offer a view

stunning: extremely impressive or attractive

mesmerizing: very attractive, making you want to keep looking

boiling hot: very hot

port: a town by the sea or by a river that has a harbor

to date back: to have existed since a particular time in the past

blend: combination

lasting: continuing to exist for a long time

to dare someone: to ask someone to do something that involves risk

to stay still: to not move

to feature: to have as a characteristic

tireless: working energetically and continuously

gotta: have got to, have to, must

to dig in: to start eating excitedly

cuisine: a style or method of cooking

mouth-watering: delicious

foodie: a person with a particular interest in food

exotic: unusual and exciting because of coming from far away

pretty much: almost, nearly

to stroll: to walk in a slow relaxed manner

vibrant: full of energy and life

bustling: busy, crowded

aromatic: having a pleasant and distinctive smell

abundant: available in large quantities, more than enough

souvenir: a thing that is kept as a reminder of a person or place

renowned: famous

by heart: from memory

verse: a part of a poem or song

to sip: to drink slowly

thought-provoking: making you think a lot about a subject

vein: blood vessels throughout the body

to ignite: to cause something to start burning

rivalry: competition

testament: a sign or evidence of a fact

virtual: existing in the computer world but not in the physical world

to tempt: to entice, to persuade, to encourage