

Tbilisi

[music: *Song About Tbilisi* by Revaz Laghidze]

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]

Today, we're going for a walk through the streets of Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, while drinking wine and listening to music. Hopefully, we'll have a unique experience together.

[Geography]

Tbilisi is the largest city of Georgia, located at the **intersection** of Europe and Asia. The city sits on the **banks** of the *Mtkvari* river and is surrounded by **picturesque** mountains. It is also known for its hot springs, which attract visitors from all around the world.

[History]

The city has a long history, **dating back** to the 4th century. It's been **conquered** and ruled by various powers, including Persians, Arabs, Mongols, and Russians. It is a city that has lived through many changes, influencing its identity and appearance.

[Architecture]

Tbilisi's architecture is a colorful mix of different styles and influences, reflecting its rich and **diverse** history. The city's old town is famous for its **charming cobbled streets**, narrow alleys, and traditional balconies. One of Tbilisi's symbols is definitely the statue *Mother of Georgia*, also known as *Kartlis Deda*. The **monument** was **erected** on the top of a hill in 1958, the year Tbilisi celebrated its 1500th anniversary. Another **must-visit** place is the *Fabrika*, a former Soviet sewing factory transformed into a **trendy** urban space for young artists and **entrepreneurs**. The walls of this **complex feature** some of the most impressive street art in the city.

[Art]

Tbilisi has a **vibrant** art scene, with numerous galleries and exhibitions featuring local artists. The most famous art museum in Tbilisi is the *Georgian National Museum*, where you can see a **vast** historical art collection. But, personally I want

to introduce one **exceptional** photographer to you. *Mariam Sitchinava*, an artist **native** to Tbilisi, known for her **delicate** portraits of young women.

[music: *Rachuli* by *Bani*]

I accidentally found her work in a small gallery, named *Fotografia*, some years ago while **wandering** around the city. I was **captured** by her photos which seem to be influenced by the nature of her country too.

[Music and Dance]

Tbilisi is known for its traditional music and dance. Georgian dance is a theatrical form of dance where the performers wear traditional dresses and perform **synchronized** movements. Georgian music is played with traditional instruments, such as the *panduri*.

[Food]

Georgian **cuisine** is **savory** and is a combination of Middle Eastern, Russian, and Turkish flavors. *Khinkali* and *Khachapuri* are some of the most popular dishes you must try when you visit Tbilisi. They are usually accompanied by Georgian wine, which is world-famous for its unique taste.

[Wine and Wineries]

Georgia is one of the oldest wine regions in the world, with a tradition dating back over 8,000 years. Georgian wine is made using traditional methods and **earthenware** jugs called *Qvevri*, which **contributes** to its unique taste. You can visit several wineries around Tbilisi and explore the rich Georgian wine history, but I do have a favorite one to recommend you. It is called *Easy Wine*, a complete wine tour inside one store. There, you can drink many different sorts of wine at a reasonable price. Just comfortably charge your card and select different wines on your own without the **hassle** of asking the staff.

[Markets and Souvenirs]

Before going back home, we need to pick up some unique **souvenirs**, right? The *Dry Bridge flea market* is located near the old town and features **an array of** antiques, Soviet-era **memorabilia**, handmade crafts, and other unique items for sale. The market is open daily, but the best time to visit is on the weekends when it's busiest. Remember that **bargaining** is expected, so prices can be quite reasonable.

[Closing]

Well... That brings us to the end of our podcast about Tbilisi. You can also find the photos I've shot in Tbilisi on my Instagram account, [@nomadamin](https://www.instagram.com/nomadamin). It is a city that offers a fantastic **blend** of history, culture, art, food and drink which make it a must-visit city for travelers around the world.

The *nomadamin* podcast is and will be free to make enjoyable education accessible to everyone. So, if you enjoy listening to this podcast, please make a donation using the button on the player or the link in the description to support the channel and play your part. I hope you enjoyed this episode, and thanks a million for listening. Until next time, cheers!



Words List

a pinch of: a small amount of something
intersection: a point at which two or more things intersect
bank: the land alongside a river or lake
picturesque: visually attractive
to date back: to have existed since a particular time in the past
to conquer: to overcome and take control of (a place) by military force
divers: of different types
charming: very pleasant, likeable
cobbled street: a street with a surface made of rounded stones
monument: a statue, building, or structure to commemorate a person or event
to erect: put together and set upright
must-visit: essential to visit
trendy: fashionable, popular
entrepreneur: a person trying to make a profit by starting a company or by operating alone
complex: a group of buildings together, or a building that has several parts
to feature: to have as a characteristic
vibrant: full of energy and life
vast: of very great extent or quantity
exceptional: much greater than usual
native: local
delicate: soft, airy
to wander: to walk around in a relaxed way or without any clear purpose
captured: stunned, amazed
synchronized: simultaneous (with the music or others' movements)
cuisine: a style or method of cooking
savory: full of flavor, delicious and tasty
earthenware: plates, bowls, cups, etc. that are made of clay
to contribute: to play a part in
hassle: inconvenience, bother
souvenir: a thing that is kept as a reminder of a person, place, or even
flea market: a street market selling second-hand goods
an array of: a large number or wide range of
memorabilia objects kept because of their connection with people or events
to bargain: to negotiate the price of a product or service
blend: combination