

Cheating by fixers during entering procedure at port of Bandar Abbas (coming from UAE)

Coming from Sharja to Bandar Abbas, we paid fees which were either completely unnecessary or unjustified; the latter particularly annoyed us.

With Siroos, a so-called «fixer» (trafficker), we agreed an amount of USD 50, so that he helps us with the formalities for the entry into the port and the procedure goes fast. It wasn't fast then, the procedure took 3 hours. In addition to this USD 50, he and his colleague Jafar wanted another USD 30 on the grounds that this would be for «Shipping Clearance, Shipping Fee and Bill of Loading», what is total nonsense or a fraud against the tourist who is unaware of the procedure/cost. These fees have already been paid in Sharja (Al Hili Ferry Company) together with the tickets (what we have forgotten meanwhile).

The only thing that has to be paid when entering Bandar Abbas is the harbour fees in the amount of Rial 500'000, which is about USD 5. Proof of this were our companions Thomi and Conny from www.mantoco.com; they did the entry without a fixer and paid only Rial 500'000. In the end, they only had half an hour longer than us.

So take care:

- Hands away from the mentioned fixers; unless you make a fixed amount in advance for their services plus port fees of Rial 500'000; but as we stated, this service would not be necessary.
- Key point of the whole story is the payment of the harbour fees. (Unfortunately, the staff standing around that you ask for has no idea about the procedure or doesn't want to tell you anything, so you are forced to call in a fixer.) You can see the office where the harbour fees have to be paid on the photo.
- Do not hand over your documents (passport, Carnet de Passage etc.) or pass through all stations together with the fixer, even if he tells you that this is not possible or this would delay the procedure.
- If the fixer insists on further fees and puts a receipt in your hand, it is quite safe in Farsi (which you can't read), and faked.
- If you meet another tourist who was already in Iran several times and he recommends you to hire a fixer, you can assume that he is doing business with him.

Good luck and patience to complete the procedure without fraud !



May 2019