

# Qatar Travel Guide

The best things to see and do



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## 1. Why you should visit Qatar

Due to the third-largest gas reserves in the world, Qatar has become an Arabian success story.

With some of the best museums in the Middle East, a mixture of traditional and ultra-modern living, stunning desert landscapes, and a comparably liberal society, Qatar is also one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in the world.



In this Qatar Purple Travel Guide, we will provide a 7-day itinerary for Qatar, and tell you what you need to know to visit Qatar.

To help you find out what best fits you, we have added lots of photos and links to google maps locations and additional reviews. Join us to explore the best things to see and do in Qatar.

This is not an in-depth Qatar guide. You can buy in-depth Qatar guides from the big travel guide companies. Our goal is to help you Make Memorable Moments on a relaxing Qatar trip and help you build the perfect itinerary for your trip. For that purpose, we have added lots of photos so that you see what you will experience and make an educated decision if these places are for you.

Please also check out the other exciting destinations and travel guides on our **Backpack and Snorkel** [website](#).

## **2.1 Disclaimer**

In this guide we are doing our best to give you the most accurate information. Over time, however, prices, times, and even attractions are subject to change. Therefore, I and backpackandsnorkel.com cannot be held responsible for the experiences of users while traveling. I strongly suggest that you write or call the attractions you plan to visit for confirmation when you make your travel plans.

Also, please stay alert, be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye on your belongings. Pickpockets and other criminals can easily ruin even the best planned vacation.

## **2.2 Copyright**

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## 3. General Information about Qatar

Qatar is located on the Qatar Peninsula that branches off the east coast of Saudi Arabia. Its only land border is to Saudi Arabia; the Persian Gulf surrounds the rest of the country.

With its population of 2.6 mio people, a bit over 300,000 being Qatari citizens, and the rest being expats, Qatar has the fourth-highest GDP per capita in the world, the highest government healthcare spending in the Middle East, and the third-highest Human Development Index (HDI) in the Arab world.

Doha is the capital city and home to 80% of Qatar's population.

Qatar is a hereditary, and almost absolute monarchy, ruled by the House of Thani.

The House of Thani has transformed the country into a comparably open Islamic society. It is not as liberal as Dubai, but much more open than Saudi Arabia.

Non-Islamic religions are tolerated, and there are (sparse) opportunities for non-Muslims to buy alcohol and pork.

All Qatari citizens must attend government-provided education from kindergarten through high school resulting in Qatar having the highest literacy rate in the Arab-speaking world.

The country is also the world's biggest buyer of art by value and home to some excellent museums, especially the [Museum of Islamic Art](#).

Tourism is strongly growing in Qatar and Doha is one of the fastest-growing hotel and hospitality markets in the world.

## 3.1 Do I need a Tourist Visa for Qatar

Visa requirements can change at any time. We encourage you to check if you need a visa [here](#) or [here](#).

At the time of writing, nationals from 101 countries can enter Qatar visa-free, and all others can apply for an e-visa using the [Hayya platform](#) online.

## 3.2 Can I drink Tap Water in Qatar

Qatar authorities claim that tap water in Qatar is safe to drink. However, only about one-third of the people in Qatar drink tap water, because they don't trust the cleanliness of water storage tanks. Therefore, most travelers consume only bottled water. Our hotel in Doha also advised us to only drink the bottled water they provide.

## **3.4.4 Islamic Dress Code for Tourists**

Foreigners are expected to dress appropriately. Women are typically not expected to cover their heads, unless they are visiting a mosque, shrine, or government building. Women should wear a long skirt covering their legs and wear an unrevealing top that covers their shoulders; short sleeves are OK. Bikinis and any kind of nudity are strictly prohibited. Men must not be topless, unless they are on a private beach. Short pants that do not cover the knees are somewhat acceptable for tourists, but frowned upon and not permitted in mosques, shrines, and government buildings. Short sleeves are OK, but should not be sleeveless. As for women, nudity is illegal for men, too.

When visiting a museum, men and women must cover their shoulders and knees.

You must remove your shoes if you get invited to a private home.

## **3.4.5 Right versus Left**

In Qatar, Right is always preferred over Left.

- If you get out of a room or elevator and other people want to enter or if you use the stairs: stay right. This rule does not seem to apply in the Metro.
- The left hand is considered dirty! So, whenever you are greeting someone, accepting, or giving something, only use your right hand. In establishments where food is eaten by hand, never touch the food with your left hand and do not hand plates, cups, or utensils to anyone with your left hand. When eating with your hands, you can use your left hand to cut food with utensils, but you should use your right hand to put the food in your mouth. You will see that Qataris are very skilled eating with the right hand and typically do not use their left hand for eating at all.  
The above behaviors are also expected of left-handed Qataris. Foreigners should at least try.

## **3.4.6 Conflict**

People usually go out of their way to avoid conflict. If you show anger or even aggression, people may not deal with you. So, if you get agitated while complaining about something, people may think you are crazy and avoid you.

## 3.4.7 Illegal items

Illegal drugs, pork, dogs, and non-Muslim religious materials and not allowed in Qatar. Alcohol cannot be imported into Qatar, except by the island resorts. Possessing and consuming alcohol is only permitted in the island resorts.

Gay and lesbian books and pictures are illegal and can get you arrested and fined.

## 3.4.8 Ramadan

Qatar observe Ramadan and that includes strict fasting from sunrise to sunset.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar (lunar calendar) in which fasting from dawn to sunset is obligatory for all adult Muslims. Many restaurants will close during the day during Ramadan.

Avoid eating, drinking, or smoking in public during that time.

Here are Ramadan dates for several years:

Start Date	End Date
March 10, 2024	April 8, 2024
February 28, 2025	March 30, 2025
February 18, 2026	March 19, 2026
February 7, 2027	March 8, 2027
January 27, 2028	February 25, 2028
January 15, 2029	February 13, 2029
January 5, 2030	February 3, 2030



## Low Season in Qatar

The low season in Qatar runs from June through September. Temperatures soar to dangerous levels, prohibiting any outdoor activities and the humidity is low. The streets are empty during the day as life happens indoors, but Doha comes to life at night. The ocean temperature is typically between 87 F (31 C) and 93 F (34 C).

## Shoulder Seasons in Qatar

- Late April and May: This is your last chance to do any outdoor activities. May is already hot, and outdoor activities need to be done with caution.  
The ocean temperature is typically around 74 F (23 C) in April and 82 F (28 C) in May.
- October: Summer is over and the Qatar baking oven is still hot, but at safer temperatures. Outdoor activities resume. The ocean temperature is typically around 87 F (31 C).

## 3.8 Getting around in Qatar

Public transportation is very convenient and inexpensive in Doha. Long distance buses service Doha and the rest of the country. The [Doha Metro](#), and [Lusail Tram](#) conveniently use the same Travel Card.

Regular buses require a Karwa Smart Card.

The [MetroLink buses](#) and [Msheireb Tram](#) are free.

[Taxis](#) and [Uber](#) are widely available.

While it is nice and inexpensive to use the Metro and buses, we often found it more convenient to use [Uber](#) as you get directly to your destination and don't spend time walking from a Metro or bus station to your destination and you don't need to wait for a bus either.

We took 7 Uber trips in Doha.

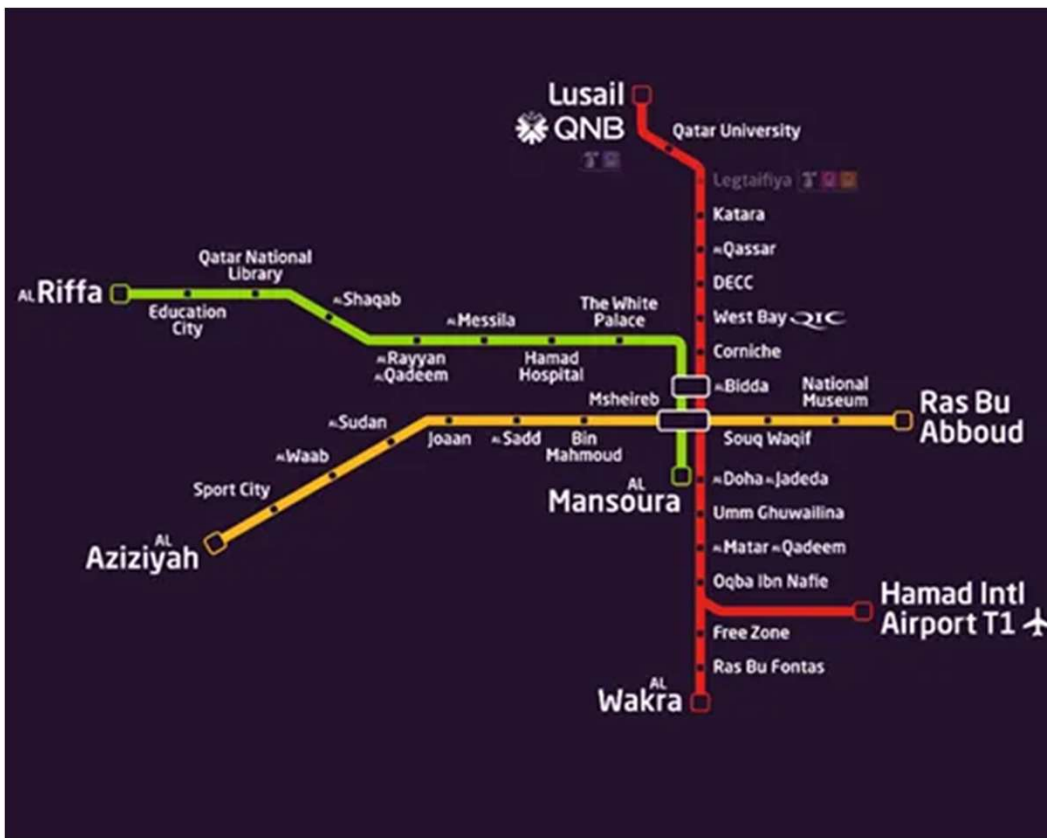
- The charges (including a typical QAR10 tip) were from US\$3.78 to US\$10.71
- The average was US\$6.54 per trip
- The time driven in the Uber was from 8 to 30 min
- The average time driven in the Uber was 15 min per trip

## 3.8.1 Doha Metro

([website](#))

Opened in 2019, the Doha Metro currently has three lines (red line, green line, gold line) with 37 stations and a total length of 47 miles (76 km).

In 2026, phase 2 will add a blue line.



The metro stations are modern, air conditioned, have wifi (free for 30 min per day per cell phone with login), have beautiful designs, restrooms, and are clean.

Metro trains come every few minutes.

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Please remember:

- Family carriages are reserved for families and lone females. Unaccompanied men are not permitted on family carriages
- Gold Club sections can only be used when using the Gold Club Card
- you need to scan your card when you enter the metro through the barriers and when you exit
- You can top up your **Standard Travel Card** and **Gold Club Card** at the vending machines in the Metro stations

## **3.9 Internet access in Qatar**

In Qatar, 99% of the population have internet access and internet speed is the fourth highest in the world after UAE, Norway, and South Korea.

Mobile network providers in Qatar are Ooredoo Qatar (state owned) and Vodafone Qatar. Both offer 5G networks.

Many public places in Qatar offer free wifi, e.g. Doha airport, restaurants & cafes, some parks, shopping malls, and government buildings. In most cases you will need to authenticate yourself, and you will be asked if you want to access the free or a paid wifi plan. Sometimes, the free wifi plan comes with a data limit, or time limit.

Access to social media is available, but some websites that are deemed to go against the cultural and moral values of Qatar are blocked.

The internet extension for Qatar is: .qa

## **3.10 Calling Qatar**

The country code for telephone calls to Qatar is: +974



## **3.11 Language spoken in Qatar**

The only official language in Qatar is Arabic.

English has become the second most spoken language in Qatar. It is taught in school and is the most used language in business – after all, there are 2.3 mio expats and only 0.3 mio Qataris in the country.

English descriptions can typically be found in museums and in larger stores.

## 3.12 Highlights of the history of Qatar

- 50,000 years ago: stone age people first settle in what is now Qatar
- 6th millennium BC: Qatar is part of the Ubaid civilization (originates in Mesopotamia)
- 4th century BC: Qatar is under the influence of the Seleucid Empire
- 224 AD: Qatar is under control of the Sasanian Empire, which introduces Christianity to some of the population
- 628: Islamic prophet Muhammad sends an envoy to the governor of the Persian Sasanian Empire and requests that he and his subjects accept Islam. The governor converts to Islam and so do most of the Arab tribes in the region
- 651: Almost the entire Sasanian Empire, including Qatar, is conquered Rashidun Caliphate
- 661 – 750: During the Umayyad Caliphate, Qatar is famous for horse and camel breeding
- 8th century: During the Abbasid Caliphate, Qatar is an important center for pearl harvesting and trading. It will last well into the 20th century
- 9th and 10th century: Qatar is invaded and ruled by the Qarmatians, a radical Shia sect
- 1253: The Usfurids take control of Qatar
- 1320: The kingdom of Ormus takes control of Qatar
- 14th century: The Jarwanid dynasty takes control of Qatar
- 15th century: The Jabrids (Al Juboor) take control of Qatar

- Mid-16th century: The Portuguese invade the Gulf and build a fort in Ruwayda in northern Qatar, to protect their share of the pearl trade
- 1546: The Ottomans confront the Portuguese and extend control to the Qatar peninsula
- 1563: The fortress of the "City of Qatar" is first mentioned on a Portuguese map
- 1627 and 1628: The Portuguese fleet raids the Qatari coast multiple times and force the Qataris to sell their pearls through Ottoman allies, instead of Bahrain
- 1670: The Ottomans, who have only negligible military presence in Qatar, are expelled by the Bani Khalid tribe
- 1766: Members of the Al Khalifa family migrate from Kuwait to Qatar
- 1775: Basra, the hub of the pearling industry in the Arabian Gulf is besieged, and then struck by the plague. Many important merchant families move to Al Zubarah (Qatar), and make it one of the most important and prosperous cities in the Gulf
- 1776: Mohammed bin Thani is born
- 1783: Bahrain is jealous of Al Zubarah and attack it. Qatar prevails in the battle of Nassour
- 1797: After unsuccessful attacks on Al Zubarah, the first Saudi State takes control of the town
- 1802: The first Saudi State takes control Qatar and merchants move out of Al Zubarah
- 1811: Al Zubarah is destroyed in a battle between Muscat and first Saudi State

## 4.1 Hampton By Hilton Doha Old Town

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#), [book](#))

This hotel combines Hampton Inn quality with excellent location and comparably low room rates and that makes it a clear winner in our minds.

It is located in walking distance to several restaurants, the [National Museum of Qatar](#), [MIA Park](#) and the National Museum Metro Station ([map](#)) on the Golden Metro Line. Souq Waqif is one Metro stop away and Msheireb two - both are also on the Golden Metro Line. Whenever we called an Uber, our wait was somewhere between 1 and 3min until it arrived.

The hotel itself has spacious good quality rooms which show very little sign of wear. The air conditioner was quiet and efficient. Shampoo, conditioner and body wash were provided in multi-use dispensers.

Breakfast is served buffet-style and the selection is huge, including typical continental American breakfast dishes, Arabian breakfast dishes, different types of bread, sausages (no pork) and cheese, and various types of fruits and yogurts. Coffee machines provide different types of coffee, but milk, hot water and various teas and juices are available too.

The hotel also has a fitness center.

We found the staff to be very friendly and helpful.

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Day	Activities
<u>1</u>	arrive in Doha in the afternoon
<u>2</u>	<a href="#">Museum of Islamic Art</a> ; <a href="#">MIA Park</a> ; <a href="#">Corniche</a> ; <a href="#">Pearl Monument</a> ; <a href="#">Souq Waqif</a> (lunch at <a href="#">Desert Rose Restaurant</a> , <a href="#">Bird Souq</a> , <a href="#">Camel Pen</a> , <a href="#">Falcon Souq</a> , <a href="#">Golden Thumb Statue</a> , <a href="#">Gold Souq</a> , dinner at <a href="#">Parisa Souq Waqif</a> )
<u>3</u>	<a href="#">National Museum of Qatar</a> ; lunch at <a href="#">Museum Restaurant</a> ; <a href="#">Msheireb Museums</a> ; <a href="#">Barahat Msheireb</a>
<u>4</u>	<a href="#">State Grand Mosque (Imam Muhammad bin AbdulWahhab Mosque)</a> ; <a href="#">Villaggio Mall</a> ; <a href="#">Aspire Park</a> ; <a href="#">Qanat Quartier</a> ; <a href="#">Katara Cultural Village</a>
<u>5</u>	<a href="#">Education City Mosque</a> ; <a href="#">Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum</a> ; <a href="#">Barzan Towers</a> ; <a href="#">Dhow Sunset Cruise</a>
<u>6</u>	<a href="#">Desert Safari Tour (Camel Ride, Dune Bashing, Sand Boarding, Sealine Beach, Rahal Camp)</a>
<u>7</u>	<a href="#">Zekreet Peninsula tour (Camel Racetracks, Zekreet Rock Formations, Richard Serra sculptures, Zekreet Beach)</a>
8	Depart Doha

## 5.1 Day 1: Arriving in Doha

Today you will arrive in Doha. Customs and immigration at the airport are efficient and usually quick.

Once you get your luggage and exit the secure area, you need to decide if you want to get local currency or not. We never got any local currency, but if you want to get some, then you can either exchange some money or get some from an ATM machine.

Afterwards, you can either walk out of the terminal and get a taxi, or follow the signs to the Metro Station – this is about a 10min walk.

In late 2023, Uber was forced by the government to stop pick-up service at the airport – airport drop-offs are not affected. This ban is still in effect at the time of writing.

You can try your Uber app to see if the ban has been lifted when you are there. Just be advised that the free airport wifi only works inside the terminal. Once you get close to the doors or exit the building, you will likely not have any wifi signal. So, order your uber from inside the terminal.

Once you arrive at the [Metro Station](#), buy your Metro Card(s) and start enjoying the Metro experience.

If you plan on using the free Metro wifi, make sure to do the initial sign up while you are still waiting for your train in the station – do not try it after you get into the carriages as this can be a frustrating experience with lots of dropped and timed-out connections during the sign-up process.

Depending on when you arrive, you can visit some of the sights from the [Day 2](#) itinerary or just relax in your hotel.

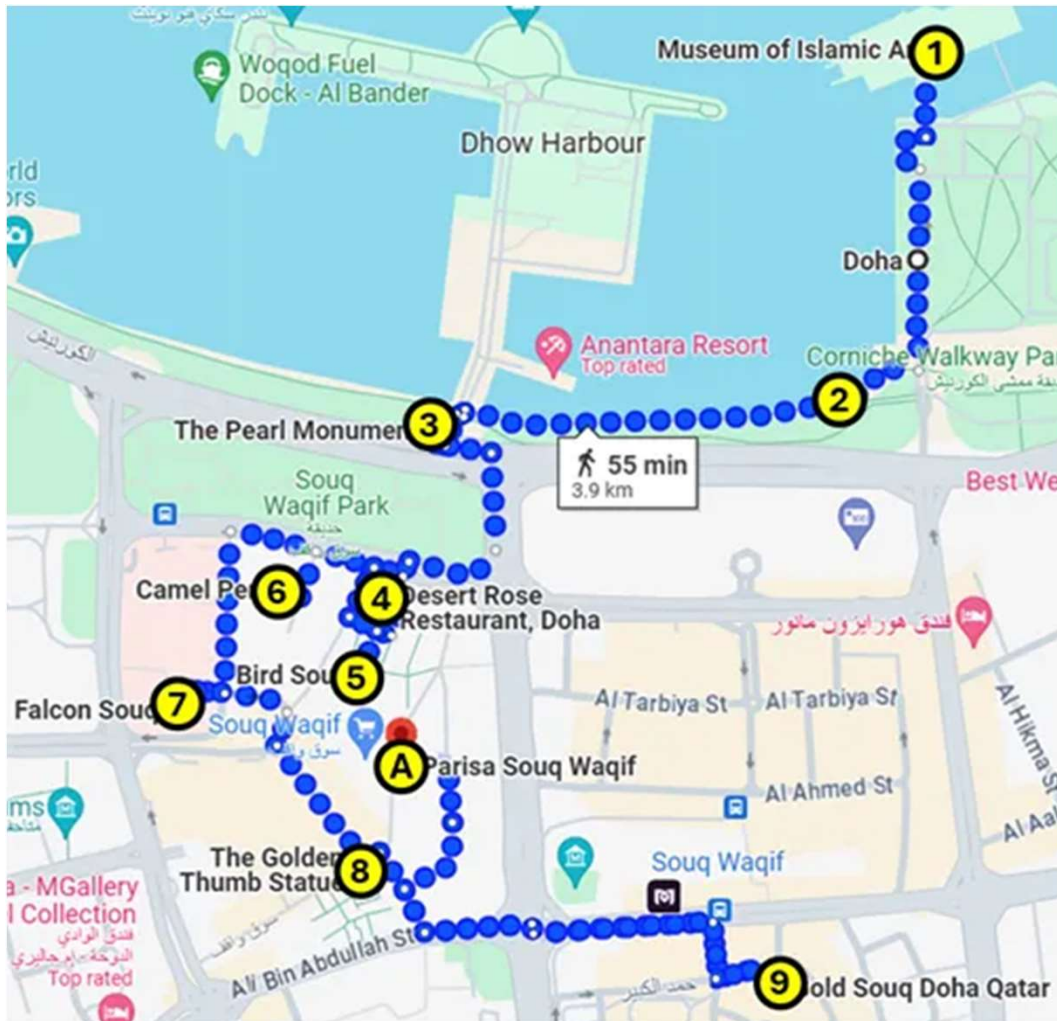
Should you stay in the [Hampton By Hilton Doha Old Town](#), then we recommend to check out nearby **Al Mathaf Park** ([map](#), [reviews](#))



and the [Museum Restaurant](#). We loved the food and made this our most-visited restaurant in Doha.

## 5.2 Day 2: Highlights of Doha

Today is your first full day in Doha. As you may be jet-lagged, we are taking our time to visiting three of the highlights of Doha: the Museum of Islamic Art, the Corniche, and Souq Waqif.

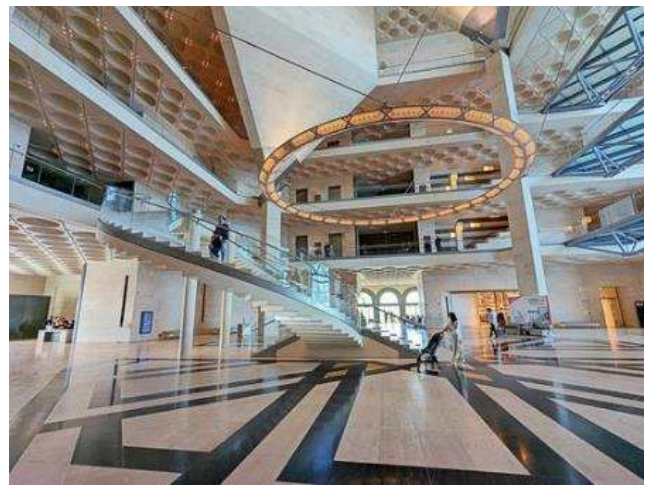


- 1) [Museum of Islamic Art](#)
- 2) [Corniche](#)
- 3) [Pearl Monument](#)
- 4) [Desert Rose Restaurant](#)

- [Souq Waqif](#)
- 5) [Bird Souq](#)
- 6) [Camel Pen](#)
- 7) [Falcon Souq](#)
- 8) [Golden Thumb Statue](#)
- 9) [Gold Souq](#)
- A) [Parisa Souq Waqif](#)

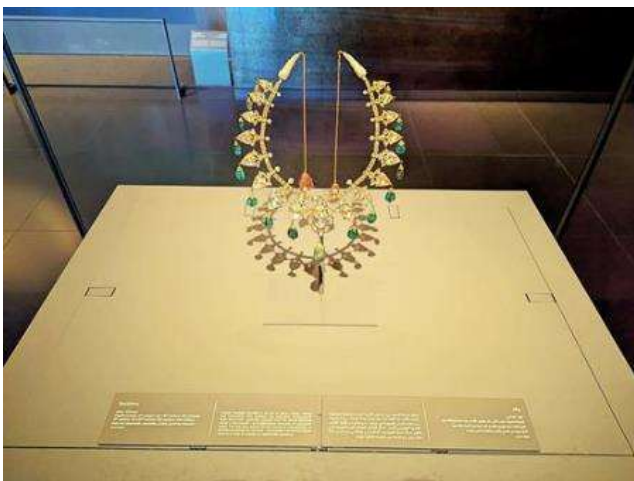


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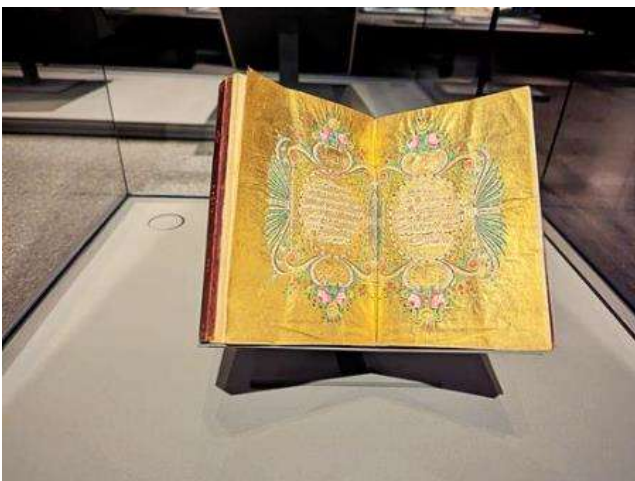


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## 5.2.2 Corniche

([map](#), [reviews](#))

The Corniche is a 4.3-mile (7 km) waterfront promenade along Doha Bay between the Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel in the north and the [Museum of Islamic Art](#) in the south.

While you walk along the Corniche to your next destination, you will have various views of Doha's beautiful skyline to your left (south), but also to your right (north) across the bay. And, of course, take a closer look at the Dhows that are moored here.



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## Souq Waqif

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

Souq Waqif is a marketplace (souq) where you can buy traditional textiles and clothing, spices, handicrafts, souvenirs, pets and falcons and accessories for hunting.

It consists of buildings that were mostly built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. When it was built, it was directly adjacent to Doha Bay, but over time part of the bay was artificially filled, moving the waterfront farther north.

In the 1990s, the souq fell into disrepair, much of it was destroyed in a fire in 2003. After extensive restoration efforts, which included bulldozing all buildings that were built after 1950, and restoring older buildings in traditional style, Souq Waqif reopened in 2008.

Our recommendation is to just walk around and immerse yourself in the life here. Walk into the narrow hallways that are lined with stalls on either side and take a look at the merchandise.

You will find that only a minority of customers are tourists.

Take it slow, you will spend the rest of the day here.

Here is some guidance on things to check out:

- [Bird Souq](#)
- [Camel Pen](#)
- [Falcon Souq](#)
- [Golden Thumb Statue](#)
- [Gold Souq](#)
- [Dinner at Parisa Souq Waqif](#)



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## **5.2.A Dinner at Parisa Souq Waqif**

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website1](#), [website2](#), [menu](#))

The restaurant Parisa Souq Waqif is renowned for its beautifully decorated Arabic interior. You will see Arabic designs everywhere from the entrance to the dining rooms all the way to the restrooms. We loved it.

We also liked the taste and quantity of the food they serve and the selection of dishes.

It is important to note that you need to reserve a table in order to dine here.

Their website asks that you make a reservation via WhatsApp (+974 5591 7702), but they never answered my request.

I showed up at 6:30pm when they open and get a table at 8:30pm, but you should not count on it.

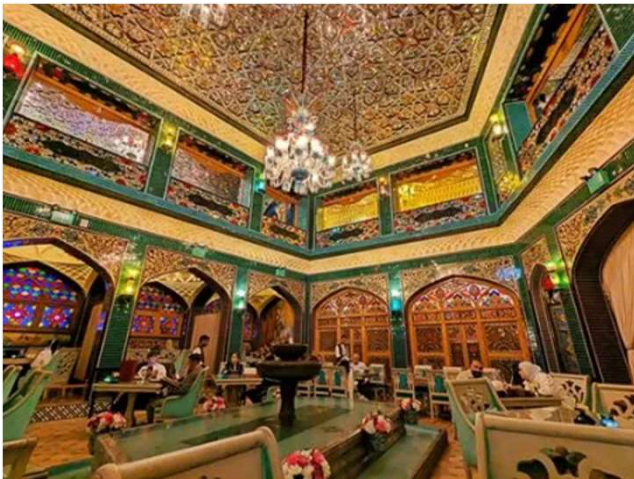
You can try the reservation request on their second website or call them at the number provided there.

At the time of writing, the opening hours are:

Mondays – Wednesdays and Sundays: 6:30pm - 10:30pm

Thursdays – Saturdays: 12:30pm - 3:30pm, 6:30pm - 10:30pm











## 5.3.1 National Museum of Qatar

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

National Museum of Qatar celebrates the culture, heritage, and future of Qatar. This 430,000 square foot (40,000 m<sup>2</sup>) museum is housed in a beautiful architecturally unique building that was inspired by the looks of a desert rose crystal, which can be found in Qatar. It was opened in 2019, replacing an older structure from 1975.



The museum itself is celebrated for its use of large immersive video screens and audio content which provide additional content to the exhibits.

The museum shows about 8,000 artefacts in a roughly chronological order, beginning with the natural history of the Qatari desert and the Persian Gulf, the Bedouin culture and tribal wars, the establishment of Qatar, pearling, tools, dresses and jewelry, the discovery of oil and gas, the House of Thani, and statistical information about present-day Qatar.

There is also a small historic car museum that can be accessed through a separate entrance and that is included in the admission price.



At the time of writing, the opening hours are:

Saturdays – Thursdays: 9am–7pm (during Ramadan: 9am–2pm and 8pm–midnight)

Fridays: 1.30–7pm (during Ramadan: 8pm–midnight)

If you bought the Silver OnePass yesterday, then you can access this museum for free, otherwise it is QAR 100 per adult.

After you pay admission, take the escalator one floor up and then go straight through the large hallway (pass the reception desk on your right and the gift shop on your left) until you see an easy-to-be-missed entrance to your left with large video screens behind it. The way to the exhibition space is the only confusing part of the museum that lacks good signage.



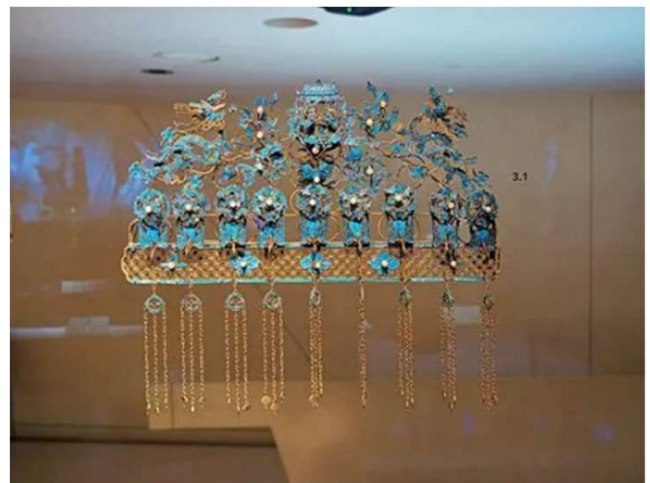
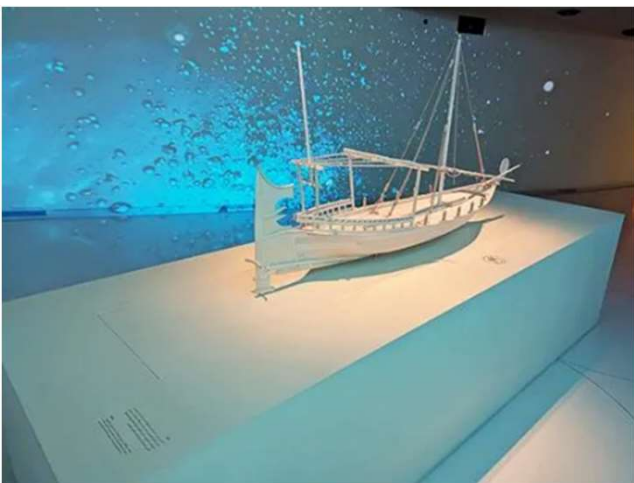
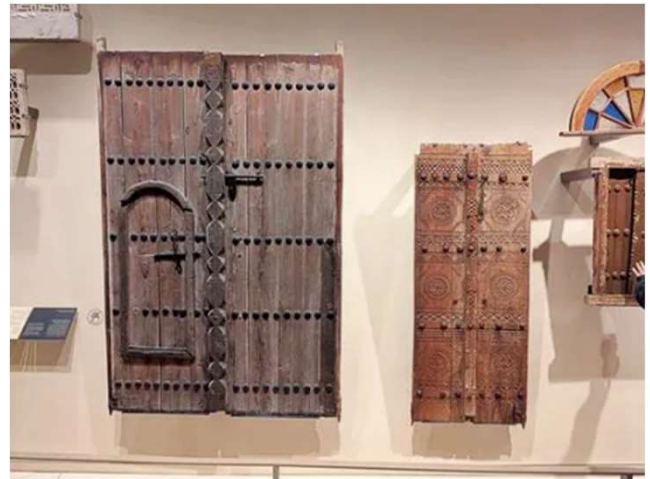
Reserve at least 3h for the museum.







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## Radwani House

([map](#), [reviews](#))

This residence was first constructed in the 1920s at the boundary between two of the city's oldest districts - Al-Jassra and Msheireb. It was purchased by Ali Akbar Radwani in 1936 and remained in his family for over 70 years.

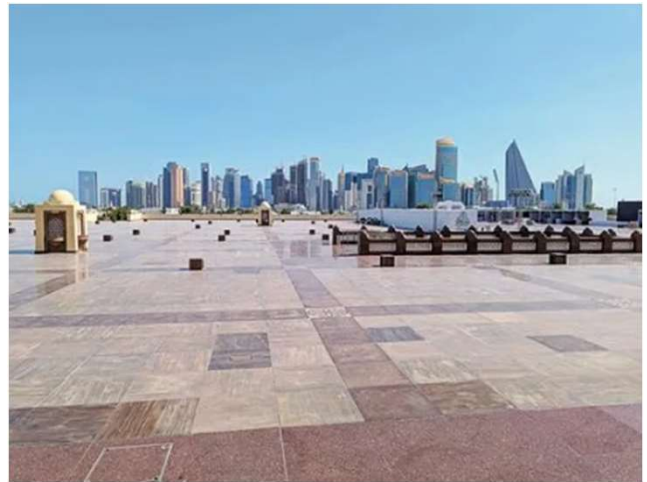
Radwani House has been enlarged and remodeled over time and is today one of the most important historic buildings in Doha. It is also a remarkable record of the lives and lifestyles of its inhabitants and reveals a great deal about the wider social changes that were experienced in Qatar during the course of the 20th century.

The excavation of Radwani House was undertaken in the winter of 2012-2013 by a team of archaeologists from University College London Qatar. The team's findings have revealed much about the development of Doha and the day-to-day lives of the city's inhabitants.

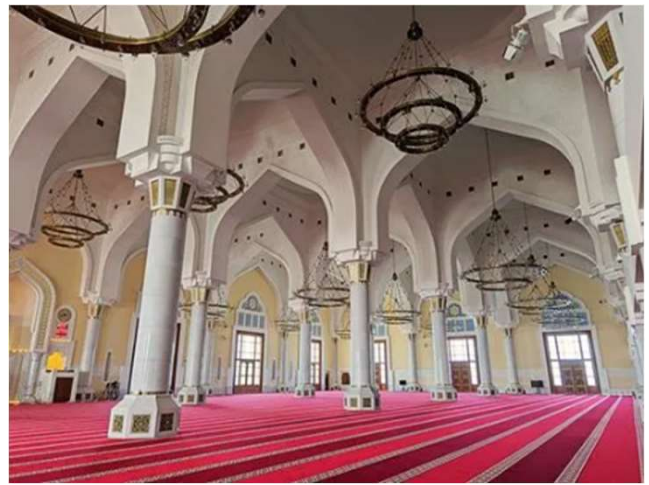




# **Qatar Travel Guide**







## 5.4.2 Villaggio Mall

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

Opened in 2006, Villaggio Mall is a large upscale shopping mall with a 1,350,000 sqft (125000 m2) retail floor area with an Italian theme (similar to what you see in the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas), which includes a 500 ft (150 m) Grand Canal in which you can take a Venetian-style gondola ride.

The mall has lots of higher end Western stores, but also a Carrefour supermarket and fast-food restaurants.

In addition to the retail space, the mall also contains the one of two ice hockey rinks (but the only Olympic-size rink) in Qatar, and the indoor Gondolania Theme Park.

The opening hours are at the time of writing:

Sundays – Wednesdays: 9am - 10pm

Saturdays & Thursdays: 9am - 11pm

Fridays: 1pm- 11pm



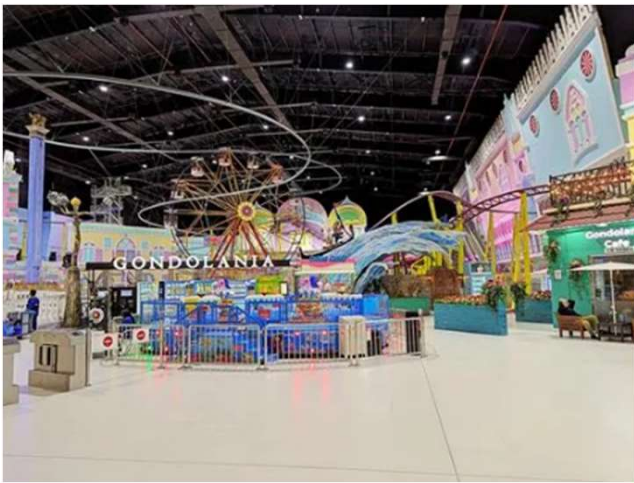


# **Qatar Travel Guide**



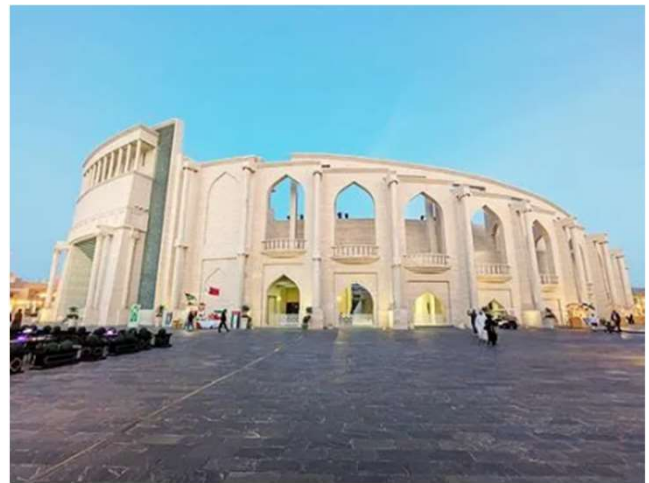
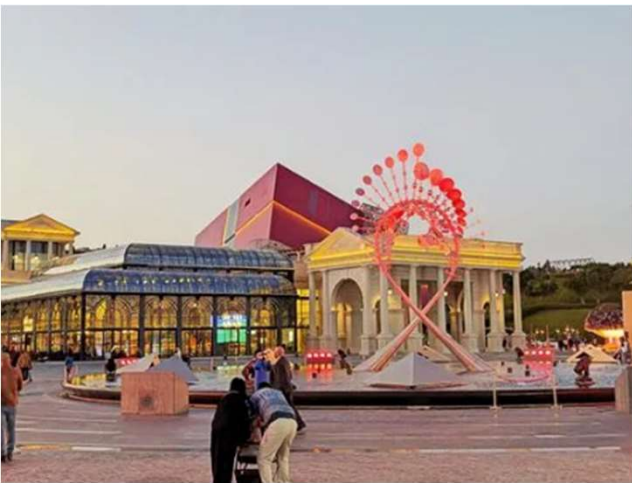


# Qatar Travel Guide



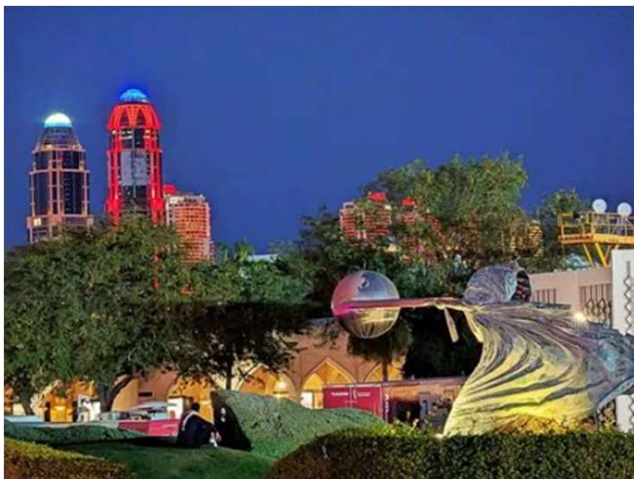
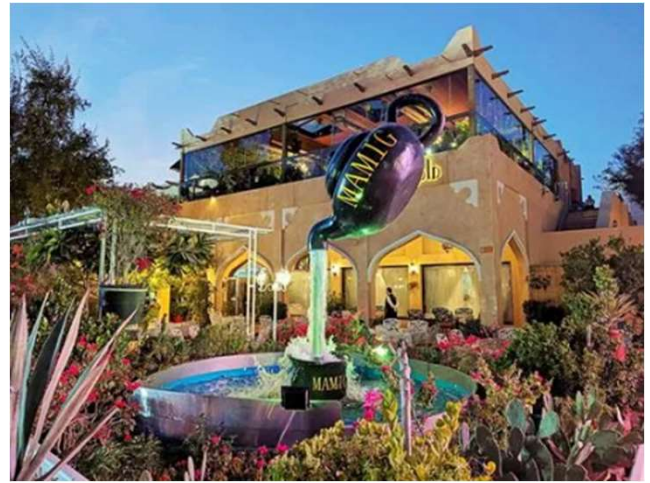


# Qatar Travel Guide





# **Qatar Travel Guide**





# Qatar Travel Guide



## 5.5.2 Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum

([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#))

Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum is a privately owned museum whose three buildings with 15 halls cover 5.7 mio sqft (530000 m2, 131 acres). It was opened in 1998 by Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim Al Thani.

Because it is a private museum, you cannot use the One Pass that you used in the Doha museums.

All of the artifacts that you see in the museum were collected by Sheikh Faisal over a period of 50 years. They are grouped into these broad categories:

- Islamic art
- Vehicles
- Coins and currency
- Traditional Qatari artifacts

For me, this museum is one of the highlights of Qatar, but I need to admit that trying to see anything close to the 15,000 exhibits is exhausting. You should reserve at least 3-4h for the museum. The museum has a small restaurant at the end, which you will likely need.

At the time of writing, admission is QAR 50 per adult and the opening times are:

Mondays - Thursdays:	9am – 5pm
Fridays:	2pm – 7pm
Saturdays:	10am – 6pm
Sundays:	closed



# Qatar Travel Guide















We were there on a Monday and the entrance gate was closed. Luckily, some delivery people arrived and called a caretaker, who was inside the compound.

The caretaker was super friendly, but spoke almost no English. He let us explore the towers as long as we wanted. You can only explore the towers on the outside and you can go up the stairs, but you cannot go inside the towers or the house.

There was lots of heavy construction and rerouted traffic in this area when we were there and I am sure that this will go on for a few more years.



## 5.5.4 Dhow Sunset Cruise

([reviews](#), [website](#), [book](#))

A Dhow is the generic name for traditional sailing vessels, often with one or more masts. Dhows vary in their design by region, but they have in common that they were typically used as trading vessels, often to carry heavy cargo.

In Doha, you will see hundreds of Dhows moored in Dhow Harbor ([map](#)) and along the [Corniche](#).

There are multiple ways to do a Dhow Cruise. You can book a Dhow Cruise or go to Dhow Harbor and go to one of the Dhows that is offering cruises.

Most Dhow Cruises are offered during daylight hours and take 30 min. These cruises explore a comparably small part of Doha Bay, but offer good views of Doha's skyline.

We really liked the 2h sunset cruise by National Cruise. It starts at Box Park ([map](#)), goes all the way to Arabia Island at The Pearl and then turns back. From the turning point at The Pearl, you can see the spot where you relaxed and viewed [The Pearl's Marina and Arabia Island](#), yesterday.



# Qatar Travel Guide

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## Dune Bashing





## Rahal Camp

Changing clothes for swimming, and taking a shower after swimming is done in one of the hotel rooms.







## Zekreet Rock Formations (three stops)





## Richard Serra sculptures





## 6. Closing Remarks

### ABOUT RUDY FROM BACKPACK & SNORKEL

I was born in Germany and emigrated to the US in 2003. My wife and I are a truly multinational couple: I, with my German background, and she with her Chinese heritage. Both of us live in the USA.

Sadly, working in the US means we have much fewer vacation days compared to other countries like e.g. Germany and thus we cannot travel very frequently.

Through a lot of trial and error, we have found our ideal travel and vacation style. **Making Memorable Moments** by focusing on important destinations, planning time for meeting the locals and, of course, for relaxation are our priorities.

We have also learned to appreciate local foods and try to eat as many local dishes as possible. Just for fun, we try to eat at one Chinese restaurant in each country we visit. It is absolutely amazing how different Chinese food is all over the planet.



## MAKING MEMORABLE MOMENTS

You may take 10,000 photos during your vacation, rush from one attraction to the next, but what you will remember in your heart is how you were **Making Memorable Moments**.

For me, that was e.g. Spider Rock in Canyon de Chelly (ever heard of this US National Park?). When I first saw it, I was blown away by this majestic natural obelisk and the beautiful canyon that it sits in. I have been there two more times and still feel the same.

Or think of Isla Mujeres, a small island outside Cancun, Mexico. On the surface, Playa Norte is supposedly Mexico's most beautiful beach and it is always crowded and the boats that anchor there play loud music. Below the surface, Isla Mujeres is very relaxed, quite walkable and it has friendly locals, good authentic Mexican food and good international cuisine and is often very affordable.

**Isla Mujeres is our personal paradise!**





## PACK YOUR BACKPACK & SNORKEL AND LET'S GO

Our travel style has evolved over the years. We are packing light these days when we travel and typically only need a small backpack per person - see our [Traveling Light Guide](#).

With this guide, I want to provide value to you and help you plan your own relaxing vacations with the goal of **Making Memorable Moments!**

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.