

TOP THINGS TO DO IN QATAR



INSIDE DOHA





01

STROLL THROUGH SOUQ WAQIF

Souq Waqif is an authentic, bustling, traditional marketplace. Visitors are greeted by the aromas of spices and Arabian oud incense, with Qatari artefacts displayed throughout scattered stalls. Dating back around 250 years, Souq Waqif was originally a weekend market used by traders. Now, alongside the alleyways full of local treasures, the souq is home to hotels, restaurants and cafés, alongside interesting public art, such as such as a giant golden thumb sculpture, named Le Pouce

[Discover more](#)

[10 top highlights](#)



02

CRUISE ABOARD A DHOW

Dhows were historically used by Qatar's traders and pearl divers, who used to spend months at a time on the vessels. Today, a sunset dhow cruise is one of the most picturesque ways for visitors to soak up the sights of Doha. The best place to source and secure a cruise is along the seven-kilometre-long Doha Corniche, which is lined by rows of many traditional wooden dhow boats.

[Discover more](#)



03

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF QATAR

Designed by the acclaimed French architect Jean Nouvel, the National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) is instantly recognisable due to its unique structure. Scores of interlocking disks give the building the appearance of a desert rose crystal – a naturally occurring rock formation that can be found in Qatar’s deserts. NMoQ is built around a palace that was once the seat of government. Inside, the museum takes visitors on a journey through the story of Qatar, from pre-historic to modern times. The popular gift shop is home to a soaring interior comprising 40,000 individual pieces of sustainably sourced European oak and inspired by the Dahl Al Misfir cave in central Qatar.

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04

MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART

The Museum of Islamic Art, or MIA, has become an iconic landmark in Qatar. Designed by famed architect I.M. Pei, the museum was revamped before the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ and re-opened in October. Among the more than 1,000 objectives are remnants of Abbasid palaces and historical copies of the Qur’an, while new exhibitions bring to life the trade of ideas and commodities from across the Islamic world. Outside the museum is a large green park and promenade, a walk along which culminates in a sculpture by American artist Richard Serra called 7, which took three years and more than one-million-man hours to create.

[Discover more](#)

05

OTHER MUSEUMS

In addition to NMoQ and MIA, there is a range of interesting museums to explore, notably:

- **3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum:** The world's most sophisticated museum dedicated to sport, hosting legions of legendary items, such as Michael Schumacher's Ferrari and Pelé's football boots
- **Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art:** The modern art hub of Qatar with the largest collection of modern and contemporary Arab art in the region
- **Fire Station Museum:** A hip arts space housed in a former fire station, with exciting contemporary art exhibitions
- **Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum:** A fascinating, privately-owned museum, containing more than 15,000 eclectic items across four primary themes: Islamic art, Qatar heritage, vehicles, and coins

[Discover more](#)





06

KATARA CULTURAL VILLAGE

Along the waterfront of Katara Beach lies Katara Cultural Village. The village is an extensive arts venue that comprises an amphitheatre, art galleries, workshops, performance venues and exceptional restaurants. The large colourful Katara Mosque features Persian and Turkish tile and enamel work in shades of blue and gold, while the Golden Mosque is covered with gold tiling, which glints in the sun. At the top of the village is the impressive and ultra-luxury 21 High Street, with an impressive outdoor air-conditioning system and featuring Galeries Lafayette as the flagship store.

[Discover more](#)

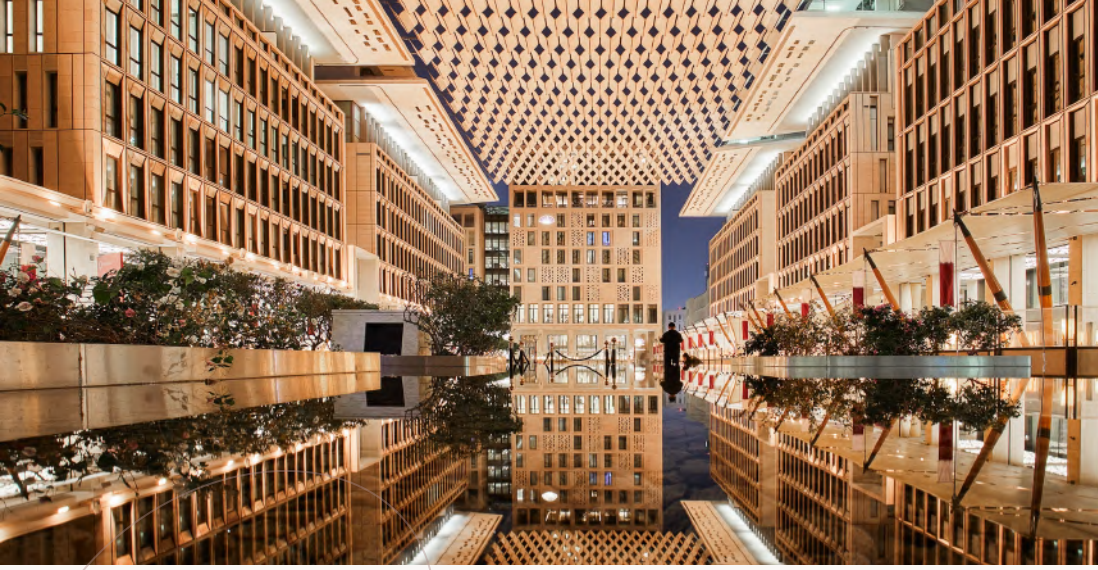


07

QATAR INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY

In the heart of Education City is a state-of-the-art, 45,000-square-metre library, housing more than one million books. Designed by renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, the building's iconic structure resembles two pieces of paper that are pulled apart and folded diagonally at the corners to create a shell-like structure, in the style of a paper aeroplane. A dedicated Heritage Library within the National Library preserves some of the nation's most important cultural and historical items in climate-controlled display cases.

[Discover more](#)



08

MSHEIREB DOWNTOWN DOHA

Msheireb Downtown Doha is the world's first sustainable downtown regeneration project. The area has transformed the centre of Doha into a walkable architectural marvel, lined by cafés and restaurants. Msheireb's 100 buildings are inspired by Qatari heritage and include free museums celebrating the history of four historic heritage houses. In the heart of the area is Barahat Msheireb – the largest open-air covered square in the Middle East – accentuated by the Mandarin Oriental, Doha at one end, and the M7 creative hub for designers and entrepreneurs at the other.

[Discover more](#)



09

THE PEARL-QATAR

The Pearl-Qatar is an expansive man-made island that features Mediterranean-style yacht-lined marinas, boutique shops and colourful Instagrammable streets. Architecture in the Qanat Quartier zone is designed to mirror Venice, as jewel-coloured apartment blocks rise between the canals. The area sits on four million-square metres of reclaimed land, and its lavish community lifestyle has invited descriptions such as the 'Arabian Riviera'.

[Discover more](#)



10

LUSAIL WINTER WONDERLAND

Jam-packed with festive fun, Lusail Winter Wonderland brings the ultimate entertainment and lifestyle celebration to Qatar this winter. Located in a new entertainment hub in Qatar called Al Maha Island, Lusail Winter Wonderland has more than 50 rides and attractions, with something for all ages.

[Discover more](#)



11

THEME PARKS

Friends and families looking for a thrill should visit Doha Quest, an indoor theme park in Doha Oasis that opened in summer 2021, with an array of attractions for all ages. The highlights are the two Guinness World Record-holding rides - the 'Tallest Indoor Rollercoaster' and 'Tallest Indoor Drop Tower Ride'. In Doha Festival City Mall, is the winter-themed Snow Dunes, the world's first Angry Birds World, and the Middle East's first dedicated e-gaming hub, Virtuocity. Inside Villaggio Mall is Gondolania, centred around a boat ride through Venetian-inspired canals.

[Discover more](#)



12

SHOPPING

Qatar has a large range of shopping malls from the super high-end Al Hazm Mall and Galeries Lafayette, to the ever-popular Doha Festival City, Villaggio Mall and Mall of Qatar. In 2022 Qatar added two major shopping attractions to the list: Place Vendôme, an extravagant mall featuring over 500 stores and an entertaining dancing fountain display; and Printemps Doha, the only shopping destination in Qatar to house all the iconic Maisons under one roof.

[Discover more](#)



13

GOLF

Qatar is an up-and-coming destination for golf with some of the region's best courses, all equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. The top two courses to try are at Doha Golf Club, and Education City Golf Club.

[Discover more](#)



14

BEACHES

In Doha, there are plenty of hotel beaches that offer day passes, such as the 1.5-kilometre long Katara Beach, which offers a variety of games, activities and child-friendly water sports. Three new beaches recently opened in Doha's West Bay district: the public West Bay Beach, B12 Beach Club Doha, and DOHASANDS Beach Club.

[Discover more](#)



15

EXHIBITIONS

Throughout each year Qatar hosts ambitious temporary exhibitions. For example until 1 April 2023 “Forever Valentino” at M7 will feature over 200 Valentino Haute Couture pieces and pret-à-porter outfits – the Italian house's most comprehensive exhibition yet.

[Discover more](#)

OUTSIDE DOHA



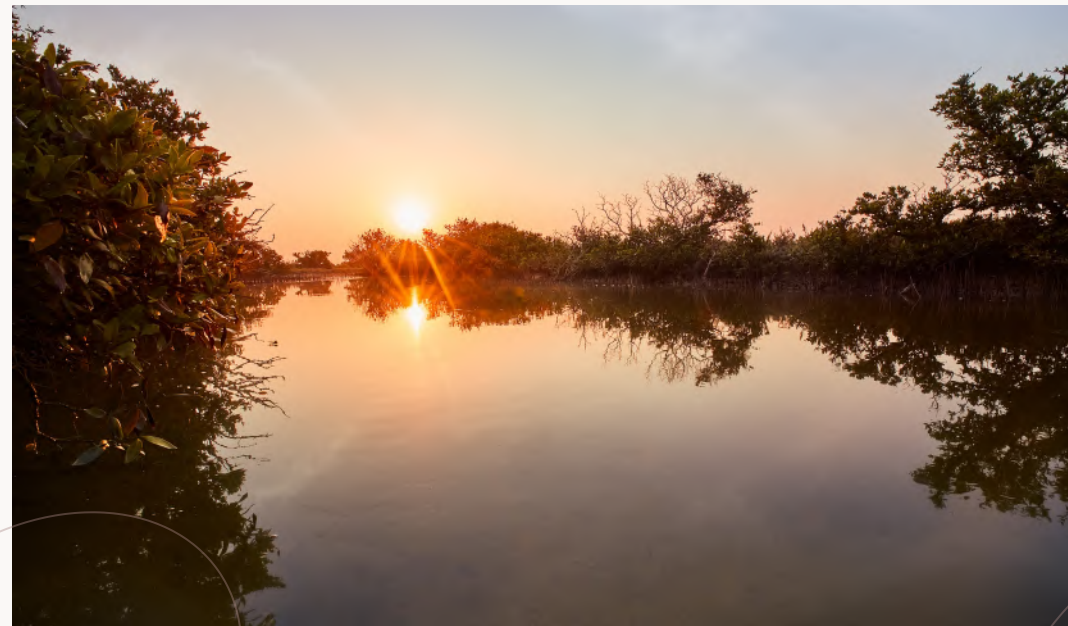


01

DAY TRIP TO THE 'INLAND SEA'

The 'Inland Sea', or Khor Al Adaid, in the south of Qatar, is one of the few places in the world where the desert meets the sea. The Inland Sea is accessible only by 4x4 vehicles, and visitors should hire a tour operator to take them dune bashing along the way as part of an exhilarating desert safari.

[Discover more](#)



02

PURPLE ISLAND

Purple Island is a hidden gem famous for its abundance of mangroves. The island's association with purple comes from an ancient Kassite-controlled dye industry, which started more than two thousand years ago, when the colour was coveted by Roman royalty for their clothing. It is worth checking the tides in advance of a trip, as during high tide visitors can go kayaking through the mangrove forests on a guided tour, before hiking around the island to scout out the perfect spot for photos.

[Discover more](#)



03

EAST-WEST/WEST-EAST

Richard Serra's breath-taking public art installation in the Qatari desert comprises four 14-metre-high steel plates spread out over one kilometre. The top of each plate, amongst the Ras Abrouq rock formations in Zekreet, marks the ancient level of the sea. Also in the area is the Umbrella Rock Mountain, Zekreet Fort and an abandoned film set known as Film City.

[Discover more](#)



04

SOUQ AL WAKRAH

Just south of Doha is the seaside shopping destination Souq Al Wakrah. Mud-coated walls, large wooden doors, windows and lanterns recreate the look of traditional Qatari homes and markets. There is a large family beach at one end, with a promenade lined by regional restaurants and cafés.

[Discover more](#)



05

HILTON SALWA BEACH RESORT & VILLAS

On Qatar's southwestern tip is a nirvana for lovers of sun, sea and sand: Hilton Salwa Beach Resort & Villas. The hotel has 3.5 kilometres of soft white beaches and landscaped gardens, restaurants and the recently opened KAIA Beach Club offering drinks and DJ sets. Within the grounds is also one of the largest theme parks in the Middle East: Desert Falls Water & Adventure Park. The park features 18 attractions, with 56 rides and slides, from the Sea Caves Water Park to Desert Street Circuit Go Karting.

[Discover more](#)



06

AL JASSASIYA ROCK CARVINGS

These 900 carvings, known as ‘petroglyphs’, are somewhat of a mystery and nobody knows precisely when they were created. Discovered in 1957, the carvings feature shapes including fish, ostriches, dhow boats and cup marks, across a 700-metre area. It has been claimed by some that the art dates back over 2,000 years, though the 8th to 10th century AD is more likely.

[Discover more](#)



07

DAHL AL MISFIR CAVE

The 40-metre-deep Dahl Al Misfir, ‘Cave of Light’, is considered the largest accessible cave in Qatar. Estimated to have been formed around 300,000-500,000 years ago, the cave emits a moon-like glow due to gypsum deposits in the centre of the peninsula. These same minerals give rise to ‘desert roses’ – clusters of crystals that inspired Jean Nouvel in his iconic design of the National Museum of Qatar.

[Discover more](#)



08

AL ZUBARAH FORT

Qatar's UNESCO World Heritage Site, Al Zubarah Fort, is a pristine example of a traditional Arabic fortress. The walls overlook the ruins of a once bustling pearling town that saw fierce tribal battles as powerful empires fought for regional dominance. Visitors to the site will find a museum with historical artefacts including cannonballs, coins and the equipment used by pearl divers. On the way to Al Zubarah are the remains of the abandoned village of Al Jumail, a 'ghost town' that offers a glimpse into Qatar's humble past.

[Discover more](#)



09

BANANA ISLAND

An intriguing alternative to the Maldives with overwater villas, pristine beaches and chic restaurants.

A perfect location for a winter sun getaway, Banana Island Resort Doha is accessible by a short 25-minute boat journey from the Al Shyukh Terminal in Doha's downtown area.

[Discover more](#)



EVENTS IN QATAR

QATAR CALENDAR

Qatar has a vibrant calendar of diverse events and festivals that take place all year around.

Head over to the Visit Qatar website and check out all the top events and activities taking place.

[Discover more](#)

THANK YOU

