

# **Qatar**

**Continent:** Asia

**Languages Spoken:** Arabic

**Population:** 2,900,000

**Currency:** Qatari Riyal (QAR)

**Area:** 11,571

## **Main Landmarks:**

- {'name': 'Museum of Islamic Art', 'writeup': 'A world-class museum showcasing Islamic art from three continents over 1,400 years.'}
- {'name': 'Souq Waqif', 'writeup': 'A traditional market known for its vibrant atmosphere, selling spices, textiles, and handicrafts.'}
- {'name': 'The Pearl-Qatar', 'writeup': 'An artificial island featuring luxury residences, shopping, and dining.'}
- {'name': 'Katara Cultural Village', 'writeup': 'A cultural hub hosting art galleries, theaters, and festivals.'}
- {'name': 'Al Zubarah Fort', 'writeup': 'A historic fort and UNESCO World Heritage site representing Qatar's pearling and trading history.'}

## **Head of State / Government:**

Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

## **Main Cultural Events:**

- {'name': 'Qatar National Day', 'writeup': 'Celebrated on December 18, it marks Qatar's unification and independence with parades and festivities.'}
- {'name': 'Eid al-Fitr', 'writeup': 'A major Islamic festival marking the end of Ramadan with prayers, feasts, and charity.'}
- {'name': 'Qatar International Food Festival', 'writeup': 'An annual event showcasing local and international cuisines.'}
- {'name': 'Doha Film Festival', 'writeup': 'A platform promoting Arab and international cinema.'}
- {'name': 'Qatar MotoGP', 'writeup': 'An international motorcycle racing event held at the Losail International Circuit.'}

## **Food & Cuisine:**

Qatari cuisine features traditional dishes such as machboos (spiced rice with meat), harees (wheat and meat porridge), and a variety of seafood, reflecting Bedouin and Gulf influences.

## **Brief History:**

Qatar was a British protectorate from the early 20th century until gaining independence in 1971. It has since developed rapidly due to its vast natural gas and oil reserves, becoming a wealthy and influential Gulf state.

## **Important People:**

- Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani - Current Emir

- Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani - Former Emir who modernized Qatar
- Nasser Al-Khelaifi - Prominent businessman and sports executive
- Mutaz Essa Barshim - World-class high jumper and Olympic medalist
- Ghanim Al-Muftah - Inspirational youth advocate and social media personality

**Current Conflicts:**

Qatar maintains a generally stable political environment but has experienced regional diplomatic tensions, notably the 2017-2021 Gulf diplomatic crisis involving a blockade by neighboring countries, which has since been resolved.

**Youtube Links:**

- Discover Qatar: A Journey Through the Desert and City
- Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup: Stadiums and Preparations
- Culture and Traditions of Qatar Explained
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Qatar
- Qatar's Economic Growth and Vision 2030