

QATAR

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Ancient Houses



Ancient Villages

Located halfway along the western coast of the Gulf, the 11,437 sq km State of Qatar benefits from its key location, halfway between Europe and Asia. With more than 80 destinations,

Qatar Airways easily connects Qatar to the rest of the world.

A bridge between East and West, Qatar is at the cross roads of economic, cultural and natural heritage.

Qatar is easily accessible from several of the world's major cities:

- 4.5 hours from Delhi
- 5 hours from Moscow
- 6.5 from London
- 8 hours from Kuala Lumpur
- 12.5 hours from New York

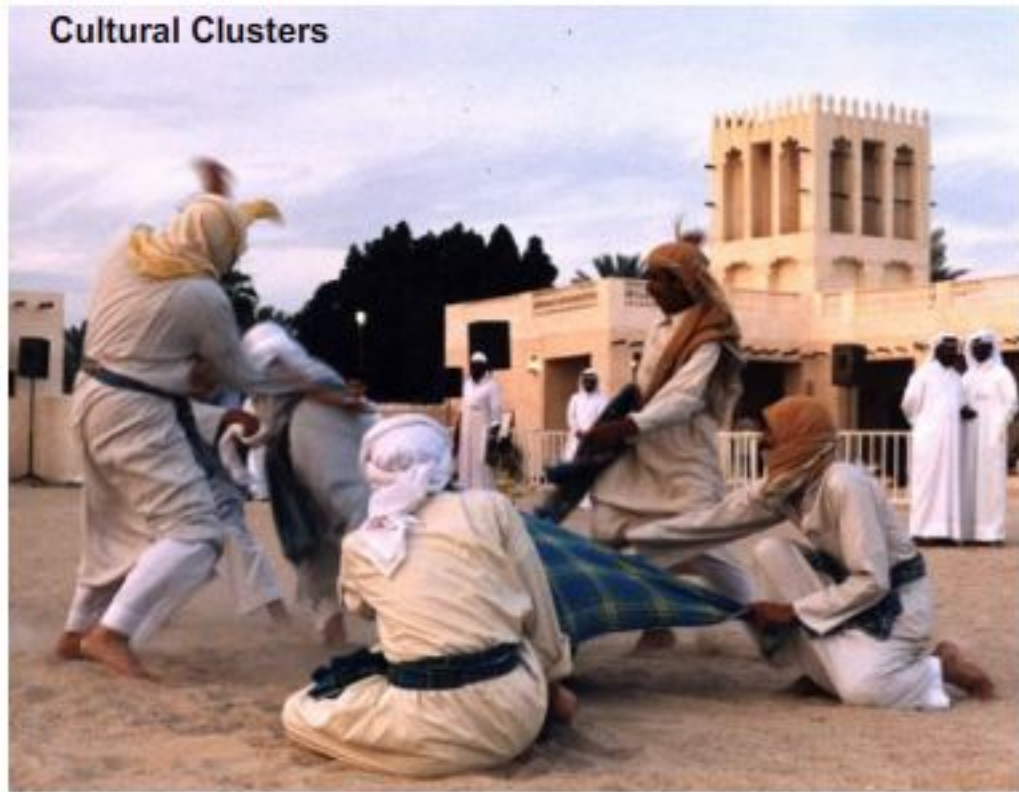
Although only 187 km from north to south and 80 km from east to west, Qatar is home to 1.5 million residents coming from every country of the world.

Apart from dunes in the south and hills in the west, Qatar consists mainly of flat low-lying rocky desert and coastal salt flats or sabkha. The peninsula has a 563 km sandy coastline with numerous small islets, sand dunes and reefs.

The types of habitats found in Qatar include sand dunes, hammada (Arabic for 'unfruitful') desert of rocks and gravel, rocky ecosystems, mangroves, sabkha (salt flats), wadis and runnels,



Cultural Clusters



and depressions called rowdat that collect fine sand. Approximately 18% of the land surface is covered by sand dunes or sand.

The highest point in the country – at 103 m or 338 ft – is Qurayn Abu al Bawl (Tuwayyir Al Hamir), in the south at the 'neck' of the peninsula, close to the border with Saudi Arabia.

The shallow waters of the Arabian Gulf are both warm in summer and high in salinity. Qatar's territorial waters

encompass some 35,000 sq km surrounding the peninsula. Coastal waters are extremely shallow, averaging 30 m along the northern and eastern coastlines, and only 20 m along the western coastline.

The most prominent feature in the south is the spectacular Inland Sea (Khor Al Adaid) where crescent-shaped barchan sand dunes surround a body of salt water with a narrow inlet from the Gulf. This wilderness is

a favourite spot for camping and picnics away from the hustle and bustle of Doha. The site is scheduled to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The climate of Qatar is typical of hot and arid desert lands, pleasant in winter and extremely hot in summer. Short transitional periods separate the two main seasons.

Fauna

More species than you may imagine

Although Qatar has a harsh desert climate with saline soils and warm seas, it has a surprisingly diverse and extensive range of flora and fauna. Approximately 1,900 documented species of animals and plants have been identified, and about 78% of terrestrial species in Qatar are considered rare.

On land, a 2002 UNESCO survey identified the following: 8 species of mammals; 371 species of plants belonging to 236 genera in 61 families; 242

Cultural Festivals



Shopping Malls







legs darken, the colour fading up towards the chest and a black tuft develops at the end of the tail.

Oryx Leucoryx (known locally as M'hat or Al Wodhi, 'the clear') is Qatar's national animal and may have inspired the legend of the Unicorn. The two long and straight, but annulated (ringed), horns are perfectly aligned when seen from the side, looking like one.

Occasionally an Arabian Fox can be found in the desert living in burrows dug out from the sand, emerging to hunt at night. The long-eared Cape Hare is found extensively in the north and has even appeared on small islands. The Lesser Jerboa with tiny forelimbs and long back legs are also particularly active around twilight time. They have just three toes and can jump many times their own height.

Environment

introduction of alien and invasive species.

Recognising the importance of the environment and the country's biodiversity, the Ministry of Environment has introduced action plans and legislation to ensure environmental protection. Measures include restrictions on weekend camps in the desert, a ban on the collection of plants or birds' eggs, and preventing the

In 2004, Qatar drew up a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) containing 11 strategic goals that identified the most pressing biodiversity issues with action plans, recognised in 2007 as a 'complete NBSAP'. Also in 2007, the Al Reem reserve in the northwest of Qatar was declared a UNESCO





A number of environmental survey and detailed record of protection programmes have been established by the Ministry of Environment within the boundaries of the northern Ras Laffan Industrial City (RLC). RLC is continuing with a marine

survey and detailed record of turtle breeding; birdlife breeding areas have been pinpointed using computer mapping; and Ostrich, Hubara and Reem Gazelle have been reintroduced to the area.