

Qatar Fact Sheet

*There is wisdom in turning as often as possible
from the familiar, to the unfamiliar:
it keeps the mind nimble, it kills prejudice,
and it fosters humor.*

George Santayana, philosopher



Did you know that...?

- ◆ Qatar is in the midst of an economic boom supported by its oil and natural gas
- ◆ While oil and gas account for 60% of GDP, the country is focusing on development of Qatar's other sectors with a push on non-energy sectors. They are encouraging foreign partnerships and investment
- ◆ Ruled by the al-Thani family since the mid 1800s, Qatar had emerged from being a poor British protectorate known for its pearling into an independent country rich with oil and gas reserves
- ◆ Today, Qatar has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world
- ◆ Qatar hosted the Asian games in 2007 and is bidding for the Olympics
- ◆ Qatar has oil reserves estimated at 15 billion barrels (2.4 km³)
- ◆ Qatar has invested in desalination plants which remove salt from seawater
- ◆ Legendary stories abound of Qatari roadside hospitality and assistance
- ◆ The old souk in Doha is safe, clean, full of an excellent array of restaurants, boutiques and souvenir shops
- ◆ Qatar was a part of Turkish-Ottoman Empire until 1918
- ◆ Qatar became a member of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) in 1961
- ◆ Qatar's liquefied natural gas (LNG) company, Qatar gas, established in 1984, pioneered LNG in Qatar
- ◆ Qatar has 72.9% of population age from 15-64; median age is 31.9
- ◆ Qatar's oil was discovered in Dukhan on the west coast of Qatar in 1939
- ◆ Qatar's proved reserves of natural gas exceed 25 trillion cubic meters, more than 5% of the world total and third largest in the world
- ◆ Qatar has little fresh water and most water is from the sea
- ◆ The availability of cultured pearls from Japan in the 1930s led to the collapse of the Qatari pearl industry. The pearl beds around Qatar are no longer commercially fished
- ◆ Qatar in conjunction with foreign investment in the development of its gas fields in the last decade has become the world's top liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter in 2007
- ◆ Qatar Airways, the flag carrier airline of Qatar, is fast growing into a strong high quality international carrier. In 2007, Qatar Airways announced \$13.5 billion worth of orders with Boeing for aircraft including 777s and the new 787s. Thus becoming the first Mideast carrier to fly a dreamliner. The airline regularly receives awards for its five star service and premium offerings.

Other Information

- ◆ www.experienceqatar.com
- ◆ www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/qa.html
- ◆ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_Asian_Games
- ◆ www.qatarairways.com
- ◆ www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g294008-Qatar-Vacations.html
- ◆ www.bootsnall.com/articles/05-04/doha-a-touch-of-arabian-hospitality-doha-qatar.htm
- ◆ www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Doha/Default.htm