

## **Tourism in Qatar**

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**Tasks undertaken by the Commission: -**

**- The General Authority for Tourism works hard to transform Qatar into a leading destination for world events in the meetings and events sector, conferences and exhibitions**

**Qatar has now an exhibition center with an area of 15,000 square m . There will be added two new conferences and exhibitions centers with a total area 95,000 sqm by the year 2011, which makes Qatar a landmark destination for business and international conferences, thereby attracting more visitors to Qatar.**

**The Tourism Authority is responsible today for the management of the Doha Exhibition Centre, which opened in February; the Doha Convention Center is still under construction and is scheduled to open in 2011.**

**Travelers can enjoy year-round outstanding conferences associated with the world-class exhibitions. The year 2008 saw about 120 conferences and exhibitions on topics such as oil and gas, money and real estate development and medicine.**

**Doha also hosts a large number of globally influential cultural and diplomatic conferences. Qatar is a place where people see things differently, as citizens embrace new ideas and warmly welcome visitors as guests and friends. Qatar is a bridge between tradition and international innovations. It is a high-level destination attracting deluxe tourism and entertainment business, medicine, sports and education, while fully protecting , preserving and highlighting its authentic heritage and its rich past.**

**Qatar Tourism Authority provides customized business coupled with unique recreational facilities. We offer genuine Arab hospitality, and preserves our past and our heritage as we work to make our future full of pride. We're not looking to merely attract visitors ,but we**

seek to attract and invite them to discover and understand our independent spirit and inclination to progress, because Qatar is changing the way in which people see things.

It is true that Qatar Tourism strongly based on business, but we want our visitors to also enjoy the unique recreational facilities. We in Qatar are not looking to being a large-scale tourist destination , but we prefer to focus on highlighting our country as a high-level destination providing high-quality services.

The most important tourist sites are:

**- Celine Beach Resort:**

it is Located (55) kilometers from the capital Doha. The resort offers a wide choice of rooms and villas and chalets all overlooking the sea. Added to this are many sports facilities at the resort beside a number of restaurants.

Resort visitors in ordinary days pay 30 riyals for adults and 20 riyals for children to be able to use the facilities and the swimming pools and \$ 50 for adults and \$30 for children on Thursdays and Fridays. Celine Club membership amounts to 2500 Riyal per year for a family of five persons .For individuals, the cost is 1600 Riyals for six months and the daily prices (inclusive of tax )are as follows:

**During Holidays:**

**875 Riyals for each Room -Chalet for four people: 1850 riyals. Villa: 2650 Riyal**

**In normal days:**

**Room: 650 riyals. Chalet for four people: 1350 riyals. Villa: 1950 Riyal.**

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**- Gharriyya Resort:**

it is Located in the northern Gharriyya and includes a number of deluxe villas and children playgrounds, a swimming pool and restaurants.

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**- Zoo:**

This park is located 20 kilometers away from Doha on Salwa Road and comprises a wide range of animals, reptiles and birds as well as a mini amusement park for children. The park is open from 3-7 pm daily except Saturday.

The entry fee is 2 riyals for children and five riyals for adults.

Phone: 44585858

**- Rumailah Park:**

It is located on the Corniche and includes green areas and rides for children and a popular market and restaurants. It can be accessed free of charge.

Phone: 44435348

**- Garden Dahl Saunas :**

It is located in the northern city of Khalifa and includes many green spaces and walking trails as well as playgrounds for children and is open to families without an entrance fee.

Phone: 44865097

**- Khor Beach:**

It is situated on the south-eastern tip , (78) kilometers away from the city of Doha and this beautiful beach is known for its fine sand dunes, some of which rise to a height of about forty meters, in addition to shores of Fuwairat , Dukhan and others.

**- Jassasiya:**

It is a series of rocky hills overlooking the north-east coast of the country; it is located between the villages of (Huwailah) and (Fuwairat), featuring hundreds of sculptures scattered around and some of which date back to prehistoric times.

**- Oryx Sanctuary:**

It is an oryx farm established to protect this species of endangered desert antelope.

The most important archaeological sites are:

**Museums**

**Qatar National Museum:**

It is located in the eastern part of the Doha Corniche . In a private gallery, the museum exhibits the geological history of Qatar as well as a range of Islamic artifacts and relics.

Add to this is maritime museum in which the fish wealth of Qatar is displayed, while a small lake where traditional wooden boats built in Qatar are shown.

It is Open daily from 9 am - 12 pm and from 4 -7 pm except on Saturdays.

Phone: 44442191

#### **Museum of Islamic Art:**

The Museum of Islamic Art lies on the Doha Corniche and embraces a collection of Islamic art of porcelain, metal, jewelry, wood, and glass ; it includes a library and a hall . An educational pavilion was opened at the end of 2008.

There are also a number of regional museums:

#### **Al-Khor Museum:**

It is located in Al Khor town , which is about (57) kilometers north of Doha. The museum consists of two floors, the ground floor was allocated for the anthropological life while the upper floor was allotted for some excavation discoveries in the township.

Phone: 44721866

#### **Wakra Museum:**

It is Located in Al Wakrah town, which is about (17) kilometers from the capital; the museum displays all that related to marine life and natural history.

Phone: 44643201

#### **Weaponry Museum:**

it Includes a rare collection of swords, daggers , guns and accessories. It is located in the neighborhood of Allakta on the outskirts of the city of Doha.

Phone: 44867473

Admission is open from 9 am -12 pm and 3-6 pm.

#### **Popular traditions House:**

It is the only example of such a kind of traditional institutions remaining in the city of Doha; it is located in Grand Hamad Street and is open to visitors from Sunday to Tuesday (from 9 am to 12 noon and from 3-6 pm). On Fridays, it is open from 3-6 pm only and closed on Saturdays . Admission is free.

#### **The most important castles**

##### **Zubara Castle:**

It is Located in the city of Al Zubarah at a distance of (105) kilometers northwest of the city

of Doha. The castle is open to the public every day except on Fridays and Saturdays ; admission is free.

#### **Doha Fort (Kut):**

It is among the few remaining military forts in Doha and is located in Jassim Bin Mohamed Street. Admission into the fort is free of charge.

#### **Al-Wajba Castle:**

It was built in the late eighteenth century or the beginning of the nineteenth century during the reign of the late Sheikh / Abdullah bin Jassim Al Thani. It was also inhabited by Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al Thani in varying lengths ; it is located at a distance of 15 kilometers south of the city of Doha. The importance of the castle is imputed to the to the famous battle in which the people of Qatar defeated the Ottoman force in 1893. It is featured by its ground and upper parlors besides its four towers. It has been restored with the same original specifications.

#### **Umm Salal Mohammed Castle:**

It is Located in Umm Salal Mohammed, 21 km from Doha; it is one of residential the castles whose construction dates back to the late nineteenth century.

#### **Barzan Tower:**

It is situated in Umm Salal Mohammed, and its construction dates back to the late nineteenth century.





**Source: -  
Site of the General Authority for Tourism**

**Images of Qatari tourist attractions:**