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PRESENTS

A GUIDE TO
DOHA



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Introducing Doha

Doha is a fascinating destination and the 2022 World Cup is the perfect reason to travel to this dynamic, thriving locale. This unique city offers stunning, ultramodern high rises and 100-year-old cultural heritage sites, an enchanting mix of old and new.

Doha will make an excellent host for the 2022 World Cup as it will offer an ideal setup for the tournament. With all the stadiums clustered within a small radius, it allows guests to base themselves in one hotel and attend matches wherever and whenever they want; the most convenient viewing opportunity for World Cup fans to date. Plus, there are so many memorable experiences for visitors within a few hours' drive of the city.

We're confident that our guests will love exploring Doha as much as we have. We look forward to sharing all of our favorite things about this wonderful city as it acts as host to the biggest soccer tournament in the world.

****We'll be making regular visits to Doha in the lead-up to the 2022 World Cup so keep checking back for updates to this guide as we discover more exciting things about the city.*



Meet our Doha Expert

Dave Guenther



Way back in 1992, Dave Guenther took his deep-seated passion for sports and travel and created Roadtrips. Throughout the last 29 years, Dave's remained completely hands

on when it comes to creating amazing travel experiences for his clients. As a lifelong traveler, he still enjoys spending time traveling the world (often scouting destinations for Roadtrips events). He's a lover of great food and top end hotels, something that will come as no surprise to anyone who's traveled with Roadtrips to a major sporting event.

Dave's made a few visits to Doha in advance of the 2022 World Cup and is excited about this dynamic city and its accommodations. "Our wonderful hotels continue to impress me more and more with each visit and I'm confident that they'll provide an amazing World Cup experience for our guests."



Our Top 5 Things to do in Doha

One of the many great things about Doha is its proximity to everything else in the country. Qatar is a convenient destination to explore and has so many unique landscapes and attractions within its compact borders. We've had fun checking out the attractions within the city and some that involve a short day trip. If you're having trouble narrowing down your list of things to see and do in Doha, we've detailed a few of the highlights below.

I. The Museums

Part of the tourism and public works strategy here is definitely centered on museums. The I.M. Pei-designed Museum of Islamic Art is really quite stunning. In addition to the 1,400 years' worth of Islamic art, there's also a library featuring specialist books, and a great restaurant in IDAM (see more on IDAM on page 20). Also noteworthy is the new Qatar National Museum, which opened in 2019 and is a pretty big deal. Designed by Jean Nouvel, it's worth visiting just to check out the architecture alone. In addition, there are a number of smaller "house" museums being created inside the Msheireb area, an impressive US\$5.5 billion development of 100+ buildings including residences, shops, restaurants, hotels, office space, and more.



2. Souq Waqif

As Doha's largest market, you'll find a little bit of everything at Souq Waqif: traditional clothing, souvenirs, food, art, home décor, even animals. It is a bit of a maze so it's worth taking a look at a map first if there are certain items you are looking for. We recommend bringing cash as many vendors will not accept credit cards (and be prepared to barter). The souq opens at 10am and closes at 10pm, though many shops shut down between 12-4 in the afternoon. Go in the morning for a quiet visit or in the evening for the liveliest atmosphere.

3. The Corniche

This waterfront promenade runs just shy of five miles along Doha Bay. It's a great place for walking, running, biking, or just some people watching. The Corniche offers some great views of the city, particularly at night when the skyline is lit up. Along the Corniche you'll find parks and greenspaces, and in the water you're sure to spot traditional wooden boats called dhows. For a unique perspective of the city, hop on one of the many dhows offering tours of the bay.

4. Katara Cultural Village

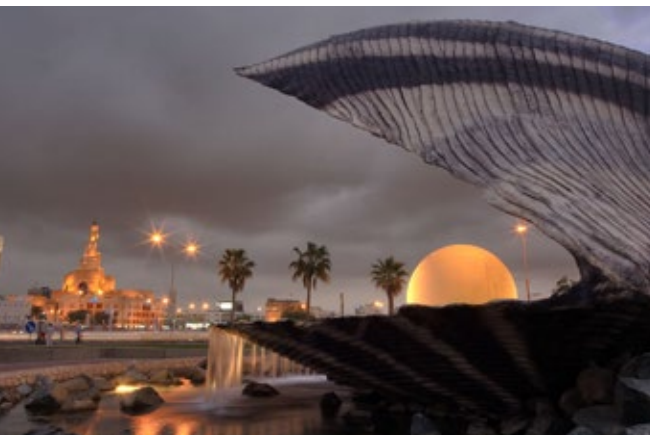
This purpose-built recreational district is a popular place for events, concerts, and festivals. In addition to its draw as an entertainment destination, there's a lot to marvel at architecturally, with no shortage of Instagram-worthy photo opportunities. There are plenty of coffee shops to sit and relax in as well as a wide variety of restaurant options. If you're a big shopper, there's some of that too. There's even a great public beach. It's an easy place to spend a full day and a good option for those traveling with families.

5. Khor Al Adaid

While Doha has plenty to offer inside the city limits, we highly suggest heading outside of the city to experience the singing dunes and the inland sea. As you head south from Doha, you'll find a fascinating natural phenomenon known as the singing dunes. Caused by the movement of grains of sand over massive sand dunes, you can hear the singing effect by sliding down the dunes. While it may sound a bit childish, it's a whole lot of fun and the landscape is pretty cool just to look at. Keep heading south to check out UNESCO-recognized Khor Al Adaid, also known as the inland sea. This unique reserve is one of few spots in the world where the sea reaches deep into the desert. It's accessible only by 4x4 vehicle and we recommend experiencing this intriguing part of the country under the guidance of a knowledgeable tour guide and driver. Our At-Your-Service team can make arrangements for you to experience this incredible spot.

Also worth noting...

An impressive new theme park is scheduled to open in Doha just in time for the 2022 World Cup. Doha's Winter Wonderland has been designed to appeal to all ages, boasting 200,000 square meters of amusement park rides, world-class games, marine sports, and more. Those traveling to Doha for the 2022 World Cup will have the opportunity to experience this unique attraction, which is sure to add to the excitement of this global event.



Getting Around & Travel Times during the World Cup

Doha has completed a state-of-the-art rapid transit system (Doha Metro) that is being lauded as one of the most advanced rail transportation systems in the world. Complete with first-class sections (called Gold Club), Doha Metro's modern trains can transport passengers up to 100km/h, bypassing bad traffic.

With stations built adjacent to many of the venues, English signage, and a system designed specifically for the tournament, the Doha Metro will be the most efficient way to traverse the city and access the stadiums during the 2022 World Cup.

Of course, there are other options for getting around the city. Uber is a popular option in Doha, and taxis are also available. In addition, our team can arrange for a private vehicle and driver at your request.

Our friendly and knowledgeable on-site host team will be available during the World Cup to all of our guests to help recommend suitable transportation options and to provide direction on using the Doha Metro system. It's the goal of our team of hosts, drivers, and destination specialists to provide as seamless an experience as possible for you



Accommodations in Doha

We are very particular about hotels and fortunately Doha has some wonderful world class options. That said, the city's true luxury accommodations are quite limited, particularly when you consider the demand during a major event like the 2022 World Cup. The expected number of visitors to Doha for the World Cup far exceeds the number of hotel rooms in the city. Those fortunate enough to secure hotel rooms in central Doha will enjoy an enviable first-rate experience.

We've planned years in advance to make sure our guests at the World Cup have access to some of the best hotels in the city. We understand that accommodations can make or break a travel experience and have chosen our hotels not only for their quality and service, but also for their prime location and impressive amenities.

We love the St. Regis and its stunning resort grounds. The accommodations are elegant, the amenity list is long, and its restaurants are extraordinary (three of them made our list of favorites on page 16). We also recommend taking advantage of the St. Regis' sublime Remède Spa.

The St. Regis is located in Doha's coveted West Bay neighborhood. In the same area is another of our favorite hotels, the Dusit Doha. In addition to its convenient location, the Dusit Doha offers contemporary guest rooms bathed in natural light and plenty of great amenities including a rooftop pool and lounge.

The Millennium Plaza Doha is another great option. Its central location puts it close to shops, restaurants and Souq Waqif, the city's most popular market. Accommodations are modern and spacious and guests can take advantage of the property's pool, fitness center, and spa.

With some incredible hotel options available, we work closely with our guests to ensure we find the perfect fit for each individual party in Doha.



Best Eats in Doha

Doha has no shortage of wonderful restaurants with more on the horizon. This flourishing city has a little bit of everything in terms of dining, including more than a few big names. We've enjoyed testing them out for you and are happy to make recommendations based on your preferences. We've compiled a list of our favorites, which are detailed on the following pages. Many of these restaurants are in high demand; we recommend booking a table well in advance. Our personal concierge team is at your service to assist with reservations.



La Mar by Gaston Acurio

📍 223 Lusail Street

☎ +974 4484 4919 📍 doha.intercontinental.com/la-mar/

Acurio is a particularly celebrated chef who has helped to introduce Peruvian cuisine to the world. We're big fans of La Mar's location in Miami's Mandarin Oriental and were excited to try the beachfront Doha eatery. Specialties include ceviches and tiraditos, which are delicious fresh fish dishes that incorporate various fresh fish with juices (usually citrus) and sauces. We also love their Lomo Saltado.

Hakkasan

📍 Doha West Bay

☎ +974 4446 0170 📍 hakkasan.com/doha

Another memorable meal was at Hakkasan, one of Doha's hottest restaurants. With locations in London, NYC and Miami, it's pretty famous. Hakkasan is known for

having a great vibe and features Michelin star rated Cantonese and Asian fusion food within a nightclub feel. Located at the St. Regis, one of our 2022 World Cup properties, it's wonderfully convenient for our guests of the property.

Nobu

📍 The Corniche

☎ +974 4494 8600 📍 www.fourseasons.com/doha/dining/restaurants/nobu_doha

As one of the most well-known restaurants in the world, we need not wax poetic about Nobu. What makes the Doha eatery a standout is its inspired location at the end of a pier, providing guests with views over the water and back to the Corniche. Nobu's excellent and familiar internationally recognized menu of Japanese and Asian cuisine includes many highlights. The yellow fin tataki, wagyu beef, and spicy popcorn shrimp are some of our favorites..



Astor Grill

📍 Doha West Bay

☎ +974 4446 0000 📍 www.astorgrilldoha.com

If you asked us where to find a great steak in Doha, we'd send you to Astor Grill. Inspired by New York steakhouses, Astor Grill presents a modern version complete with incredible cuts of beef, fresh seafood, and an extensive wine list. Another St. Regis gem

Benjarong

📍 Doha West Bay

☎ +974 3070 1295 📍 www.dusit.com/dusitdoha-hotel/dining/

Located in the Dusit Doha, Benjarong brings the authentic flavours and warmth of Thailand to Doha. Experience an unforgettable culinary journey focused on harmony and balance of Thai cuisine amidst gorgeous views of Doha West Bay's glittering metropolis.

Toro Toro

📍 Marsa Malaz Kempinski, The Pearl

☎ +974 4035 5101 📍 www.torotorodoha.com

Located close to the St. Regis, Toro Toro offers modern Mexican influenced cuisine by Richard Sandoval (foodies may know his name from La Lagune, Brisas at Mayakoba or another of his 30+ restaurants worldwide).

Nozomi

📍 Marsa Malaz Kempinski, The Pearl

☎ +974 4035 5089 📍 www.nozomi-doha.com

The multiple award winning Nozomi is consistently well rated and a local favorite. It's a happening place that offers contemporary Japanese cuisine and spectacular water views.



Spice Market

📍 Doha West Bay

☎ +974 4453 5135 📍 www.spicemarketdoha.com

The concept is Southeast Asian Street Food in an upscale atmosphere and it definitely works. Spice Market was named Time Out Doha's Restaurant of the Year in 2018 and Best Asian Restaurant in 2019. On our last visit we enjoyed a wonderful set piece sushi lunch that included way more than we could eat. We're also big fans of their dim sum and consider it to be some of the best in Doha. The menu is extensive and the only downside is not being able to sample it all.

IDAM

📍 The Corniche

☎ +974 4422 4488 📍 www.mia.org.qa/en/visiting/idam

Located inside the stunning Museum of Islamic Art (MIA), IDAM is Alain Ducasse's first restaurant in the Middle East. The menu is mostly French Mediterranean with Arabic

influences. The décor, courtesy of Philippe Starck, provides a memorable backdrop to the wonderful food. The service and the views are also excellent. The museum is absolutely worth visiting too!

Coya

📍 Diplomatic Street

☎ +974 4453 5416 📍 coyarestaurant.com/doha/

Located in the W Doha Hotel, Coya boasts delicious Peruvian inspired cuisine in a very buzzy and beautiful atmosphere. You can expect premium meats and seafoods including a variety of items featuring imported Wagyu beef. We could recommend the full menu but we're particularly fond of the ceviches, tiraditos and anticuchos.



Si Restaurant

📍 St. Regis

☎ +974 4446 0127 📌 [marriott.com/en-us/hotels/dohxr-the-st-regis-doha/overview/](https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/dohxr-the-st-regis-doha/overview/)

The newly opened Si Restaurant in the St Regis offers an exquisite, contemporary take on Mediterranean food. It presents a delicious fusion of flavours from different Mediterranean countries, including Spain, Italy and Lebanon.

Market by Jean-Georges

📍 West Bay

☎ +974 445 35135 📌 [marketdoha.com](https://www.marketdoha.com)

The W Hotel is home to some wonderful restaurants; Jean-Georges' Market is a solid choice for any meal. With a varied menu emphasizing comfort and creativity, even the non-adventurous are sure to find something to suit their tastes. The dishes at this multiple-award winning eatery are complemented by the warm and attentive service.

Hudson Tavern

📍 West Bay

☎ +974 4045 5999 📌 [sbe.com/hotels/mondrian/doha/dining/hudson-tavern](https://www.sbe.com/hotels/mondrian/doha/dining/hudson-tavern)

For a more relaxed option, we love the elevated pub food at Hudson Tavern. Serving up juicy hand-crafted burgers, fish and chips, and other casual meals, this is a great place to watch a match and is sure to be hopping during the World Cup. The exposed brick and wood tables add to the atmosphere.

Morimoto

📍 West Bay

☎ +974 4045 5555 📌 <https://www.sbe.com/hotels/mondrian/doha/dining/morimoto>

Located in the Mondrian hotel, Morimoto is an excellent spot for Japanese cuisine. Chef Morimoto is well-known as the Iron Chef and boasts an impressive lineup of restaurants around the world. The Doha location is his first in the Middle East.



Nusr-Et

📍 Al Corniche Street

☎ +974 4442 9339 📍 nusr-et.com.tr/en/home.aspx

Nusr-Et is a high-end chain of Middle East steakhouses; the Doha outpost is at the Sheraton, right next to the Four Seasons. Meat lovers will enjoy Nusr-Et as it incorporates all the ingredients of an upscale steakhouse: tender cuts of meat, a sophisticated atmosphere, and great service.

Alcohol Policy

Those wondering about Qatar's alcohol policy and whether they'll be able to enjoy a glass of wine with dinner will be happy to know the answer is (mostly) yes. The restaurants and bars with a license to serve are usually inside hotels. There are exceptions of course but hotels have the advantage in this respect. That said, there is an expectation that the Qatari government will grant special alcohol licenses specifically for the 2022 World Cup period.





Shopping in Doha

As one of the richest cities in the world, shopping is a favorite pastime of Doha residents. From traditional souqs (markets) to mega-malls to designer boutiques, you're sure to find a spot to suit your needs. We have little doubt that our guests at the World Cup will be impressed by the sheer number of options available. Another great thing about shopping in Doha: no sales tax!

If you need some inspiration, we've listed a few of our recommendations below. If you're just not sure where to start, we'd be happy to arrange for a private guide to escort you on a personalized shopping tour. When planning your shopping, take note that most shops, including malls, close for at least part of the day on Friday, typically late morning to mid-afternoon.

The Malls

Shopping malls are big in Doha, both in terms of popularity and size. **City Center Mall** in West Bay is one of the largest. In addition to the 250 stores, the mall also boasts a bowling alley, ice skating rink, a children's amusement center, 14-screen movie theater, and 38 restaurants.

Lagoona Mall features a good selection of



upmarket shops and boutiques. A little farther away is **Villaggio Mall** in the Aspire Zone. It's attractively designed after Venice, complete with an indoor canal and gondolas, and has a myriad of other attractions in addition to the shopping. If you're not a fan of crowds, Villaggio might not be the best option as it can get quite busy. It's a short walk from Khalifa Stadium, one of the World Cup venues. Finally, just outside of Doha in Al Rayyan, there's the **Mall of Qatar**. The largest mall in the country is just a few years old and contains 500,000 square meters of shopping, entertainment, and restaurants.

Adjacent to Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, soccer fans may want to plan a visit this mega-mall before or after a match. A bonus to the malls in Doha: the blissful air-conditioning.

The Souqs

Souqs are traditional Qatari markets and there are a number of them sprinkled throughout Doha. We go into detail about our favorite one, Souq Waqif, on page 12 but there are plenty of others to check out. Some souqs specialize in certain items like jewelry or fresh produce and some, like Souq Waqif, offer a wide range of goods. Our

on-site host team, which includes local experts, can make suggestions on which souqs would best suit your own personal preferences.

The Pearl

The Pearl is known for all things luxury and the shopping is no exception. On this man-made island you can browse the boutiques of international fashion houses, high-end shopping malls, luxury car showrooms and more. In between shops, enjoy strolling along the water, stop at an open air café for a coffee, or experience one of the area's wonderful restaurants.

A Few More...

The gift shop at the National Museum of Qatar is a great place to pick up some souvenirs and worth checking out solely for the cool design. There's also a neat gift shop at the Museum of Islamic Art.

Located in Education City, just a couple of kilometers from the stadium, the Torba Farmer's Market is open Saturdays from November through April. Familiar, yet exotic, it's a fun place to wander around.



Doha Travel Tips

Doha is thriving and growing at an exponential rate and there's a lot of excitement about the upcoming World Cup. This incredible city is sure to be at its absolute best during the world's premier soccer event. Our team is looking forward to helping our guests make the most of their visit.

As is usually the case when traveling outside of our familiar surroundings, there are always challenges present. One of the great things about travelling with Roadtrips is our team of professional hosts comprised of international sporting event experts and local hosts. All of us at Roadtrips want to help set your expectations and do whatever we can to ensure that you are prepared for everything you may encounter in Doha and to create the best possible experience for our World Cup guests.

We think our guests will immediately feel comfortable in Qatar. The people are friendly and welcoming. Crime is incredibly rare, and in fact, Qatar was recently named one of the safest cities in the world. English is widely spoken, largely due Doha's sizable expat population. Much of the signage around the city is in English, which makes getting around and communicating a breeze compared to other foreign countries.



On our visits to Doha, we have always been impressed with the service we receive wherever we go. Hotels, restaurants, shops - everyone seems eager to assist and they really enjoy welcoming visitors to their city.

Doha is a warm and unique place, and quickly growing as a tourist destination. The 2022 World Cup will really put it on the map. You can already see the excitement building all around the city as it prepares for 2022.

A few notes about Qatari culture and etiquette to help you plan your trip and enjoy your visit:

- Qatar is a conservative country and you'll find many of the locals dressed in traditional clothing. While visitors are not expected to dress in the same manner, it is recommended to be sensitive to their culture by dressing modestly. This includes keeping shoulders, upper arms and knees covered. Swimwear is acceptable on the beach or by the pool.
- As we mentioned in our restaurant section, alcohol is readily available at most hotels and some restaurants. It is not permitted in other public places. Enjoy in moderation,

keeping in mind that public intoxication is illegal in Qatar.

- Qatar has strict drug laws. If you travel with prescription medication, ensure that you carry it in the original packaging with the prescription information. Certain prescriptions may require additional documentation from the prescribing doctor. Some medicines that are available over-the-counter in other countries are banned in Qatar so be sure to check before traveling.
- While tipping is not a traditional practice in Doha, it has become more common due to the large expat population. Often a service charge will be included on your bill when dining out. If not, a tip at your discretion is usually appreciated.
- December 18th is Qatar National Day. This will fall during the World Cup in 2022. Traditionally, stores, schools, and businesses will be closed to celebrate this national holiday.

Our World Cup guests have access to a personal pre-travel concierge who can assist with any culture or etiquette questions prior to your visit to Doha.



Getting to Doha

Doha is served by Hamad International Airport (DOH), located southeast of the city center. As the main hub for Qatar Airways, there are plenty of flight possibilities into Doha from around the world. With that said, it is worth mentioning that flights often do book up quickly for major international events like the World Cup so it is wise to book early to secure your preferred routing or schedule.

Whether you plan to fly commercial or via private jet, we will be there to welcome you upon arrival. Our host team will be meet you at the airport to welcome you to Doha and direct you to your dedicated hotel transfer.

Most of our World Cup travelers will not require a travel visa — 80 nationalities have visa-free entry — for Qatar, though a valid passport is a requirement. Our pre-travel concierges are available to you for any questions you have regarding entry requirements for your World Cup experience.

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