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Country Dialing Code (Tel/Fax): ++974
Qatar national Hotels Company: PO Box 2977, Doha, Qatar, Tel: 857 777, Fax: 833 328
Capital: Ad Dawah (Doha) **Time:** GMT + 3
Background: During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Qatari economy was crippled by a continuous siphoning off of petroleum revenues by the amir who had ruled the country since 1972. He was overthrown in a bloodless coup by his own son in 1995. Oil and natural gas revenues enable Qatar to have a per capita income not far below the leading industrial countries of Western Europe.
Location: Middle East, peninsula bordering the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia
Map References: Middle East
Area: total: 11,437 sq km land: 11,437 sq km water: 0 sq km
Climate: desert; hot, dry; humid and sultry in summer
Terrain: mostly flat and barren desert covered with loose sand and gravel
Natural Resources: petroleum, natural gas, fish
Population: 744,483 (July 2000 est.)
Nationality: noun: Qatari(s) adjective: Qatari
Ethnic Groups: Arab 40%, Pakistani 18%, Indian 18%, Iranian 10%, other 14%
Religions: Muslim 95%
Economy: Oil accounts for more than 30% of GDP, roughly 80% of export earnings, and 66% of government revenues. Proved oil reserves of 3.7 billion barrels should ensure continued output at current levels for 23 years. Oil has given Qatar a per capita GDP three-fourths that of the leading West European industrial countries. Qatar's proved reserves of natural gas exceed 7 trillion cubic meters, more than 5% of the world total, third largest in the world. Production and export of natural gas are becoming increasingly important. Long-term goals feature the development of off-shore petroleum and the diversification of the economy. If high oil prices continue in 2000, Qatar will post its highest ever trade surplus - of more than \$4 billion.
Industries: crude oil production and refining, fertilizers, petrochemicals, steel reinforcing bars, cement
Currency: 1 Qatari riyal (QR) = 100 dirhams
Railways: 0 km
Highways: total: 1,230 km paved: 1,107 km unpaved: 123 km (1996 est.)
Ports and Harbors: Doha, Halul Island, Umm Sa'id
Airports: 4 (1999 est.) **Airports - with paved runways:** total: 2 over 3,047 m: 2 (1999 est.) **Airports - with unpaved runways:** total: 2 914 to 1,523 m: 1 under 914 m: 1 (1999 est.)
Visa: required by all except the following: nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates; transit passengers whose tickets show they intend to continue their journey from the airport within 24 hours.
Duty Free: The following goods may be imported into Qatar without incurring customs duty: A reasonable amount of tobacco and perfume for personal use. All alcohol is prohibited.
Health: All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated. Only eat well cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Rabies is present. For those at high risk, vaccination before arrival should be considered. If you are bitten, seek medical advice without delay.

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