



**QATAR
FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL, LLC**

عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation

Qatar Resource Guide

Classroom Connections

About QFI

In our increasingly interconnected world, students and educators are seeking more nuanced views of other peoples and cultures, as well as connections with peers that offer deeper and more meaningful understanding beyond news headlines and sound bites. Learning a language, studying about another part of the world, and understanding how to work with peers both in person and virtually, are all essential educational outcomes for today's secondary school graduate.

QFI focuses on student-centered learning environments that foster a deeper understanding of the Arab world through the teaching of Arabic, and about the region's societies and cultures. We partner with primary and secondary schools, universities, multilateral entities, and other philanthropic organizations to ensure that our programs advance students' acquisition of global competency and 21st century skills.

QFI actively engages our community of students, teachers, and administrators to facilitate connections through the Global Schools Network, Al-Masdar, and professional development opportunities to support primary and secondary students and teachers as they explore new ways of enriching the classroom learning experience through key skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and cross-cultural communication.

QFI was founded in Washington, D.C. in 2009 and is a member of the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development.

Learn more about QFI: <https://www.qfi.org/about/>

About Classroom Connections Grants

The Classroom Connections grant program provides supplementary funding of up to \$55,000 for secondary school teachers to take student groups on immersive, travel abroad experiences to Qatar. We believe travel experiences are vastly enhanced by including pre-trip virtual exchange activities to better engage with the host culture. In keeping with this mission, applications are required to include a virtual exchange program that ties in directly with their trip.

About Qatar

The State of Qatar is a peninsula, roughly the size of Connecticut, located amid the western coast of the Arabian Gulf. As a monarchy, Qatar is ruled by the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani.

The official currency of Qatar is the Qatari Riyal (QR) and the exchange rate is fixed at 1 USD = 3.64 QR. Well-known for their large supply of gas reserves, Qatar's supply of liquid natural gas (LNG) has been proven as the 3rd largest in the world and they are the primary exporter of LNG to the rest of the world. In addition to their supply of natural gas, Qatar is also home to a multitude of cultural sites and activities. Some highlights of Qatar's capital city, Doha, include Education City, the National Museum of Qatar, Souq Waqif, and Doha Bay.

Qatar is home to a large population of expats representing over one hundred different nationalities. Despite the large foreign workforce in the country, Qatari culture is well-preserved. Representations of culture can be seen in the local arts, clothing, food, and spoken Arabic dialect. For instance, it is common to see residents of Qatar dressed in traditional garments, thobs (thawbs) for men and abayas for women. Many of the local museums also feature historical artifacts, folklore, literature, and visual arts. Additionally, the Arabic dialect spoken in Qatar is uniquely distinct from that of other regions in the Arab world. Khaliji, or Gulf Arabic, is known to be 'heaviest,' most guttural of the three main Arabic dialects.

Designing a Qatar Itinerary

Ideal Travel Dates

Qatar experiences a dry, hot, and subtropical desert climate with intensely hot summers and low annual rainfall. To avoid these climatic extremities, spring and autumn are the best seasons to visit Qatar when temperatures are warm, and evenings can be pleasantly cool. The best months to visit Qatar are November to early April. Such climatic conditions allow sightseeing and outdoor activities across the country and are considered as peak-tourist season in Qatar.

Weather

The summer months (June to September) are very hot with minimum rainfall, so these are best avoided. Daily maximum temperatures can reach easily 104 °F or higher. Winter (December to February) is relatively cooler and warm, with the average temperature being 70 °F. Occasional rainfall can be expected during winters (averaging some 80 millimeters a year), mostly accompanied by heavy cloudburst and thunderstorms. Spring and autumn months are warm, mostly dry, and pleasant.

On an average, the temperature ranges between 98 to 107 degrees, but on some exceptional days it may escalate up to over 120 °F as well!

Potential Travel Agencies

Compiled below is a non-exhaustive list of travel companies known to QFI that work in developing educational itineraries for student groups in Qatar. QFI cannot assist with matching or introducing contacts from travel agencies or endorse any of the listed companies. Applicants are encouraged to explore all options during their trip-planning process and select a travel agency most suited to their group's needs.

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<https://www.darwishholidays.com/tours-sightseeing/>

Places to Visit

- [Education City](#)
 - An initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. The area is located in Al Rayyan City on the outskirts of Doha and is home to many cultural sites.
 - Al Shaqab
 - Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art
 - Qatar National Convention Center
 - Education City Mosque
 - Qatar Science and Technology Park
- [The National Museum](#) of Qatar,
 - An immersive cultural experience which guides visitors from the historical beginnings of Qatar to modern day.
- [The Museum of Islamic Arts in Doha](#),
 - A cultural and architectural gem which showcases extraordinary Islamic artifacts.
- [Msheireb Museums](#), consisting of
 - Four historic heritage houses in the heart of Msheireb Downtown Doha located within the oldest part of the capital.
- Doha Corniche,
 - A long seaside promenade which curves around Doha Bay and offers stunning views of Palm Tree Island and Doha's skyscrapers.
- [Souq Waqif](#),
 - A famous marketplace located in the heart of Doha.
- Katara
 - Cultural village in the capital city of Doha.
- Al Koot Fort (Doha Fort) and Zubarah Fort
 - Historic military fortresses which now feature traditional Qatari handcrafts and exhibits of daily life.
- Doha Bay
 - Where you can take in breathtaking night views of the city in a Dhow, which are known as Qatar's traditional 'yacht.'
- [Qatar National Library](#)
 - Revered as one of the best libraries in the world, this spaceship-like building contains over two million books, including ancient maps and Qurans and literature dating back to the 15th century.
- The Pearl
 - a man-made island of nearly four million square meters located on the north side of Doha Bay. Its name derives from its building location on one of Qatar's previous major pearl diving sites.

Sample Itinerary

Day 1

- Arrive at Doha Hamad Int'l Airport
- Arrive at hotel and check-in
- Lunch at Souq Waqif (Parisa)
- Cultural session at Embrace Doha
- Guided tour at Souq Waqif and free time
- Dinner at Embrace Doha Majlis in Souq Waqif

Day 2

- Al Mathaf Museum of Modern Art
- Guided Tour of Katara Village
- Lunch at Katara Village – Ard Canaan
- Guided Tour of Museum of Islamic Art & Free Time at MIA
- Sunset Dhow Cruise and Dinner

Day 3

- Meet with Virtual Exchange Partner School Students
- Guided Tour & Free Time at Qatar National Library
- Lunch at Qatar National Library
- Qatar Foundation Headquarters Visitor's Center and Group Photo
- Education City Mosque Visit
- Al Shaqab Tour
- Dinner at Damasca One, Souq Waqif

Day 4

- Tour Msheireb Museums
- Lunch – Takht-e-Jamshid, Al Hazm Outdoor Mall
- State Mosque Visit
- Visit National Museum of Qatar

Day 5

- Meet with Qatari Educators at Qatar Academy Schools
- Lunch at the Pearl - Burj Al Hamam
- Tour the Pearl
- Free time

Day 6

- Depart for Doha Hamad Int'l Airport

Sample Budget

Number of Days: 7

Number of people: 10

Cost: \$37,370

Budget Item	Total Cost
Airfare, Hotel, Guide, Transportation, Travel Insurance	\$32,500.00
Meals	\$750.00
Gratuity	\$500 .00
Passport	\$1,150.00
Visa	\$680.00
Total	\$35, 580

Virtual Exchange Resources

Potential School Partners in Qatar

Below is a list of potential partner schools for virtual exchange activities. QFI cannot assist with matching or introducing teachers at partner schools, and this list is not exhaustive.

- Qatar Academy Schools
- Qatar Academy Doha
- Qatar Academy Al Khor
- Qatar Academy Al Wakra
- Qatar Academy Sidra
- Qatar Leadership Academy
- Qatar Academy for Science and Technology
- The Phoenix Private School
- Doha British School
- Doha College
- Doha English Speaking School
- Blyth Academy Doha
- American School of Doha

Participate

Applicants are encouraged to utilize our Virtual Exchange 101 mini-courses on Participate to receive guidance for developing and implementing effective virtual exchange programs in their classrooms. Access Participate [here!](#)

Topical Classroom Resources

Explore [this collection](#) on QFI's online resource portal to access background and reference materials, lesson plans, and teaching resources on Qatar and the Arabian Peninsula, detailing the region's diversity, culture, and deep history.

Travel Resources

All travelers to Qatar dress comfortably for warm weather, but also be prepared with jackets/sweaters for colder temperatures indoors and at night. While Qatar is welcoming to tourists, it is advised to be mindful and respectful of conservative dressing norms. Sleeveless shirts, tank tops, and skirts/shorts above the knee are not appropriate for daily wear.

Below is a sample packing list of what we recommend for you to bring for a **week-long** trip:

Clothing

- 3-4 pair of lightweight pants or skirts (below knee-length)
- 5 lightweight tops (short-sleeve or long-sleeve)
- Pajamas/loungewear
- 1 sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket

- 1-2 lightweight scarves (for sun protection/entering religious sites)
- Hat and sunglasses

Medical

- Prescription medication
- Motion sickness medication (Dramamine)
- Sunscreen
- Toiletries
- Reusable water bottle Misc.
- Travel adaptors (to convert to **British** plugs)
- Journal/notebook

What NOT to take:

- Jewelry, delicates, and other valuables which may be lost or damaged

Health & Safety

Doha is a very safe city. The crime rate is low and incidents of violence are rare. To discourage petty theft, travelers should take basic precautions: do not leave money or valuables unattended while in public.

Doha has state of the art medical facilities and reliable healthcare. Medicine are available from local hospitals and clinics.

Tips for staying healthy during the trip

1. Drink plenty of water. Tap water in Doha is generally safe to drink. Attendees should make sure to drink water throughout the day to prevent dehydration, particularly when engaging in outdoor activities.
2. Use sunblock and sunglasses for protection during the day.
3. If you take medication, make sure to carry all medication in its original packaging. You may also want to pack a copy of your prescription or a note from your doctor explaining the purpose of the medication.

Communication

Should you have any questions, please reach out to us at arabic@qfi.org.

QFI's Facebook page: facebook.com/QFIIntl

QFI's Twitter: twitter.com/QFIIntl

QFI's Instagram: Instagram.com/qfintl