



Qatar Nat'l Tourism Council

Qatar Optional Post-Tour

Custom Tour for Phyllis Stoller

December 9 - 12, 2023



Journeys to

Legendary Destinations

at the Crossroads of Europe & Asia



Qatar Nat'l Tourism Council



Overview Daily Itinerary

Day 1	Sat	Dec 9	Arrive Doha, Qatar
Day 2	Sun	Dec 10	Doha
Day 3	Mon	Dec 11	Doha
Day 4	Tue	Dec 12	Depart Doha



On arrival in Doha clear Qatari customs and immigration and then meet your guide in the arrivals hall. Transfer into the city and then check in for some rest at your hotel.

Today's Highlights:

• Discover Doha

Per Transfer private English-speaking guide service.

Transfer by private vehicle & driver, airport - hotel.

Discover Doha

The city of Doha is home to nearly 2.5 million inhabitants - over 80% of Qatar's population. Despite its size, Doha is not a particularly old city. The area was a sparsely populated desert until the 19th century, with only the small settlement of Al Bidda nearby. Al Bidda has since been surrounded by the city and it is now one of its neighborhoods.

Pearl diving and cultivation were the main economic drivers in this area through the 1950s. To this day pearl motifs and references to pearls are common in the local architecture. Then oil was discovered nearby in the early 20th century. Beginning in the 1950s the petroleum industry drove an economic and population boom. Crude oil and natural gas are still the dominant forces in Qatar's economy today, comprising over 80% of the country's exports.

All this rapid development means that Doha is a bit short on truly historical sights. It is however a pleasant place to explore, boasting a beautiful corniche along the water, an impressive skyline, excellent museums, a world-class bazaar, and fantastic hotels. The Arabian Desert with its seas of sand is also very close by, as are a range of interesting historical sights.

A standard room will be booked for you at the hotel. Please note that standard check-in times apply.

Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels by Tivoli

The Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels are located in the cultural heart of Doha, steps away from their namesake, a vibrant market famous for its artwork, garments, spices, handicrafts, and souvenirs. The hotel complex is made up of nine small boutiques scattered around the market, all run by the Tivoli group and all adhering to the same high standards.

The individual boutiques are each a bit different from another, but they all feature traditional Arabian design elements alongside modern comforts like air conditioning, Wi-Fi, satellite TV, and espresso coffee machines. Several of the boutiques also have an on-site restaurant. The boutiques are all located within quick walking distance of one another, and of all the market has to offer.



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Breakfast at the hotel. Spend the full day touring Doha with your guide. The sights today are all located within the city, focusing on the highlights while also allowing you to dive deeper into the local culture.

Today's Highlights:

- **Qatari Cultural Session**
- **National Museum of Qatar**
- **Souq Waqif**
- **Falcon Market**
- **Falcon Hospital**
- **Katara Cultural Village**

Full day private English-speaking guide service.

Full day private vehicle & driver service.

Qatari Cultural Session

Meet with a certified expert in Qatari culture at the beautiful Abdullah Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center, the main building of which is topped by the unique spiral-shaped Al Fanar Mosque. The session will consist of several components covering topics including local history, hospitality and greetings, the Arabic language, and Islam. You'll also have the opportunity to try a traditional Arabic coffee or tea and to tour the mosque. Your session will be totally private and you are welcome to take photos and ask any questions you might have.

National Museum of Qatar

The spectacular building of the National Museum of Qatar is scenically located along Doha's corniche, just inland from the Persian Gulf. The desert rose-shaped building was designed by architect Jean Nouvel. Inside, the museum's collections focus on three primary themes: Qatar's natural history, the cultural history of the local Bedouins and tribes, and then the modern nation-state's history and the oil and gas industry.

Souq Waqif

This sprawling market in central Doha is the city's premier destination for shopping. The market was originally built in the early 20th century, but it has been renovated and expanded several times over the past century. Traditional Qatari aesthetics have been preserved, making this a photogenic place. Inside one can find textiles, traditional clothing, spices, handicrafts, souvenirs, and all sort of other things. It is also a great place to grab a bite to eat or a traditional coffee.

Falcon Market

Doha's large Falcon Market is located right next to the city's main bazaar, Souq Waqif. Explore the market and learn all about the diverse equipment used in modern Qatari falconry, ranging from traditional leather hoods to high-tech GPS devices.

Falcon Hospital

Falconry is a very important part of Qatari culture and arguably a national pastime here. In fact, the industry is big enough in Qatar to support a hospital dedicated to the care of these beautiful birds of prey. Visit the hospital and learn how falcons are maintained and rehabilitated from various injuries.

Katara Cultural Village

This large architectural complex was opened in 2010. While modern, the buildings that make up the Katara Cultural Village celebrate traditional Qatari architecture and decor. The sprawling complex hosts festivals and exhibits throughout the year in its many public spaces, including an amphitheater, concert hall, and plazas. A beautiful turquoise- and indigo-tiled mosque is also located on site, as are the offices of many Qatari cultural and professional organizations. This is a wonderful place to go for an evening stroll, perhaps followed by dinner at one of the many on site cafes or restaurants.

Overnight at Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels by Tivoli

Meals: B



Breakfast at the hotel. Your touring today will focus on sights outside of Doha, particularly north of the city. Unlike the modernity of the city, this area remains largely untouched and provides good opportunities to learn more about the history of the country firsthand.

Today's Highlights:

- **Al Khor Fish Market**
- **Al Jassasiyah Rock Carvings**
- **Al Jumail Ghost Town**
- **Al Zubarah Fort**
- **Doha Corniche**
- **Dhow Cruise**

Full day private English-speaking guide service.

Full day private vehicle & driver service.

Al Khor Fish Market

The Al Khor Fish Market is where local fishermen haul in and sell their catches. Watch as they dock their boats, sort the fish, and untangle their nets. Stroll the stalls and browse through the freshest of Qatar's fish, crustaceans, and shellfish. The market is at its best in the early mornings and late evenings.

Al Jassasiyah Rock Carvings

The Al Jassasiyah Rock Carvings are located on the north coast of Qatar, around an hour from Doha. Over 900 different carvings can be found here. Their provenance and age are shrouded in mystery, with some experts arguing they are relatively recent at only 300 years old and others arguing they are ancient and several millennia old. The leading theory is that they date from the first half of the last millennium. Regardless of their age, the carvings are interesting to look at and interpret. Many consist of cup-like indentations and rings. Others take the form of traditional Arabian dhows. And still more depict animals including ostriches and sea turtles.

Al Jumail Ghost Town

In the 19th and early 20th centuries Al Jumail was a sleepy coastal town, dedicated to fishing and pearling. The town's inhabitants began leaving for Doha when Qatar's oil-based economy began to boom in the mid 20th century. The village is all but abandoned nowadays, though the traditionally built homes and mosque remain. Explore the village with your guide to learn about the impact of the oil boom on rural Qatar and the lives of the town's former inhabitants,

Al Zubarah Fort

Al Zubarah Fort is Qatar's only site on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It is a striking historical military installation, commissioned in 1938 by Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim Al Thani, former Emir of Qatar. The fort was built almost entirely out of local coral-based limestone, compressed mud, and wood. The modern interior features exhibits of art and archaeological artifacts.

Doha Corniche

The Doha Corniche is a beautiful walkway and road that stretches over four miles along the city's curved waterfront. This is a great place to go for light exercise, photography, and people watching.

Dhow Cruise

Enjoy a unique and memorable view of Doha's unmistakable city skyline from a traditional wooden dhow in the warm waters of the Persian Gulf. This will be a strictly private, two-hour excursion tailored to your schedule in Doha, however before and during sunset is the recommended time of day for the best views of the city and the cooler ocean breeze. Dhows have been used for centuries by merchants along the Arabian peninsula, and these modern cruise fleets have been outfitted with contemporary comforts including toilet facilities.

Overnight at Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels by Tivoli

Meals: B



Per Transfer private English-speaking guide service.

Transfer by private vehicle & driver, hotel - airport.

Meals: B