



General Information Note

World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration

27 September 2017, Doha, Qatar

I. PLACE AND DATE

1. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) are jointly organizing the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration, to be held in Doha, on 27 September 2017.
2. The World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration will be held at:



Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel

Al Corniche Street, P.O. Box 6000

Doha, Qatar

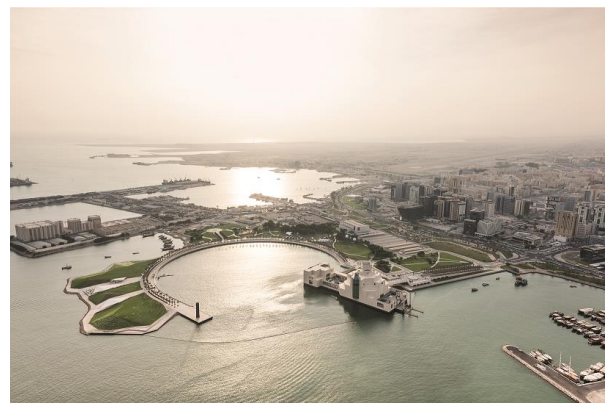
Tel: +974 4485 4444

Fax: +97444832323

Website: <http://www.sheratongranddoha.com>

II. HOST COUNTRY

Qatar is a country steeped in history, rich in culture and buoyed by global growth. Owing to the country's rapid development, visitors have an opportunity to capture the beautiful contrast of past and future in a single frame; the country is home to high rises and modern technology parks, sitting side by side with majestic desert landscapes and 1,400 years of Islamic history. In addition to offering a wide range of authentic experiences, Qatar hosts close to 80 sporting events annually, and will be the first Middle Eastern country to host the 2019 World Athletics Championships, 2022 FIFA World Cup and the 2023 FINA World Swimming Championships.



In 2011, the country launched the Qatar National Vision 2030 to guide its plans for sustainable long-term development and economic diversification. In pursuit of this vision, tourism has been designated a priority sector by the country's leaders. Tourism provides Qatar with the opportunity to find sustainable economic growth, while perpetuating and celebrating the nation's cultural and natural gems.

In 2014, Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) launched the Qatar National Tourism Sector Strategy (QNTSS) 2030, which charts a pathway of sustainable development for the tourism sector through 2030. Since its launch, Qatar has welcomed over 9 million visitors, and achieved an average annual growth in arrivals of 6% between 2012 and 2016. The economic impact of the tourism sector in Qatar is becoming increasingly visible with 2015 estimates showing a total impact on Qatar's total GDP of 4.3%.

On World Tourism Day 2017, a new chapter of QNTSS will be launched, taking Qatar into the next phase of its journey towards 2030.

III. REPLIES TO INVITATIONS

3. Participants of the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration are kindly requested to confirm their participation by registering online at <http://wtd.unwto.org/registration-world-tourism-day-2017-official-celebration>, as soon as possible and no later than 8 September 2017.

4. After the deadline is reached, participants who have not registered online, but wish to attend the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration, are kindly requested to inform organizers directly by email (contact details available in section XII).

IV. STATUS OF PARTICIPANTS

5. Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA) will take the necessary measures to assist on the arrival, stay and departure of participants of the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration. Throughout their stay, participants will enjoy the privileges and immunities provided for in the Agreement concluded between the Organization and QTA, under article 32 of the Statute of the Organization.

V. RECEPTION AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

6. Qatar Tourism Authority will organize the reception of participants at **Hamad International Airport** and will facilitate the free transfer of delegates on arrival and departure between the airport, the official hotels and the venue of the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration.

7. The **Hamad International Airport** is the international airport of Doha, the capital of Qatar. It is located 15.2 km from Doha's city centre. Airport Code: DOH. The drive to the city centre takes 20 minutes in normal traffic. Further information regarding the airport is available at the airport's website: <https://dohahamadairport.com/>

8. Upon arrival at **Hamad International Airport**, participants will be picked up by representatives of the Qatar Tourism Authority holding signs of the World Tourism Day and will guide them to their corresponding transfer vehicle. An information desk in charge of the transfers coordination will be also available.

VI. ENTRY FORMALITIES

9. A valid passport is necessary for visitors coming to Qatar. Participants who require an entry visa are requested to contact diplomatic or consular missions of Qatar in their countries in order to obtain their entry visa.

10. Nationals of the following countries DO NOT REQUIRE a visa to enter Qatar: **Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Turkey**.

11. Nationals of the following countries DO NOT REQUIRE a visa to enter Qatar:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. ANDORRA | 2. ARGENTINA | 3. AUSTRALIA | 4. AUSTRIA |
| 5. BELARUS | 6. BELGIUM | 7. BOLIVIA | 8. BRAZIL |
| 9. BULGARIA | 10. CANADA | 11. CHILE | 12. CHINA |
| 13. COLOMBIA | 14. CROATIA | 15. DENMARK | 16. ECUADOR |
| 17. CYPRUS | 18. MALTA | 19. BRUNEI | 20. GEORGIA |
| 21. ESTONIA | 22. FINLAND | 23. FRANCE | 24. FRENCH GUIANA |
| 25. GERMANY | 26. GREECE | 27. GUYANA | 28. HONG KONG |
| 29. HUNGARY | 30. ICELAND | 31. INDONESIA | 32. IRELAND |
| 33. ITALY | 34. JAPAN | 35. KAZAKHSTAN | 36. KOREA ST |
| 37. LATVIA | 38. LEBANON | 39. LIECHTENSTEIN | 40. LITHUANIA |
| 41. LUXEMBOURG | 42. MACEDONIA | 43. MALAYSIA | 44. MALTA |
| 45. MALDIVES | 46. MEXICO | 47. MOLDOVA | 48. UKRAINE |
| 49. MEXICO | 50. MOLDOVA | 51. MONACO | 52. NETHERLANDS |
| 53. NEW ZEALAND | 54. NORWAY | 55. PARAGUAY | 56. PERU |
| 57. POLAND | 58. PORTUGAL | 59. R.O.C.TAIWAN | 60. ROMANIA |
| 61. RUSSIA | 62. SAN MARINO | 63. SEYCHELLES | 64. SINGAPORE |
| 65. SLOVAKIA | 66. SLOVENIA | 67. SOUTH AFRICA | 68. SPAIN |
| 69. SURINAME | 70. SWEDEN | 71. SWITZERLAND | 72. THAILAND |
| 73. TURKEY | 74. U K | 75. URUGUAY | 76. USA |
| 77. VATICAN | 78. VENEZUELA | 79. INDIA | 80. BAHAMAS |

12. Participants from other countries not listed above are requested to contact the Qatar Tourism Authority, Mr. Abdulla Al-Obaidli and Ms. Maryam Al Sulaiti at WTD2017@visitqatar.qa, sufficiently in advance, by **1 September 2017**, at the latest, submitting a scanned copy of their passport valid for at least 6 months, as well as confirmed flight and accommodation bookings, and indicating all the necessary information below, in order to enable the authorities of Qatar to take the necessary measures to issue them entry visa, free of charge, and sent to their respective email:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| - Name and surname | - Place and date of birth |
| - Nationality | - Validity of passport (no less than 6 months) |
| - Number and type of passport | - Travel information (date, time and flight number) |

VII. ACCOMMODATION

13. Qatar Tourism Authority has negotiated special rates with some hotels in Doha for participants of the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration. Participants are invited to contact hotels directly for reservations, indicating that they will participate in this event.

14. A list of hotels with special rates for participants of the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration is provided below:

	Hotel name (distance from the venue)	Room type and special rate on BB basis (tax inclusive) (Qatari Riyals)	Contact person for reservation
5 Stars	Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention (Event Venue)	Single: 595.00 Double: 660.00	Monika Mizerka, Account Manager Dennielyn Viesca, Senior Account Manager Email: monika.mizerska@sheraton.com / dennielyn.viesca@sheraton.com Mobile: +974 50757940 - +974 33256416 Website: www.sheraton.com/doha
5 Stars	Hilton Doha (2.1 km - Travel time: 5')	Single: 600.00 Double: 680.00	Mahmoud Hegazy, Director of Sales Email: mahmoud.hegazy@hilton.com Mobile: +974 33515297 Website: www.hilton.com
5 Stars	Intercontinental Doha the City (2.5 km - Travel time: 5')	Single: 600.00 Double: 750.00	Roy Mrad, Director of MICE & Government Sales Email: roy.mrad@ihg.com Mobile: +974 70218752 Website: intercontinental.com/dohathecity
5 Stars	Marriott Marquis City Center (1.7 km - Travel time: 5')	Single: 577.00 Double: 632.00	David Key, Director of sales & marketing Email: David.key@marriott.com Mobile: +974 44195000 Website: www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dohmq-marriott-marquis-city-center-doha-hotel/
5 Stars	Movenpick West Bay (1.6 km - Travel time: 5')	Single: 450.00 Double: 550.00	Munir Harahap, Assistance Reservation Manager Email: hotel.dohawestbay.reservation@movenpick.com Mobile: +974 50744076 Website: www.movenpick.com
5 stars	Souq Waqif Boutique Hotels (5.6 km - Travel time: 16')	Single: 450.00 Double: 500.00	Pielar Kachach, Sales Manager Email: bkachach@minor.com Mobile: +974 50016502 Website: www.souqwaqifresort.com
5 stars	W Doha Hotel & Residences (3.1 km - Travel time: 7')	Single: 650.00 Double: 850.00	Joris Overbeek, Director of Revenue Email: joris.overbeek@whotels.com Mobile: +974 30177039 Website: www.whoteldoha.com
5 stars	Fraser Suites West Bay (2 km - Travel time: 11')	Studio Deluxe: 649 One Bedroom Deluxe: 949 Two Bedroom Deluxe: 1,449 Two Bedroom Penthouse: 1,649 Three Bedroom Penthouse: 2,249	Jalaj Rohatgi, Director of Sales & Marketing Email: jalaj.rohatgi@fraserhospitality.com Mobile: +974 66954840 Website: westbay-doha.fraserhospitality.com/en
4 stars	Retaj AlRayyan (1.9 km - Travel time: 8')	Single: 390.00 Double: 425.00	Malek Nabhan, Revenue Manager Email: m_nabhan@retaj.com Mobile: +974 66191640 Website: www.retaj-hotels.com
4 Stars	The Curve Hotel (2.1 km - Travel time: 7')	Single: 450.00 Double: 550.00	Lassaad Nabli, Sales Manager Email: lassaad.nabli@ezdancurve.qa Mobile: +974 50435163 Website: www.ezdancurve.qa
n/a	Adagio Premium ApartHotel West Bay (1.9 km - Travel time: 11')	Studio: 490 One-bed- apartment: 655	Zeinab Hammoud, Director of Sales & Marketing Email: H9537-SL@accor.com Mobile: +974 33858784 Website: www.adagio-city.com/9537

VIII. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION BADGES

15. A registration desk will be open at the **Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel** on **Tuesday, 27 September 2017 from 8.00 to 11.00 a.m.** Name badges will be issued at the time of registration. All participants are requested to wear the identification badges during all the sessions of the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration, as well as at all social events.

IX. EVENTS

16. The World Tourism Day website is <http://wtd.unwto.org/home-wtd-2017>

17. The provisional programme of the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration will be updated regularly and published at <http://wtd.unwto.org/official-celebration>.

Tuesday, 26 September 2017

19:30h Welcome Cocktail hosted by Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA)

Wednesday, 27 September 2017

09.30 – 10.30	Opening Ceremony
10.30 – 11.00	Press Conference
11.00 – 11.30	Keynote speech
11.30 – 12.30	High Level Think Tank: Tourism as a means for sharing and enhancing our cultures and mutual understanding
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Session 1 – Tourism as a driver of economic growth and inclusive development – working towards SDG 8
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break
16.00 – 16.20	Communicating the value of tourism for development
16.20 – 17.30	Session 2 – Tourism and the Planet: committed to a greener future
17.30 – 18.00	Closing Ceremony and Presentation of the host country of WTD 2018
20.00 – 22.00	Gala Dinner

Thursday, 28 September 2017

Technical site visits

X. TECHNICAL SITE VISITS

18. Qatar Tourism Authority has prepared the technical site visits below to be offered to participants of the World Tourism Day 2017 Official Celebration. Participants are kindly requested to confirm their participation and selected tour, by contacting Ms. Maryam Saoud (msaoud@visitqatar.qa). These itineraries might be subject to minor modifications before the event date.

- 1. Green Architecture Tour:** Focused on building guidelines and showcasing examples of sustainable architecture, where sustainability is central of the chosen attractions. Throughout the tour, visitors will have a chance to see the traditional Qatari architecture blended with the latest in eco-friendly technologies.

Itinerary:

- 08:00 Departure from Sheraton Grand Doha Resort
- 08:15 Legacy Pavilion - Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy
- 09:30 Msheireb Downtown Doha + Mohammed Bin Jassim House
- 11:30 Khalifah Stadium
- 13:00 Katara Cultural Village (Lunch is included)
- 15:15 Back to Sheraton

2. **The Art of Creative Reuse Tour:** Takes you to explore the smart use of old buildings in Doha. The selected tourist attractions are great models of redeveloped buildings that were recycled for contemporary use. The limited use of resources, energy and waste reduction and the community involvement in the projects, led them to promote sustainability.

Itinerary:

- 08:45 Departure from Sheraton Grand Doha Resort
- 09:00 Souq Waqif
- 11:10 Meshireb Museums (Bin Jelmoor House & Mohammed Bin Jassim House)
- 13:20 Fire Station Artist in Residence (Lunch is included)
- 16:00 Back to Sheraton

3. **The Future of Sustainable Living Tour:** A journey to multiple strategic landmarks in Doha that are aiming to meet the economic, environmental and socio-cultural needs for the current and future generations.

Itinerary:

- 08:00 Departure from Sheraton Grand Doha Resort
- 08:45 Qatar National Convention Center
- 10:15 Qatar Science & Technology Park
- 11:50 Qatar International Golf Club
- 13:45 Doha Golf Club (Lunch is included)
- 16:30 Back to Sheraton

4. **The Protected Beauty Tour:** A tour on a traditional dhow to Al Aaliya Island, one of the most preserved islands in Qatar. It is a home to a number of unique faunas and floras.

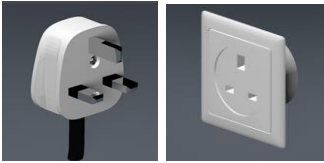
Itinerary:

- 15:00 Departure from Sheraton Grand Doha Resort and Convention Hotel
- 15:20 Departure from the Pearl
- 16:00 Arrival to Al Aliya Island
- 19:30 Arrival to Al Corniche Port
- 19:45 Back to Sheraton Grand Doha Resort and Convention Hotel

Note: For conservation purposes, no one is allowed on the island. Lunch will be prepared on the traditional dhow.

19. Participants in the tours will be picked up from the WTD official hotels one hour before the departure time from Sheraton Grand Doha.

XI. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Climate	<p>Qatar has a desert climate with year-round sunshine, hot summers and mild winters. Mean monthly temperatures range from 17°C in January to 36°C in July, sometimes reaching highs of 40°C+ during the summer. Rain is infrequent, falling in brief showers mainly in winter.</p> <p>The average maximum temperature in Doha in September is 42 °C and the average low is 34 °C.</p>
Time	Local time is GMT/UCT + 3 hours. There are no daylight savings adjustments.
Official currency	The monetary unit of Qatar is the riyal (abbreviated to QR or QAR). The exchange rate is fixed at US \$1 = QR3.64. There are no foreign exchange controls. ATMs can be found in many locations and most shops and restaurants accept major credit cards.
Official language	The official language is Arabic. English is widely spoken and understood. A wide range of other languages are spoken within the hospitality industry.
Business hours	The work week is from Sunday to Thursday, with most offices closed on Friday and Saturday. Government offices working hours are from 07:00 to 14:00.
Customs regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tobacco allowance: 400 cigarettes. - Personal items and gifts up to a maximum value of QAR 3,000. - Imports of alcohol and narcotics are prohibited
Religion	Qatar is an Islamic country but other religions are respected and Qatar's cosmopolitan population supports many places of worship from Hindu temples to Christian churches. The timing of Islamic festivals and holidays depends on the lunar calendar, moving about eleven days earlier each year.
Dress code	The attitude to dress in Qatar is quite relaxed, but visitors (men as well as women) should show respect for local culture and customs in public places by avoiding excessively revealing clothing. Context is important. Bikinis and beachwear are acceptable by the hotel pool but not in public places in the city.
Electricity	<p>220/240 volts AC 50Hz. Socket type is square three-pin 13 amp (as used in the UK).</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>Source (photos): http://www.iec.ch/worldplugs/typeG.htm</p> </div> </div>
Gastronomy	Despite limited agriculture, traditional Qatari food can be surprisingly varied. While locally caught fish are always in plentiful supply, many staples have to be imported. Over the years, local dishes have been influenced by the cuisine of the Indian Subcontinent, Iran, the Levant and North Africa. They include: machboos, a stew of richly spiced rice with seafood or meat, mutton served with yogurt; ghuzi, a whole roast lamb on a bed of rice and nuts; and stuffed boiled sheep or goat served with seasoned rice. This centrepiece of the meal is generally accompanied by a variety of side dishes, including chicken, fish and vegetables and salad. Locally grown dates, fresh fruit and desserts such as halwa or Umm Ali round off a typical Qatari meal.
Water	Tap water is generally safe to drink in Doha and other urban areas.
Telecommunications	The country code for Qatar is +974. Telecom providers Ooredoo and Vodafone offer pre-paid and post-paid mobile services.

Important telephone numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency: 999 - Directory Assistance: 180 - Hamad International Airport: +974 4010 6666 - Qatar Tourism Call Centre: +974 4444 4106
Safety	Qatar has among the lowest crime rates in the world. It is a safe destination with religious and political stability. While normal precautions should be observed, visitors need have little concern walking in any part of the city.
Disabled visitors	Leading hotels, the airports, shopping malls, larger banks and other new or recently-restored public buildings offer wheelchair access, disabled toilets and allocated parking, but visitors with special requirements are advised to check the situation at other locations.

Source: <https://www.visitqatar.qa/>

XII. CONTACT INFORMATION

UNWTO Secretariat	Qatar Tourism Authority
<p>Ms. Sandra Carvao Chief, Communications and Publications Tel: (+34) 91 5678163 Fax: (+34) 91 578219 Email: scarvao@unwto.org</p> <p>Mrs. Maria Soledad Gaido Communications and Publications Programme Tel: (+34) 91 5678138 Fax: (+34) 91 578219 Email: mgaido@unwto.org</p>	<p>Ms. Maryam Alsulaiti International Cooperation Unit Tel:(+974) 44991949 Fax:(+974) 44991919 Email: malsulaiti@visitqatar.qa</p> <p>Mr. Abdulla Alobaidli International Cooperation Unit Tel:(+974) 44998091 Fax:(+974) 44991919 Email: aaalobaidli@visitqatar.qa</p>