Qatar Fact Sheet

There is wisdom in turning as often as possible from the familiar, to the unfamiliar: it keeps the mind nimble, it kills prejudice, and it fosters humor.

George Santayana, philosopher

Did you know that…?

♦ Qatar is in the midst of an economic boom supported by its oil and natural gas
♦ While oil and gas account for 60% of GDP, the country is focusing on development of Qatar’s other sectors with a push on non-energy sectors. They are encouraging foreign partnerships and investment
♦ Ruled by the al-Thani family since the mid 1800s, Qatar had emerged from being a poor British protectorate known for its pearling into an independent country rich with oil and gas reserves
♦ Today, Qatar has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world
♦ Qatar hosted the Asian games in 2007 and is bidding for the Olympics
♦ Qatar has oil reserves estimated at 15 billion barrels (2.4 km³)
♦ Qatar has invested in desalination plants which remove salt from seawater
♦ Legendary stories abound of Qatari roadside hospitality and assistance
♦ The old souk in Doha is safe, clean, full of an excellent array of restaurants, boutiques and souvenir shops
♦ Qatar was a part of Turkish-Ottoman Empire until 1918
♦ Qatar became a member of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) in 1961
♦ Qatar’s liquefied natural gas (LNG) company, Qatar gas, established in 1984, pioneered LNG in Qatar
♦ Qatar has 72.9% of population age from 15-64; median age is 31.9
♦ Qatar’s oil was discovered in Dukhan on the west coast of Qatar in 1939
♦ Qatar Qatar’s proved reserves of natural gas exceed 25 trillion cubic meters, more than 5% of the world total and third largest in the world
♦ Qatar has little fresh water and most water is from the sea
♦ The availability of cultured pearls from Japan in the 1930s led to the collapse of the Qatari pearl industry. The pearl beds around Qatar are no longer commercially fished
♦ Qatar in conjunction with foreign investment in the development of its gas fields in the last decade has become the world’s top liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter in 2007
♦ Qatar Airways, the flag carrier airline of Qatar, is fast growing into a strong high quality international carrier. In 2007, Qatar Airways announced $13.5 billion worth of orders with Boeing for aircraft including 777s and the new 787s. Thus becoming the first Mideast carrier to fly a dreamliner. The airline regularly receives awards for its five star service and premium offerings.

Other Information
♦ www.experienceqatar.com
♦ www.qatarairways.com
♦ www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g294008-Qatar-Vacations.html
♦ www.bootsnall.com/articles/05-04/doha-a-touch-of-arabian-hospitality-doha-qatar.htm

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