



Qatari Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Qatar Tourist Entry Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders travelling as tourists can usually obtain a visa waiver free of charge upon entry to Qatar. This visa waiver is valid for 30 days and may be extended for a further 30 days. It is highly recommended that passports be valid for at least 6 months beyond the period of intended stay. Travellers should be able to produce documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay as well as tickets and entry documents for their onward destination.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Qatari representative on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible receive a visa waiver on arrival in Qatar, especially if not entering via Hamad International Airport.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Qatar. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Vaccination against typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should be considered by travellers to Qatar. There is a medium risk of malaria in Qatar, thus insect avoidance measures and anti-malarial medication may be necessary depending on your itinerary.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians travelling to Qatar should ensure they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips.

Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Thu, 1st November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in Qatar. Use common sense and look out for suspicious behaviour. Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt have suspended diplomatic ties with Qatar. Your transport arrangements could be affected by disruptions to transport links. Contact your airline or travel provider to confirm arrangements. See [Local travel](#). International terrorists have called for attacks against Western interests in the Gulf region. See [Safety and security](#).

Medication available over the counter or by prescription in Australia may be illegal in Qatar. Check your medicines with the [Embassy of the State of Qatar](#) and explore alternatives with your doctor before you travel. See [Health](#). There are strict laws on personal conduct, particularly regarding intimacy and personal relationships and the consumption and possession of alcohol. See [Laws](#). Failing to pay debts or bills can land you in jail. Having cheques dishonoured and failing to pay fines or hotel bills all constitute 'fraud'. See [Laws](#). If you become involved in litigation, you could be prevented from departing Qatar. See [Laws](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Qatar at www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Representatives of Qatar in Australia and abroad

Embassy of Qatar, Canberra

10 Akame Circuit
O'MALLEY, ACT 2606

Tel: (02) 6152 8888
Fax: (02) 6286 2209

Hukoomi Government Online Portal, Qatar

Web: www.gov.qa

Ministry of Interior, Qatar

Web: www.moi.gov.qa/site/english



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Time Differences between Qatar and Australia

Qatar is Greenwich Mean Time +3 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone in Qatar is called "Arabia Standard Time" (AST).

Qatar, 12 noon, December = Perth 5pm; Darwin 6:30pm; Brisbane 7pm; Adelaide 7:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 8pm.
 Qatar, 12 noon, June = Perth 5pm; Darwin, Adelaide 6:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 7pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Qatar: +974

To Dial Australia Call:
 00 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:
 Call the US on (+1 954) 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance:
 Call the US on (+1 303) 967 1090

MasterCard:
 Call the US on (+1 636) 722 7111

American Express Service Centre:
 Call Bahrain on (+973) 256 834

Qatar Tourism Call Centre:
 (+974) 4406 9921

Emergency Services: 999

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Qatar

Australian Embassy, Qatar

Tornado Tower
 Majlis Al Taawon St
 DOHA

Tel: (+974) 4007 8500

Web: www.qatar.embassy.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Qatar are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Doha, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances

Allowances when entering Qatar:

Alcohol: Alcohol may not be imported into Qatar.
 Tobacco: Up to 400 cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to the value of 3,000 QR.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

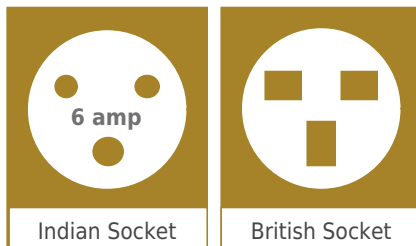
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Qatar and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Qatari customs please visit www.customs.gov.qa, or for information on Australian customs please visit www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical socket: British (type G) and Indian (old British, type D).

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

A voltage converter will not usually be required to use appliances designed for Australia. A socket converter is generally all that is required for Australian appliances.

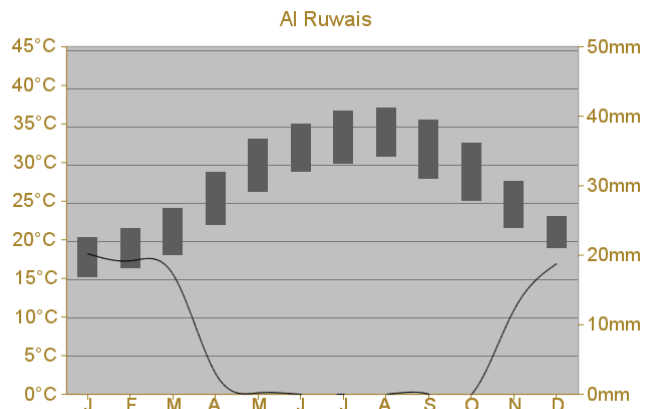
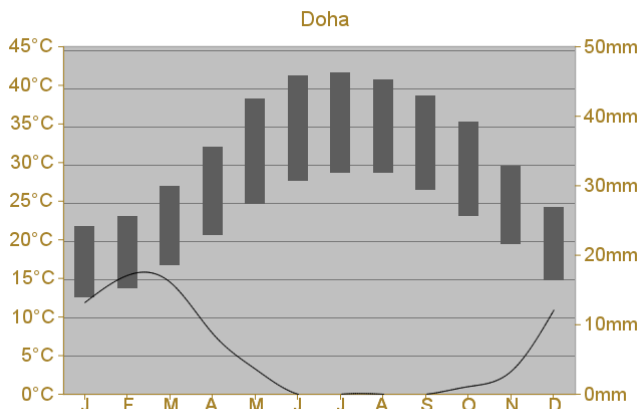


Qatari Public Holidays 2018

01 Jan: New Years Day	20 Aug: Feast of Sacrifice
13 Feb: National Sports Day	21 Aug: Eid al Adha Holiday
15 Jun: End of Ramadan	22 Aug: Eid al Adha Holiday
16 Jun: Eid al Fitr Holiday	18 Dec: Qatari National Day
17 Jun: Eid al Fitr Holiday	

As many Islamic holidays are timed according to the sighting of phases of the moon, the above dates are approximate only.

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Qatar



Source: Department of Meteorology, Qatar. For forecasts please go to <http://qweather.gov.qa>.

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Exchange Rate with Qatar

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 2.59 Qatari Riyal
 1 Qatari Riyal (QAR) = 0.3866 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 2.49 Qatari Riyal
 1 Qatari Riyal (QAR) will cost 0.4021 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

QR5 = \$2.01 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		QR1,000 = \$402.07 AUD	
QR10	= \$4.02 AUD	QR100	= \$40.21 AUD	QR2,000	= \$804.14 AUD
QR20	= \$8.04 AUD	QR200	= \$80.41 AUD	QR3,000	= \$1,206.21 AUD
QR30	= \$12.06 AUD	QR300	= \$120.62 AUD	QR4,000	= \$1,608.29 AUD
QR40	= \$16.08 AUD	QR400	= \$160.83 AUD	QR5,000	= \$2,010.36 AUD
QR50	= \$20.10 AUD	QR500	= \$201.04 AUD	QR6,000	= \$2,412.43 AUD
QR60	= \$24.12 AUD	QR600	= \$241.24 AUD	QR7,000	= \$2,814.50 AUD
QR70	= \$28.14 AUD	QR700	= \$281.45 AUD	QR8,000	= \$3,216.57 AUD
QR80	= \$32.17 AUD	QR800	= \$321.66 AUD	QR9,000	= \$3,618.64 AUD
QR90	= \$36.19 AUD	QR900	= \$361.86 AUD	QR10,000	= \$4,020.71 AUD

Qatari Currency

The official currency of Qatar is the Qatari Riyal which has the currency code "QAR" and is abbreviated using the symbol "QR". The Riyal can be subdivided into 100 dirham. The Riyal is pegged to the US dollar at a rate of \$1 US = QR3.64. The following banknotes are the most common however other versions and denominations are in circulation (including coins). Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images before travelling.





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About Qatar

Full Name: Dawlat Qatar (State of Qatar).

Size: 11,586 sq km (17% the size of Tasmania).

Population: 2.2 million (90% of which are foreign workers, not Qatari nationals).

Ethnicity: Arab 40%, Indian 18%, Pakistani 18%, Iranian 10%.

Language: Arabic is the official language, but English is common as a second language.

Religion: Islam (mostly Sunni) 68%, Christianity 14%, Hindu 14%, Buddhist 3%.

GDP Per Capita: US\$134,000, highest in the world. (Australia US\$43,000).

Significant Dates:

- Pre 628 AD - The area is ruled by various groups, including the Greeks and Persians. The main religions are paganism and Christianity.
- 628 AD - Islam becomes dominant.
- 750-1253 - Rule of the Abbasid Caliphate.
- 1700's - Migrants establish pearling and trading stations along the coast.
- 1867 - Doha destroyed after conflict with Bahrain. Britain recognises Qatar as separate from Bahrain.
- 1916 - British protection treaty signed.
- 1939 - Oil reserves are discovered.
- 1950's - Revenues from oil begin to modernise and transform Qatar.
- 1971 - Britain withdraws from the Gulf. Qatar becomes independent, declining to join the UAE or Bahrain. Worlds largest natural gas field discovered north of Qatar.
- 1995 - Emir Sheikh Khalifa is deposed by his son in a bloodless coup.
- 1996 - Al Jazeera television launches.
- 2005 - The first written constitution of Qatar comes into effect.
- 2013 - Sheikh Hamad abdicates in favour of his son, Sheikh Tamim.
- 2022 - Qatar is scheduled to host the FIFA Soccer World Cup.

