



QATAR

Qatar is fast becoming a destination of choice for many expatriates. Known for its oil exports like its more high profile neighbours, Qatar is now becoming as well known for tourism and banking.

Cost of Living: Cost of living in Qatar is similar to that in most EU countries. Accommodation is sometimes costly, as are imported foods. Electronic goods are generally less expensive. Utilities, such as electricity, water and gas, are subsidised by the region's governments.

Accommodation: Foreign workers tend to live in either compounds or apartments. Depending on the size of the compound, the facilities may include a communal swimming pool, a restaurant and shop, tennis and squash courts and a gymnasium.

Transport: Most people have cars provided by their employers. A garage or covered carport for your vehicle is vital.

Socialising: Qatar's location on the Gulf Coast is perfect for water-sports including diving. It has excellent facilities for sports, shopping and entertainment. The hotels provide the majority of bars although alcohol can also be purchased at the Qatar Distribution centre.

Dress Code: The region's hot climate and customs call for informal but smart dressing. Standard wear in the office is a shirt (usually long-sleeved), tie and lightweight trousers for men and for women it is short sleeved shirt and appropriate length skirt.

Taxation: The region has no personal taxation so net income is usually much greater. Remuneration packages can cover various elements such as basic salary, car provision or allowance, housing provision or allowance, medical cover, education and air tickets for home visits.

Visas: Issuing of visas is subject to strict bureaucratic procedures. Documents required include the following: a passport valid for at least 6 months (have at least 3/4 photocopies); at least 6 passport-size photographs; a marriage certificate; birth certificates for all family and a medical certificate. Note also that any visible connection with Israel, e.g. a passport or Israeli entry stamp, will disqualify you from entry.

Working in Qatar: In Ramadan, the working day is reduced to 6 hours but many companies only apply it to Muslims. Friday is the Muslim rest day and the other day off will probably be either Thursday or Saturday. Saturday is the more popular choice for international companies, but some insist on Thursday, as the school 'weekend' is Thursday and Friday.



KEY FACTS

Population: 1,541,130
Area: 11,437 km²
Capital City: Doha
Languages: Arabic
Currency: Riyal (QAR)
Time Zone: UTC/GMT +3 hours

CLIMATE

Qatar has very hot summers stretching from May to October. Temperatures can go as high as 50°C. Relatively Qatar has a fairly comfortable winter with a slight chilliness. Rains are occasional in winter with the region experiencing a high degree of humidity.

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