

invest   
Qatar

# GUIDE TO INVESTMENT







invest  
Qatar

PROGRESS  
MADE  
POSSIBLE

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I confirm that the main driving force of Qatar's economy at this phase is the investments in infrastructure and development projects, especially in education, health, transportation, research, and small and medium enterprises.

The State of Qatar is going through a significant stage in its overall development by means of implementing its national strategies, numerous programs, and projects in accordance with the **Qatar National Vision 2030**, and I confirm that the main driving force of Qatar's economy at this phase is the investments in infrastructure and development projects, especially in education, health, transportation, research, and small and medium enterprises, etc. We seek to achieve progress in economic diversification and to focus on increasing private sector investments in all economic sectors by providing incentives, offering partnership projects between the public and private sectors, and attracting foreign direct investments.

**HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani**  
**Amir of the State of Qatar**







Progress  
made  
possible



# Qatar National Vision 2030

Qatar's commitment to actively pursuing an economic diversification agenda has created many lucrative opportunities for savvy investors. In 2008, the Qatar National Vision 2030 was published with the aim of transforming Qatar into an advanced country by 2030, capable of sustaining its own development and providing a high standard of living for its population and generations to come.

## Qatar National Vision 2030 pillars

# 01

### Human Development

Development that expands the opportunities and capabilities of all the people of Qatar to enable them to sustain a prosperous society

# 02

### Social Development

Development of a just and caring society based on high moral standards, and capable of playing a significant role in the global partnership for development



03

### **Economic Development**

Development of a competitive and diversified economy capable of meeting the needs of, and securing a high standard of living for, all its people both for the present and for the future

04

### **Environmental Development**

Management of the environment such that there is harmony between economic growth, social development, and environmental protection



# Qatar at a glance

Qatar is a land where tradition meets modernity. It is a country whose people are rooted in their heritage while maintaining an eye on the future. It is home to everything from neolithic rock carvings and modernist skyscrapers to gentle Dugongs in its glittering waters.

Sharing a land border with Saudi Arabia to the south, Qatar is a peninsula with a 563-km coastline jutting along the western coast of the Arabian Gulf. It is located in the heart of the Middle East region, at the gateway between Africa, Asia and Europe, with over 80% of the world's population within 6-hour flight.

Its population of over 2.9 million people represents a diverse diaspora of over 85 different nationalities. The country's blend of Arabic heritage and modern culture makes it an equally attractive home for investors, expats, and visitors, and a friendly neighbourhood to raise families and build communities.







# The State of Qatar



Currency:

**Qatari Riyal**

(pegged at QAR 3.64:  
US\$1.00 Since 2001)

Capital City:

**Doha**



GDP nominal:

**\$237bn**

(2022)



**4th wealthiest**

**country** in the world on  
a GDP (PPP) per capita  
basis



**Safest country** in the  
world (Numbeo Safety  
Index 2023)



**#1 LNG exporter**

with 3rd largest reserves  
of natural gas on the  
planet



**2nd most competitive**

**economy in MENA** (IMD  
World Competitiveness  
Ranking 2022)

Population:

**2.9mn**



(85+ nationalities)



**Arabic**

is the official language of  
the country, and English  
is widely spoken.



Government:

**Constitutional  
Monarchy**



Local Time:

**GMT+3  
Hours**





**1<sup>st</sup>** for **Investment Momentum** globally  
(fDi Intelligence Standout Watchlist 2023)



**1<sup>st</sup>** in the **Arab World in Global Entrepreneurship Index**



Very high human development per UN  
Human Development Index -  
**#42 out of 188 countries**



One of the **largest sovereign wealth funds**,  
with strategic investments across the globe



**Stable price** with an average inflation  
rate of **1.3%**



**Healthy trade balance** (\$97.2bn, 2022)  
with increasing diversification in export mix





Your partner  
in progress



# Invest Qatar

The Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar) oversees investment promotion activities under the Invest Qatar brand and acts as a concierge for entrepreneurs and businesses interested in investing in Qatar.

Through leveraging an integrated ecosystem of business and licensing platforms, we support you throughout your investment journey, from exploration and setup to expansion, in a way that is tailored to your unique goals and ambitions to ensure your long-term success. Invest Qatar's support covers three main areas:

**Provision of general information:**

Business environment, regulatory environment, economic drivers

**Provision of market information:**

Investment opportunities, sector size and characteristics, identification of potential partners

**Support for foreign direct investors:**

Business setup and establishment assistance, organisation of site visits, meetings and introductions, provision of facilitation services and incentives



Invest Qatar supports you  
throughout your investment  
journey, from exploration  
and setup to expansion.

## Qatar's licensing platforms represent regulatory environments within which businesses can be registered and operated.



وزارة التجارة والصناعة  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
دولة قطر • State of Qatar

**The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI)** is responsible for overseeing commercial and industrial activities for the State of Qatar, and to manage these activities in accordance with the requirements of national development. The Ministry's mandate includes business development needed to attract investments, as well as to support and develop exports.



مركز قطر للمال  
Qatar Financial Centre

**The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)** is a leading onshore business and financial centre, providing a world class platform for firms to do business in Qatar and beyond. They offer attractive benefits, including 100 per cent foreign ownership, 100 per cent repatriation of profits, a fair and transparent tax regime and a legal regulatory framework based on English common law.



هيئة المناطق الحرة - قطر  
Qatar Free Zones Authority

**The Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ)** oversees and regulates world-class free zones in Qatar and secures fixed investments within the zones. QFZ offers outstanding opportunities and benefits for businesses seeking to establish operations and expand regionally and globally, providing quality infrastructure, a skilled workforce, 100% foreign ownership, access to investment funds, tax exemptions and partnership opportunities with Qatari entities.



واحة قطر للمعلوم  
والتكنولوجيا  
QATAR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PARK  
عضو في مؤسسة قطر  
Member of Qatar Foundation

**The Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP)** plays a key role in providing companies looking to expand to the region, the infrastructure, and the tools to develop tech-based, innovative, and entrepreneurial solutions. QSTP welcomes industry leaders and progressive companies to develop and deploy technological solutions in Qatar, focusing on ed-tech, artificial intelligence, ICT, sustainable development, and health.



المدينة الإعلامية  
Media City  
قطر Qatar

**Media City Qatar** was established by Amiri Decree No. (13) of 2019. Its goal is to drive the growth and development of the media industry and to become an international hub for businesses, organisations, and entrepreneurs with a focus on traditional and digital media, technology, communications, research, and development.





# Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI)

وزارة التجارة والصناعة  
Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
دولة قطر • State of Qatar



“Our country continues to transform into an attractive destination for international companies and investors alike. With increasing flexibility on ownership, a competitive tax system, and a world-class infrastructure, as well as a diverse talent pool, expanding global reach, and rapidly growing social and cultural options, Qatar is sparing no effort to position itself as a regional and global investment hub with an unprecedented value proposition.”

## **H.E Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Qassim Al-Thani**

Minister of Commerce and Industry

### **Qatar offers a broad range of incentives and privileges for non-Qatari investors including:**

- ▼ Single window-unified and integrated electronic platform to streamline approval and licensing procedures for company establishments
- ▼ Land may be allocated to foreign investors to establish an investment project by means of lease or usufruct
- ▼ Exemptions from income tax in accordance with controls, procedures and periods stipulated in the Income Tax Law
- ▼ Exemption of customs fees on the imports of necessary machinery, equipment, and raw materials or half manufactured goods necessary for production
- ▼ Foreign investors may transfer any amount related to their investment to and from any external destination without delay
- ▼ Entitled to transfer the ownership of an investment to any other investor or assign ownership to their local partner (in case of partnership)



“With a thriving economy, robust ICT infrastructure, a business-friendly environment, and strategic trade links, Qatar is an attractive destination for international investors. Qatar Financial Centre is here to help these investors establish their operations in the country and leverage what the Qatari market has to offer to grow their business and expand to other regions.”

**Yousuf Mohamed Al-Jaida**

Board Member and Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Financial Centre

As an onshore business and financial centre, QFC is unique in the region. It promotes Qatar’s openness to foreign investment and gives bespoke advice to help companies establish their operations in Qatar. QFC offers a robust and stable operating environment and provides an attractive regulatory framework. Firms which establish themselves in QFC can benefit from:

- ▼ Up to 100% foreign ownership
- ▼ 100% repatriation of profits
- ▼ A legal, judicial and regulatory framework based on English common law and international best practice
- ▼ Independent court, regulatory tribunal, and dispute resolution centre
- ▼ Unique administrative employment dispute resolution centre accredited by the International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- ▼ Competitive tax system
- ▼ Trade in any currency



# Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ)



“Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ) provides a platform for companies across the emerging technologies, advanced manufacturing and logistics and trading sectors to access new markets and capitalise on growth opportunities in Qatar – a dynamic economy that offers a combination of strong digital connectivity, world-class infrastructure and vast natural gas reserves. QFZ allows companies to take full advantage of these opportunities, providing strategically located free zones connected by air, land and sea, and tailor-made regulations that cater to the specific needs of investors. This flexibility sets us apart and allows us to attract and provide a platform for companies at the forefront of technological advancement.”

**Sheikh Mohammed H. F. Al-Thani**  
CEO of Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ)

QFZ develops and regulates world-class free zones in Qatar, delivering long-term solutions for businesses while supporting Qatar’s continued growth and diversification. QFZ also provides top-of-the-line infrastructure, a range of globally competitive incentives, with land options offering direct access to Qatar’s award-winning airport and seaport to connect investors with global markets.

Qatar Free Zones offer the potential to partner with a broad array of firms, with a focus on those operating in key sectors where Qatar has a strong value proposition such as emerging technologies, logistics, industry and maritime.

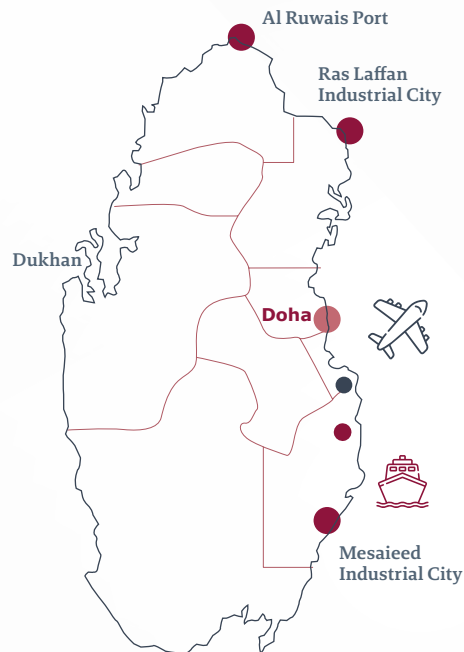
- ▼ Unparalleled access to award-winning airport and seaports
- ▼ 100% foreign ownership
- ▼ 20-year corporate tax exemptions
- ▼ Zero income tax
- ▼ Zero customs duties on imports
- ▼ Robust data protection and intellectual property laws
- ▼ Pre-built and self-built land plot options
- ▼ Turnkey offices
- ▼ Nationwide 5G and 1GB/ps internet speeds

## Ras Bufontas - Airport Free Zone

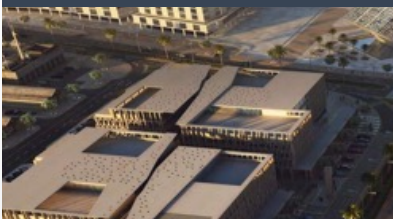
- ▼ Ras Bufontas Free Zone covers 4 km<sup>2</sup> directly adjacent to award-winning Hamad International Airport (HIA), providing unrivalled access to air transportation and efficient customs processing times. The red line of the Doha Metro, provides direct access to the free zone.
- ▼ Key industries/sectors of focus include: emerging technologies, aviation & business and light manufacturing.

## Umm Alhoul - Port Free Zone

- ▼ Umm Alhoul Free Zone covers 32 km<sup>2</sup> and is situated near the award-winning Hamad Port, the world's largest greenfield port, providing an optimal location for industries which benefit from access to sea freight and shipping routes.
- ▼ Key industries/sectors of focus include: heavy manufacturing, logistics, industrial sectors, downstream petrochemicals, emerging technologies and maritime.



Ras Bufontas - Airport Free Zone



Umm Alhoul - Port Free Zone





# Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP)



“QSTP, as part of a large network that also includes QF Education City partner universities and world-class research institutes, offers the full idea-to-innovation scope of support, expertise, and infrastructure necessary for applied research, technology development, and entrepreneurship to thrive.

Our Park & Free Zone is home to leading global technology companies that have invested in Qatar through QSTP and, together with local companies and startups, have become part of our rich RDI ecosystem, playing an important role in strengthening the sustainability and diversification of Qatar’s economy.”

## **Mr. Yosouf A. Saleh Al-Salehi**

Executive Director of Qatar Science & Technology Park

### **Incentives for investors include:**

- ▼ Quick company formation
- ▼ Up to 100% foreign ownership
- ▼ Exemption on corporate and personal income tax
- ▼ Exemption on customs duties
- ▼ No restrictions on repatriation of capital, profits, or salaries in any currency

### **QSTP offers a broad range of supporting infrastructure for established firms including:**

- ▼ State-of-the-art facility and infrastructure
- ▼ Meeting and conferencing facilities equipped with latest audio-visual systems
- ▼ On-site Tier 3 data center with advanced fiber optic network
- ▼ Dedicated member services help desk
- ▼ On-site cafes, restaurants, and postal services

“Media City Qatar (MCQ) is a vibrant media ecosystem where exceptional ideas and content thrive. MCQ provides access to a comprehensive value proposition of support levers that enable business and individuals to flourish. From broadcasting to publishing, from gaming to user generated content, from audio to advanced technology, MCQ welcomes organisations and professionals across multiple media segments.”

## **Sheikh Ali bin Abdulla bin Khalifa Al-Thani**

Chief Executive Officer, Media City Qatar

Media City Qatar aims to manage and drive the growth and development of the media industry in Qatar by providing an enabling platform and a nurturing environment for organisations and individuals to create content in Qatar for the world.

### **Investors that establish in Media City Qatar can benefit from:**

#### **Enabling regulatory environment:**

- ▼ 100% foreign ownership
- ▼ Regulatory body in line with international industry practices
- ▼ Easy company registration and setup
- ▼ Streamlined access to licences and permits
- ▼ Flexible employment and immigration regulations

#### **Support for everyday business:**

- ▼ Access to media facilities and services
- ▼ Access to attractive office facilities
- ▼ Initiatives to support our licencees’ business development
- ▼ Additional support tailored to our licencees’ needs

#### **A vibrant and innovative media community:**

- ▼ Community of local and international media players
- ▼ Access to national media champions
- ▼ Start-up support, R&D and other innovation activities
- ▼ Events, workshops, trainings and much more

#### **Financial benefits:**

- ▼ 20-year corporate tax holiday
- ▼ 100% repatriation of capital and profits
- ▼ Exemptions from import and exports tariffs
- ▼ Access to financial support and other incentives





Best home  
in the  
Middle East  
for your  
business



Every successful business must take a long-term view to achieve its most ambitious goals and fulfil its potential. In a world where change has never been faster, you need a like-minded partner to achieve that. In Qatar, discover a country set up for the long term. A prosperous and diversifying economy connects you to new markets to advance your ambitions. Where future-ready infrastructure lives alongside timeless hospitality.

## Stable and resilient economy

Qatar offers a stable and resilient economy with a high credit quality (AA from S&P, Aa3 from Moody's, and AA- from Fitch), stable GDP growth that is the highest in the region (8% over the last 20 years), and the 4th highest GDP per capita globally. The Qatari riyal is pegged to the US dollar, providing stability, confidence, and predictability for investors. While the country's economic diversification strategy and colossal investments in infrastructure have and will continue to help the economy grow.



**1<sup>st</sup>**

for entrepreneurship  
in the Arab world  
(GEM 2021-22)



**1<sup>st</sup>**

investment momentum  
globally (fDi intelligence  
2023)



**2<sup>nd</sup>**

in the Middle East in Global  
Finance Safety Index



**8%**

Average annual GDP  
growth the past 20 years.



**2<sup>nd</sup>**

most competitive  
economy in MENA



**High credit  
quality**

(S&P: AA  
Fitch: AA-  
Moody's: Aa3)



**Fixed  
exchange  
rate (US\$ 1  
= QR 3.64)**



**Protection  
against  
expropriation**



**1.3%**

average  
inflation rate  
since 2010



Double Taxation  
Agreements (DTA)

with **80+**  
countries



## Future ready **infrastructure**

Qatar's future-ready digital and physical infrastructure and connectivity resources ensure international investors experience a seamless flow of trade and capital, and support them to access the markets and build the relationships they need to succeed.

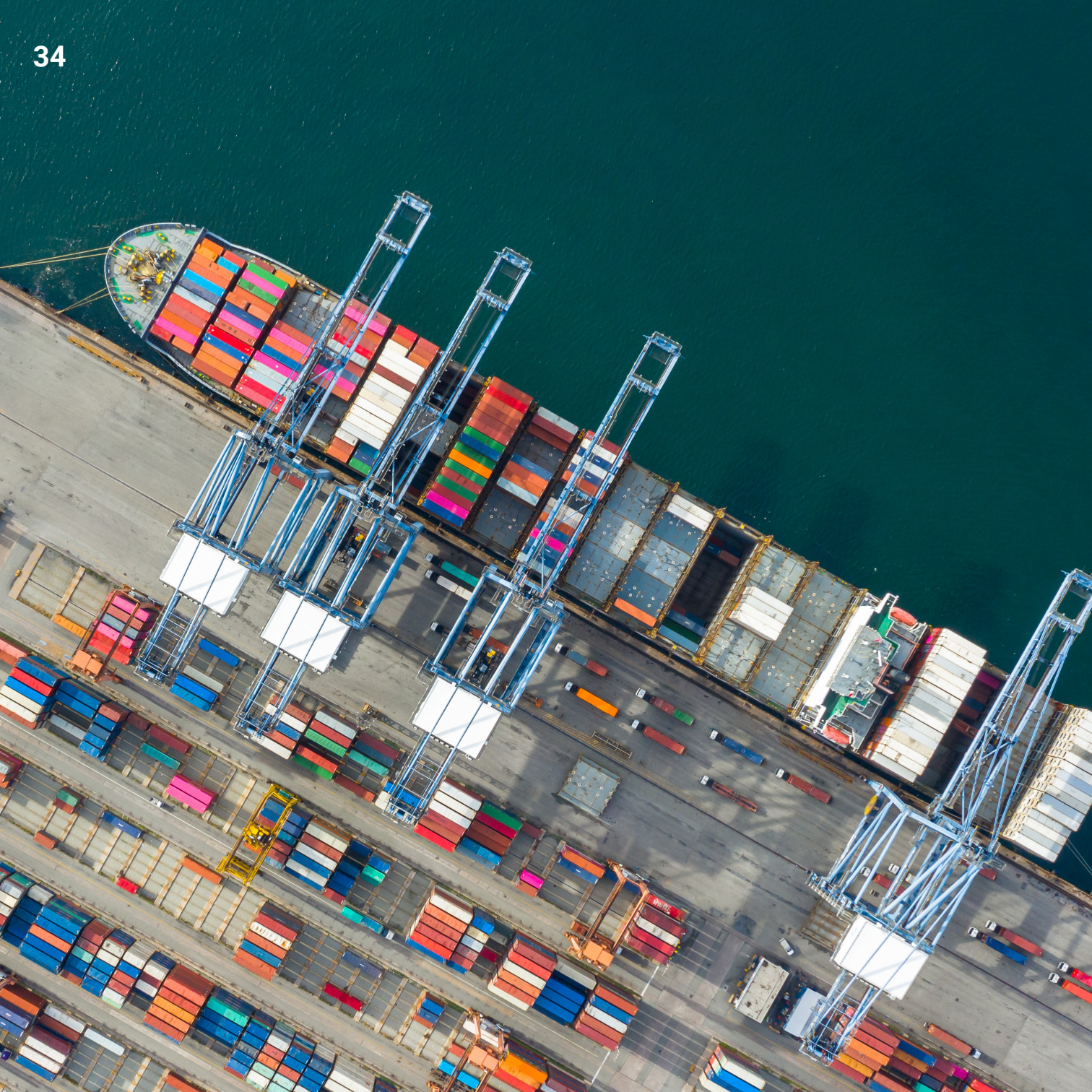


Home to the World's Best Airport and Airline, one of the world's largest green ports, and the world's first commercially available 5G network, Qatar provides both the future-ready infrastructure and ideal strategic location from which to access global markets and ensure the long-term success of your business.

- ▼ World class logistics infrastructure, enabling seamless business operations
- ▼ Qatar Airways and award-winning ports and transportation systems link you to global markets
- ▼ Free zones ensure a smooth setup and connect investors with opportunities and complimentary businesses
- ▼ Well-designed industrial parks offer companies an attractive environment to develop and launch a business
- ▼ World-leading digital infrastructure 4th in 5G leadership index with 99% internet penetration
- ▼ Microsoft global data centre region with Azure and 365
- ▼ First Google Cloud region in the GCC and North Africa
- ▼ 1st globally for General Infrastructure in the Global Innovation Index (WIPO 2022)









An aerial photograph showing a port area with a large ship docked and a road with several trucks. The image is partially visible on the left side of the page.

## Qatar Airways

- ▶ World's Best Airline – **2011, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022** (Skytrax World Airline Awards)
- ▶ More than **180** destinations across six continents
- ▶ **35 million** passengers carried in 2022
- ▶ More than **200 aircraft** worth over **\$50bn** on order

## Qatar Airways Cargo

- ▶ World's leading air cargo carrier, operating a fleet of **26** Boeing **777** freighters
- ▶ Serves more than **70** dedicated freighter destinations along with belly-hold cargo in passenger aircraft
- ▶ Handled more than **2.3 million** tons of cargo in 2022

## Hamad International Airport (HIA)

- ▶ Voted World's Best Airport at the Skytrax 2022 World Airport Awards
- ▶ **35 million** passengers served in 2022
- ▶ Passenger terminal expansion has increased capacity to more than **58 million**
- ▶ Cargo terminal expansion will increase capacity to **5 million** tons a year by 2023

## Hamad Port

- ▶ One of the largest green ports in the world, stretching over **28.6 sq. km**
- ▶ More than **15** direct shipping lines, including to Oman, Pakistan, India, Uruguay, and South Korea
- ▶ Annual capacity of **7.5** million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs)

## Qatar Rail

- ▶ Currently, three main lines and **37** stations connecting the capital to its suburbs
- ▶ A rapid transit system with **354 km** of track
- ▶ **\$4bn** investment in the second phase of Doha Metro
- ▶ A total target investment of **\$12bn**

## Road Network

- ▶ Expressway Programme is set to provide nearly **800 km** of roads
- ▶ Over **30** projects ongoing to improve underground storm-water networks and smart transport systems



## Logistics Parks & Industrial Zones in Qatar

In addition to our Free Zones, Qatar offers investors a variety of solutions with long-term success in mind, including Industrial Zones and Logistics Parks that adopt a cluster approach to combine complementary businesses to promote industry integration, economies of scale and other synergies.

### Industrial Zones

#### Al Karaana Industrial Zone

- ▼ Al Kaarana is an Industrial Zone with an area of **48km<sup>2</sup>**
- ▼ Advantageously situated halfway between Doha and Abu Samra with access to over **100** million customers
- ▼ Al Kaarana provides you with the infrastructure you need to successfully service global markets

#### Mesaieed Industrial Zone

- ▼ Strategically located next to the Industrial City and only **40km** south of Doha
- ▼ A hub for many industries such as oil refining, petrochemicals, fertilisers, workshops, and primary building material





## Logistics Park

### Jery Al Samur Logistics Park

- ▼ Jery Al Samur Logistics Park is designed for the distribution of land-based goods and materials throughout Qatar and the wider region.

### Birkat Al Awamer Logistics Park

- ▼ Birkat Al Awamer Logistics Park is ideal for companies that seek to build their own facility, with the option to build their own showrooms, offices, and worker accommodation on the plot.
- ▼ Offering plots that vary in size starting from **1000m<sup>2</sup>**

### Aba Saleel Logistics Park

- ▼ Aba Saleel Logistics Park serves as a major logistics area, providing investors with the perfect foundations to establish their business, and the infrastructure required to cater to their needs. This Park is ideal for small enterprises.

### Al Wakra Logistics Park

- ▼ Al Wakra Logistics Park is one of several logistics facilities that promote an efficient, sustainable, and modern supply chain of goods and materials throughout Qatar.





## Supportive business ecosystem

Qatar is constantly expanding opportunities for international companies looking to establish their presence in or extend their reach to Qatar and the Middle East. This is made possible through a rigorous reform agenda, a business-friendly environment, robust financial institutions, and a synergistic range of resources that together form the most empowering and business-friendly climate in the region.



### 1<sup>st</sup>

Business Efficiency  
in GCC (IMD World  
Competitiveness 2023)



### 2<sup>nd</sup>

globally in providing good  
opportunities to start a business  
(Global Entrepreneurship Monitor  
2022-23)

## Conducive financial services industry



Financial stability  
safeguarded by world-  
class institutions and  
regulations



Developed and  
robust financial  
sector with global  
players



بورصة قطر  
Qatar Stock Exchange

Leading stock exchange



Stable currency  
and favourable  
financing options



100% foreign ownership across all sectors



Independent court, regulatory tribunal, and dispute resolution centre



English common law to conform with international best practices at Qatar Financial Centre



Robust data protection and intellectual property laws



Limited impediments to cross-border operation

0

Zero customs duties on certain items



Branch or LLC structuring option



# Investment incentives







**The Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar)** oversees investment promotion activities under the Invest Qatar brand and acts as the country's umbrella organisation for FDI attraction. As part of its mandate, Invest Qatar manages financial incentives under a centralised national incentives programme, developed to complement the nation's value proposition to attract foreign investors.



**Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI)** offers a range of investment incentives. Examples of incentives provided by MOCI include land allocation for foreign investment projects by way of use or renewable rent. The foreign investor has the right to import what is necessary for the establishment, operation or expansion of his investment project, and the investor may be exempt from income tax and customs duties for machinery and equipment.



**Qatar Development Bank (QDB)** offers a range of mechanisms—from reviewing your feasibility study and supporting you with the necessary funding to providing legal and financial advisory services—to help you launch and run a business successfully in Qatar.



**Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)** was established in 2006 as part of the ongoing efforts to establish Qatar as a knowledge-based economy. QNRF programmes provide funding opportunities in the academic, public, and private sectors to foster research in priority sectors such as engineering and technology, physical and life sciences, medicine, humanities, social sciences, and arts.



**Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP)** provides multiple funding opportunities for local and international tech founders and entrepreneurs. The Product Development Fund (PDF) for instance is a cost-sharing fund where QSTP provides up to 50% of the total budget as a grant to encourage local startups and SMEs. The QSTP Tech Venture Fund (TVF) on the other hand provides source-seed funding and follow-on capital for local and international tech founders and entrepreneurs looking to scale-up in the region.

## Taxation

Qatar operates a territorial taxation system that has two tax regimes, which are the State regime administered by the General Tax Authority (GTA) and the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) regime administered by the QFC Tax Department.

**0%**

**Zero tax** on personal income

**10%**

Corporate tax rate



Qatar's **double taxation** treaty network with **80+ countries**



Income of businesses operating in the Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) is **exempt from tax**

**20  
years**

**Tax holiday and exemption** from corporate tax under Qatar Free Zones Authority

### Key features of the State regime:

- ▼ Broadly, profits attributable to non-Qatari nationals and Qatari and/or GCC nationals who are not resident in Qatar are subject to corporate income tax at a flat rate of **10%**.
- ▼ A different tax rate and potentially basis of taxation applies to entities undertaking oil and gas operations, or where the activities are carried out under an Agreement with the Government.
- ▼ Taxpayers may seek approval for an exemption or preferential tax rate for projects based on criteria related to the nature of a project or its location. The Ministry of Finance may grant exemptions for up to five years. The Council of Ministers may approve exemptions for longer periods or approve a preferential tax rate.
- ▼ The sale by foreign nationals and non-resident GCC nationals of shares in Qatar tax resident companies is taxable at a rate of **10%**. However, the sale of shares (and the share of profits) in listed companies is exempt from tax.

### The QFC has its own tax regime contained in the QFC Tax Regulations and Rules. The key highlights are:

- ▼ Locally sourced profits of the QFC entities are subject to **10%** corporate income tax. Profits arising from service activities carried out in Qatar, but used outside Qatar, may be excluded from the tax base as non-local source profits.
- ▼ Unregulated QFC LLCs with a minimum **90%** Qatari ownership benefit from a **0%** concessionary corporate income tax rate - no tax exemption for the profits of Qatari partners in joint ventures is available where the Qatari ownership in the entity is less than **90%**.
- ▼ Accounting standards - entities must generally draw up accounts using IFRS or other acceptable GAAP, however, they can choose their own tax year, with an initial period of up to **18** months.



## Living in Qatar

Beyond enormous economic potential, Qatar offers a great blend of Arabic heritage and modern culture, making it an equally attractive home for investors and a friendly neighbourhood to raise families and build communities.

- ▼ Safest country in the world (Numbeo 2023)
- ▼ Best healthcare system in the Arab World (Numbeo - Quality of Life Index 2023)
- ▼ Ranked in top 10 countries to live and work globally for expatriates (HSBC Expat Explorer 2021 Survey)
- ▼ Best in the GCC for pre-university and higher education (Global Knowledge Index 2022)
- ▼ Population diversity: 85+ different nationalities
- ▼ Permanent residency, planned legal provisions for retirement, and excellent healthcare for expats
- ▼ Qatar Foundation community development initiatives help communities settle and develop a prosperous and diverse society
- ▼ Doha named the Arab Capital of Tourism 2023



# Home away from home

You will feel a sense of belonging through our distinctive hospitality and culture. Doha is home to many modern and sustainable residential developments that are self contained with nurseries, schools, green areas, restaurants and retail.





## Schools and universities

As one of the key pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030, development of the education sector has been at the core of Qatar's efforts over the past few years. Qatar is the GCC leader in primary and higher education, offering many highly ranked international schools teaching British, American, and International Baccalaureate curricula.





The country is also home to world leading universities, hosting branch campuses of prominent international higher education institutions, such as:

- ▼ Carnegie Mellon University Qatar
- ▼ Georgetown University in Qatar
- ▼ Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- ▼ HEC Paris in Qatar
- ▼ Northwestern University in Qatar
- ▼ Texas A&M University in Qatar
- ▼ Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts Qatar
- ▼ Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar





## Culture and lifestyle

Qatar's rich artistic culture and museums celebrate the country's vibrant heritage. You will experience a great blend of historical and modern culture and lifestyle.





- ▼ Katara Cultural Village Foundation with its beautiful theatres, concert halls, exhibition galleries, and cutting-edge facilities has become a world leader for multi-cultural activities.
- ▼ Home to one of the world's largest collections of Islamic Art – The Qatar Museum for Islamic Arts
- ▼ Nationalities from 100 countries can enter visa-free, and all others can apply for an e-visa using the Hayya platform online.
- ▼ Wide range of cultural events hosted by the nation's art galleries, libraries, museums, and film institute.


Hosting around 80 sporting events and world-class competitions annually, Qatar has made history as the first Middle Eastern country to host the World Championships in Athletics (2019), World Corporate Games (2019), FIFA World Cup Qatar (2022) and the FINA World Swimming Championships (2023).

- ▼ The Aspire Zone boasts some of the World's finest sports infrastructure and facilities.
- ▼ The second Tuesday of every February is designated as a public holiday – National Sports Day - to promote participation in sport, with hundreds of sporting events taking place throughout the country.









Gateway to  
a wealth of  
opportunities



## Strategic location and connectivity

Qatar offers seamless market access and connectivity, located at the gateway between East and West with \$8.5 trillion in combined GDP all within 3,000 km. In line with Qatar National Vision 2030, the country has embraced infrastructure development as a vital enabler of economic growth and diversification.

Major infrastructure expansion and modernisation projects have been orchestrated over the past decade, forming a robust backbone for domestic and international investments, and boosting sea, air, and land connectivity. The country's state-of-the-art physical and digital infrastructure enables access to global markets.

**\$8.5 TRILLION**

in combined GDP within 3,000 kilometres of Qatar

**80%**

of the world's population is within a 6-hour flight from Qatar

**3<sup>RD</sup>** most network-ready in the Arab world

**18 DAYS**

by ship to Asia, Europe, and the U.S.



**4th**

Globally in 5G Leadership Index  
ranking – highest in the Middle East



World's Best Airport 2022  
World's Best Airline 2022  
Cargo Airline of the Year 2023



More than 15 direct shipping lines,  
including Oman, Pakistan, India,  
Uruguay, and South Korea

Annual capacity of Hamad  
Port

**7.5m**

twenty-foot equivalent units  
(TEUs)

HIA expansion will  
increase passenger  
capacity to more than

**70m**

after 2023 and cargo  
capacity to

**5m**

tonnes a year by 2023

**180+**

direct connections by air  
and sea



## World-class talent pool and educational institutions

Qatar's vibrant research and development ecosystem strengthens its position as the world's 4th most attractive country for talent (INSEAD 2022). Backed by state-of-the-art educational infrastructure, research programmes and business excellence, Qatar has established the peninsula as a global research pioneer, and a true destination for the world's best and brightest talent. Thanks to its open economy and investor-friendly climate, international companies, today, can become part of a knowledge-based economy where they can cultivate their people with world-class education, training, and research.

Qatar is the GCC leader for primary and higher education and has developed the educational strategies required to transform its young population into a highly-skilled workforce. To help create a continuum of international education in the country, the campuses of more than 15 renowned international universities and institutes are also located at Qatar Foundation's Education City as well as across the suburbs of Doha. Among those are Carnegie Mellon University-Qatar, Georgetown University-Qatar, AFG College with the University of Aberdeen, QFBA-Northumbria, and City College-Qatar (affiliate College of Ulster University).

**1<sup>st</sup>**

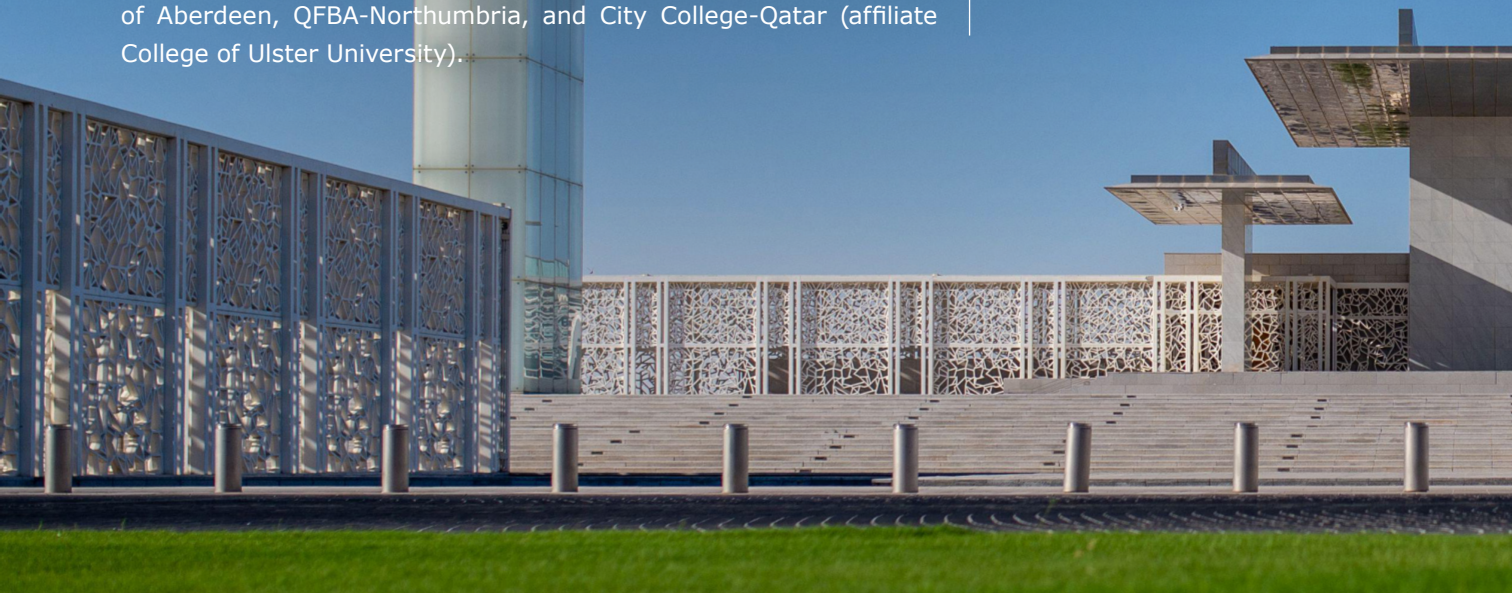
in the Arab world for  
entrepreneurship focus

**1<sup>st</sup>**

Pre-university and  
Higher Education  
systems in the GCC  
(Global Knowledge  
Index 2022)

**1<sup>st</sup>**

globally for  
attractiveness to  
international students  
(INSEAD 2022)







**4<sup>th</sup>**

most attractive country  
in the world for talent

**4800+**

research projects funded  
by Qatar Foundation

**2000+**

STEM graduates  
annually



## National programmes



**Qatar Research, Development,  
and Innovation Council**



**Qatar National Research  
Fund**



**TASMU**



**TAWTEEN**



**Manateq**



**Qatar FinTech Hub**



# SMEs and entrepreneurship programmes



**Qatar Development Bank**



**Qatar Business Incubation Centre**



**Qatar SportsTech**



**Digital Incubation Center**



**Sport Accelerator**



**Scale 7**





# Start your investment journey with us!



## Thank you for taking the time to consider Qatar for your next investment

In today's globalised economy, we understand businesses are always on the lookout for new avenues to fulfil their potential, extend their reach, and accelerate their growth.

As showcased in our Guide to Investment, Qatar offers investors an unparalleled business climate to support such bold ambitions and to execute their long-term goals.

As Qatar continues its rapid transformation into a global hub for business, it is becoming a second home for many international companies and investors alike. We invite you to explore further the many investment opportunities that await.

Our Investor Relations team is ready to support you through the investment process to ensure your long-term success in Qatar.

We look forward to partnering with you in your investment journey.

For more information visit: **invest.qa** | **Phone:** +974 4496 7505 | **Email:** info@invest.qa





