doha minute

Qatar Essentials 2026

The five pages every resident and visitor should keep on their phone. Every fact from an official source, with links. Checked 24 October 2026.

01 Emergency numbers

02 Metro and Karwa bus

03 Visa and ID basics

04 Public holidays

05 Free things to do

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SAVE THESE NOW

Emergency numbers

999	Police, ambulance and fire. One number for all three.
992	Emergency service for deaf people: video call, SMS to 992, or email 992@moi.gov.qa. Round the clock.
991	Electricity and water emergencies.
180	Telephone directory.
2342000	Help with Metrash2 and MOI e-services.

Keep 999 for real emergencies. Teach it to your kids and household staff.

CHECKED 24 OCTOBER 2026

Sources: Ministry of Interior: Important Numbers · Ministry of Interior: Emergency Service for Deaf

GETTING AROUND FOR LESS

Metro and Karwa bus

QR 2	One Doha Metro journey, Standard or Family class.
QR 6	The most you pay in a day on the Metro (day pass cap).
QR 40 / 120 / 990	Weekly pass / 30-day metropass / 365-day metropass.
QR 10	Reusable Travel Card. Works on Doha Metro and Lusail Tram. Tap in and tap out every trip.
Free	Children under 5 ride the Metro free. Metrolink feeder buses to stations are free.
4 am to midnight	Karwa bus hours, every day. Metrolink: Sun to Thu 6 am to 11 pm, Fri 2 pm to midnight. Plan trips and see fares in the Karwa Journey Planner app.

Metro help: call 105 or WhatsApp 4443 3105. Karwa: 4458 8888.

CHECKED 24 OCTOBER 2026

Sources: Qatar Rail: Fares and Travel Cards · Visit Qatar: Doha Metro · Mowasalat: Public Bus Transportation

FOR VISITORS AND THE PEOPLE HOSTING THEM

Visa and ID basics

102	Nationalities that can enter Qatar visa-free, per Visit Qatar. Check yours on the Visit Qatar visa checker.
GCC	Nationals of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE don't need a visa.
3 months	Minimum passport validity from the date of arrival.
Hayya	The official e-visa platform (hayya.qa or the Hayya to Qatar app). Tourist visas cost QAR 100 there.
Insurance	Visit Qatar recommends every visitor holds health insurance that covers Qatar's medical facilities.
2342000	MOI helpline for Metrash2 and e-services, which residents use for ID and residence services.

Rules depend on your passport. Always confirm on the official checker before you book.

CHECKED 24 OCTOBER 2026

Sources: Visit Qatar: Visas · Hayya portal · Ministry of Interior: Important Numbers

THE FOUR OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS

Public holidays

18 Dec	National Day. In 2026 it falls on Friday 18 December.
2nd Tue of Feb	National Sports Day. In 2027 that is Tuesday 9 February.
Eid al-Fitr	From 28 Ramadan to the end of 4 Shawwal.
Eid al-Adha	From 9 to the end of 13 Dhu al-Hijjah.
Bridge rule	If only one working day sits between two holidays, it becomes a holiday too.

Eid dates follow the Hijri calendar. The Amiri Diwan announces exact dates shortly before each Eid; we post them the day they land.

CHECKED 24 OCTOBER 2026

Sources: Council of Ministers: Official Holidays · Amiri Diwan: National Sports Day 2026 announcement

ZERO RIYALS, FULL DAY

Free things to do

Museums with your QID

Qatar Museums opened entry to its museums free for Qatar ID holders, including the National Museum of Qatar, the Museum of Islamic Art and 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.

MIA

Free for Qatar and GCC residents and for children 16 and under. Open Sat to Tue 9 am to 7 pm, Thu 9 am to 9 pm, Fri 1:30 to 7 pm. Closed Wednesday.

MIA Park

Lawns and skyline views next to the museum, used for picnics, walks and runs. A weekend bazaar runs there in the cooler months.

Metrolink

Free feeder buses to Metro stations, so the trip there can cost you nothing extra.

Some special exhibitions can be excluded. Check the venue's page before you go.

CHECKED 24 OCTOBER 2026

Sources: Qatar Museums: free entry for QID holders · Visit Qatar: Museum of Islamic Art · Visit Qatar: Doha Metro

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Rules change. We check.

Doha Minute tells you what's new, what's changed and what it costs in Qatar, in plain English, every day. Every post carries the date we last checked it.

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