Explore the World

10 Best Holiday Destinations

AMAZING PHILIPPINES

ETHIOPIA
LAND OF ORIGINS!

INDIA
TOP 5 FESTIVALS
NOT TO MISS

NEPAL
A DREAMLAND
FOR MOUNTAIN LOVERS

UNIQUE RAMADAN TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
Ramadan Kareem

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Qatar, the host of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, has a wealth of beauty and culture to offer large numbers of people visiting the country from all over the world. Here is a list of the beautiful places one can visit.

**MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART (MIA)**

The Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) represents Islamic art from three continents over 1,400 years. MIA is the flagship of Qatar Museums which is transforming Qatar into a cultural capital of the Middle East. Located in the heart of a body of still, clear water, the white building has sharp, boxed edges, and stands alone on the water. Step into it, you will be struck by the intricacies of its interior, which sharply contrasts with the simplicity of its exterior. Through safeguarding masterpiece collections of Islamic art and showcasing extraordinary exhibitions, MIA shares knowledge, spreading curiosity, and experience a traditional food forum. For scholars and students, the museum offers a new research centre and laboratories along with access to digital archives.

**SOUQ WAQIF**

If you are looking for a wonderful place to shop, to dine, to explore or simply sitting at one of the many attractive outdoor cafes to watch the world pass by, look nowhere but Souq Waqif in Doha. For centuries, this location has been a souq for Bedouins (nomads who have historically inhabited the Arabian and Syrian deserts) to take the wool and animal equipment and pets. From fabric, spices, and perfume to garden equipment and pets.

**KATARA MOSQUE**

The Katara Mosque is situated in the centre of the Katara Cultural Village site, where some of the most beautiful architecture in Qatar is found. The building is a mosaic of predominantly blue tiles, with hints of red and yellow. You will be blown away by the intricate designs and the equally complex interior. Accompanying the mosque are three spiked pillars reaching for the sky.

**BARZAN TOWERS**

The Barzan Towers feature brilliant architecture, but to fully experience their beauty, you will have to make your way to the top. Once there, feast your eyes on the views. The building itself is quite formidable and beautiful in its own way.

**AL-ZUBARAH FORTRESS**

In the middle of nowhere, sand stretches ahead of you for miles before this ferocious fortress comes into sight. The fortress’ beauty lies in its lonesomeness, and you can approach it on camel-back at a leisurely pace. As you stand beneath this fortress, you will feel a sense of being connected to an exciting and influential history.

**THE PEARL QATAR**

This is an artificial island located offshore of Doha’s West Bay Lagoon area. The name comes from the location in which the island was built on, which was one of Qatar’s previous major pearl diving sites. Many would come here to shop in the many high-end retail shops in the area, or simply to walk along the beautiful boardwalk overlooking the marina filled with many international cafes and restaurants.

**DOHA CORNICHE**

Easily one of the most popular locations among walkers and joggers, the Doha Corniche is a waterfront promenade. While it is a popular place for exercising in the morning, it attracts a diverse crowd who are looking for spectacular views of the city’s skyline.

**ASPIRE PARK**

Aspire park is one of the largest parks in the Gulf region and is one of Qatar’s finest landscapes. It attracts a big crowd daily, especially during the weekends. You’ll often see families walking around or having picnics in the lush green environment of the park.

**ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE (FANAR)**

The Islamic Cultural Centre, also known as FANAR, is located in the spiral mosque situated between Corniche Street and Maajlis Al Taawon Street.

**AL BIDDA PARK**

Al Bidda Park, previously known as Al Rummah Park, is a newly renovated park situated between Corniche Street and Maajlis Al Taawon Street.
Dining destinations aplenty this Ramadan

Ramadan is around the corner, and Doha is all set to celebrate the holy month in its own unique way. Hotels in Doha are gearing up for hosting Ramadan nights with a variety of activities and promotions.

This Ramadan, City Centre Rotana Doha, one of the leading hospitality properties in town, will be offering a bespoke calligraphy experience for Iftar and Subhour. The hotel’s Ramadan Tent atAlnasr Ballroom, which will be decorated in a magnificent Arabian theme, will offer guests a truly Qatari hospitality in a traditional and gorgeous setting decorated specially for the occasion.

Guests can enjoy abundant Iftar and Subhour buffet with an array of appetizers, soups and main courses of international and authentic Qatari dishes along with an eclectic assortment of desserts all carefully crafted by a dedicated team of chefs. Additionally, the chefs will be demonstrating their expertise at different live stations which will consist of a selection of daily grills, shawarma, saj, manits, tandooor, sushi stations and more.

During the Subhour, Alnasr ballroom will be offering its guests live Ramadan vibes performed by the band on a nightly basis starting from 10 pm. To relish the traditional Iftar and Subhour delicacies, guests can make family reservations as well as group bookings.

Marketing Manager of La Cigale Hotel Anwar Abdulla said La Cigale has prepared a memorable experience for their guests during the month of Ramadan offering Iftar and Subhour evenings in different outlets.

"La Cigalon restaurant will be offering an Iftar buffet with a wide array of mezzeh, salads, traditional and international delights complemented by tantalizing desserts," he said.

"Our Shisha Garden is the perfect choice for those wishing to break their fast with the finest selection of mezzeh, barbecue, oriental delicacies and smoothies amidst traditional Arabic atmosphere in a verdant outdoor space kept cool by the advanced air-conditioning system," Anwar added.

He said La Cigale Hotel continues to bring one of Doha’s finest traditions “La Cigale Ramadan Tent” with its new look this year and the remarkable touch of its Exclusive Partner QNB and Sponsors Doha Insurance Group, Doha Oasis.

"Year after year, La Cigale’s tent is considered Doha’s favorite Ramadan destination, where the indoor swimming pool of the hotel is converted to a contemporary Ramadan tent with an authentic touch that contains spacious lounges for those who are looking for a tranquil gathering," he clarified.

Similarly, Ghada Sadik from Movenpick Hotel Westbay said they have prepared a hearty Iftar and Subhour buffet spread for families to enjoy and share.

"Mouthwatering selection of Ramadan delicacies, international favorites, live cooking station and decadent flavors from the Middle East will be presented each night, a special rate is offered for the first 10 days of Ramadan and interesting rates for minimum number of groups," Sadek said.

She added the Iftar and Subhour buffets are complimented with refreshing Ramadan drinks. "The aim is for guests to sink into their seats and enjoy a delicious dining experience."

Besides, she said the occupancy has increased more than expected with progressive steps taken by the authorities to boost local and international tourism.

The Sheraton Hotel is no exception and provides a wide variety of choices for diners by offering four different outlets of Iftar and Subhour, including bespoke Ramadan tent making a great ambiance for diners.
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Doha Festival City
The Philippines, a tropical country comprising islands that lays in the warm water of the Pacific Ocean, is one of the ideal vacation destinations in the world. Philippines has over 7,000 islands to choose from and here are some of the best destinations with visiting and experience their beauty that to without breaking your bank.

**VIGAN**

This place is a must for food lovers. You’ll find mouth-watering food such as famous Le Paz Batchoy and Pancit Molo. Aside from being known for their rich flavoured food, Iloilo is also home to many historical places. But above all rich flavoured food, Iloilo is also home to many historical places. Due to its rich history, this city is the first and only UNESCO-declared World Heritage City of the Philippines.

**ILOILO CITY**

Words are not necessary to describe how tropical the Philippines is, but there are a few areas which are exempted from the heat, but yet, experience the cold – and Tagaytay is one of them. Tagaytay provides spectacular views that are something worth visiting. Some of the places to visit here are the Taal Volcano and Lake. It has the signature of a huge cratered mouth that is worth seeing. One of the best places to view the beauty of Taal volcano and the lake is at the Picnic Grove, which is another must-go-to in Tagaytay which has a lot of outdoor activities that you can do. Another place to go and see the beauty of Tagaytay is at the People’s Park In The Sky.

**SIQUIJOR**

This may be considered as the crown jewel of Leyte. It has become famous for so many international cruise ship’s stopover and to anchor down international cruise ship’s stopover and to anchor down international cruise ship’s stopover and to anchor down. This island is named as one of the most mysterious places to visit in the Philippines as it is ground for witches, sorcerers and mythical supernatural creatures. Don’t let the fear of the unknown stop you from visiting the mythical gifts from nature found in this island. To name a few are the Kagusuan Beach, Siquioren Beach, Lugnason Falls, Cambuhay Falls and Paliton Beach.

**SIARGAO ISLAND**

Labeled as the surfing capital of the Philippines, it is a crib for surf enthusiasts who like to ride the waves until they can. It is home of the famous “Cloud 9” which occurs along General Luna coast. But if you’re not a fan of the waves, there are also plenty to see and experience in Siargao such as its Guyam Island, Dako Island, Siquioren Beach, Lugnason Falls, Cambuhay Falls and Paliton Beach.

**CAMIGUIN ISLAND**

Yes, Manila is the capital city of the Philippines. It is chaotic, crowded and loud. But Manila is filled with history, rich culture, and packed with people of all walks of life. This is where you can experience and taste all different kinds of food that Philippines has to offer. This is a city that doesn’t sleep as it’s a bustling metropolis packed with different establishment that offers refreshments and entertainment all day and all night.

**BORACAY**

This island, which was closed for six months for restoration, has now been opened again for tourists to indulge (with a limited number as of the moment). But if you’re down to experience the fine-grained white sand of one of the most famous beaches in the Philippines, visit Boracay, this place will surely make you want to come back over and over again.
The Hidden Corners of Your Holiday

The holiday season is around the corner and holiday-goers in Qatar are actively browsing through travel apps and are on the phone with travel agents to find the best deals. For most of us, holiday planning can be a stressful, time-consuming and exhausting experience. A shorter way would be to ask experts in the field who can share valuable tips and thoughts which can save that extra nyal or add that extra quotient to your travel experience.

Here we are, catching up with avid traveller Floyd Johny, General Manager & Country Head at Unimoni Exchange, Qatar.

Q: To start with, how is the travel season going to be in terms of choices?
A: Today’s traveller has many choices in front of him, or more aptly put, at his fingertips. Many global airlines and travel portals offer great packages and better-than-the-other deals, which makes it a buyers’ market where the traveller stands to benefit. That is, when the traveller knows what to look out for.

Choices are aplenty, but one needs to exercise caution as every travel portal or booking service might not yield the same experience. It’s always better to choose from among the leading players as the travel experience starts much before the actual travel.

Typically, we see a surge in travel-related activities from April/May to September: During these months, which coincide with school holidays and the summer season, outbound travel is high. While expatriates tend to travel out to their home countries, a large number of Qatars also choose this time for holidaying. The fact that residents of Qatar have the option of visa-on-arrival for many countries makes travelling out of the country more viable.

If we take foreign currency exchange as an indicator of preferred destinations, we have seen great movements in the currencies of the UK, Turkey, Europe and South East Asia.

— Floyd Johny (GM & Country Head, Unimoni)

Eastern European countries like Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia are also becoming top holiday destinations, looking at the demand for the currencies of these countries.

Q: How important is the knowledge of currency exchange rate for a traveller?
A: Well, as you said, Unimoni is a strong player in foreign currency exchange, dealing in more than 40 foreign currencies and serving both retail customers through our branch network and corporates through our wholesale currency solutions unit.

The exchange rate is among the most dynamic factors that a traveller will encounter as he plans his holiday. As a thumb rule, it is advisable to book your travel tickets well in advance as rates skyrocket closer to the intended travel date. However, when it comes to foreign currency, the exchange rates fluctuate almost daily and even many a times over the course of a single day. This makes it difficult to decide the ideal time to buy foreign currency.

It is always sensible to deal with an accomplished player when it comes to foreign currency exchange as they are in a better position to offer good deals given their wider base of transactions.

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Q: How do you prepare yourself with the kind of currencies that the market demands?
A: Many people wish to visit places that are off the beaten path and indulge in experiences that are uncommon. I would say social media plays a huge role in this. That makes it imperative for foreign currency exchange businesses like us to be prepared with adequate stock of currencies that the market would not have demanded a few years earlier. We manage this quite well with a base of more than 40 currencies, including exotic currencies, thanks to the volumes we deal with. It’s always wiser to carry destination currencies or currencies of the countries you are travelling to for a hassle-free experience without the worry of fluctuating exchange rates, high mark-up charges or hidden costs.

Q: Could you tell us more about Unimoni?
A: Unimoni is a renowned global provider of money transfer, foreign currency exchange, payment and credit solutions. We facilitate seamless movement of money across geographies, currencies and channels to enable our customers achieve their financial ambitions.

In Qatar, we provide a broad spectrum of in-store and digital money transfer and foreign currency exchange solutions for retail and corporate customers.

Our primary focus is to empower our customers by addressing their financial requirements under one roof with secure and simplified one-stop financial services.

Explore your dreams.
Foreign Currency Exchanges made easy.
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www.unimoni.com/qat

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— Floyd Johny (GM & Country Head, Unimoni)
Unique Ramadan traditions from around the world

The holy month of Ramadan, one of the most important occasions for Muslims around the world, is about to begin. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). While basic customs like fasting and spending time with family are consistent around the world, the years varied colourful traditions have developed around the world.

GERGA’AAAN – KUWAIT

Two weeks into the holy month of Ramadan marks the beginning of Gerga’aaan in Kuwait, a three-day celebration that sees children dress up in traditional clothes, knock on the doors of their neighbours to show off their costumes and sing songs in exchange for sweets and chocolates. After the evening prayers, the children head out to their neighbours’ homes and sing songs of blessings. There are two traditional songs that children sing during Gerga’aaan—one for girls and the other for boys. While the origin of this tradition remains disputed, some believe that it’s a simulation of one of the first observances of Ramadan in Islam when Fatima, the daughter of Prophet Mohammed, distributed sweets to people two weeks into Ramadan.

NYEKAR – JAVA, INDONESIA

On the island of Java, Indonesia, various local traditions have found a place in the lives of Muslims. This is particularly true of the way in which Ramadan is observed, with rituals being carried out in preparation for the holy month. For the Javanese, Ramadan is a time for introspection and marks the end of one life cycle, and the start of a new one. Before starting the month-long fast, people visit the graves of their ancestors to offer prayers. They are also known to decorate the graves of their relatives and forefathers with colourful flowers. This ritual, known as Nyekar, usually takes a week before Ramadan begins.

LIGHTING THE ‘FANOUS’ – EGYPT

One of the most recognisable symbols of Ramadan, the Fanous or Lantern originates from old Cairo, now in Egypt. The tradition is believed to have been used to light the path of Caliph Mozee Eddin Al-lah in Cairo, as he walked to Mokattam Mountain for Ramadan’s moon sighting in the year 966 AD. Typically made of metal and coloured glass, in the Middle East, the lanterns adorn homes and streets.

PADUSAN – JAVA, INDONESIA

Another one from Java, this tradition followed by the Javanese people is observed a week before the commencement of Ramadan. Padusan, a bathing ritual, is intended to purify the body and soul before starting the fast. People get together and walk to natural water bodies such as rivers, springs, or the sea, with baskets of food on their heads. After the ritual bath, they gather for a communal prayer before sitting on the ground to eat their food from plantain leaves.

MALDIVES

In the archipelago known as the Maldives, Ramadan is locally called Rosdha Mas. Here, the post-iftar celebration stands out. After iftar, poets are asked to recite Raivaru; Ramadan related poetry.

LEBANON

In Lebanon, cannons are fired daily during the month of Ramadan to signal the end of the day’s fast. This tradition, known as Midfa Al Iftar, is said to have begun in Egypt over 200 years ago when the country was governed by Ottoman ruler Khosh Gudam. Although we’ve singled out Lebanon, this tradition is observed by many countries across the Middle East.

ALBANIA

For centuries, the members of the Roma Muslim community, which dates back to the Ottoman empire, have been announcing the start and end of fasting with traditional songs. Every day for the month of Ramadan, these people will march up and down the streets playing a lodra, a homemade double-ended cylinder drum covered in sheep or goat skin. Muslim families will often invite them inside their homes to play traditional ballads to celebrate the start of iftar.

MOROCCO

During Ramadan, a town crier – known as nafar – roams the neighbourhoods of Morocco in the traditional attire of a gondola, slippers and a hat. Elect ed by the townspeople, the nafar walks down streets blowing a horn to wake people up for suhoor.

TURKEY

Similar to Morocco’s nafar tradition, in Turkey, more than 2,000 drummers don conventional Ottoman costumes and go around the streets of Turkey with their davul with the intention of waking up people in time for suhoor.

INDIA

In line with Morocco and Turkey, during Ramadan, the seherwalas of Delhi, walk the streets of the city in the wee hours of the morning, chanting out the name of Allah and the Prophet, to serve as a wake-up call to Muslims for suhoor. The centuries-old practice is still carried out in parts of Old Delhi, particularly in those neighbourhoods with a higher Muslim population.

Tips for Muslims who are travelling during Ramadan

1. Time it right
2. Know when to break fast
3. Pack emergency iftar/sahur snacks
4. Plan ahead
5. Don’t go hungry
6. Download handy Muslim-friendly apps
Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara offers visitors a taste of traditional Qatari hospitality and a unique resort experience with the first and only over water villas in Qatar as well as a dedicated wellness centre which is one-of-a-kind in the Middle East.

The sanctuary island setting in the Arabian Gulf off the coast of Doha offers natural exclusivity and extensive facilities for everyone with unlimited opportunities for relaxation and adventure, wellness, romance and pure indulgence.

Once guests are at the resort, Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara feels a world away from bustling Doha, yet is only a 25-minute journey by luxury ferry from Al Shuyoh Terminal located in the city’s downtown area.

The distinctive crescent shape of the island provides a natural harbour framed by an 800-metre long private beach where guests can relax and swim in the calm, safe waters of the turquoise sea.

Sports: The resort offers exceptional access to the sites, attractions, and activities to further enhance your spectacular vacation in Qatar. Guests and families can enjoy the pleasures of the surrounding landscape with some sporting action.

Sports: Beach Volleyball; Bowling; Tennis; Water Sports; Banana Boat Rides; Boat Cruise/Charter Cruise; Fishing trips; Kayaking; Stand up paddle boarding; Wakeboarding; Diving Centre; Scuba Diving and Diving Courses; Snorkelling;

More Activities: Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara strives to keep guests happy with a smile on their faces at all times by offering something for everyone, from kids’ clubs, teenage vibes, parent’s pleasures and things to do for the over-60s. The resort offers the promise to experience luxury facilities that are quite simply, second to none such as surf pool, swimming pool, cool mint children’s club, pepper mint teens’ club, putting golf, cinema, fitness centre, reservations.

Diverse gourmet experience: The resort’s dining options celebrate indigenous traditions and contemporary twists coupled with an exciting variety of creative juices and exotic mocktails.

Al Nahham offers guests the taste of the Middle East, where they can indulge in a range of shisha flavors along with a welcome drink specially prepared in traditional clay vessel. At Azraq, or ‘blue’ in Arabic, the world of exciting flavors from Western, Asian and Middle Eastern cuisines come together along with the chef’s signature dishes to offer an unparalleled dining experience.

The resort’s Q Lounge & Restaurant, offers a mouth-watering collection of authentic Indian cuisine and international comfort food.

It is the perfect spot for all the resort’s guests and visitors, offering the best settings for all-day relaxing dining, either indoor or alfresco by the poolside.

HamacLand Found A Breathtaking Retreat: For the first time in the Middle East, Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara introduced to their guests a fresh floating world and lifestyle on the Arabian Gulf, the HamacLand, a stunning concept of private floating lounge. This innovation—at the point where land meets sea and sea meets sky—will offer Hamilton Landers a dedicated space on water (more than 13 sqm), a cross between a personal island and a private beach where families, friends and loved ones can spend quality time together. The concept combines authentic emotional luxury and simplicity. Modular and multi-purpose, HamacLand is just as suited to sport and leisure as it is to relaxation.

Ramadan Island Escape From 16 May until the last day of Ramadhan

Celebrate Ramadhan in paradise

Room rates start at GAR 189 per night. Offer includes daily breakfast served at designated areas, 50% off on the buffet, Ramadan special menu, early check-in and late check-out (subject to availability), one complimentary bowling game per stay and one lucky boat travel.

Sonda at Zest Caffé

Enjoy a set menu of refined Arabic dishes served family style.

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 am

Outside guests: GAR 250 per adult and GAR 150 per child

Sindibad Garden at Zen Lounge

Snacks, sweets and shisha flavours every day at the Zen Garden.

Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Price: A la carte
La Cigale Hotel provides an opportunity to its guests to experience memorable Iftar and Souhur evenings in different outlets. "Le Cigalon restaurant" will be offering an Iftar buffet with a wide range of traditional and international dishes complemented by tantalizing desserts. "Shisha Garden" is the perfect choice for those willing to break their fast with the finest selection of mezzeh, barbecue, oriental delicacies and smoothies amidst a traditional Arabic atmosphere in a verdant outdoor space kept cool by the advanced outdoor climate control system. Apart from Iftar, La Cigale Hotel proudly continues to bring one of Doha’s finest traditions "La Cigale Ramadan Tent" with its new look this year and the remarkable touch of its Exclusive Partner QNB and Valued Sponsors Doha Insurance Group, Doha Oasis. Year after year, La Cigale’s tent is considered as Doha’s favorite Ramadan destination, where the indoor swimming pool of the hotel is converted to a contemporary Iftar tent with authentic looks and feel that contains spacious lounges for those looking for a tranquil gathering. In addition to its interior, the exceptional ambience of the venue makes it ideal for family, friends and colleagues to assemble amidst a lavish Souhur buffet with wide assortment of oriental and international dishes, live cooking stations, succulent desserts section and a variety of flavorsome shishas. Like every year, "La Cigale Traiteur" brings a delightful blend of delicacies from homemade Arabic sweets, cakes, daily specials or Iftar boxes ready for takeaway or dine-in, besides an endless selection of gift hampers filled with Ramadan specialties and sweets.
With the gaiety of the Holy Month of Ramadan and in celebration of fasting, Marriott Marquis City Center Doha Hotel opens its renowned Ramadan tent, Wanassa hosting exclusive offers that embody the true spirit of the special occasion.

Ramadan offers include a traditional Iftar and Sohour buffet served in stunning Wanassa tent and a special barbeque menu for Sohour at Aqua Lounge.

Iftar and Sohour at Wanassa

This year, Wanassa comes in an entirely new look that is different from the previous years. Wanassa features an authentic Souq Waqif delights and mesmerising interiors that combine old colourful lanterns, big wooden doors and windows made of bamboo, all lending to the Ramadan tent an ageing look and a traditional domestic architecture of Qatar dominating Doha’s cityscape.

Wanassa offers bright, joyful interiors and live cooking stations that awaken the senses as guests step in. Expirienced culinary team has created an Iftar buffet that is both steeped in traditional Arabic and Turkish flavours alongside international favourites too. Arabic and Turkish mezze selections are stand out dishes, as well as the Shawarma Live Station, Oven Baked Fatayer and Saj Manakish Live Station to offer a modern twist to the traditional dish options. In addition to Arabic fare, a variety of other cuisines are on offer, from a sushi and sashimi counter to a pasta and Indian culinary station. The desserts go above and beyond delicious, with a traditional Turkish ice cream station, a designated cake counter, and mountains of Turkish and Arabic delight. Guests may also order Ramadan juices, soft drinks as well as tea and coffee. The cozy atmosphere of the Wanassa has warm souq appeal, particularly with the sounds of an Arabic live band, Tanoura dancer.

IFTAR:
QR220 per person | Sundown - 9:00 pm
Sohour: QR170 per person | 9:30 pm – 1:30 am
* Children 0-6 years old dine free
* 7-12 year olds receive 50 percent savings

Experience Ramadan as one at Wanassa

Break your fast or savour Sohour with family and friends at Wanassa where traditional Ramadan delicacies and live entertainment awaits you.

Iftar
From QAR 220

Sohour
From QAR 170

For reservations call +974 4419 5028 or email: ebc.doha@marriott.com

Support Educate A Child by adding a discretionary QAR 10 donation.
When it comes to choosing a vacation, what appeals to one group of travelers might not be of interest to another. And with so many different destinations across the globe to choose from, narrowing down your options can be challenging. Taking into consideration sights, culture, food scenes, accommodation options and value for the money, plus reader and expert insight, these are the world’s best places to visit.

THE MALDIVES
The epitome of luxury, the Maldives enjoy an incredibly scenic location in the Indian Ocean. The contrast of bright turquoise water against stark white sand is stunning, and this destination is a favorite spot for those looking to stay in an overwater bungalow (many of which come with a private plunge pool). This collection of islands appeals to travelers eager to rest, relax and indulge. A vacation here won’t come cheap, but it will offer unique opportunities, such as dining in an underwater restaurant or enjoying a treatment at an underwater spa.

PRAGUE
Once one of Europe’s hidden gems, Prague now attracts millions of travelers annually—and for good reason. This beautiful city is home to impressive architectural landmarks, charming neighborhoods, friendly locals and a variety of lodging options. Spend time admiring the Old Town Square, the Prague Castle and the bizarrely designed Dancing House before sitting down for a meal and a locally brewed Pilsner. Even better, Prague is one of Europe’s more affordable destinations to visit thanks to its many free attractions and budget-friendly accommodations.

AMALFI COAST, ITALY
Italy’s Amalfi Coast beckons to both adventure travelers and relaxation seekers. The 13 cliffside towns that comprise this region offer picturesque hiking trails and several beaches to explore. You’ll also find exquisite luxury hotels sharing real estate with colourful residences framed by greenery and imposing cliffs cascading down to the cobalt Mediterranean Sea. In fact, one of the best ways to see the Amalfi Coast is on a boat tour. What’s more, you’ll discover delectable Italian fare and fresh seafood wherever you go.

BALI, INDONESIA
This Indonesian island provides the perfect mix of opportunities for cultural exploration and relaxation. Travelers should spend time visiting and learning about the island’s many ancient temples before heading to one of its beautiful beaches. As far as accommodations go, Bali features dozens of villas, hotels and resorts (at varying price points). To up the luxury factor, stay at a five-star resort like the Four Seasons or St. Regis and indulge in a spa treatment.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS
The British Virgin Islands are an exclusive archipelago in the Caribbean Sea. Though these islands sustained damage during the 2017 hurricane season, they are bouncing back. A trip here will include plenty of outdoor fun and sun. The British Virgin Islands are home to stunning beaches, such as Cane Garden Bay, Anegada Island and Smuggler’s Cove, as well as The Baths, a unique collection of granite boulders and caves. You could book a hotel here, or you could rent out a private villa or yacht to enjoy your island vacation in style.

FLORENCE, ITALY
With multiple museums, alluring churches and delectable cuisine, Florence wooed travelers with its Italian charm. The best way to soak up this city’s atmosphere is simply by wandering along its cobblestone streets and seeing what inspires you along the way. You may be drawn to a quaint boutique, the grandiose Duomo, a gelato shop or the iconic Ponte Vecchio bridge—the possibilities are endless. For incredible views of the city, take a short uphill walk to Piazzale Michelangelo.

HONG KONG
Hong Kong is a destination that puts travelers’ senses into overdrive. The glittering skyline, the dynamic food scene, the historical sites and the family-friendly attractions are just a few reasons visitors can’t get enough of this bustling metropolis. Start your trip with a tour of the waterfront on the Star Ferry, and pencil in visits to Hong Kong Disneyland or Ocean Park amusement park if you’re traveling with kids. Meanwhile, foodies will delight in the culinary options: Dim sum, stir-fry and pineapple buns should be a few things you sample.

SANTORINI, GREECE
See a sunset in Santorini and you’ll know why this Greek destination is one of the world’s best places to visit. In addition to offering an exquisite evening atmosphere, Santorini boasts colourful black and red sand beaches, ancient ruins and several wineries. But the picture-perfect scenery is what draws most travelers: You’ll see cliffside whitewashed buildings that line the brilliantly blue caldera. What’s more, the luxury hotels here are some of the world’s best.

When it comes to choosing a vacation, what appeals to one group of travelers might not be of interest to another. And with so many different destinations across the globe to choose from, narrowing down your options can be challenging. Taking into consideration sights, culture, food scenes, accommodation options and value for the money, plus reader and expert insight, these are the world’s best places to visit.
PHUKET, THAILAND

Phuket attracts travellers looking for a taste of exotic Thailand. The Andaman Sea’s aquamarine-tinted water provides a striking contrast to the stark white sand beaches and emerald jungles that line the coast. Travellers to Phuket will want to spend plenty of time on the beach but should also set aside some time to explore the area’s flavourful culinary scene, tour its impressive Buddhist temples and sail or snorkel on a boat tour.

SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

It’s the breathtaking natural landscape that woos adventurers to New Zealand’s South Island, where outdoor opportunities abound. Visitors can explore the area’s glacial terrains via helicopter, watch for wildlife like whales and penguins, tour the region’s wineries and stargaze on top of Mount Cook. The island’s many lakes and parks also invite travellers to kayak, sail, hike and bike to soak up every bit of New Zealand nature.

LONDON

Home to a wealth of cultural and historical institutions, family-friendly attractions and festivals, plus a lively nightlife scene, London appeals to travellers both young and old. Must-see attractions include the British Museum and Buckingham Palace, as well as iconic sights like the London Eye, the Tower Bridge and Big Ben. The city also features efficient and affordable public transit options, such as buses and the Tube, and there are a plethora of accommodation options to choose from, ranging from vacation rentals to high-end hotels. As for dining, don’t leave London without enjoying a curry or fish and chips with a pint at a pub.

TAHITI, FRENCH POLYNESIA

Tranquil Tahiti offers a little bit of everything. This island nation in French Polynesia is home to incredible beaches, stunning natural wonders like waterfalls, and interesting museums that teach visitors about the history of Tahiti. What’s more, there are plenty of hotel options on this island, including luxe five-star resorts and no-frills, budget-friendly options.

ROMEO

Delicious food (pizza, pasta, gelato, you name it), rich coffee and excellent wine are a few reasons why travellers love Rome. However, food and drink aren’t the only things this city has to offer. You’ll find major highlights of art and history, from the Galleria Borghese to the Colosseum. Meanwhile, nearby city-state Vatican City is home to St. Peter’s Basilica and the Sistine Chapel. Rome is also easy to reach from other destinations within Europe, and there are direct flights here from many other parts of the world (including the US).

PARIS

Paris is the pinnacle of art, history, culture and tourism. The City of Light is home to the expansive Louvre art museum, the magical Eiffel Tower and the charming Champs-Élysées lined with high-end stores and boutiques. Quaint cafes and patisseries rub elbows with both casual eateries and Michelin-starred restaurants in a city where the food scene is second to none. What’s more, Paris plays host to dozens of fun festivals throughout the year.
With beaches, jungles, ancient cities, a rich history with friendly people and some of the best food you’ll eat anywhere on the planet, Sri Lanka emerges as a top holiday destination this summer.

**BEACHES**

One of the great things about Sri Lanka is that you can chase the summer and good weather around it. Mid-year is best in the east, with the surf spot of Arugam Bay being a favourite. It's a long strip of golden sand lined with relaxed hotels, yoga spots and good restaurants.

It’s busy but calm, hippy but refined and a great spot to meet other travellers. A short tuk-tuk ride takes you to other quieter surf spots such as Peanut Farm and Whisky Point, and to even more tasty food spots in Pottuvil. In the south of the country, Unawatuna and Mirissa are renowned surf spots, and the smaller beach of Talalla is touted as one of the most beautiful beaches in Asia.

**TRAINS**

This is a country that takes a long time to navigate by road, so the train network is a lifeline for many locals. It’s also very handy for tourists when travelling to certain areas. The trains are cheap and packed to the rafters.

The most renowned is from Ella to Nuwara Eliya, which passes through a landscape of rolling hills and tea plantations, usually paired with dark clouds threatening to thunder at any moment. It’s atmospheric and absolutely stunning.

Taking in the sunset in the capital, Colombo, is one of the ‘must-dos’ when visiting Sri Lanka, however the locals actually take the train south from Fort station in the city to Mt Lavinia to enjoy it.

It’s a packed ride at the end of the day, but the 20-minute trip is well worth it. If you like, you can stop in at the Mt Lavinia hotel (literally on top of the railway station) to take in the beautiful views as the sun sets.

**SACRED SPACES**

Sri Lanka is fascinating to explore for its variety of religions and cultures. Over two-thirds of the population is Buddhist, with a large proportion of the remainder of Hindus, plus an even split between Muslims and Christians.

Most towns have large Buddha statues and there are stunning temples in all the major cities, including the colourful and tinket-filled Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo.

The most famous of all the religious artefacts in Sri Lanka is one of Buddha’s teeth, housed in a beautiful temple in the royal palace complex of the bustling city of Kandy.

**Safari**

It’s not something you might have realised, but Sri Lanka is the best place in the world outside of Africa to go on a safari. There are multiple National Parks in the country, each with its own unique groupings of animals and landscapes. You can spot elephants, monkeys, water buffalo, a huge variety of birds and even leopards, if you’re lucky. Uda Walawe in the south is better for elephant spotting, and Yala in the east is the best place to see leopards.

**FOOD**

Sri Lankan food is slowly becoming more of a staple in other countries, but it’s nowhere near as popular as it should be for how yummy it is. It’s most similar to that found in southern India, but each region has its own unique dishes and specialities. The north favours hotter and spicier flavours, while southern delicacies tend to be more subtle and complex. The country is filled with delicious vegetarian dishes, tons of coconut, and some of the best seafood you can eat anywhere.
Iftar & Sohour at Mandarin Oriental, Doha

A time to reflect, to give, to be thankful and rekindle with family and friends

Enjoy a culinary journey inspired by food from destinations along the ancient Silk Route

Children will delight to storytelling in an enchanted forest inspired by animal characters of Papinee

Each paying couple or two paying adults will be eligible for complimentary meals for up to four children

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Children QAR135

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Children QAR160

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India is known to be the land of festivals. And, when summers arrive, they bring along summer vacations. Thus, it is not only about sizzling heat but also about happy faces. Summer festivals in India add a fun charter to everyone’s life. Folk dance, music, interesting rituals and people clad in colourful attires light up the groggy atmosphere. Such fairs and festivals offer a sneak-peak into the vibrant culture and heritage of the country.

Here is the list of popular summer festival in India:

1. Gangaur (A flamboyant celebration)
   One of the most important festivals in Rajasthan, Gangaur is celebrated all around the state but mainly in the ‘Pink City’, Jaipur. It is also celebrated in some parts of West Bengal, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh. The festival starts on the day, after Holi and continues for around 18 days. During the festival, married women dress-up in best of their clothes, and worship Goddess Gauri (Parvati), the spouse of Lord Shiva, for a happy married life.
   Married ladies and sometimes even unmarried girls keep fast during the festival days. There are processions of camels and elephants, and celebrations with dance, music, food stalls and fireworks on the last day of the festival. It is said that Goddess Parvati came to her husband’s house on this day. Read More...
   
   Location: Rajasthan, some parts of West Bengal, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.
   Dates: According to Hindu calendar, it starts on the 1st day of Chaitra, and continues for 18 days.

2. Baisakhi (Starting of new year)
   Also known as Vaisaki, Baisakhi is largely celebrated by people of Sikhism and Hinduism. One of the most popular summer festivals in India, it is commemorated by the harvest of rabi crops by the Punjabi farmer community. On the day of the festival, people adorn themselves in new clothes, visit Gurudwaras, cook lip-smacking delicacies and attend fairs. There is traditional dance and music too like gidda and bhangra performances during colorful processions. Baisakhi holds religious as well as historical significance. It is mainly celebrated in North India. This was the day in the year 1699 when the order of ‘Khalsa’ was organised in North India. This was the day in the year 1699 when the order of ‘Khalsa’ was organised by Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th Guru of the Sikhs. Langars are also organised all across.
   Highlights: Colourful processions, Goddess worship, and folk dances
   Location: Punjab and Haryana
   Dates: 13th / 14th April, every year

3. Chithirai (Soak in the spirit of spirituality)
   An annual festival in Madurai, Chithirai festival is organised at the magnificent Meenakshi Amman temple. Also known as Chithirai Thiruvizha, this festival brings enthusiasm all across the southern region of the country. A grand fair is also organized. There are sparkling processions where golden chariot carrying idols of deities are pulled, accompanied by devotional songs, chants and drum beats. Sweets and incense sticks are also offered. Other highlights are exciting fair, decorated temples, folk performances and stalls serving street food varieties. This festival is a wonderful amalgam of entertainment and devotion.
   Location: Madurai, Tamil Nadu
   Highlights: Colorful processions, Wed- ding celebration of Goddess Meenakshi (Parvati) and Lord Sundareswarar (Shiva)

4. Moatsu (A feast of delicious food, fun, and more)
   Moatsu is a 3-day event that is celebrated in the first week of May by the Ao Naga tribal community in Nagaland. This event marks fun, joy, happiness and excitement in the people of the community. On this day, the tribals repair their houses, clear their fields, sow fresh seeds, and clean water wells. There is enthusiasm all around.
   During the three days of the festival, there is eating, drinking, tribal music and dance. The main idea is to invoke the blessings of the Lord. People celebrate by making huge groups. Rice beer too is brewed in huge quantities. Tribals adorn themselves in new clothes during the celebrations. The whole atmosphere is relaxed.
   Location: Mokokchung district villages (Chuchuyimlang village) Nagaland
   Highlights: The event of Sangpangtu, where a huge fire is lit. Men and kids gather around the fire where they are served with meat and wine by the women.

5. Mount Abu Summer Festival
   The only hill town in Rajasthan, Mount Abu bustles with activity during its 2-day event of Mount Abu Summer Festival. With Lake Nakki in the front, the rugged mountains form a wonderful background. The festival is organized by the Tourism Department of Rajasthan and is a treat for cultural aficionados. The atmosphere is wonderful. There are a number of cultural performances, competitions and entertainment options.

ININDIA'S
Top 5 Summer Festivals

- **1. Gangaur (A flamboyant celebration)**
- **2. Baisakhi (Starting of new year)**
- **3. Chithirai (Soak in the spirit of spirituality)**
- **4. Moatsu (A feast of delicious food, fun, and more)**
- **5. Mount Abu Summer Festival**
Fifty One East alongside Lagoona Mall, Fnac and JouéClub are the Platinum Sponsors of this year’s Ramadan tent while Qatar Airways is the exclusive airline partner.

The Ritz-Carlton, Doha will be hosting a magical tent experience this Ramadan within the regal setting of Al Wosail Ballroom.

The master chefs have created a menu of distinctive dining offerings that will feature only the finest in Arabian, Eastern and international cuisine. Gastronomists will be delighted by the vast offering of decadent canapés, entrees and mouthwatering desserts. Each dish has been thoughtfully prepared and will deliver robust flavors derived from only the highest quality ingredients.

The Ritz-Carlton, Doha’s Ramadan theme will be Arabian Nights. The Ramadan tent will be adorned with luxurious décor which will exude Arabian elegance; ensuring guests feel they are partaking in a majestic affair. The tent showcases blue hues and gold accents for a truly opulent Middle Eastern experience.

Every Suhoor will showcase live entertainment to delight and awe guests and will feature hypnotic music provided by a live hand which will play age-old Arabian classics. There will also be performances provided by a tanoura dancer that will surely intrigue and captivate guests.

There will also be a Children’s Club for guests with families which is generously sponsored by Fnac and JouéClub. Thus, while parents take in the festivities around them, children will be immersed in a world of their own to stimulate and engage them throughout the evening.

Commenting on the occasion, Christian Sack, General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Doha stated: “We are looking forward to embracing Ramadan and treating ladies and gentlemen visiting our hotel to a memorable experience. Every detail has been created to surprise and delight our guests who will enjoy a legendary Ritz-Carlton experience, featuring fine foods set amongst a truly elegant Arabian ambiance.”

Fifty One East alongside Lagoona Mall, Fnac and JouéClub are the Platinum Sponsors of this year’s Ramadan tent while Qatar Airways is the exclusive airline partner.

The Ritz-Carlton, Doha welcomes you to experience the sumptuous dishes, traditional beverages, inspiring surroundings and mesmerizing entertainment this Ramadan.

Priced at QR230 per person for Iftar or Suhoor, inclusive of food and Ramadan beverages and children QR115 (5 to 11 years old), whilst children four years old and younger may enjoy the tent with our compliments.

The Ritz-Carlton, Doha presents an enchanting Ramadan tent

THE RITZ-CARLTON
DOHA

Arabian Nights

Celebrate the Holy Month of Ramadan in our majestic tent, offering a variety of exceptional culinary experiences, live music, a tanoura dancer, a children’s club and more.

QAR 230 per person for Iftar or Suhoor
QAR 115 for children between 5 and 11
Children below 4 years old dine with our compliments

A la carte menu is available for lunch and dinner at Sal & Miel, the modern French brasserie

Advanced booking is required.

For more information, please call +974 4484 8000 or email events.doha@ritzcarlton.com

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FIFTY ONE EAST  FNAC  JOUECLUB
LAGOONA MALL  QATAR  ZOOM
W ith its fabulous 3,000 years of history, diverse ethnic groups with their own lan-
guages, cultures, and tra-
ditions as well as with its
magnificent scenery embracing contrasting
land features ranging from the tops of rug-
ged Simien Mountains to the depth of the
Denakil Depression, which is one of the low-
est dry land point on Earth. Throughout the
high peak and lowest points are the home to
all kind of fauna and flora.

The abundance of natural beauty that
blessed Ethiopia offers an astonishing variety
of land escapes. Afro-Alpine highlands soar-
ing to around 4,300 metres, a chain of moun-
tains, the splendors of the Great Rift Valley,
White Water Rivers, giant waterfalls and lush
jungle… the list is endless.

In Ethiopia, nature, culture and history
merge to form a timeless appeal. This was the
cradle of human kind, where humans first be-
gan to walk upright including our celebrated
ancestors Lucy, Selam and Ardi found in Ethi-
opia and believed to be ancestors of every one
on our planet. Therefore, welcome to Ethiopia
to walk on the foot print of your ancestors.

In terms of history, Ethiopia is beyond
all your imaginations. The Axumite kingdom
was one of the great civilizations of ancient
world and has left behind the mystery of giant
Statue found at Axum. In the late Middle Ages
great religious civilization flourished in many
parts of the country, particularly at Lalibela
where churches hewn out of massive mono-
lithic rock testify not only to great faith but
also great architectural skills.

The walled city of Harrar (Jugol) in Ethio-
pia is the 4th holiest city of Islam next to Me-
cca, Medina and Jerusalem.

The 17th century castles found in Gonder
spokes of the same legacy. Also, Ahmed Ne-
lash Mosque which found in Tigray region of
Ethiopia makes the country the first in Africa
in Pursuance of its foundation.

In terms of nature, Ethiopia is the
fourth largest bio-diversity zone in the
world and has more unique species of flora and fauna than
any other country in Africa. Among the differ-
ent species 31 mammals, 17
birds, 14 reptiles, 30 amphibians, 40 fishes, and about
1000 plant species are endemic to Ethio-
pia. There are 24 national
parks, two wild life Sanctu-
aries, five wildlife reserves,
four IUCN biosphere reserves as
well as 21 controlled hunting areas
in the country.

Ethiopia has also numerous other fea-
tures that make it unique and generously of-
er to the rest of the world.

Ethiopia has become a preferred des-
tination for foreign direct investment and emerging hub for manufactur-
ing in Africa due to its political
stability, stable socio-econom-
ic governance with sus-
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WHY INVEST IN ETHIOPIA?
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Africa’s second most populous na-
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and EBA respectively

Duty-free, quota-free access to Ja-
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Member of COMESA with prefer-
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Strategic location with proximity
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and 36 dedicated cargo destinations; also
flies to over 20 domestic passenger destina-
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gearothermal

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Dam – the largest hydroelectric power dam
in Africa- under construction (more than
65% completed), expected to generate add-
tional more than 6,000MW electricity.

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FUTURE APPRAISAL

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SPECIAL OFFERS FOR THE MONTH OF RAMADAN

25% DISCOUNT
FULL DAY DESERT SAFARI

This traditional Bedouin experience with a taste of the local Qatari lifestyle in the desert. This 8-hour package includes a trip to the Inland Sea, dune bashing, complete desert safari with a 3-4 hours layover in the resort camp including Dinner/Lunch.

20% DISCOUNT
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Enjoy a day out in the relaxing singing sand dunes of Mesaieed along with a thrilling dune bashing experience. This 6-hour getaway takes you all the way to the breath-taking inland sea beach a.k.a Khor Al Adaid. Package includes Arabic Sandwiches and refreshments.

50% DISCOUNT
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Book your thrilling Kayaking adventure while you explore the mangroves at the Purple Island. This 90-minute Kayaking adventure is perfect for beginners who are looking for a memorable day out in Qatar to beat the heat.

30% DISCOUNT
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Cruise through the Arabian Gulf. Beat the heat with your friends and family aboard this majestic wooden dhow boat that was traditionally used for Pearl diving. Cruise through the channels from the gorgeous man-made island of Pearl to the Dhow Harbour in Doha city.
Mercure Grand Hotel Doha: Right choice for comfort and quality

Mercure Grand Hotel Doha is a 4-star prime property located in the heart of the city in Musheireb. Opened in 1982, the hotel belongs to the JBK Group of companies. It is managed by an International Chain – Mercure Brand of the Accor Group, France. The hotel is regularly upgraded with modern amenities and facilities.

Accor, a worldwide hotel operator is present in 100 countries with more than 4,800 hotels and 704,000 rooms. With more than 280,000 employees in Accor brand hotels worldwide, the group offers its clients and partners more than 50 years of know-how and expertise. Mercure brand combines the strength of an international network with a strong quality commitment and the warm experience of hotels, all different, rooted in their local community and managed by enthusiastic hoteliers.

Our rooms are all different but they all share the same contemporary approach to comfort and are welcoming, spotlessly clean with high-quality furnishings. Seeking to live up to clients’ expectation, Mercure Grand Hotel Doha has rooms designed to provide more comfort, service and quality for all guests seeking a comfortable stay.

Guest rooms
Total 175:
- 124 Singles/Doubles (66 Standard & 58 Superior)
- 48 Twins (24 Standard & 24 Superior)
- 3 Suites

Four floors are Non-Smoking. All rooms are centrally air-conditioned with direct dial telephone, TV with prime channels, mini-bar, tea/coffee facilities, complimentary WIFI internet, daily bottles of mineral water and 24-hours room service.

Restaurants
You are welcome at any of our restaurants depending on your choice. ‘La Villa’ with a panoramic view of the city serves Italian cuisine and is open for lunch and dinner. The Old Manor Steakhouse is open from 5 pm to 12 midnight serving the best of steaks and assorted beverages. La Brasserie on lobby level serves international cuisine and has a buffet for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Function halls
For your meetings, seminars, trainings, banquet or outside catering – our staff is at your service with a wide choice of menus and competitive prices. With 4 halls, we can accommodate up to 200 guests for a sit-down dinner. Al Riyadh A&C, Oryx Hall and Lubnab Hall at the hotel or you can enjoy a dinner with your close friends and guests in the comfort of your home.

Recreation, health & fitness
In addition to an outdoor swimming pool located on the 3rd floor, our leisure facilities include Sauna and Fitness Centre. The hotel can arrange through a local Tour Operator excursions into the Qatari desert, city tours and visits to traditional markets and shopping malls.

Key places of interest near the hotel
- Souq Waqif
- Al Koot Fort
- Museum of Islamic Art

Future attractions:
- Msheireb Doha Downtown and Musheireb Metro Station.

HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN
This Ramadan Mercure Hotel is geared up to provide guests the best of cuisine and service. La Brasserie Restaurant in the lobby will be decorated to give the feeling of Ramadan to its customers.

Executive Chef Lahcen Bimadarne together with his team have created menus for each day of Ramadan. Guests can have a wide choice from juices, fresh fruits, dates, laban, starters, appetizers, main courses and desserts. The team of chefs is from different countries and they will be preparing specialties from different regions to give customers the best of everything. Dishes will consist of harira soup, couscous, tajine, lamb ouzi, other oriental dishes and variety of Arabic desserts.

There will also be assorted bread which is prepared by our pastry team and has been appreciated by our guests over the years.

Executive Chef Lahcen said that this year when guests like a certain dish he will then arrange a day and welcome those guests for the demonstration of cooking that dish/dishes with his team to explain to the guests how to get the best taste of the dish.

Guests can also book for banquets or outside catering/ Food & Beverage Manager Thomas Philip has created some special menus for groups.
Qatar has achieved significant growth in tourism despite economic and security challenges in the region. Numerous companies are taking important procedures to reinforce the performance of the tourism sector, making Qatar the most-welcoming country in the region.

Sama Global Investment also believes in promoting this industry and sharing the responsibility to attract and further grow the inflow of tourism to Qatar.

Sama Global Investment is a global investment management and development firm that provides a range of financing strategies to serve a broad spectrum of client needs with headquarters in Doha, Qatar. The cornerstone of Sama Global's investment framework is its ability to seize opportunities all over the world and introduce future initiatives for its portfolio companies with the end in view of improving overall value of these companies.

Sama Global prides itself on its diverse and experienced team of relationship managers, who, coupled with their enthusiastic and committed approach, provide an inimitable and dedicated experience for its clients.

The Vision of Sama Global Investment is to become the premier international investment management and advisory firm in the Middle East region.

Sama Global Investment aims to invest in and build a portfolio of sustainable investments, driven by established goals to build shareholder value, mindful of its social, economic and environmental responsibilities, as it remains to be committed to integrity, honesty and fairness in all dealings with its stakeholders.

Currently, the Board of Directors of Sama Global Investment is focusing on investment opportunities concentrated in the real estate and hospitality sectors. Sama Global's team has tremendous track record of investment and operations of real estate projects in various countries including Qatar, Spain, the Philippines and Oman.

As Qatar has identified tourism as one of five priority sectors for achieving economic diversification in Qatar, Sama Global’s participation in the real estate and hospitality industry will greatly contribute towards achieving this goal.

Sama Global Investment is managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a number of members appointed by the Chairman. The Chairman, Abdulla al Mutawwa, brings to the table his decades of experience in the international stage. The members are experts in the field of trading, contracting, real estate, hospitality, technology, manufacturing, construction, transportation, travel and tourism, media and education in addition to their qualification in the investment field.

Sama Global Investment’s Board of Directors is responsible for laying down the general policies, approving the investment programmes and projects of the company and following up on their execution.

Furthermore, the board is responsible for approving the investment policies, risk management framework, project evaluation criteria, and annual budget of the company.

Shahzad Ahmad Mughal is the Chief Executive Officer of Sama Global Investment. A thoughtful leader, and serial entrepreneur, Shahzad has redefined the face of forming group of international companies — bringing trading business, technology & network solutions, manufacturing, hospitality, construction, transportation, real estate, travel & tourism, media and education out of the dorm room and into the world of business.

Shahzad is the partner and CEO at Sama Global, a company that excels at financing, managing, and operating national and international investment opportunities. As CEO, he focuses on ideas and short-and long-term strategy. Shahzad is dedicated to good causes all over Asia, Africa and Europe.

Shahzad is an authority in technology, innovation, and business. He is an angel investor and advisor outside of his role as CEO. Shahzad supports programmes that empower the greater startup community and future generations of entrepreneurs, including his own non-profit initiatives.
NEPAL: A dreamland for mountain lovers

The Himalayas are tall, majestic and inspirational, but they’re not always as daunting as one might think.

NESTLED in the lap of the Himalayas, Nepal is a dreamland for any mountain lover. With eight out of 14 of the highest peaks in the world and many other smaller peaks, Nepal has plenty to offer for beginners and pioneers alike when it comes to climbing.

The Himalayas are tall, majestic and inspirational, but they’re not always as daunting as one might think.

Apart from intense peaks towering above 8,000 metres above the sea level, there are also many non-technical climbing peaks under 7,000 metres. These can be climbed by anyone in good physical and mental health with the necessary passion and grit to conquer a snow-covered mountain.

Island Peak (“Imja Tse” in Nepali) is a mountain in the Sagarmatha National Park (which also is home to Mt. Everest), which towers at around 6,000 metres above the sea level. Unlike Everest, climbing Island Peak does not require years of training. It only takes around 2 days of actual climbing (15 days total trip) and reveals magnificent views which includes a close-up of the fourth highest peak in the world, Mt Lhotse (8,414m), from the top. Island Peak is rated as PD (little difficulty) by the French Adjectival System of climbing.

Some other peaks in Nepal which are scalable and have similar or lesser difficulty ratings are: Pokhalde peak at around 5,000 metres in the Everest Region, Dhaulupus Peak at around 6,000 metres in the Annapurna Region, Yala Peak standing at about 5,500 metres in the Langtang Region, Mera Peak at around 6,500 metres, and plenty more.

Again, the numbers might sound daunting if one is not used to mountains, but these are all climbable with a good physical and mental health and minimum mountaineering expertise. They’re the great Himalayas and a feat of climbing any one of these guarantees the conqueror, the spotlight at the next party. And if these non-technical mountains feel like a walk in the park, one can always choose to go a tier up and try the big boys such as Lhotse (8,414m), Manaslu (8,163m), Kanchenjunga (8,586m), and obviously Everest (8,848m).

The mountains of Nepal have much more to offer than just majestic views. For many climbers, it is a pilgrimage which provides a surreal experience. Many travellers believe that a trip into the depth of the Himalayas cleanses their souls and helps them get rid of their ego. It is considered as a gateway to a life full of humility.

Furthermore, one can enjoy the world-renowned hospitality, exquisite mountain cuisines, and the unique Buddhist culture of the Himalayan people during the peak climbing trip. With so much to offer, climbing a peak in Nepal always finds a way into a mountain lover’s/ thrill seeker’s bucket list.

However, the Great Himalayan Trail, a network of trails spanning various difficulties, elevations and lengths has an easy solution. It has destinations for all kinds of climbers out there. It is a wonderful resource to find the ideal trek/climb.

Visit the website, sort your requirements, and find a climb that fits your needs. Furthermore, Nepal Tourism Board, the national tourism organisation of Nepal, has plenty of resources to make your climbing experience a memorable one. Additionally, you can visit the website of Nepal Mountaineering Association and find out which peaks can be climbed without technical difficulties and also the permit cost required for them.

So, pick your peak, pack your bags, start your climb, and begin a once in a lifetime journey to conquer one of the many breathtaking peaks that Nepal has to offer, that too for a relatively economical budget which won’t break your bank.
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