

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani
Emir since 2013
following father's abdication

Spotlight on Qatar



Area: 11,571 sq km

Population: 2.93 million (2021)

Ratio: Men 75%, Women 25%
Foreigners outnumber Qataris by 8-1

GDP: \$179.6 billion (2021)

Per capita: \$61,276
Global Average: \$12,259

Natural gas reserves:
24.7 trillion cubic metres (2020)
Third-largest, after Russia and Iran



MILESTONES IN QATAR'S HISTORY

■ **1825:** *Al-Thani* dynasty becomes prominent in Qatar and tries to gain independence from Bahrain

■ **1871:** Al-Thanis submit to Ottoman rule

■ **1916:** Qatar signs treaty with Britain, handing over control of foreign policy in return for protection

■ **1939:** Oil discovered. Exploitation delayed by World War II but oil soon replaces pearl diving and fishing as main source of revenue

■ **1950s:** Increasing oil revenues fund expansion and modernisation of infrastructure

■ **1971:** Qatar achieves full independence from Britain

■ **1996:** Satellite TV news network *Al Jazeera* launched as Qatar seeks to cultivate reputation for openness

■ **2000s:** Rising demand for natural gas propels economy to new heights, projecting Qatar to greater prominence in Middle East

■ **2003:** *Al-Udeid* air base serves as headquarters for U.S.-led military campaign in Iraq

■ **2005:** First written constitution takes effect, providing for some democratic reforms

■ **2011:** Qatar contributes to NATO-led mission in Libya and supports rebels opposing *Gaddafi* regime

■ **2014:** Qatar and four other Arab states take part in U.S.-led air strikes on Islamic State militants in Syria

■ **2017:** Saudi-led Arab coalition imposes economic blockade to pressurise Qatar to cut alleged support for radical and Islamist groups, and distance itself from Iran

■ **2021:** Blockade lifted

■ **Nov 2022:** Qatar becomes first Middle Eastern country to host FIFA World Cup

Qatar is mostly desert – 99% of population lives in capital, Doha

