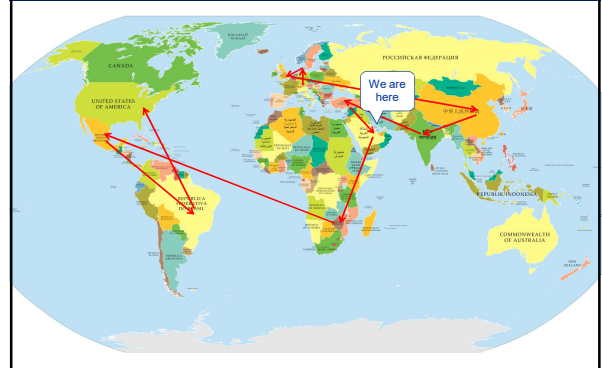


Gulf States

Osher Course, February 2021
J. N. Hooker

Travel Plan



Outline

- Focus on Qatar
- Other Gulf States
 - UAE
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Iraq

Where is Qatar?



Topographic Map of Qatar



Photo Album



Doha Corniche

Photo Album



Part of Doha skyline

Photo Album

Grand Mosque, Doha



Photo Album



Souq Waqif, Doha

Photo Album



Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani
Emir of Qatar until June 2013
(left, with former P.M. Singh
of India)



Sheikha Mozah
bint Nasser al Missned
2nd wife of Hamad al Thani
and co-founder of Qatar
Foundation

Photo Album



HH Tamin bin Hamad al Thani
Emir of Qatar since June 2013

Photo Album

Falconry is a popular sport
Typical landscape in background



Photo Album

Only a small part of the country looks like this.



People don't ride camels. They eat them.



Photo Album

Camel Market, Doha



Photo Album

Inside Museum of Islamic Art, Doha

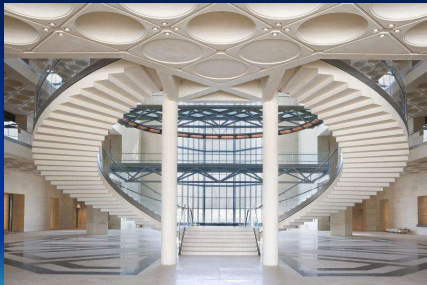


Photo Album

Men wearing thobes with Qatari collar



Photo Album

Women wearing abayas, veil (niqab)



Photo Album

Doha Sheraton, venue for 2001 WTO Ministerial Conference

Hotel switch is an example of wasta





Demographics

- Population – 2.6 million (2016)
- Ethnic breakdown
 - Indian 25%
 - Nepalese 17%
 - **Qatari 12%**
 - Bangladeshi 12%
 - Filipino 10%
 - Egyptian 9%
 - Sri Lankan 5.6%
 - Pakistani 4.8%
 - Syrian 2.2%
 - Sudanese 2.1%
 - Jordanian 1.7%
 - Indonesian 1.7%
 - Iranian 1.3%
 - British 1.1%
 - Lebanese 1.1%

Economy

- Qataris are very proud of *Al Jazeera* studios.

Arabic Language

- Several versions
 - Classical Arabic, language of the Qur'an.
 - Modern Standard Arabic
 - Studied in school, used in news broadcasts.
 - No one's native dialect.
 - Colloquial Arabic
 - Some dialects mutually unintelligible
 - Egypt & Sudan
 - Arabian peninsula (Gulf Arabic)
 - Syria, Lebanon, Palestine
 - Iraq
 - Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, western Libya

Different forms of Arabic letters

There is no standard transliteration into Roman letters, so spellings vary

English	Arabic	Arabic	Arabic	Arabic	English	Arabic	Arabic	Arabic	Arabic
dh	ض	ض	ض	ض	a	ا			ا
t	ط	ط	ط	ط	b	ب	ب	ب	ب
thaa	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	t	ت	ت	ت	ت
.	ع	ع	ع	ع	tha	ث	ث	ث	ث
gh	غ	غ	غ	غ	j	ج	ج	ج	ج
f	ف	ف	ف	ف	haa	ح	ح	ح	ح
q	ق	ق	ق	ق	kh	خ	خ	خ	خ
k	ك	ك	ك	ك	r	ر	ر	ر	ر
l	ل	ل	ل	ل	z	ز			ز
m	م	م	م	م	d	د			د
n	ن	ن	ن	ن	the	ث			ث
h	ه	ه	ه	ه	s	س	س	س	س
w	و				sh	ش	ش	ش	ش
y	ي	ي	ي	ي	sa	ص	ص	ص	ص

Cultures around the Gulf

- Many cultural similarities between Gulf states
 - Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait
- Qatar is more liberal than Saudi, quieter than UAE.
 - Qataris are comfortable with expats in the country.
 - No animosity towards Westerners.
 - Politically moderate.

Cultural Traits

- Polychronic
 - But punctual when Westerners are involved.
- High context
 - But tries to accommodate rule-based expats.
 - Natives seem elusive.
- High power distance
 - Curb service, auto queuing, Filipino maids

Cultural Traits

- Collectivist
 - Loyalty to family
- Relationship-based
 - Friendship extremely important.
 - Relationships built very slowly.
 - Parallel with Texas good-ole-boy culture.
- Masculine
 - Similar to *machismo* (its historical source).

Cultural Traits

- Conservative
 - Expats should dress modestly.
 - Although most locals tolerate some indiscretion, seeing it as a moral weakness of Westerners.



Cultural Traits

- The West has its dress code, too.
 - In the U.S., violators of dress code are *arrested*.
 - In France, Muslim women required to *remove* clothing on beach, 2016 ("burkini ban").




U.S.



France

Cultural Traits

- Conservative
 - Web sites are filtered



This Site has been Blocked

The webpage you are trying to access has been blocked by Internet Qatar as the content contains materials which are prohibited in the State of Qatar.
 إذا كنت ترى أن هناك خطأ، فنحن نطلب منك كتابة بريد إلكتروني على العنوان التالي: censor@qatar.net.qa
 contact our Help Desk at 125.

أي الاتصال بنا على خط المساعدة رقم : 125.
 مع أطيب التمنيات
 إنترنت قطر

Regards,
Internet Qatar

Cultural Traits

Restaurants sometimes have a family section



Cultural Traits

Shopping malls may have a family day



Gulf States

- Friday – Mosque day
 - Morning – Sleep in. Streets deserted.
 - Noon – Attend service at mosque.
 - Afternoon – Family meal prepared by live-in Filipino maids.
 - Evening – Shop until you drop. Traffic jams.



Mosque, Qatar Islamic Cultural Centre

Cultural Traits

- Liquor is legal for Westerners if consumed at home or in certain areas of certain hotels.



Gulf States

Mall traffic



Ramadan

- Daytime fast is required by law.
 - All restaurants closed.
 - A few groceries are open, mainly for Western shoppers.
 - 2018: 15 May (sunset) through 14 June



Ramadan

- Westerns may eat, drink privately at home (or in certain areas of certain hotels).
- Time of *iftar* (breaking of fast) is published in newspapers, on web.



Iftar meal

Ramadan

- Locals tend to sleep most of the day, stay up all night.
 - Lavish parties, interesting events at night.
- *Eid al Fitr* after Ramadan



Etiquette

- Body language is important
 - Avoid slouching in chair.
 - Better not to cross legs.



Etiquette

- A little obsequiousness, flattery of high-ranking officials is a good idea.



Negotiation

- Souks are rather tame.
 - Polite south Asian proprietors.



Arab Dinner Party

- You are invited to a private home.
 - Men enter by front entrance, women by rear.
 - Men and women do not associate during the entire evening.
- Men gather in large parlor, sit on sofas arranged around the walls.
 - On entering, move counterclockwise around the room, greeting & shaking hands.



Arab Dinner Party

- For men only...
- Have a seat.
 - Servant will bring bitter herb tea.
 - Drink it quickly.
 - Shake the empty cup to indicate you are ready for the servant to take it.
 - Don't discuss politics or religion.

Arab Dinner Party

- When it's time for dinner, you will line up at wash basin.
- Men go outside to tent (*majlis*) for meal.
 - In summer, tent will be air conditioned.



Arab Dinner Party

- Sit on cushions around food.
 - Tray may contain roast lamb, surrounded by rice, hard-boiled eggs, etc.
 - There are no utensils; use fingers to take meat, etc.
 - Scoop up rice with fingers and push into your mouth with thumb.



Arab Dinner Party

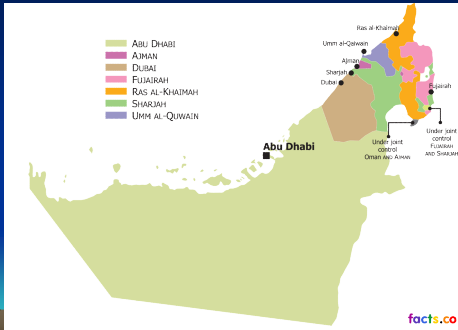
- After meal, return to wash basin in the house.
- Move into parlor for dessert and after-dinner conversation.
- At close of evening, make the rounds counter-clockwise to say *massalama*.

UAE

- United Arab Emirates.



UAE



UAE

- Dubai
 - Playground of the wealthy

Burj Khalifa

World's tallest building



UAE

- Abu Dhabi
 - A bit more traditional
 - Emphasis on sustainability

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque



Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabia

- Strict observance
 - Men & women segregated.
 - Women not allowed to drive until June 2018
 - However, patronizing Western critics are not appreciated.
 - Dinner party.



Al Munirah Mosque
Dharan, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia

- Strict observance
 - Shops close for prayers.
 - Home of Wahhabi faith.



Mall of Dharan

Saudi Arabia

- Strict observance
 - Shops close for prayers.
 - Home of Wahhabi faith.

Muhammad Ibn Abd al-Wahhab
"Muslim Oliver Cromwell"





Mall of Dharan

Saudi Arabia

- Strict observance
 - No coed universities.
 - Prayer rugs in university hallways.
 - Male comradeship.
 - Royal family.



King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals Dhahran

Saudi Arabia

- Predominately Sunni
 - Dhahran is heavily Shia.
 - Causeway connects to Bahrain, scene of Shia/Sunni conflict



Causeway from Dhahran to Bahrain

Saudi Arabia

- Grand Mosque (Al-Masjid Al-Haram) & Abraj Al-Bait Towers (3rd tallest in world), Mecca



Bahrain



Bahrain

- Financial center of the region
 - Leader in "Fintech" (financial technology)




Bahrain Stock Exchange

Oman



Oman

- Sultanate
 - Ruled by Qaboos bin Said al Said
 - Strict Ibadi sect of Islam



Muscat

Kuwait



Kuwait

- Oil-rich state
 - Has a parliament and prime minister
 - But controlled by Al-Sabah family
 - Life complicated by wars in Iraq, invasion



Kuwait towers

Yemen



Yemen


- Houthi rebellion
 - Houthis are not an ethnic group.
 - Faction started by Hussein al-Houthi of the Houthi tribe.
 - Offshoot of ancient Banu Hamdan clan.
 - Primarily Zaidi Shia, but with some Sunni supporters.



Hussein al-Houthi, 1959-2004

Yemen

- Houthi rebellion
 - Primarily Zaidi Shia, but with some Sunni supporters.
 - Opposed autocratic President Ali Abdullah Saleh.
 - Saleh ordered arrest of Hussein al-Houthi, who resisted.
 - Army killed Hussein in 2004, sparking revolt.



Ali Abdullah Saleh

Yemen

- Houthi rebellion

- Arab Spring inspired rebellion against Saleh.

- Saleh resigned 2011 (2012).
 - Successor was Saudi-backed Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, who could not deal with the chaos.

- Houthis took advantage of situation by starting latest rebellion, forcing out Hadi.
 - Saudis entered conflict in 2015 against Houthis, whom they saw as supported by arch-enemy Iran.



Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi with John Kerry, 2013

Yemen

- Civil war

- Actually a proxy war between Saudis and Iran.

- US continued historical military support for Saudis despite atrocities in Yemen.
 - Saudi blockade has created humanitarian disaster.
 - Hunger and disease rampant.
 - Joe Biden ended support for Saudis in Yemen 5 days ago.

Bombed Doctors without Borders hospital, 2016

