# QATAR FOR ALL YOUR ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

## EXPERIENCE QATAR, YOUR WAY!

Regardless of age, background or ability, Qatar offers a wide range of attractions and community activities. This guide focuses on the exciting things you can do and the interesting places you can explore. It is based on and inspired by the experiences and recommendations of people with disabilities living in Qatar.

We hope this text-only version will provide you with easy and rapid access to all the information in the QATAR FOR ALL ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE. Please note that will find direct links to the official websites of the venues and services listed in this guide. We cannot guarantee that other external websites and portals are fully accessible.

Qatar is famous for its warm, customer-centric service and hospitable people, so do not hesitate to get in touch with any of the contacts in this guide. We hope you find it useful and that it inspires you to experience the hidden gems across the country.

Accessibility is not disability exclusive, and neither is this guide. It can be used by anyone and everyone, including elderly individuals, families with young children in push chairs, and those that prefer multi-sensory experiences.

Enjoy an inclusive Qatar where everyone is welcome!

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### CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

#### Al Shaqab

Situated at the heart of Qatar Foundation's Education City, Al Shaqab is a world-class equine center dedicated to preserving Qatar's equestrian heritage by promoting the Arabian horse breed and setting the highest standards in horse welfare, breeding, equine education, and research.

Al Shaqab's Equine Assisted Therapy Program is a specialized program for children with autism spectrum disorder.

- Open to children between the ages of 6-12
- Therapeutic riding and stable management activities combined in 45-minute sessions
- Sessions are offered on all days of the week, except Friday

For more information, rates and bookings, contact: <a href="mailto:eedstudentsrelations@qf.org.qa">eedstudentsrelations@qf.org.qa</a>

#### **Historical Background**

His Highness the Father Amir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, established Al Shaqab in 1992 to build on Qatar's Arabian horse heritage and to help preserve and nurture the Arabian horse breed.

Al Shaqab has since developed into a multi-dimensional equestrian center. It not only breeds Arabian horses, but it also educates young children on the art and values of horsemanship and equestrianism, and trains riders and horses for long-distance endurance races.

#### **Education City Golf Club**

Education City Golf Club is a state-of-the-art golf facility that honors Qatar Foundation's approach to education, innovation, sustainability, research and development, and culture through sport.

- The golf course is accessible to wheelchair users
- The PGA Golf Professionals are happy to discuss requests on a case-by-case basis

For more information, reach out to +974 7773 7973 or info@ecgolf.com

#### Did you know?

- The course was designed in line with the standards of the United States Golf Association, with the green areas of the golf course designed according to the United States Golf Association specifications including the fairways, greens, tees and rough
- The golf facility covers a sizeable area consisting of 120 Hectares of land adjacent to the Education City Stadium

#### **Qatar National Library**

Qatar National Library (QNL), located in Education City, is a modern facility that provides the people of Qatar with access to over one million books. In its role as a research library with a preeminent heritage collection, QNL fosters global insight into the history and culture of the Arabian Gulf region.

- Sensory room for children with learning difficulties, developmental disabilities, or sensory impairments
- Sensory story-telling sessions
- Children's library with a unique ability-friendly program that caters to children of all abilities, and a collection of physical Arabic audio books that are suitable for children with impaired vision
- Vast accessible online resources such as Bookshare, ABC, Overdrive, and Libby
- Assistive Technology Center specially designed for persons with disabilities with adjustable workstations and the latest equipment and software
  - Scanning pens with headphones
  - o Ergonomic keyboards and mice
  - Braille keyboards and printers
  - o Portable electronic magnifiers

Learn more at https://www.gnl.ga/en/people-with-disabilities

#### **Education City Mosque**

Emphasizing its approach to engaging with the public, the Education City Mosque's vision is to be the premier community-focused mosque in Qatar and the region. It's located in the Minaretein building, which rests on five large columns representing the five pillars of Islam, with each featuring a verse drawn from the Holy Qur'an.

With a mission to be more than just a place of prayer, EC Mosque has also hosted a variety of events for the entire community since it first opened, offering a diverse range of activities for those who seek to gain knowledge.

• Sign language interpretation during Jum'a (Friday) prayers

#### Quranic Botanic Garden

The Qur'anic Botanic Garden exhibits and conserves the plants mentioned in the Holy Qur'an and the native flora in Qatar.

- Wheelchair accessible gardens and fountain
- Descriptive signs on the conserved plants that are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an
- Botanical Museum provides visitors with highlights on Arab and Islamic heritage and traditions by displaying valuable information, photographs, heritage collectibles, plant models and traditional agricultural tools

For more information, rates and bookings, contact: <u>eedstudentsrelations@qf.org.qa</u>

#### Seeroo Fi Al Ardh

Seeroo Fi Al Ardh carousel is one of the late artist Maqbool Fida Husain's latest works. In a 20 minute-show, the artwork tells the story of human progress. For visits register via the Education City app, available on the <u>iOS</u> App Store and the <u>Google</u> Play Store.

- Accessible to wheelchair users
- Multisensory experience of the kinetic show with audio-tactile visit to the venue and live audiodescription of the art performance
- Raised images for tactile exploration of venue-specific features
- Audio descriptive guide of artworks in the exhibition

Audio descriptive guided tours can be arranged on request. To book, contact: qfarttrail@qf.org.q

#### Museums

Along with a sweeping array of arts and culture experiences, from traditional Islamic craft to modern and contemporary arts, museums in Qatar are mostly designed to be inclusive and accessible to all. Most of them feature wheelchair-friendly entry points and offer audio tours, braille descriptive texts, and other types of assistive technology for people of all abilities.

#### Did you know?

The main building of the Museum of Islamic Arts features a high domed atrium within a central tower. The cream-coloured limestone exterior captures the changes in light and shade during the day. The interior is no less spectacular, where a curved double staircase at the center of the atrium leads up to the first floor.

#### National Museum of Qatar

The National Museum of Qatar (NMoQ) gives voice to Qatar's rich heritage and culture. It welcomes diverse communities to its vibrant and immersive space to come together to experience Qatar's past, present and future.

- Multi-sensory elements
- Tactile surfaces
- Interactive tours with highly trained guides

#### 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum

The 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum is a national and international center for sports history, heritage, and knowledge, promoting and encouraging academic research. It is also a member of the Olympic Museum Network, which currently unites 22 Olympic museums worldwide.

• All areas of the museum are wheelchair accessible

• Wheelchairs for guest use are available at the reception desk

#### Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art

Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, located in Education City, houses a unique world-class collection of modern and contemporary art from the Arab world and its cultural and historical connections.

- Guided virtual tours
- Interactive audio tours through the Lazarillo app

#### Msheireb Museums

Msheireb Museums celebrate the history of four historic heritage houses in the heart of Msheireb Downtown Doha. Located within the oldest part of the capital, they form an important part of Qatar's national history.

• Audio tours available on the museums' native app

## PARKS AND RECREATION

#### KidzMondo - Mall of Qatar

KidzMondo Doha is an international edutainment park for children between 2 and 14 years, featuring a self-sufficient city built for, and managed solely by children.

- Highly trained staff with the tools and skills needed to interact with autistic guests
- 40% discount for children with disabilities

#### Caboodle – Doha Festival City + Place Vendome

Caboodle is an indoor play area where children can explore their interests through soft play, dress-up, themed crafts and games, all designed to promote physical, social, and cognitive development.

• Free entry for children with disabilities, and QAR25 entry fee for one companions

#### Jumpino – Place Vendome

Jumpino is an over 25,000 square foot trampoline park with a wide variety of activities such as 3D wall, air bags, climbing wall, ninja course, and slam dunk.

• Free entry for children with disabilities, and QAR35 entry fee for one companion

#### Angry Birds – Doha Festival City

Angry Birds World theme park offers activities for all ages, ranging from go-karting to laser tag, soft play to trampolining.

• Free entry for children with disabilities. Specific rides are subject to charge

#### CurioCITY – The Pearl-Qatar

CurioCITY Center of Play is designed in close relations to day-to-day living in Qatar drawing inspiration from culture, architecture, and environment. Its' setting is purposefully structured to encourage a young child's sense of independence, exploration, wonder, and creativity.

50% discount for children with disabilities

#### Rebound – Gate Mall

Rebound Trampoline park offers a chance to experience the exhilaration of being airborne while jumping and tumbling around a 600 square meter trampoline area located in the heart of Doha.

• 50% discount for children with disabilities

#### Al Bidda Park

Al Bidda Park features beautiful sweeping lawns and beds bursting with flowers. Whether you are into running, playing, yoga, or sampling good food and drinks, there is something for everyone at Al Bidda Park.

Eight play areas designed with equipment for children with disabilities

• Electric golf carts are available to assist quests with limited mobility in moving around the park

#### Al Ramii Sport Club

Lusail Shooting Range, located in Al Ramii Sport Club, is considered one of the largest shooting facilities in the Gulf region. It was established in 2016 according to the latest designs for practicing shooting sports.

- · Wheelchair-friendly shooting range
- Steady firearms that rest on a pillow for easier handling

#### The Shooting Range

- Six combined shotgun layouts
- All layouts are supplied with Laporte throwing machines and electronic scoreboards and phonopull systems
- All rifle and pistol ranges are equipped with Sius Ascor target system
- Outdoor and indoor archery ranges

For more information, reach out to +974 6690 1602 or visit alramiiclub.qa

#### Aspire Park

Located within Aspire Zone, Aspire Park offers comprehensive facilities for the community including running and walking tracks, large green spaces, children playgrounds, and a café overlooking a large lake.

- Wheelchairs available for individuals with disabilities
- Wheelchair-friendly pathway

#### Doha Quest

Quest is an indoor experiential theme park with more than 30 rides and attractions, featuring a mix of adrenaline-heavy thrill rides, media-controlled simulators, virtual reality experiences, and family-friendly attractions.

• 50% discount for persons with disabilities, and a complimentary ticket for one companion

#### Oxygen Park

The green lung of Education City, Oxygen Park invites students and visitors alike to refresh their mind, body, and spirit through active exercise and to explore the symbiotic relationships between oxygen, plants, and healthy purified living.

- Wheelchair-friendly smooth and sloped pathways that provide access to all areas in the park
- Accessible underground parking
- Connected to Education City's Student Center "Multaqa" that features a number of food and beverage options, cafes, a mini market, a pharmacy, and other retail options

#### Baladna Park

A green refuge on the outskirts of Doha, Baladna Park is the gateway to a peaceful nature wonderland. A visit to Baladna Park gives everyone a chance to participate in their favourite outdoor activities.

Accessible for wheelchair users

#### Hotel Park (Sheraton Park)

Located amid the bustle of Doha's West Bay business district, Hotel Park offers families a place to gather to enjoy abundant green spaces, child-friendly play areas, and food outlets.

 Accessible elevators available throughout the park providing wheelchair users access to underground parking, toilets, and restaurants

#### West Bay Beach

West Bay Beach has a wheelchair ramp for beach access. The ramp is designed to accommodate different types of mobility aids, such as wheelchairs, mobility scooters, and walkers, providing a

safe and comfortable means of reaching the water.

#### 365 Adventures

365 Adventures is an initiative that highlights and promotes the transformative experiences available around Qatar.

- Dune bashing experience for wheelchair users
- Sand wheelchairs are used to give guests a full experience of being in the desert
- 15% discount for persons with disabilities and one companion
- Experts at 365 Adventures are open to adapting their tours and experiences on a case-by-case basis

To book, call +974 3339 3323 or email info@365adventures.me

#### Aqua Sports Qatar

AquaSports Qatar offers kayaking and stand-up paddling tours in the mangrove nature reserve in Al Thakira.

- Kayaking and other experiences for wheelchair users (weather dependent)
- Accessible for blind, visually impaired, deaf, or hearing-impaired individuals

Aqua Sports team are open to adapting other tours and experiences on a case-by case basis. Caregivers and companions will not be charged. https://www.aquasportsq.com/For more information please contact +974 3319 4445 or email: info@aquasportsq.com

#### Katara Beach

One of the most beautiful natural beaches of Qatar, Katara's private beach spans over 1.5km. Beachgoers have a choice between enjoying a relaxed beach experience and diving into the fun with a great variety of adrenaline-boosting beach activities.

- Beach number three is wheelchair-accessible
- Complimentary beach wheelchairs are available for guest use
- Complimentary entrance to the beach for persons with disabilities and one companion

For any queries, please contact +974 5563 0194

## SHOPPING MALLS

With their extravagant architecture and spacious premises, shopping malls in Qatar are the perfect leisure spots for exploring entertainment, fashion, and more.

The majority of malls are accessible for wheelchair users and have a limited number of wheelchairs available at the reception for use by visitors free-of-charge. Some malls are reachable by metro, including <u>City Center Doha</u>, <u>Villaggio</u>, <u>Place Vendôme</u>, <u>Lagoona</u>, <u>The Gate</u>, and <u>Mall of Qatar</u>.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

#### **Ability Friendly Program**

Qatar Foundation's Ability Friendly Program is an initiative that supports people of all abilities to engage in sporting and developmental activities. The program includes sports programs, specialized camps, and events that are tailored to the participants' individual needs.

To learn more about the program, please email abilityfriendly@qf.org.qa

#### Qatar Social & Cultural Center for the Blind

The first center of its kind in the country, Qatar Social and Cultural Center for the Blind believes deeply in the rights of the blind to merge in society and showcase their capabilities.

- A space where blind and visually impaired individuals can hang out and enjoy all kinds of activities
- An opportunity for those who want to know more about blindness and the life of people who live with vision impairment

## WORLD CUP EXPERIENCE

A tremendous amount of effort was put in to ensure that the World Cup Experience met the needs of the widest range of fans possible. Below is a list of features that were available to fans throughout the tournament:

#### FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022TM Stadiums

8 modern state-of-the-art stadiums hosted the matches of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

• Wheelchair accessible seats with an unobstructed view of the pitch

- Accessible parking
- Wheelchair accessible bathrooms with an adult changing room facility at the official FIFA Fan
   Fest accessible from the Corniche
- Lowered counters at concession stands
- Hearing loop inductors for hearing aid users
- Sensory rooms for neuro-divergent fans available at three of the eight stadiums equipped with a
  wide variety of sensory regulation tools and assistive technology, as well as specialist staff and
  trained volunteers
- Live audio-descriptive commentary accessible through the FIFA Interpreting app which is available on the <u>iOS</u> App Store and <u>Google Play</u> Store
- Trained volunteers and staff supported fans of all abilities throughout matches

#### How to get to Education City Stadium

To access Education City Stadium and enjoy the many activities and activations along the route, you can use one of the following routes:

- Education City Metro Station (7-minute walk to the stadium)
- Oxygen Park Parking (P33) where the Education City Tram can be taken to the last stop before the stadium
- Stadium Express Buses (16-minute walk to the stadium)

#### **Sensory Rooms**

Sensory rooms are enclosed spaces designed for neuro-divergent fans equipped with a wide variety of sensory regulation tools and assistive technology, as well as specialist staff and accessibility specific-trained volunteers.

In addition to the stadiums, Sensory rooms can be found at various venues in Qatar, including:

- Qatar National Library
- National Museum of Qatar
- Muzn Lounge at Hamad International Airport

Additionally, some venues in Doha offer sensory hours. These include:

- Chuck-e-Cheese, Lusail Boulevard (Every Saturday, 10 AM 2 PM)
- Monoprix, Al Waab 2022 (Daily 8 AM 10 AM)
- Museum of Illusions, The Gate Mall (Every first Saturday of the month, 9-10 AM)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

#### Hamad International Airport

Hamad International Airport is a state-of-the-art airport built to be the world's preferred transfer hub. Whether you're transferring, arriving, or departing, Hamad International Airport offers seemingly endless shopping, dining and relaxation options.

- Accessible bathrooms, lowered check-in counters, and a network of elevators, escalators, ramps, moving walkways, and an inter-terminal passenger train, provide ease of access for those with restricted mobility
- A dedicated lounge, located in concourse C, is available for travelers with disabilities, including
  those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). It offers comfortable seating, televisions, assistive
  technology, accessible washrooms are conveniently located nearby, and trained attendants are
  present to help guests with specific needs
- A sensory room that features educational, Rehabilitative, and recreational interactive devices and equipment that ensures guests with sensory needs have a seamless and stress-free experience when traveling through HIA

#### Mowasalat (Karwa)

Mowasalat - Qatar's national transportation company - provides solutions for mass and individual transport, mobility services for major events, in addition to limousines and wheelchair-accessible transport services.

- Wheelchair-accessible taxis, readily available at the airport and can be ordered on-demand using the Karwa app which is available on the <u>iOS</u> App Store and the <u>Google</u> Play Store
- The majority of buses operated are low-floor buses that are accessible to wheelchair users

#### **Ibticar**

Ibticar is a Qatar-based company that provides safe, reliable, around the clock wheelchair-accessible transportation services.

- Cars equipped with the latest access technology that meets international standards
- Drivers with accessibility training to ensure the safety and comfort of all passengers

#### Doha Metro

The Doha Metro is a new, state-of-the art, automated rail network, running mostly underground and across the city of Doha.

- Barrier-free experience across all 37 metro stations, all of which are equipped with an accessible elevator
- Tactile floor markings for white cane users
- Audio announcements in English and Arabic
- Wheelchair-accessible bathrooms

Learn more by downloading the **Qatar Rail** app

#### **Education City Tram**

An electrically-powered tram system, which uses a groundbreaking form of battery-charging technology, that carries passengers around Education City.

- Wheelchair-friendly
- Audio announcements in stations and inside the tram

## **USEFUL RESOURCES**

#### Accessible Qatar

Accessible Qatar, an initiative by Sasol, is a smart phone <u>application</u> and <u>website</u>, where the disabled community is able to view the public and touristic locations and outlets in Qatar and see whether they are accessible and in what way. It combines expertly-audited data and user reviews and ratings, giving the disabled community the confidence they deserve to explore and enjoy Qatar without limits.

#### Qatari Money Reader

A money reading app that is able to scan and read both sides of all Qatari riyals using the camera phone in real-time without an internet connection.

Click here to download

## **USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS**

- Ambulance/Fire/Accident: 999
- **992** is a dedicated emergency response number for the deaf and hearing impaired and is reachable by calling or texting.
- **Snoonu** is the fastest shopping & delivery app in Qatar consisting of restaurants, grocery stores, retail shops and more, and is available to download on the iOS App Store and Google Play Store.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DISCLAIMERS**

Thank you to everyone who shared their experiences and recommendations with us, particularly Qatar's community of persons with disabilities, your contribution was vital in bringing this guide to life.

#### Disclaimers:

- 1. This guide is based entirely on recommendations from persons with disabilities.
- 2. Qatar Foundation has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided in this guide. However, the information is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind. Qatar Foundation does not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy, content, completeness, legality, or reliability of the information contained in this guide.
- 3. For venues that are mentioned to be accessible via the metro, a short distance might need to be covered between the two.
- 4. Prices, timings, and offerings mentioned are subject to change at any time, therefore, users are highly encouraged to confirm the information before visiting any of the mentioned venues.
- 5. For venues that mention discounted entrance for persons with disabilities, users might be asked to show proof of disability.

This guide will continually evolve and be updated with new information as and when we receive it. If you have any feedback and suggestions, or would like to recommend a venue or experience that could be included in the guide, please reach out to us on accessibility@qf.org.qa