



SWISS BUSINESS MISSION TO QATAR

Business opportunities in Qatar,
Doha: April 22nd to 26th 2013.



The **Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services (CCIG)**, the **Office for Promotion of Industries and Technologies (OPI)** and the **OSEC** are organizing an **economic mission to Qatar**.

This trip will combine visits of Qatari government's relevant ministries and companies, networking receptions with Swiss consulates, local Chambers of Commerce and professional associations, and also one-to-one meetings organized on the basis of the participants' predetermined objectives.

Finally, the mission will also include presentations by local professionals on the social, legal and cultural aspects of doing business in Qatar.





About Qatar

Doha is the capital, economic and cultural center of the State of Qatar - one of the most exciting and ever-growing countries in the Middle East. A member of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, Qatar's population is estimated to be almost 1.5 million – where many of its inhabitants hail from other Arab countries, the Asian sub-continent, as well as Europe and North America.

The State of Qatar is a peninsula surrounded by the waters of the Arabian Gulf. It shares its southern border with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain off its northwest coastline, and the UAE close by in the southeast. The country stretches over 11,437 square kilometers, with archaeological evidence proving that the country was inhabited as early as the 4th century BC. Qatar has a landscape of sand dunes in the south and flat, rocky desert with scattered cultivation in the north. The climate is mild and pleasant in winter, while the summers are hot and frequently humid.

For centuries, the economic activity was centered on camel breeding, fishing and pearl diving. In the twentieth century, the economy was transformed by the discovery of oil and, later on, of vast reserves of gas off the northeast coast. Qatar has the largest non-associated gas field yet discovered, and is now a major exporter of liquefied natural gas and condensates. According to the International Monetary Fund, Qatar currently has the third highest per capita GDP in the world.





Customs

While Qatar is a progressive society, open, relaxed and a regional hub for the arts - it also maintains its traditions and heritage. Qatar is an Islamic country where Arabic is the official language, and English being a very widely spoken language throughout the country.

The local customs and traditions of the country are to a great extent influenced by Islam, however, this does not make Qatar a closed- society, but a tolerant culture. Although alcohol is prohibited in public places, one can still get alcohol in restaurants, hotels and bars. Religious customs should be respected, particularly during the month of Ramadan when eating, drinking and smoking in public are forbidden by the Islamic Law.

As part of the local Qatari custom, Qatari men wear the 'dishdasha' or 'Kandura', a white full-length shirt-dress, usually worn with a white or red-checked headdress known as 'gutra'. Women in Qatar wear black 'abaya', a long and loose black robe and a headscarf to cover their hair. However, visitors can wear any clothes they want, but they are expected to respect the local customs and traditions of the country and maintain modesty in public appearance. Swimsuits, including bikini, are acceptable on the beach or by the pool, whereas, topless sunbathing is not permitted. The import of alcohol or pork products is strictly prohibited.





Weather

Weather is mild much of the year; the hottest months are July-September.

Local time

Qatar's time is 3 hours ahead of GMT.

Currency/Money exchange

Qatar's currency is the Qatari riyal (QR), pegged to the US dollar at QR 3.64/US\$1.

Electricity

The electric supply operates at 220-240 volts and 50 Hz. Both two and three-pin plug mains are found, but adaptors are available in most supermarkets and other shops.

Communications

The international access code for Qatar is +974, and the outgoing code is 0, followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 033 for France).

Safety

Qatar has been ranked as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)'s most peaceful country (Global Peace Index) and safety does not represent an issue.

Travel health

No vaccinations are required to entry to Qatar. Modern medical care and medicine is available in Doha. Hospitals expect immediate cash payment for medical services and it is advisable for travellers to hold medical insurance.



Program

Monday April 22nd	Geneva – Doha Transfer to hotel in Doha
Tuesday April 23rd	8 th World Chambers Congress: Business program day 1 “Qatari future” Ashgal, Rail, Qatar National Food Security Programme Light lunch Qatar 2022 B2B Meetings Business Dinner at the World Chambers Congress
Wednesday April 24th	8 th World Chambers Congress: Business program day 2 “Innovation” Qatar National Bank, Qatar Petroleum, Commercial Bank, Qatari Diar, Qatar Investment Authority Light lunch B2B Meetings Gala dinner at the new Swiss Embassy
Thursday April 25th	8 th World Chambers Congress: Business program day 3 “How to invest” Federation of Gulf Cooperation Council Chambers (FGCCC), Dubai Chamber, African Development Bank, KPMG, Patton Boggs Light lunch B2B Meetings World Chambers Congress Gala Dinner
Friday April 26th	Transfer to Airport Geneva-Doha

