

Doha — Day Plan

Jun 1 arrival 6:30 PM → Jun 2 flight out 2 PM · ~19 hrs · Al Najada Hotel in Souq Waqif

🚆 LAST TRAIN HOME

- **Metro** (Red/Green/Gold): last ~12:54 AM Sat-Thu, first ~5:21 AM. **Fri**: first 9:22 AM, last 12:54 AM.
- **Karwa taxi + Uber + Careem** 24/7 — only reliable late-night option outside metro corridor.
- **Ghost gap**: 1-5 AM. Plan a cab.

★ KNOWN FOR

Modern Arabia in 19 hours

- 🕌 Souq Waqif — restored 19th-c marketplace, lanterns + spice + falcons
- 🏛 Museum of Islamic Art — I.M. Pei's last great building, on its own peninsula
- 🐫 The richest country per capita on Earth — skyline is sci-fi at night

Mon Jun 1 · Arrival night

Land 6:30 PM · 106°F but sun sets ~7pm so relief

7:30 PM

Check in — Al Najada Doha ↗

Boutique hotel inside Souq Waqif. Drop bags. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

8:00 PM

Dinner — Parisa (Persian, Souq Waqif) ↗

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2 min walk from hotel. Tens of thousands of hand-set mirror tiles + hand-painted Persian myth walls — looks like nothing else they'll eat in on this trip. Chefs flown in from Iran. 📍 [Open in Maps](#) [MORE +](#)

10:00 PM

Falcon Souq + souq lantern wander ↗

Falcon Souq evening hours 4-8 PM weekdays — check; even if shops shuttered, the hawks are still on perches and the alley is lit. Loop through gold souq corridor, spice stalls, Saqr Square. This is the night photo set piece — phones out. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

10:45 PM

Infinity Rooftop Lounge (Alwadi Hotel) ↗

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5 min walk (don't taxi to the Irish Pub — Infinity is better, closer, alcohol-licensed, open till 2 AM). 20th floor, views from souq lanterns out to West Bay skyscrapers. 📍 [Open in Maps](#) [MORE +](#)

12:30 AM

Tea Time (24h karak stand, Souq Waqif) ↗

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If one of them isn't ready for bed: 24-hour karak (spiced milk tea) stand inside the souq, ~QAR 3 a cup. Sit on a low wall, watch the late-night Qatari shabab cruise past. Cheap, weird, real. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

1:00 AM

Back to hotel

Sleep — alarm 8:30 AM. 📍 [Open in Maps](#)

8:30 AM

Breakfast — Shay Al Shomous (Souq Waqif) ↗ \$

Skip hotel breakfast. 3 min walk. Shams's place — Qatari woman who pioneered women in F&B here, AJ profiled her. Order: balaleet (sweet vermicelli + egg), khobiz regag with cheese & honey, baid o tomate, karak. ~QAR 50 for two. [MORE +](#)

[📍 Open in Maps](#)

9:30 AM

Museum of Islamic Art (I.M. Pei) ↗

Opens 9 AM Tue. 8 min walk from hotel along Corniche — go EARLY before 105°F kicks in. Skip ticket queue with Discover Qatar pass online. 60 min: focused walk through the geometric atrium, the Iznik tiles room, Pei's rooftop water view of West Bay. [📍 Open in Maps](#) [MORE +](#)

10:45 AM

MIA Park + Richard Serra "7" sculpture ↗

5 min walk from museum. Pei's building from the water side = the postcard shot. The 24m steel Serra at the spit-tip is open 24/7 — no entry fee. Quick photo loop, then back via Corniche path toward hotel (or grab a Karwa if heat is brutal). [📍 Open in Maps](#)

11:30 AM

Msheireb Downtown walk-through ↗

On the way back from MIA. Barahat Msheireb square has a retractable roof + outdoor A/C mist — pedestrian, cool, almost no tourists. Pop into Msheireb Museums (4 restored heritage houses, free, 30 min) — the slavery-history one is the underrated knockout. Skip if running tight. [📍 Open in Maps](#)

12:15 PM

Quick check-out + cold drink at hotel

Grab bags, settle bill, water bottles. [📍 Open in Maps](#)

12:30 PM

Taxi to DOH airport (Karwa or Uber) ↗

20 min in light traffic, allow 30 min as buffer. Karwa from souq stand ~QAR 50 (\$14), Uber comparable. Have hotel concierge pre-book a Karwa the night before if you want zero friction.

Need to clear DOH security + business lounge by 1:30 PM for 2 PM flight

— Qatar wants biz pax 75 min prior. Don't push it past 12:45. [📍 Open in Maps](#)

2:00 PM

QR151 • DOH → MAD

7:20 hr flight in Qatar business. Arrive Madrid 9:25 PM.

BEFORE YOU GO

- **Heat warning:** 106-112°F mid-day. The whole plan is built around indoor/covered/night windows. Bring a 1L bottle each — souq stalls sell water for QAR 2.
- **Alcohol reality:** only hotel-licensed venues serve it. No bars outside hotels, no liquor stores for tourists. Infinity (Alwadi) + the Irish Pub (Best Western) are the two near the souq. Both card aggressively.
- **Tuesday closures:** NMoQ closed all day; Wednesday MIA would be closed (n/a for us). Falcon Souq shops shut 8 PM weekdays.
- **Dress:** shoulders + knees covered in the souq (Dani — light scarf). Smart-casual at Infinity (no shorts, no flip-flops for Eddie).
- **Skipped intentionally:** The Pearl Qatar (20 min taxi, mall vibe — not worth it for 19 hrs), Katara Cultural Village (15 min taxi, same reason), Lusail Boulevard (futurist eye-candy but 25 min and at night the heat finally drops at our hotel doorstep), NMoQ (Tuesday closed), desert dunes safari (eats half a day).
- **Cash:** QAR 200-300 covers all the cheap-eat / karak / taxi-tip moments. Cards work everywhere else.
-  **Dani hidden gems (slot in if energy / time):**
 - **Bin Jelmoood House (Msheireb Museums)** — Company House Bldg 1, Msheireb. The slavery-history museum tucked inside an old pearl-merchant's residence. Free, ~45 min, almost no tourists. The most photogenic + emotionally weighty room in the city. Tue 9 AM-5 PM. Hits on the Tue morning walk back from MIA.
 - **Falcon Hospital + Souq Waqif Falcon Clinic** — Souq Waqif perimeter, S side. The clinic adjoining the falcon souq treats actual hunting birds — you can walk in, see hooded falcons on perches getting checked, no fee. Open 8 AM-12 + 4-8 PM. Sensory off-grid Doha.
 - **Al Wakra Souq + heritage village** — 20 min cab S (still <1.5 hr rule). Restored pearl-diver village on the coast, lit at night, working oud + ittar (Arabic perfume) shops where you blend your own attar — **Aroma Perfume Workshop** does 30-min sessions, ~QAR 150 takeaway 12ml bottle. Cooler at night, near-zero crowds vs Souq Waqif.
-  **Sensual / couples extras (slot in opportunistically):**
 - **The Spa at Mandarin Oriental Doha — Couples Hammam Ritual** · Sheikh Suhaim Bin Hamad St, Msheireb. 90-min couples hammam in a private double-bed suite: black-soap scrub + rhassoul mud + 4-hand finish. **QAR 1,800 (~\$495) for two.** Open 10 AM-10 PM. The 9 AM Tue MIA slot could swap to a 10 AM 2-hour couples session here on arrival night if you don't club, then sleep hard — Msheireb is 8 min walk from Souq Waqif. Book: +974 4008 8888. **Why couple:** the most architecturally beautiful spa in the Gulf, private suite means no scarves/no rules — fully intimate.
 - **Private Pearl-Diving Dhow at Sunset** · Katara Beach or Souq Waqif marina. Charter a small wooden dhow (sailboat) just for the two of you, ~75 min cruise out past West Bay skyline at golden hour. Operators: **Dhow Cruise Qatar** +974 6688 0044 or **Sunset Doha** via GetYourGuide. **QAR 600-900 (~\$165-250) private boat for 2**, includes Arabic coffee + dates + dahab cushions to recline on. Departs 5:30 PM in June. The skyline lights up against the Gulf — single most photographable couple moment of Doha. Slot: skip Infinity Lounge Mon evening, do dhow instead, then dinner at Parisa as planned.
 - **Couples Oud + Attar Blending at Hadeya** (gold souq corridor inside Souq Waqif) — full hour, not the 30-min Al Wakra version. You each create a "signature scent" the other will wear for the rest of the trip. **QAR 250 (~\$70) for two** including 15ml bottles. Open 10 AM-12 PM + 4-10 PM, closed Friday morning. Sit in the back room over mint tea while the master blends to your skin chemistry. Tue Jun 2 11 AM is the natural window between MIA and check-out.
-  **Time Out Doha — Best Restaurants:** <https://www.timeoutdoha.com/restaurants> — no Eater coverage for this city; this is the next-best curated list.

