

# LIVING IN QATAR

## HUKOOMI

Your first cyber stop to find out about government procedures in Qatar should be [www.gov.qa](http://www.gov.qa).

It serves as an access point to the many services provided by the Government of Qatar to residents and visitors in order to make transactions online.

## USEFUL DOCUMENTS

You will need to prove your identity in Qatar for all government and commercial transactions, so make sure you have plenty of:

- Passport size photographs
- Copies of your marriage and birth certificates.
- Originals or copies of educational qualifications which need to be authenticated in your country of origin.

## SPONSORSHIP

All expatriates working in Qatar require sponsorship and employees can only work for others with their sponsor's written permission for a limited period of time.

## RESIDENCE PERMITS/ ID CARDS

Expatriate workers must have a Residence Permit (RP) for themselves and each member of their family. Your sponsor must renew your Residence Permit but you can renew your family's RP.

Women on family sponsorship can work in Qatar without obtaining a separate residence work permit by obtaining a license from the Ministry of Labour.

Identity Cards (ID) are compulsory for all residents of Qatar with a residence work permit or a family residence permit except for children under the age of 18 years. Please carry your ID with you at all times.

## EXIT PERMITS

All residents, except wives and dependent children under the sponsorship of their husbands or father's require an exit visa from their sponsor.

## DOMESTIC HELPER'S RESIDENCE PERMIT

Any resident wishing to bring a domestic helper into Qatar must first get an NOC from his sponsor. Employers must have a minimum salary and must be married with a resident working spouse in Qatar. There may be restrictions on the nationality you can employ.

## METRASH

The Ministry of Interior Electronic service allows residents of Qatar to receive free SMS alerts on their mobile phones for important day to day activities like residence permit expiry, traffic violations and fines, driving license expiry, car registration expiry.

Register at [www.moi.gov.qa](http://www.moi.gov.qa) or send an SMS to 2992 with the text "sub" followed by your ID number.

## ELECTRICITY AND WATER

Kahramaa, Qatar's water and electricity department supplies both water and electricity. The mains electricity in Qatar is 220-240V. If you are visiting from a country that has 110V supply, please check the suitability of your electrical appliances before plugging them in. Sockets are three – pin (rectangular) but adaptors for two-pin plugs are available in the local shops.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Operators:	Qtel and Vodafone are the two telecom providers in the country.
Telephone rates:	Local calls are free. Both Qtel and Vodafone offer various packages for mobile phone services. Check out <a href="http://www.qtel.com.qa">www.qtel.com.qa</a> and <a href="http://www.vodafone.com.qa">www.vodafone.com.qa</a> for more information.
Internet connection:	All Le Mirage properties offer you free WI FI connectivity throughout the property.

Mail: Mail delivery in Qatar is the responsibility of Q-Post. Presently there is no direct mail delivery to individual homes. P.O. boxes are available at the post office for a period of 1 year.

## USEFUL WEB SITES

We've put together a list of useful websites and expatriate communities you can connect with:

[www.qatarliving.com](http://www.qatarliving.com)

[www.expatswomen.com/qatar](http://www.expatswomen.com/qatar)

[www.dohamums.com](http://www.dohamums.com)

[www.qatarvisitor.com](http://www.qatarvisitor.com)