**Qatar**

**Full name:** The State of Qatar  
**Government:** traditional emirate  

**Location:** Middle East, peninsula bordering the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia  
**Capital:** Doha  
**Area:** 11,437 sq km (4,416 sq miles); slightly smaller than Connecticut  

**Climate:** arid; mild, pleasant winters; very hot, humid summers  
**Terrain:** mostly flat and barren desert covered with loose sand and gravel  
**Natural Hazards:** haze, dust storms, sandstorms common  

**Population:** 628,000 (UN, 2005)  
**Ethnicity:** Arab 40%, Indian 18%, Pakistani 18%, Iranian 10%, other 14%  
**Major Language:** Arabic  
**Religion:** Muslim 95%, other 5%  
**Life expectancy:** 71 years (men), 76 years (women) (UN)  

**Currency:** 1 Riyal = 100 dirhams