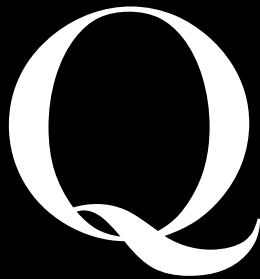


Q LIFE

ISSUE 9
WINTER 2021

MAGAZINE

Qatar
through
our eyes



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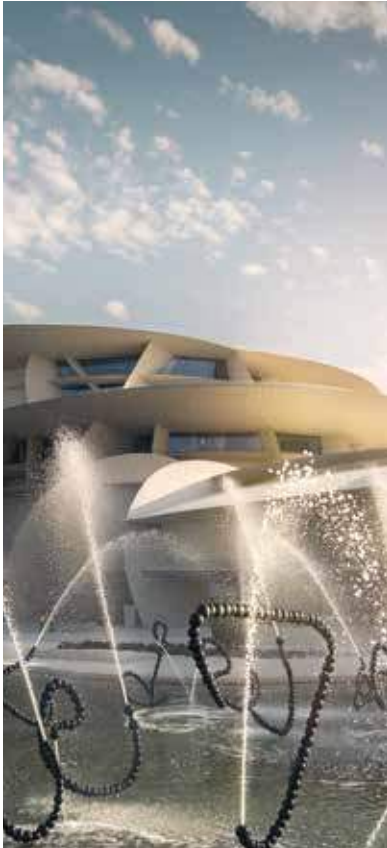
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Foreword

As Qatar's creative community continues to grow in both talent and numbers, the ninth edition of Q Life Magazine is dedicated to their fresh perspectives on Qatar.

Titled *Qatar through our eyes*, we have asked the country's leading photographers to showcase life in Qatar, the depth of its history and the many directions in which the country is growing.

Within the pages of this magazine, walk down Qatar's streets, swim in its waters and look in awe at our contemporary cultural monuments. From photo essays exploring what it means to be Qatari in 2021 to spectacular drone footage of flamingos migrating through the country, this edition of Q Life Magazine captures the diversity of all Qatar has to offer.

On behalf of the Government Communications Office of the State of Qatar, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this magazine.

**The Government Communications Office of
the State of Qatar**

Mariam Ahmad Almisned

By celebrating the diverse history of Qatar, we can appreciate how its culture continues to be impacted and influenced by tradition. Each new generation is shaped by the one before, while adding their own chapter to the chronicles of the country.

Qatar's story is an unending tapestry, the threads interweaving and providing support to the threads around them. Even those practices which may seem modern are often inspired and shaped by those that came centuries before; children learn ancient methods from their grandparents, adding their own twists before passing them on to their families.

No tradition is ever finished or done evolving. Each generation just borrows a tradition for a time, tending to it and making it their own, before passing it down. This is how Qatar's ancestors are kept alive, a presence intimately felt in every part of the country's culture.


Passing down old traditions to new generations





Dr. Emmad Elhag





Telling the story of our past

Qatar's society is one of storytellers, dreamers and adventurers. Yet the story of Qatar is too often unknown to those outside of the region, despite being a tale undoubtedly worth telling.

The history of Qatar features great characters and legendary adventures, and when heard, it brings to life not just the Qatar of the past, but the Qatar of the present, and of the future. History can be found in every street, every festival, and every person in Qatar, if you can take the time to listen.

Sara Al-Haj

Sara Al-Haj



Qatari culture has been shaped by its storytellers,
dreamers, and adventurers



Mariam Hassan Farhan

The history of Qatar can be found everywhere,
if you take the time to look and listen

Keeping trades alive

Qatar is a country of diversity, a rich tapestry of peoples, cultures, and traditions. This can be seen during Doha's rush hours, as investors travelling to the Barwa Financial District weave their way between local vendors heading to the Souq Waqif marketplace.

These marketplaces are lively hubs of activity from early in the day until late in the evening, selling a vast array of crafts and delicacies that overwhelm the senses in the most wonderful way.

These traditional trades offer more than just the tangible good that is exchanged. They are a means of preservation and storytelling. These traders are time-travellers, providing a window into a world that has long since passed but has not been forgotten, and will be forever cherished.



Mariam Hassan Farhan



Qatari traders are time-travellers, providing
a window into a world long since passed but
forever cherished

Dr. Emmad Elhag



Mariam Hassan Farhan

Weaving through time

When you wander through the Souq Waqif marketplace, the traditional Al Sadu pattern is bound to catch your eye. You may see pillows, rugs or bags made using this style of weaving that has been handed down from generation to generation for centuries.

The fabric woven using Al Sadu displays a range of complex patterns in the traditional colours of red, black and white. The weaving material is traditionally made from camel hair, goat hair or sheep wool, spun on a drop spindle and dyed using plant extracts such as henna or saffron. The dyed material is then woven together on a ground loom to create Al Sadu's familiar geometric patterns.

This technique originated as a means of creating temporary homes for travellers in the desert. Using Al Sadu, Bedouin women would traditionally weave the fabric to form the walls of tents, cushions and pillows. While these patterns are no longer found on the walls of Qatari homes, they still frequently adorn majlis cushions.

The intricacy and expertise required to create these elaborate pieces cannot be described with words alone. Al Sadu and its history are best admired through sight and touch. Each pattern is the result of great technical skill, as well as a deep appreciation for Qatar's traditions.





A coffee culture steeped in tradition

Preparing and serving traditional Arabic coffee, or gahwa, is an art form that can take years to master. The perfect pour is elusive and attention to detail is necessary.

Sharing gahwa is both a social event and a performance with a precise community and respect in Qatari culture.

The eldest person, or an important guest, is always served first.

Gahwa is then served around the room starting from the first person's right side, and never from the left.

The father should not serve his guests if his son is present. If multiple sons are present, the youngest will serve the coffee, provided he is old enough to master the pour.

The coffee pot, or dallah, is held in the left hand, with the handle-less coffee cup, or finjaan, in the right hand. The server holds the cup as he pours and raises the pot far above the cup for an elegant waterfall-like pour.

The receiver will always drink their gahwa with their right hand.

The server must be standing when serving and be careful to not to overfill the cup which would make it too hot to hold.

The server must never ignore a guest while serving coffee. Everyone must be offered gahwa.





Fatma Kareem Mohammed

Aisha Alabdulla



Aisha Alabdulla



Aisha Alabdulla

Qatari architecture exhibits a distinctive harmony between old and new. With a skyline influenced by both the past and present, the country's cutting-edge architectural styles and infrastructure produce a cityscape like no other.

Embracing a modern metropolis





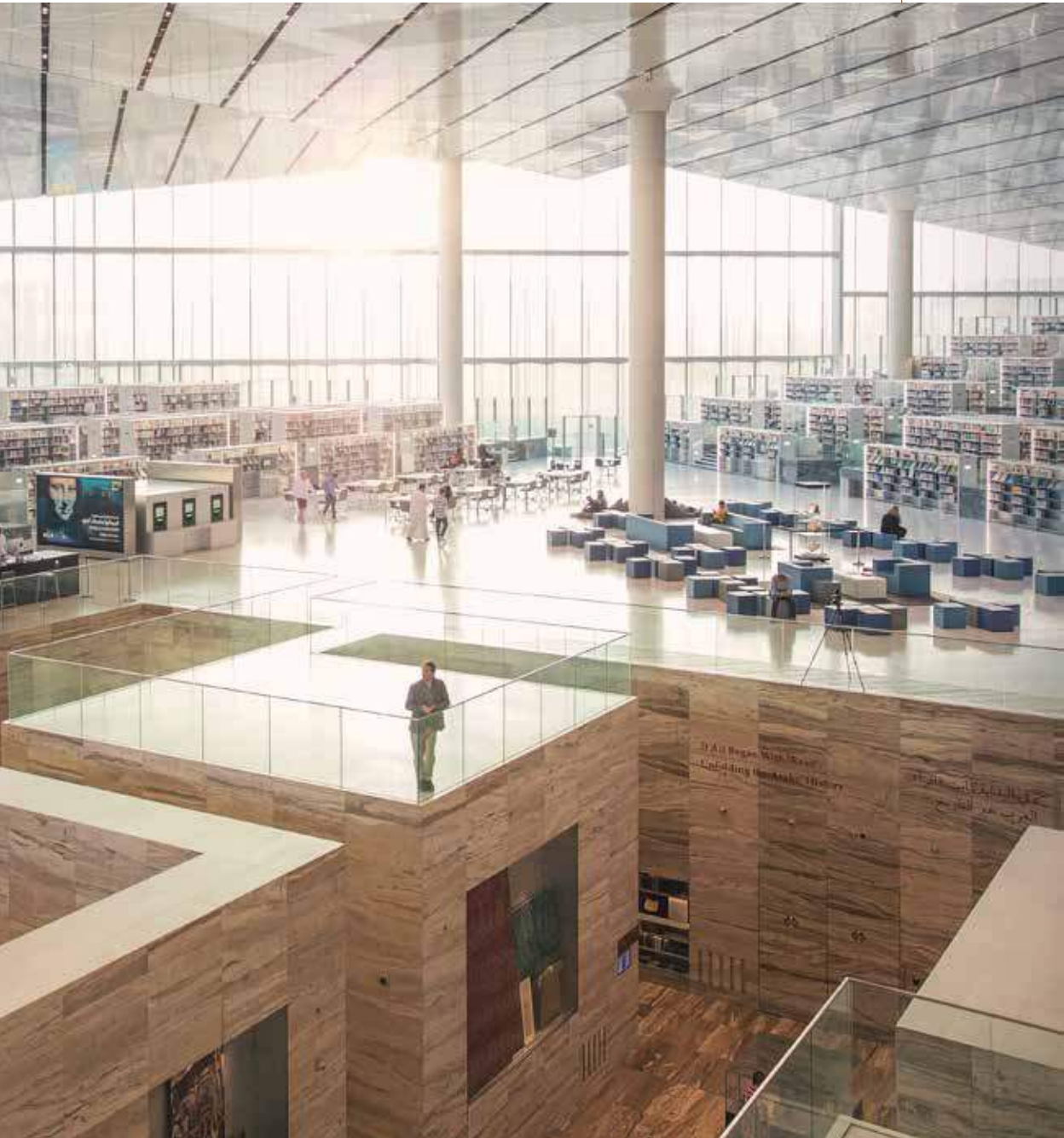
Julien Lavergne



Julien Lavergne



Julien Lavergne





Latifa Abdulla Al-Darwish

The Doha skyline has risen out of the desert
and now touches the sky



The Pearl's Qanat Quartier is a residential area with terraces and cafes looking onto Venice-like canals

“

I see the seeds of an original contemporary Qatari architecture has happened and it's going to be developed, so I couldn't be in a better place or a better time of our history.

Ibrahim Al Jaidah

Architect and Group CEO
Arab Engineering Bureau



Qatar's Museum of Islamic Art was design by
world-renowned architect I.M. Pei

Julien Lavergne

Latifa Abdulla Al-Darwish



Qatar is a country in motion with an energy
that can be observed in its people and
architecture



Modern technology has met traditional architecture
in Msheireb, the world's first sustainable downtown
regeneration project





A contemporary style

Qatar is a society of tradition, but also of change. There is no better reflection of this than with the thobe. Traditional attire worn by men in the region, the crisp thobe is worn everywhere: from the workplace and the mall to restaurants and cafes.

Despite being white in colour, there is no doubt that the thobe makes its contemporary surroundings richer and more vibrant. Like a tile in the mosaic, no two people in Qatar are the same and yet when brought together, they create something both cohesive and beautiful.

Shabeb Al-Rumaihi



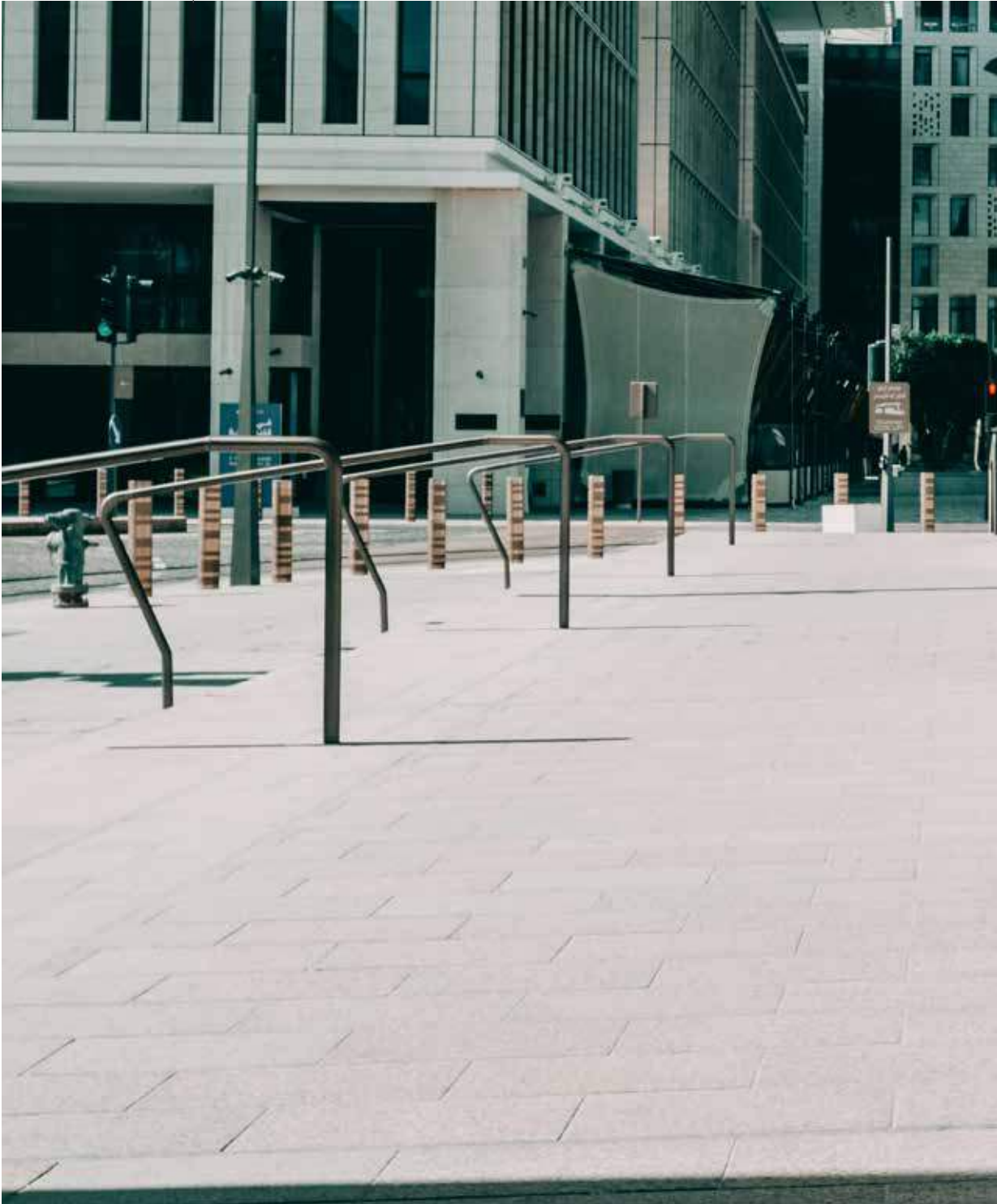
Shabeb Al-Rumaihi

A tunnel alive with colour and greenery transports visitors from the metro to the Corniche



Cafes, walkways, and museums are dotted around Msheireb Downtown Doha for visitors to enjoy

Shabeb Al-Rumaihi





Preserving our past

After an accidental detour, Buthaina AlZaman stumbled across an old neighbourhood in Al Rayyan and was overcome with feelings of nostalgia, reminiscing on fond childhood memories of her grandmother's house.

Doha's modern architecture is known for its futuristic design and dominating high-rises. Tucked away throughout the city are Qatar's older neighbourhoods, home to intricate buildings which incorporate traditional geometric shapes and motifs throughout their design.

As an artist, Buthaina couldn't help but gravitate towards these neighbourhoods. Focusing on the main exterior, she was drawn to the unique doors crafted from either wood or metal, which she believes serves as a pathway to understanding Doha's history.

Bothayna launched an Instagram account dedicated to these doors, going by the name "100 Doors Qatar". She explains that she hopes to "encourage the preservation of old neighbourhoods" and to document the history and culture of Qatari architecture for future generations.

Buthaina AlZaman





“

The pictures of the old neighbourhoods and doors are meant to give the viewers a nostalgic feeling.

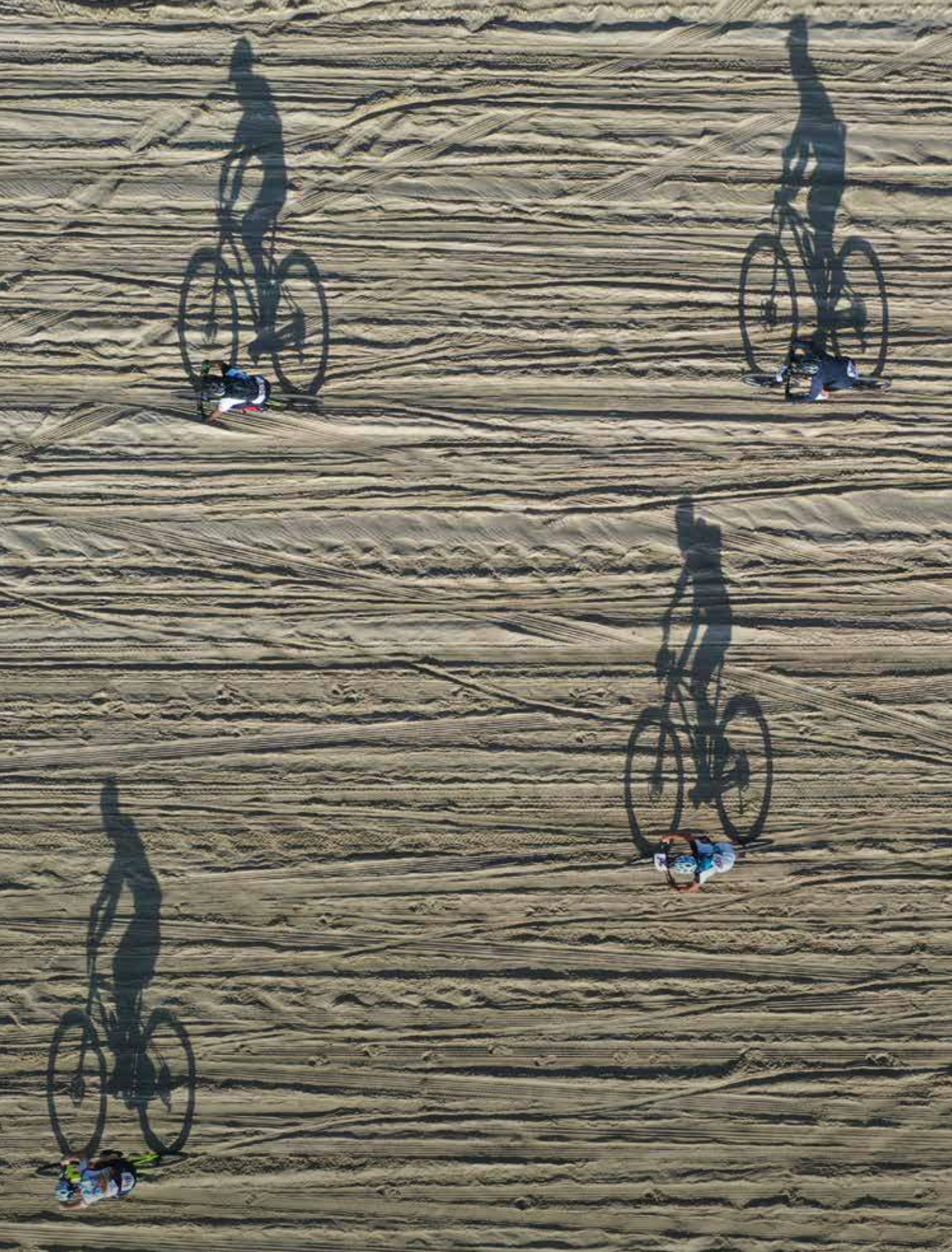
Buthaina AlZaman



Buthaina AlZaman

Qatar's map is marked with everything from mangroves to deserts, offering an exciting natural playground for the animals, plants, and people that call the country home. Travelling even short distances out of the capital transports you into another world; lush environments quickly give way to untouched landscapes.

A landscape rich with memories





Azzam Abdulaziz Al Mannai



Qatar's flora and fauna

Qatar enjoys a magnificent array of flora and fauna across its landscape.

This includes the much-loved Arabian Oryx, the national animal of Qatar. Once thought to have gone extinct in the 20th century, it has since been reintroduced to the ecosystem through an ambitious breeding programme.

Azzam Abduláziz Al Mannai





Qatar is home to migrating flamingos that
fish in the country's waters

Azzam Abdulaziz Al Mannai

Making waves

The peninsula of Qatar has been admired for centuries, for both its natural beauty and entrepreneurial potential. The water has welcomed fishermen, divers, and adventurers, who have found their calling among the waves.

Pearl diving and fishing were once pillars of the economy. Fishermen would voyage in their pearling boats, or dhows, to scavenge for these jewels. With neither oxygen tanks nor any modern technology, the divers would use pieces of wood to pinch their noses and leather sheaths on their hands and feet as they explored the depths of the Qatari waters. While Qatar has grown into an international business hub no longer economically reliant on these seafarers, pearl diving continues to be a much-celebrated tradition in the history that has made Qatar.

Now the water is as much a place for play as for work. From kayaking in the mangroves to kitesurfing along the shore – Qatar attracts adventurers from near and far who come to show off their extreme sporting skills, making the most of the unparalleled marine opportunities presented by the expansive Qatari coastline.

The reason why people come to the water may have changed, as has the equipment used, but the passion and love for Qatar's waters have remained a constant, and will continue for centuries to come.



Mohammed Hanbal



Azzam Abdulaziz Al Mannai

Latifa Abdulla Al-Darwish



Mohammed Hanbal

Mohammed Hanbal





About the Government Communications Office

The Government Communications Office (GCO) was established in June 2015 to effectively communicate the priorities of the Government of the State of Qatar.

The GCO works with Qatar's ministries and embassies across the world to tell the country's story and showcase its vision for the future.

The GCO falls under the jurisdiction of His Excellency Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

The GCO is committed to transparent engagement with the international community as Qatar continues on its journey of development.

As part of its work, the GCO publishes Q Life Magazine twice a year. Its purpose is to educate a global audience about the State of Qatar, and highlight the country's achievements and initiatives in various fields – locally and internationally.

To read this version of Q Life Magazine online, visit Q Life, the GCO's platform celebrating the people and ideas powering Qatar's development. Visit Q Life online at [www.qlife.com](http://www qlife.com) or on Instagram at [@qlife_com](https://www.instagram.com/qlife_com).

To find out the latest news from the GCO, please visit our website at www.gco.gov.qa or Twitter at [@GCOQatar](https://twitter.com/GCOQatar).



مَكْتَبُ الْإِتِّصَالِ الْحُكُومِيِّ
Government Communications Office

We would like to thank the following individuals for
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Q Life Magazine:

Latifa Abdulla Al-Darwish

@laaldarwish

Mariam Hassan Farhan

@M.travelstory

Shabeb Al-Rumaihi

@Thobe_Traveller

Buthaina AlZaman

@100DoorsQatar

Julien Lavergne

@ju.lavergne

Aljazi Fahad Alhajri

@iamaljazi

Dr. Emmad ElHag

@artmarketing

Aisha Alabdulla

@a.alabdulla

Sara Al-Haj

@FramedBySara

Mohammed Hanbal

@thirdpointofview

Fatma Kareem
Mohammed

@ fkm21__

Azzam Abdulaziz
Al Mannai

@AzzamAlMannai

Mariam Ahmad Almisned

@malmisned

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