



THE WALDORF ASTORIA LUSAIL DOHA
A JEWEL IN
LUSAIL'S CROWN



THE WALDORF ASTORIA LUSAIL DOHA STANDS AS A RADIANT SYMBOL OF LUXURY AND SOPHISTICATED, AMIDST THE VIBRANT PULSE OF THE CITY

BY **BHUVANESH KHANNA**

Doha, the vibrant capital of Qatar, has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis over the decades. As a city that holds a special place in the hearts of many, including myself, Doha represents not just a destination but a journey through time. Having called Doha home during the 80s and again in the 90s, I've witnessed its evolution from a tranquil Arabian Gulf principality to a bustling metropolis of the future.

The memories of old Doha evoke a sense of nostalgia, a reminder of simpler times and cherished friendships. However, today's Doha is a testament to Qatar's unwavering commitment to progress and innovation. The city's skyline, once dominated by traditional architecture, now boasts of towering skyscrapers and futuristic landmarks.

Qatar boasts an impressive array of achievements that showcase its prowess on the global stage. Among these accolades are its noteworthy economic achievements, with Qatar ranked as the fifth highest globally in terms of GDP per capita as of 2024, a testament to its thriving economy and financial stability. This figure, standing at an impressive international dollars per capita of 118,150, as reported by the IMF, underscores Qatar's position as a leading economic force in the region.

Furthermore, Qatar's abundant natural resources, particularly its extensive gas reserves, are a source of national



pride and strategic importance. With reserves capable of sustaining over 600 years of consumption at current rates, Qatar stands as a beacon of energy security and stability in the Gulf region.

In addition to its economic achievements, Qatar has made waves on the global stage as the smallest country, by landmass, to host a FIFA World Cup. The successful hosting of the 2022 finals not only showcased Qatar's ability to organise and execute large-scale events but also marked a historic moment for the Middle East, with Qatar being the first country in the region to host the prestigious tournament.

The transformative journey of Qatar, particularly in the lead-up to the FIFA World Cup 2022, has been nothing short of remarkable. The construction of eight stadiums across five cities, coupled with extensive infrastructure development, underscores Qatar's dedication to hosting a world-class sporting event.

The monumental hospitality and tourism efforts undertaken by Qatar to accommodate over one million visitors during the FIFA World Cup highlight the country's commitment to providing exceptional experiences for guests from around the world. With a record-breaking four million visitors in 2022 alone, Qatar's tourism sector continues to thrive, bolstered by its reputation for luxury and hospitality.

With 77 luxury and five-star category hotels as of 2022, Qatar offers travellers an unparalleled experience of luxury and opulence. These hotels, renowned for their world-class amenities and impeccable service, cater to the diverse needs of travellers, further enhancing Qatar's reputation as a premier destination for luxury tourism.

UNVEILING LUSAIL: A MODERN OASIS

Among these modern marvels lies Lusail, Qatar's newest city,



proudly showcasing the country's vision for the future. With its state-of-the-art infrastructure, sustainable practices, and vibrant energy, Lusail epitomises Qatar's ambition to become a global leader in innovation and luxury.

Nestled within the heart of Lusail stands the Waldorf Astoria, a beacon of luxury and sophistication amidst the city's bustling landscape. Lusail, often hailed as the city of the future, captivates visitors with its cutting-edge infrastructure, sustainable practices, and vibrant energy. As the proud home of the Waldorf Astoria, Lusail not only showcases Qatar's commitment to innovation but also sets new standards of luxury and sophistication in hospitality.

A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

The Waldorf Astoria brand needs little introduction, having earned its place as one of the world's most prestigious names in luxury hospitality. Originating in New York City in 1893, the Waldorf Astoria has since become synonymous with unparalleled service, timeless elegance, and extraordinary experiences.

Acquired by Hilton in 1949, the brand continues to redefine hospitality excellence, with a global portfolio of approximately thirty iconic properties spanning about 15 countries. Each Waldorf Astoria hotel is a testament to the brand's commitment to innovation and sophistication, offering guests a truly unforgettable experience.

WHERE LUXURY MEETS ARABIAN HOSPITALITY

My recent stay at the Waldorf Astoria in Lusail, Qatar was nothing short of extraordinary. As Hilton's premier luxury brand, the property needs little introduction, and its newest addition in Lusail lives up to its esteemed reputation. Opening its doors in November 2022, just in time for the FIFA 2022, this magnificent hotel captivates guests not only with its stunning setting and



expansive layout but also with its unparalleled luxury, opulence, and extensive range of services and amenities.

Nestled within the heart of Lusail, the Waldorf Astoria Lusail Doha offers a serene private beachfront setting amidst spectacular surroundings, coupled with warm Arabian hospitality. The hotel's spacious rooms and suites, each adorned with private balconies, provide guests with breath-taking views of the sea and the stunning Lusail skyline. The pinnacle of luxury living can be found in the hotel's sky villas, boasting expansive layouts and rooftop terraces with jacuzzis, offering guests a truly immersive experience.

Conveniently located just a short 30 minute drive from Hamad International Airport, guests at the property can indulge in the finest global cuisines, rejuvenate at the spa, unwind by the pools, or partake in bespoke beach services and fun activities offered at this luxurious resort.

In addition to its luxurious accommodations, the Waldorf Astoria Lusail Doha boasts an array of amenities and offerings to cater to every guest's needs. The hotel is strategically located near Place Vendôme Mall, a Parisian-inspired shopping and lifestyle destination featuring over 580 luxury brands and entertainment attractions.

CHRIS FRANZEN: SHAPING QATAR'S NEWEST LUXURY DESTINATION

The Waldorf Astoria Lusail Resort Doha owes its remarkable journey to the vision and leadership of Swiss-born Chris Franzen. Assuming the role of pre-opening General Manager in 2021, Franzen played a pivotal role in shaping the hotel into Qatar's newest luxury destination. His meticulous attention to detail and unwavering commitment to excellence have been instrumental in transforming the property into the epitome of opulence and sophistication. Under his guidance, the Waldorf Astoria Doha



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**Royal Suite With A
Stunning Infinity Pool**

Lusail Resort has become synonymous with unparalleled luxury, setting new standards of hospitality in the heart of Lusail. Franzen's dedication and expertise continue to drive the hotel's success, ensuring an unforgettable experience for every guest.

LUXURIOUS SANCTUARIES: UNVEILING ACCOMMODATION HAVEN

As you step into the Waldorf Astoria Lusail, prepare to be enveloped in pure indulgence. This 429-key resort, adorned with residences, promises an unparalleled experience where every corner boasts breath-taking vistas of the sea and the captivating Lusail skyline.

Let's start with the Rooms & Suites. These spacious sanctuaries, beginning at 60 sq m, exude luxury and comfort. As you enter, you're greeted by a furnished private balcony offering mesmerising views of the surroundings. Modern amenities abound, from personalised concierge services to a 65" HDTV. The high ceilings and carefully curated designer furnishings create an ambience of relaxation, perfect for the discerning traveller seeking solace.

Now, let's ascend to the Sky Villas, the epitome of luxury living. Spanning 460 sq m, these 11 opulent retreats redefine

extravagance. Sunlight floods through floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors, illuminating the lavish interiors and offering uninterrupted 360° views of the sea. Prepare to be mesmerised by the sheer grandeur of these exclusive abodes.

Next, we have the Residences, a haven of contemporary elegance. Choose from studio, one, two, or three-bedroom options, each meticulously designed to cater to your every need. These stylish abodes feature private furnished balconies overlooking the azure waters, expansive bathrooms, and a plethora of high-end amenities, including digital connectivity and a 65" high-definition television. Whether you're traveling solo or with family, the Residences offer an unmatched level of comfort and convenience. Plus, guests enjoy complimentary access to the resort's gym, swimming pools, and beach areas, ensuring a truly unforgettable stay.

A CULINARY ODYSSEY

Let me take you on a culinary journey at the Waldorf Astoria Lusail. First stop, Sushisamba, where Japan, Brazil, and Peru come together in a vibrant fusion of flavours and colours. The beach club ambience, coupled with live entertainment, creates a mesmerising dining experience.



Next, indulge in Italian classics with a modern twist at Scarpetta, featuring an iconic cigar terrace and an impressive walk-in humidor.

For an exclusive rooftop experience, head to The Highmore, inspired by London's elite clubs, offering live music and delectable fare cooked in a wood-fired oven.

Bywater beckons with its contemporary brasserie setting, perfect for savouring creative twists on classic dishes while enjoying live entertainment.

Step into iconic Peacock Alley, reminiscent of the grand promenade of New York's Waldorf and Astoria hotels, for signature afternoon teas and light fare menus.

Praia offers a unique beachfront culinary experience, while Chocolatier Jean-Marie Auboine crafts artisanal chocolates of unparalleled quality.

Lastly, Wyld Erth focuses on holistic well-being, offering meals and juices approved by Espa Life's international nutritionists for a rejuvenating experience.

CELEBRATIONS ELEVATED: UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS AND WEDDINGS

The Waldorf Astoria Lusail Doha, where event spaces are designed to elevate every occasion to new heights. Perched atop the beach, their nine unique venues boast cutting-edge technology, perfect for unforgettable celebrations and successful business gatherings.

In particular, these spaces offer special opportunities for lavish Indian destination weddings. Having expertly handled several such grand affairs, including one immediately following my stay, the local Banquet team understands the unique cultural and logistical demands of these events.

Step into the Grand Ballroom, with its dedicated pre-function area and Bridal Suite, ideal for private or business celebrations. The six meeting rooms, flooded with natural light and equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual technology, spark creativity for smaller conferences or corporate meetings.

Venture outdoors to the al fresco Garden venue, boasting a beautifully maintained lawn and towering palm trees, perfect for wedding receptions or evening soirées. Or opt for the romantic Seaside Amphitheatre, offering an intimate setting for private dining celebrations or social festivities. At Waldorf Astoria Lusail Doha, they ensure every event is flawlessly executed, leaving lasting memories for all who attend.

DISCOVERING WELLNESS AT ESPA LIFE

Step into the epitome of relaxation at ESPA Life, the luxurious spa at Waldorf Astoria Lusail Doha. This pioneering wellness concept in Qatar offers a holistic approach to well-being, curated by top experts. With 18 treatment rooms, a couple's suite, and private spa suites, Espa Life provides a haven for rejuvenation.

Unwind with a workout boasting stunning sea views at Fit-For-Life Fitness. Experience the serenity of Earth & Sky digital workouts or indulge in an aerial yoga session. Complete your journey with a visit to the hammam or jacuzzi, ensuring a truly revitalising experience for mind, body, and soul.

A SYMPHONY OF LUXURY AND HOSPITALITY

The property stands as a testament to Qatar's commitment to excellence and innovation in hospitality. From its luxurious accommodations to its world-class dining options and state-of-the-art event spaces, the hotel offers guests an unparalleled experience of luxury and indulgence.

As Qatar continues to solidify its position as a global leader in hospitality and tourism, the hotel remains a beacon of luxury and sophistication, inviting guests from around the world to experience the very best that the country has to offer. In a city that never ceases to amaze, the Waldorf Astoria Lusail Doha shines brightly as a true jewel in Lusail's crown. With its fusion of traditional Arabian hospitality and modern luxury, the Waldorf Astoria Lusail Doha promises an experience that is as unforgettable as it is exceptional. ■