



International Council for Arts Deans INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Doha, Qatar

May 25 – 30, 2025

Alwadi Hotel Doha – Mgallery Collection
Corner of Wadi Msheireb and Jassim bin Mohammed Street
+974 4009 9999

The breakfast buffet at Le Colonial (on the first floor)
opens each morning at 6am

Mosques hold a religious and sacred position for all Muslims. Visitors to mosques should therefore abide by specific ethics and rules and show their full respect by wearing loose clothing that covers the arms, chest, and legs (including ankles) of both men and women. Please cover your neck, wrists and again: ankles. Women are asked to please cover their hair. Respectfully including something you already know: Avoid caps, t-shirts and other clothing articles with 'offensive' design, political expressions or imagery, flags. Do not wear translucent or tight-fitting clothing or anything that makes distracting noises or reflections. You may wish to reference the illustrations [here](#).

Monday, May 26, 2025 (B, L)

Please meet in the hotel lobby at 9am for a welcome from our guide Anna Meshcheryakova and a 9:15am motorcoach departure.

Projected return time: 4pm for those who do not choose to continue with the optional tour noted below.

[National Museum of Qatar](#), giving voice to Qatar's rich heritage and culture and exploring Qatar's past, present and future. A 45-minute guided tour will be followed by time on your own for self-guided exploration.

Lunch at [Jiwan](#), a relaxed modern restaurant with food rooted in tradition and reimagined for a modern audience.

- Lentils soup, za'atar, tarragon
- Lamb kofta, buckwheat, cardamom or Beetroot salad, walnut condiment or Herbs samboussek, confit lemon or Baby marrow, goat cheese, mint
- Koffer, romaine lettuce, green olive Beef margoog our way
- Fruit delight or Pistachio cheesecake
- The menu includes of water, two mocktails and arabic coffee or Moroccan tea

Motorcoach transfer to Al Najada Doha Hotel by Tivoli (Missan Meeting Room) for a presentation by [Ibrahim M. Jaidah, Architect](#).

Walking tour of Souq Wakif led by Ibrahim M. Jaidah. Built on the site of Doha's century old trading market, on the banks of the Wadi Msheireb, Souq Waqif feels like an anachronism, particularly against the backdrop of Doha's dramatic skyline. With its mud-daubed buildings, the market harkens to a bygone era while remaining a hub of activity. Its winding alleys offer a tableau of traditional street life.

Walking tour of Msheireb Downtown led by Ibrahim M. Jaidah. More than a smart and sustainable city district, Msheireb Downtown is a thriving urban haven, designed to nurture living, leisure and business. Msheireb Downtown Doha proudly boasts an entire city district where all buildings are either Gold or Platinum LEED-certified. The area also holds the world's largest underground car park, featuring an impressive 10,017 spaces. By fusing Qatar's architectural heritage with contemporary design, the downtown reflects timeless elegance.

Optional: continued Walking tour of Souq Wakif with our guide, Anna Meshcheryakova. This tour will include areas of the Souq that may not have been included earlier this afternoon. [Top things to do in Souq Waqif](#) [| Visit Qatar](#)

Dinner and evening on our own

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 (B, L)

Motorcoach departure: 9:15am

Projected return time: 4:30pm

[Museum of Islamic Art \(MIA\)](#), housing one of the most comprehensive collections of Islamic art in the world, with masterpieces from every corner of the globe representing the diversity found in Islamic heritage. A 45-minute guided tour will be followed by time on your own for self-guided exploration.

Lunch at [IDAM](#), where chef Alain Ducasse celebrates high standards and sophistication steeped in the Islamic golden age.

- Amberjack gravlax, coconut and lovage
- Confit beetroot, smoked jus and Isigny cream, pike roe
- Dry aged red snapper, seared fennel and citrus
- Matured duck, girolles and agnolottis, orange gastric jus
- Smoked camel milk sorbet, laban and citrus
- Idam chocolate, passion fruit and coconut

Motorcoach transfer to [Fire Station](#), Doha's leading contemporary art space and supporter of creative residencies

- tour the exhibition space, studio visits, coffee break

Dinner and evening on our own



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Wednesday, May 28, 2025 (B, L, R)

Motorcoach departure: 8:15am

Projected return time: 8:30pm

- Time with Higher Education Representative, [Qatar Foundation](#)
- Qatar Foundation VIP tour
- [Qatar National Library](#) tour
- **Lunch with VCUQ leadership** / Administrative Advisory Council
- [VCUQatar](#) campus tour
- [Minaretein Center / Education City Mosque](#) tour
- [Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art](#)
- [The Miraculous Journey by Damien Hirst](#)
- **VCUQatar Art & Design Now: Year-End Show at M7 Msheireb**
- **Reception** with the Administrative Advisory Council at Park Hyatt Doha

Thursday, May 29, 2025 (B, R)

Motorcoach departures: 7:00am for the Khour Al-Adaid or Qatar's west coast excursions

Projected return time: Noon for Khour Al-Adaid / 3pm for Qatar's west coast

Motorcoach departure for the 2.5 hour Dhow Cruise: 5pm

Projected return from the Dhow Cruise: 8:30pm

Discover the natural phenomenon of **Khour Al-Adaid**, one of the few places in the world where the sea encroaches deep into the heart of desert, creating a spectacular natural phenomenon where the sea meets the sand dunes. Khour Al-Adaid is recognized as UNESCO-protected natural reserve due to its unique ecological system and biodiversity. Khour Al-Adaid is a must-visit destination for nature lovers, Adventure seekers, and anyone looking for relaxation & to experience the natural beauty and tranquility of the Qatari desert landscape. What to Expect: Pick-up and drop-off from Doha Taking approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour per way, travel by air-conditioned vehicle from your chosen pick-up point to the entrance to the desert at Sealine. Brief stop at Sealine to deflate the tires of the 4x4 vehicle for the desert drive off road desert drive through the dramatic sand dunes with our experienced and qualified drivers to the destination of Khour-Al-Adaid (inland sea) in the borders between Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

or

Embark on a privately guided exploration of Qatar's west coast, traversing from Doha to the culturally rich landscape surrounding the village of **Zekreet and Heenat Salama Farm**. This journey offers more than scenic sightseeing -- it invites critical engagement with the region's striking geological features, including sculptural limestone formations and serene coastal vistas. As you cross the desert, watch for native oryx, emblematic of Qatar's natural heritage. The tour culminates with a visit to Richard Serra's East-West/West-East, a monumental site/art installation that powerfully reframes the vast desert expanse through minimalist form and spatial precision. **Richard Serra's East-West/West-East** stretches across more than a kilometer of stark desert terrain, comprising four monumental steel plates, each exceeding fourteen meters in height. Through a rigorous engagement with the site's topography, Serra achieved an exacting spatial alignment that not only integrates with but also amplifies the austere grandeur of the landscape. The work stands as a profound meditation on scale, materiality, and place -- decisively contemporary in form, yet resonant with a sense of permanence and timelessness. Heenat Salma Farm, located on the outskirts of Doha, is a multifaceted initiative by the Caravane Earth Foundation that integrates regenerative agriculture, vernacular architecture, cultural programming, and community development. Functioning as both a site of production and reflection, the farm offers a restorative environment where visitors engage with farm-to-table gastronomy, artisanal craft practices, and ethically curated markets. More than a retreat, it serves as a living model for ecological and cultural regeneration--fostering dialogue between tradition and innovation, and contributing to a broader discourse on sustainability, resilience, and place-making in Qatar and beyond.

This evening, we will step aboard an authentic **Arabic Dhow** and set sail on a mesmerizing 2.5-hour evening cruise through the tranquil waters of the Arabian Gulf. As the sun dips below the horizon, we will see Doha's most iconic landmarks including the Cornish, Katara Cultural Village, The Pearl - Qatar and Box Park, the tour's meeting point. Each turn reveals a new vista, each landmark a tale of culture and heritage -- all while we relax in the comfort of this traditional wooden vessel.



International Council for Arts Deans INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates May 30 – June 2, 2025

St. Regis Abu Dhabi
Nation Towers – Corniche
+971 2 694 4444

The Breakfast buffet at The Terrace on the Corniche (ground level) opens at 7am each morning.
City lights glisten and icons across the skyline glow and present a whole new perspective.
One place to take in incredible night time sights in [Abu Dhabi Corniche](#).

As we travel together by motorcoach, our guide will share points of interest. Some of the places we will drive by in Abu Dhabi will include Al Bateen, Abu Dhabi Corniche, Yas Island, Saadiyat Island, Al Maryah Island [Financial District], New Airport terminal [as we arrive], Abu Dhabi Exhibition Centre.

Friday, May 30, 2025 (B, L)

Motorcoach departure: 6am for those traveling on to Abu Dhabi.
A pre-packed breakfast will be provided as we board the bus. **Qatar Airways flight QR1044 departs DOH - Hamad International Airport at 8:45am.** The one-hour flight arrives AUH - Dhabi International Airport at 10:45am.

Our flight will be met at the airport by a team who will assist with luggage handling and transport us directly to lunch at [Erth Restaurant](#)

- [Qasr Al Hosn](#), the city's oldest stone building and a commanding figure surrounded by the emirate's skyline – a beautiful contrast between old and new.
- private tour
- class in Arabic Lettering

Dinner and the evening on our own.

Saturday, May 31, 2025 (B, L, R)

Motorcoach departure: 9:30am
Projected return time: 4:00pm

- [Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre](#)
- Lunch at Market Kitchen
- [Qasr Al Watan](#), the Presidential Palace
The Horse Marshal is an important figure, leading horse displays with skill and grace. They represent the United Arab Emirates rich horse-riding traditions, adding pride and elegance to the events at the palace. The beauty of this experience is offered every day at 5:45pm.
- time at the hotel to freshen up
- Sunset, beer / wine, passed canapes at [Ray's Bar](#), on the 62nd floor of Etihad Towers. Depart for Ray's 6pm; Return from Ray's 7:45pm

Sunday, June 1, 2025 (B, L)

Motorcoach departure: 9:30am
Projected return time: 7:30pm for those who go to TeamLabs;
5:30pm for those who opt out

- [Louvre Abu Dhabi](#)
- Learn about [Guggenheim Abu Dhabi](#) with Jessica Sederquist, Head of Engagement and Strategy
- [Abrahamic Family House](#) Abrahamic Family House includes a mosque. Please dress accordingly.
- [NYU Abu Dhabi](#) with Baishakhi Taylor, Associate Vice Chancellor of [Student Affairs](#)
- Optional: [TeamLabs](#), described by a colleague as "an incredibly immersive experience and interesting to think about its role in Saadiyat Cultural District and the impact on the experience economy overall."

Dinner and evening on our own

Monday, June 2, 2025 (B, L, R)

Motorcoach departure: 7:30am. The motorcoach drive to Dubai is approximately 2 hours.

Projected return time: 10:15pm

- Driving Tour including Dubai Marina / JBR [Dubai Marina](#)
- The View at The [Palm Jumeirah](#)
- [Al Serkal Community](#) (an hour of leisure on your own)
- Group Divides for Modern Dubai ([Museum of The Future - Future Museum Dubai - Visit Today](#) and lunch at [Leen's Casual to Gourmet](#) and [Etihad Museum](#)) and Traditional Dubai ([Shindagha Museum](#) and lunch at [Arabian Tea House](#) and souks [A guide to the best Dubai souks and markets | Visit Dubai](#))
- Sunset, beer / wine, passed canapes at [At.Mosphere](#) on the 122nd floor of [Burj Khalifa](#)

As we are driving, public art will include:

- As we drive on Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard, watch for an impressive collection of large outdoor sculptures. The works draw on themes close to the heart of HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai: equestrian life, desert landscapes, and the strength of the local community. *The Wings of Mexico* by artist Jorge Marin perfectly captures the city's soaring ambition, optimism and connectivity between cultures.
- Murals reflecting the city's essence and aspirations have popped up on pillars of the Dubai Metro, thanks to an initiative by Brand Dubai. The works of international artists – Peruvian Daniel Cortez and Miami-based artist Evoca1 – can be found between the DIFC and [Emirates Towers](#) stations, located along Dubai's main arterial highway Sheikh Zayed Road. Dreamy and inspirational, highlights include the painting of an astronaut hanging from the strings attached to a bunch of planets, as well as a giant floating jellyfish installation.
- If we drive by [The Walk at Jumeirah Beach Residence](#) (JBR), we will see unique 3D paintings splashed across buildings, street corners and even staircases. Big, bold and bright, there's plenty to discover thanks to the incredible artists from around the world that made their mark in this popular district back in 2016 for the Dubai Canvas 3D art festival. Highlights include a giant swooping eagle painted on the side of a building, and the huge mural of prancing horses in the sea set to a sky of geometric rainbow colours.
- Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) is not only home to some of the city's best commercial [art galleries](#), but it also regularly plays host to public collections of art, particularly sculpture. The district's permanent installations include *Pillar of Fortitude* by Helidon Xhixha. DIFC's galleries are open year-round and offer an ever-changing glimpse into Dubai's latest artistic trends.

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 (B)

Individual departures. Without traffic challenges, the drive to the airport is approximately 30 minutes.