

QFI AND GEEO ORGANIZE U.S. EDUCATOR TOUR TO QATAR AND OMAN

Participants learn about region, visiting natural and cultural landmarks

Qatar Foundation International (QFI), a U.S.-based member of Qatar Foundation (QF), and Philadelphia-based Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) recently arranged a U.S. educator cultural immersion trip to Qatar and Oman. The trip saw 16 K-12 educators from 12 different states spend ten days exploring a range of historical and cultural sites in the two countries.

In-country guides led the cohort through visits to different regions in each country while Angela Williams, Associate Director of the Middle Eastern Studies Center at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, led nightly discussions about how to take the knowledge and experiences from the trip back to the classroom.

Beginning with Qatar, the group toured the world-renowned Museum of Islamic Art designed by I.M. Pei, kayaked in the Al Thakira mangroves to see flamingos, watched news reporting at Al Jazeera, and visited QF Headquarters and Education City. They learned about Qatari dress and watched horses being trained at Al Shaqab - also a member of QF.

Then, flying from Doha to Muscat, the participants got an in-depth introduction to Omani culture and history at the Bait Al Zubair Museum, drove to the coast for the Bimmah Sinkhole through the red rock formations to the Wadi Bani Khalid region, and visited Jabrin Castle in Ibra. The group ate meals around a fire under the stars, listened to traditional music, and visited the last remaining shipyards that still build Oman's dhows.

Kerry Dunne, one of the participants and a high school history teacher in Massachusetts, said: "This was my first visit to the Middle East, and it has certainly widened my perspective on our fascinating world."

The trip aimed to encourage educators to integrate cultural and historical insights into educational strategies and tools. They will use their newly gained understanding of the region and incorporate their experiences in creating lesson plans, curricular units, and classroom activities, which will be shared with their peers through QFI's Al-Masdar platform of K-12 resources. The next trip is planned for April 2019.

ENDS

About Qatar Foundation International:

Qatar Foundation International (QFI), LLC, is a U.S.-based member of Qatar Foundation (QF). QFI inspires meaningful connections to the Arab world by creating a global community of diverse learners and educators and connecting them through effective and collaborative learning environments –inside and outside the classroom.

Through our activities, QFI is committed to providing K-12 students in Qatar, the Americas, and the United Kingdom (UK) with the intellectual, communicative, and cultural competencies that will enable them to be engaged global citizens. QFI operates as both a grant-making organization, and a convener of thought leaders on issues related to global and international education, open education and education technologies as they intersect with the three core QFI programmatic areas: Arabic language and Arab culture, and Youth Engagement.

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Qatar Foundation - Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) is a non-profit organization that supports Qatar on its journey to becoming a diversified and sustainable economy. QF strives to serve the people of Qatar and beyond by providing specialized programs across its innovation-focused ecosystem of education, research and development, and community development.

QF was founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, who shared the vision to provide Qatar with quality education. Today, QF's world-class education system offers lifelong learning opportunities to community members as young as six months through to doctoral level, enabling graduates to thrive in a global environment and contribute to the nation's development.

QF is also creating a multidisciplinary innovation hub in Qatar, where homegrown researchers are working to address local and global challenges. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and fostering social engagement through programs that embody Qatari culture, QF is committed to empowering the local community and contributing to a better world for all.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, please visit: www.qf.org.qa

For any media inquiries, please contact: pressoffice@qf.org.qa