

Qatar Offers Free World Cup Tickets in Exchange for Control Over Social Media

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What would you do if you had the chance to attend a well known sport series and all you had to do was follow the rules? Qatar is offering free World Cup tickets to fans as long as they agree to Qatar's demands. All expenses paid are included in their offer as well.

Offering free services was a smart move in influencing potential travelers. Considering [this year's ticket prices](#), it runs from as low as 40 riyals (\$11) to 5,850 (\$1,607), depending on which individual match or category is chosen. Category 1 is popular for its prime area, being the most expensive. Category 2 and 3 offer decent seats and views, price ranging in the middle, whereas category 4 provides the cheapest, exclusively for Qatar residents. The final tournament is [arguably the best](#) anticipated seats.

 INDIVIDUAL MATCH TICKETS (IMT)					
QAR (Qatari riyal)*	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4**	ACCESSIBILITY TICKETS
Opening Match (N° 1)	2'250	1'600	1'100	200	200
Group Matches (N° 2-48)	800	600	250	40	40
Round of 16 (N° 49-56)	1'000	750	350	70	70
Quarter-finals (N° 57-60)	1'550	1'050	750	300	300
Semi-finals (N° 61,62)	3'480	2'400	1'300	500	500
3 rd place match (N° 63)	1'550	1'100	750	300	300
Final (N° 64)	5'850	3'650	2'200	750	750



* All tickets are sold in Qatari riyal (QAR) to both residents of Qatar and international fans.
** CATEGORY 4 tickets are reserved exclusively for residents of Qatar.

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Fans have quickly taken advantage of this opportunity and accepted the terms that came with it. From the Netherlands, Dutch fans who signed on [are encouraged](#) to persuade others to support the World Cup. [American Outlaws](#) is an organization with many different chapters around the world. Its goal is to give support to men and women's soccer teams, which they have also agreed to recruit others as well.

The World Cup's host, [Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy](#), has compiled a set of rules in their new [code of conduct](#). Fans [were informed](#) their social media activity would be under watch in hopes of them doing their part. They are asked to [create, like and share](#) positive posts about the World Cup. It is expected to report and screenshot any offensive comments found online to the World Cup organizers. Supporters were also informed that if rules were not to be met, their perks can be taken away. Also given the title, Fan Leaders, it is advised for them to gain more expertise and knowledge on the operational planning of the World Cup for the overall fan's experience. There is still a good majority who refuse to get involved.

Executive director of the [Football Supporters of Europe](#), [Ronan Evain](#), aims in providing support, representation and protecting rights of football teams. He [had expressed](#), "At best they're volunteers for the World Cup and at worst they're a mouthpiece for the Supreme Committee." Opposing fans believe it is a scheme from Qatar's government in hopes of "buying fans". Though this claim has been denied, journalist Amrutha Pagad, [listed a few reasons](#) as to why it is possibly true.

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The World Athletics Championship is an international event showing the highest level of outdoor sports, some being track and field and marathons. In 2019, hosted in Doha, [about 50,000 tickets were sold](#) but seats were still greatly available. As a way to fill up space, free tickets were given to migrant workers and children to attend the event. Transportation was provided at no cost as well. [Organizations had bought](#) a bulk of tickets to distribute within their colleagues and peers in hopes of increasing attendance. Qatar needed all the help they could get considering they were boycotted due to past issues of violating human rights.

Qatar's capital, Doha, has been painting its country in a positive light since recurring statements of violating human rights. Though migrant workers were given free tickets as mentioned previously, they were still treated unfairly. Migrant workers are [expected to be paid a minimum wage](#) of 1,000 (\$275) and between 300-500 riyals for food and housing, though not all employers follow that. They are usually not paid in full or on time. Women also don't have the freedom of making decisions for themselves. In World Report 2022: Qatar Human Rights Watch, it is mentioned, "Women in Qatar must obtain permission from their male guardians to marry, study abroad on government scholarships, work in many government jobs, travel abroad until certain ages, and receive some forms of reproductive health care." Women must have permission to work particular jobs and are subject to any travel bans by their husbands. As for social media, any offensive or negative comments online towards the Qatari government can result in imprisonment with a fine of 100,000 riyal, close to \$30,000. These violations have made

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locals and potential travelers into boycotting Qatari's government and Qatar's hosted events.