

## DOHA'S INTERFACE WITH DOHA BAY

### D.1 Doha North

Historically Doha was located on the south bank of Doha Bay, open to northerly winds. Until the 1950s the bay's waterline was not clearly defined because of the low-lying character of the land, but since then the city has regenerated its waterline through landfill processes. Early photographs show that the cape to the north on which the Sheraton Hotel, the diplomatic quarter and the new Central Business District are located is the result of years of effort.

Doha's development towards the north, parallel to the coastline, has included new housing areas, the university, the diplomatic club, embassies, a golf club, the West Lagoon settlement, Aladdin's Kingdom entertainment area and two chain hotels the Intercontinental and the Ritz. Flanking the Sheraton Hotel to the north, the Four Seasons Hotel and additional office blocks with shopping areas are under construction. To further sustain this development, a cultural village has also been proposed. The new central business and governmental functions located on the north bank of Doha Bay and the Corniche serve as a hub between Doha North and the city. The typical land-sea configuration of low-lying land and shallow water continues to the north, forming a new interface with Doha Bay. This creates an opportunity for a new Corniche in the north of the Doha Bay.

For the future, the integration of Doha North with the central city by means other than private car transportation must be considered. Provision of pedestrian and bicycle routes as well as marine connections would enhance the value of the North Corniche, which extends from the Sheraton to the Ritz.

### D.2 Doha South

In the area from the port to the Marriot Hotel lie Qatar National Museum and its lagoon, Museum Park, Doha Club, Doha Sailing Club, the Oasis and Marriot hotels, marinas and beach facilities. Proposed projects include the Amiri Yacht Hangar and Amiri Workshop, the former to be located at the port, the latter neighbouring the Oasis Hotel. Qatar General Petroleum Company, the Civil Defence Agency, the power and desalination plant and a stadium (Al Ghazal Club) are positioned to the east of the Marriot Hotel. A naval base is being constructed further east of these establishments.

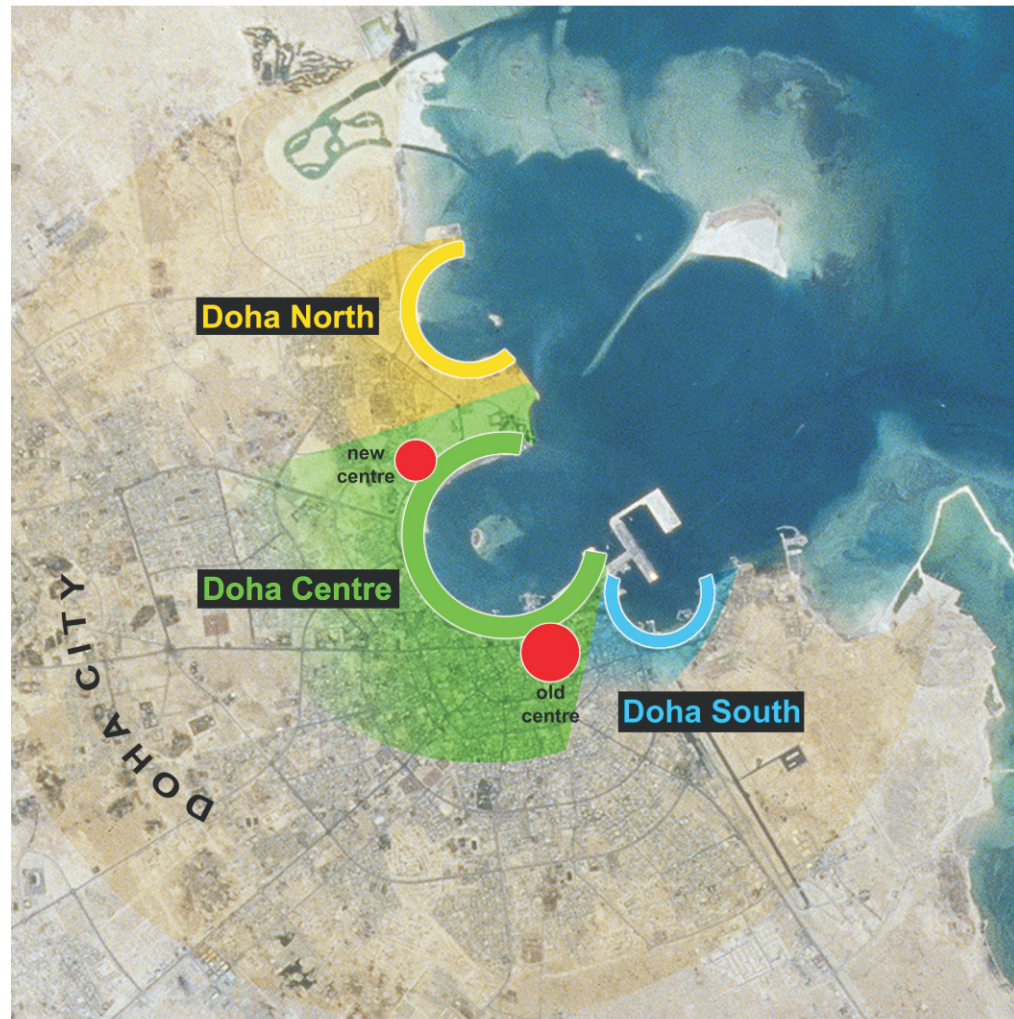
The South Corniche lies under the aircraft approach to Doha International Airport's main runway. A new terminal has recently been completed, offering a wide range of facilities including a duty-free shopping area, coffee shops, hotel desks and banks. Qatar Airways Group plans to invest a further USD750 million in the continued expansion of the airport. The new



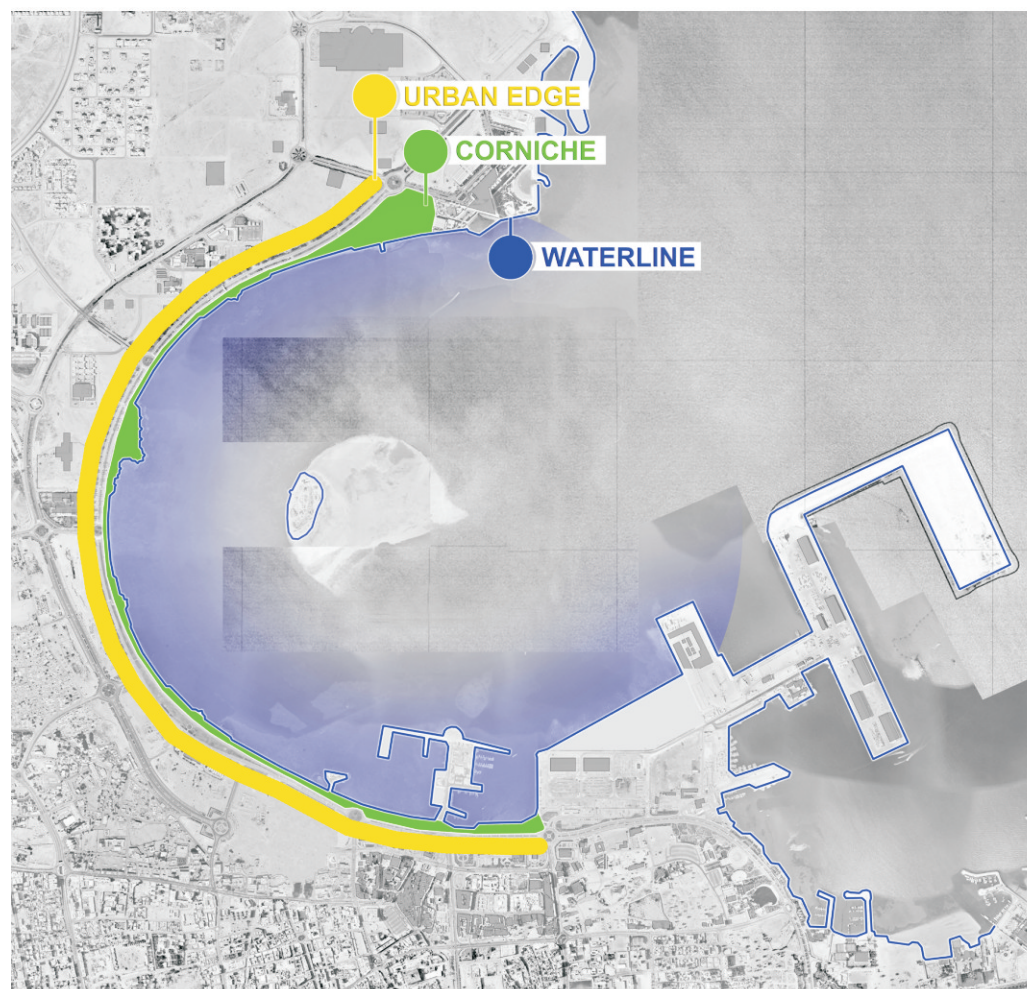
**Photo D.1** : Doha North - 'Aladdin's Kingdom' Park, Intercontinental Hotel and Ritz Hotel



**Photo D.2:** Doha North - 'Aladdin's Kingdom' Park



**Figure D.1** : Doha City Development Zones



**Figure D.2** : Elements of Doha Corniche Area

airport will be fully operational in time for the Asian Games in 2006. (Source, [www.qatarairways.com/FlightInfo/airportinfo.htm](http://www.qatarairways.com/FlightInfo/airportinfo.htm).)

At present, construction of a new power and desalination plant is continuing at Al Wakra. Once it is complete, the destiny of Corniche South needs to be reconsidered and strategic policies for its integration with the Doha Corniche should be developed to revitalize the area as a public realm open to the people of Qatar.

The proposed Amiri Workshop and New Hotel will also serve as a museum, with workshops for repairing old ships and a section exhibiting the diving and sailing history of the Gulf region. The estimated starting date of the project is September 2003, to be completed by April 2005.

### D.3 Doha Corniche

Doha Corniche is defined as the coastal strip from the Sheraton Hotel to Doha Port and its interface with the area of Doha Bay containing Palm Tree Island. The Corniche is built on land reclaimed from the sea and is the result of the recent planning strategies that have transformed the dense urban fabric and intricate circulation system of old Doha on the south of the bay. It comprises the Al Corniche road a vehicular artery running parallel to the waterfront with a narrow strip of green area and a walkway. Conceptually the Corniche is a space for vehicular and pedestrian circulation, a continuous belt of open spaces, and, most significantly, a public realm open to all the people of Qatar. In this context the pedestrian Corniche is a precious asset, since it is the longest uninterrupted public realm in the city.

The Corniche is well defined by the waterline along one side but along the other the relationship between the city and the Corniche displays a lack of coherence. Although it is accessible by vehicle, government and business buildings form a barricade to pedestrians along parts of the urban edge of the Corniche. This is exacerbated by the Al Corniche and Majlis Al Taawon ring road, which are high-capacity arterials that serve as expressways, the latter's continuity being broken at the Diwan area. Pedestrian radial movement towards the Corniche will increasingly clash with expanding vehicular traffic.



Photo D.3 : Doha Corniche - Al Bida Park



Photo D.4 : Doha Corniche - Al Bida Park



Photo D.5 : Al Diwan and pier