The United Nations 70th General Assembly has designated 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

This is a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the contribution of sustainable tourism to development among public and private sector decision-makers and the public, while mobilizing all stakeholders to work together in making tourism a catalyst for positive change.

In the context of the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the International Year aims to support a change in policies, business practices and consumer behaviour towards a more sustainable tourism sector than can contribute to the SDGs.

The Official Celebration of World Tourism Day (WTD) 2017 will take place in Doha, Qatar, on the key themes of the IY2017:

(1) Inclusive and sustainable economic growth
(2) Social inclusiveness, employment and poverty reduction
(3) Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change
(4) Cultural values, diversity and heritage
(5) Mutual understanding, peace and security.
PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 26 September 2017

19:30h  Welcome Cocktail hosted by Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA)
        Al Salwa Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel

Wednesday, 27 September 2017

08:00 - 09:00h  Registration at Sheraton Grand Doha Resort & Convention Hotel

09:30 - 10:30h  Opening Ceremony
        H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of
        Interior of the State of Qatar
        Mr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
        Mr. Hassan Al-Ibrahim, Chief Tourism Development Officer, Qatar Tourism Authority (QTA)
        Welcome and Presentation of the Revised Qatar National Tourism Sector Strategy
        Official photo

10:30 - 11:00h  Coffee-break and Press Conference

11:00 - 11:30h  Keynote speech

11:30 – 12:30h  High Level Think Tank: Tourism as a means for enhancing cultural preservation
        and mutual understanding

12:30 - 14:00h  Lunch

14:00 - 15:30h  Session 1 – Tourism as a driver of economic growth, social empowerment and
        inclusive development – working towards SDG 8

15:30 - 16.00h  Coffee Break

16.00 - 16.20h  Communicating the value of tourism for development

16:20 - 17:30h  Session 2 – Tourism and the Planet: committed to a greener future
17:30 - 18.00h  Closing Ceremony and Presentation of the host country of WTD 2018
Mr. Hassan Al-Ibrahim, Chief Tourism Development Officer, QTA
Mr. Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General, UNWTO
Representative of host country of WTD in 2018 (TBC)

20:00 - 22.00h  Official Dinner
Al Salwa Ballroom, Sheraton Grand Hotel & Convention Resort

Thursday, 28 September 2017

Technical site visits - For more information, kindly check the General information Note on WTD17’s website.

1. Green Architecture Tour
2. Art of Creative Reuse Tour
3. Future of Sustainable Living Tour
4. Protected Beauty Tour