Preparations:

1) Obtain transit visa from Saudi Embassy in Doha. This MUST be done via approved agents - see attached. The visa is valid for one month from issue. We used Al-Asayel Co., and that went very smooth. The cost is QR 75 per visa, and it takes five working days. Al-Asayel Co. is located on B-ring road next to the Mercedes dealer at the R/A, where KLM's office is also located. The following documents are required:

   - Valid passport with two empty pages next to each other.
   - Letter from Qatari sponsor, see attached.
   - Vehicle registration card. The vehicle must be registered in the driver’s name (perhaps it is possible to avoid this by obtaining a no objection letter from owner of vehicle, but it is probably easier to change the car ownership if possible).
   - Two passport photos taken from the front on white background.

2) Obtain car insurance for UAE. Can be obtained from the insurance company in Qatar, see attached (orange insurance paper). The cost is QR 30 for one month. Insurance for Saudi Arabia and Oman cannot be obtained in Qatar, but must be obtained at the border. Insurance for UAE can also be obtained at the border, so it is not really necessary to obtain it in Qatar prior to departure.

   **Note:** It is to our knowledge not possible to take out full insurance for driving in UAE, Saudi Arabia or Oman; only third party insurance can be obtained. This risk must be considered before going.
Approved agencies for obtaining transit visa to Saudi Arabia.
Letter from sponsor asking the Saudi Embassy to issue a transit visa.
UAE insurance card obtained in Qatar (front cover, third part only).
Border crossing Qatar - Saudi:

3) Qatar customs: You get a white piece of paper for vehicle export, which is stamped at the various check-points through the border crossing. At the final check point they keep the paper.

4) Qatar immigration: Check and stamp passports.

5) Saudi immigration: Check and stamp passports.

6) Saudi customs: After the check-point you must park your car in the inspection area and go out of the car to get a stamp from one of the inspectors (who will also inspect the car).

7) Insurance: Buy insurance for Saudi at the NCCI check-point just after customs (see attached). The cost is about QR 100 for two weeks (minimum duration).

8) Final check-point: Check of passports and collection of the white paper with stamps.

9) Total duration of the border crossing was 1 hour 15 min.

10) The road to UAE is fairly good - dual carriageway all the way. One petrol station - about halfway and one at the border to Qatar and to UAE. Travel time is about 1 hour (130 km).

11) It is not a requirement for women to be covered, but it is important to bring an abaya anyway in case of an accident.

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1 None of the inspections carried out during all six border crossings was more than just a look into the car.
Insurance certificate for Saudi Arabia (third part only).
Border crossing Saudi - UAE:

12) Saudi customs: Again you get a white piece of paper for vehicle export, which is stamped at the various check-points through the border crossing. At the final check-point they keep the paper.

13) Saudi immigration: Check and stamp passports.

14) UAE immigration: You have to park the car and enter the white immigration building to complete your immigration to UAE.

15) UAE customs: After the check-point you must park your car in the inspection area and go out to get a stamp from one of the inspectors (who will also inspect the car).

16) Insurance: After customs you have to get out of the car and buy insurance for UAE. If you have the orange insurance card obtained in Qatar, this has to be stamped at the national insurance counter.

17) Final check-point: Check of passports and collection of the white paper with stamps.

18) Total duration of the border crossing about 1 hour.

19) The roads in UAE are excellent - at least dual carriageway everywhere. Petrol stations are frequent, generally with less than 100 km in between. Travel time from the border to Abu Dhabi is about 3½ hours (350 km).

Border crossing UAE - Oman (Burraymi):

20) When you drive from Al Ain city towards Burraymi (Omani side of the border) there is a check-point, but when we crossed no checking was done, so officially we did not leave UAE (they were not too happy about this when re-entering UAE, but it was not a problem as such).

21) About 33 km east of Burraymi (towards Sohar) there is a small insurance office on the right hand side where you can buy insurance for Oman. The cost is OMR 8 for one week (QR 80). You can also buy the insurance at the border post, where you get your visa (see below).

22) After another 7-8 km towards Sohar there is an Omani border post, where you have to enter the immigration building to get your Oman visa (OMR 3 each – kids free).

23) Duration of immigration to Oman was approximately 1 hour.

24) The roads in Oman are excellent, and there are plenty of petrol stations.
Insurance certificate for Oman (third part only).
Border crossing Oman - UAE (Al Ain):

25) Oman customs: You get a white piece of paper for vehicle export, which is stamped at the various check-points through the border crossing. At the final check point they keep the paper.

26) Oman immigration: Check and stamp passport. Pay OMR 2 for ‘vehicle exit’.

27) UAE immigration: Get out of car to get passports checked and stamped at the counter. Adults were asked to enter the building for identification by eye scan. The officer was confused, since we did not have an exit stamp from UAE, see 20), because we entered Oman via Buraymi - however, it was not a problem.

28) UAE customs: After the check-point you must park your car in the inspection area and go out and get a stamp from one of the inspectors (who will also inspect the car).

29) Insurance: After customs you have to get out of the car and buy insurance for UAE. If you have the orange insurance card obtained in Qatar, this has to be stamped at one of the insurance counters.

30) Final check-point: Check of passports and collection of the white paper with stamps.

31) Total duration of the border crossing was about 45 minutes.

Border crossing UAE - Saudi:

32) UAE customs: You get a white piece of paper for vehicle export, which is stamped at the various check-points through the border crossing. At the final check-point they keep the paper.

33) UAE immigration: You have to park the car and enter the immigration building. You have to fill out an Entry Form (despite that you are in fact LEAVING the country) and pay a Revenue Fee of AED 20 per person at the counter to the left. Afterwards your passport is stamped at one of the other counters.

34) Saudi immigration: Check and stamp passport.

35) Saudi customs: After the check point you must park your car in the inspection area and go out to get a stamp from one of the inspectors (who will also inspect the car).

36) Insurance: After customs you have to buy insurance for Saudi at the NCCI check point - or if you already have insurance (the minimum duration of the insurance obtained when entering Saudi from Qatar is two weeks), you must get your papers stamped.

37) Final check-point: Check of passports and collection of the white paper with stamps.

38) Total duration of the border crossing about 1 hour.
Border crossing Saudi - Qatar:

39) Saudi customs: You get a white piece of paper for vehicle export, which is stamped at the various check-points through the border crossing. At the final check point they keep the paper.

40) Saudi immigration: Check and stamp passports.

41) Qatar immigration: Check and stamp passport.

42) Qatar customs: After the check point you must park your car in the inspection area and go out to get a stamp from one of the inspectors (who will also inspect the car).

43) Insurance: At the insurance check-point there is an open gate for Qatar Vehicles - so no need to stop - you can go straight through.

44) Total duration of the border crossing about ½ hour.