

Explore Syria

Day 1: Arrive in Damascus, Syria

Late evening arrival in Damascus, where you are met for transfer to the hotel.

Day 2: Damascus

We will explore Damascus, thought to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. National Museum, Old Quarter, Bab Sharki, St. Anania's Church and other sites. Azem Palace, Omayyad Mosque, known for its golden mosaics, Evening at the Hamediyah Souk.

Day 3, Maaloula / Crac des Chevaliers / St. George's Monastery

We will head to Maaloula, with its ancient Church of Saint Sergis, One of the oldest in the world.

The people of Maaloula, mostly Syrian Christians, still speak Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus.

Continue on to Crac des Chevaliers an amazingly well preserved Crusader castle dating back 800 years. After lunch we will visit St. George's Monastery, site of two churches dating from the 5th and 12th centuries.

Day 4, Apamea / Ebla / Aleppo

Drive to Apamea, a great Roman city founded in the 2nd century BC and set in a beautiful lush valley watered by the Orontes River. With a walk down Apamea's mile-long colonnaded street, You also visit the

ruined Byzantine cathedral, the palace, and the mosaic museum at Apamea.

After lunch at a restaurant, visit Ebla, dating from 2500 BC and just uncovered in 1974. Excavations at Ebla Have produced more than 17,000 clay tablets that include the world's first bilingual dictionary.

Day 5, Aleppo / St. Simeon

The morning is for exploring fascinating Aleppo, The covered souks (bazaars) of Aleppo's Grand Bazaar have a "Thousand and One Nights" atmosphere.

enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, head out to Visit the monastery and basilica of St. Simeon, built in the 5th century, where the famous saint spent 42 years In meditation atop a pillar.

Day 6, Hama / Palmyra

Drive to Hama to visit the *norias*, giant wooden water wheels that have been scooping water out of the Orontes for centuries. Continue to Palmyra.

Overnight at Palmyra

Day 7, Palmyra

This morning, visit the Palmyra museum, then Explore one of the great archaeological sites in the world. There is a monumental gateway, market place, amphitheater, and the marvelous temple at Baal. Enjoy sunset views of the ruins from Qalaat Ibn Maan, a 17th century Arab castle on a hill nearby. . The afternoon is free to explore on your own.

Day 8, Damascus / Shabha / Bosra

Return to Damascus in time for lunch. In the afternoon, head out to the Roman city of Shabha, with its Exquisite mosaics, thermal baths, and amphitheater, then continue to the ancient city of Bosra, once the Capital of the Roman province of Arabia and an important stopover on the ancient caravan route to Mecca.

Day 9, Depart

Departure to the airport for your departing flight. Our representative will assist in check in and immigration procedures.