

Midasia Routes

HAND-CRAFTED JOURNEYS & SEAMLESS LUXURY



My Syria

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS · PRIVATELY GUIDED

Syria, a journey beyond the familiar

Syria reveals its beauty through ancient cities, lively souqs, Mediterranean shores and generous hospitality. This private ten-day journey connects Damascus and Aleppo with mountain monasteries, remarkable castles, Palmyra and Bosra. Expert local guiding, thoughtful personal care and encounters with food, crafts and everyday life make each place feel truly memorable.

VIP care, throughout your journey.

Travel in comfort with VIP private transport, airport VIP meet-and-greet and visa assistance. Your English-speaking local guide brings Syria's stories to life, with a dedicated driver accompanying you throughout the tour.



Your hotel experience

Beit Al Wali



Beit Al Wali, Damascus — an example of the heritage-style accommodation we select. We use luxury or the best available hotels for each stop, subject to availability and confirmation in your personalised proposal.

Beyond the Veil of Time

Ancient cities. Mediterranean shores. The warmth of a Syrian welcome.

Walk the storied lanes of Damascus, discover Aleppo's trading heritage and follow the coast to island harbours and extraordinary castles. Along the way, Syrian food, local encounters and attentive Midasia care bring the journey to life.

Behind the market doors

In Damascus, a narrow passage can open onto a world of copper trays, lanterns and small workshops. These everyday details bring the old city's trading heritage to life.



Your first day, beautifully unhurried.

A personal airport welcome, hotel breakfast and time to rest. After lunch, enjoy a gentle evening introduction to Damascus. Your full city exploration begins the following morning.

Private transport, local guiding, selected hotels and Syrian meals throughout your journey.

YOUR COMPLETE 10-DAY JOURNEY

Syria, day by day.



DAY 1 · Damascus Airport → Damascus

Your First Evening in Damascus

Arrive at Damascus Airport in the morning, where your Midasia Routes representative welcomes you and coordinates airport formalities, luggage assistance and your private transfer. An arrival room is arranged so that your first hours belong to you: enjoy breakfast at the hotel, freshen up and rest after the international journey. Lunch follows at an unhurried pace, with time to settle before any sightseeing begins.

In the late afternoon, meet your guide for a gentle introduction to Damascus. Walk a selected stretch of the old city's lanes, where shopfronts, stone doorways and the sounds of daily life begin to reveal the capital's character. Rather than covering the major monuments today, pause for an explanation of the city's trading traditions, the way its neighbourhoods grew and the courtyards hidden behind modest façades. A coffee or tea stop offers a first taste of Syrian hospitality and time to discuss your interests with the guide.

As evening arrives, enjoy a welcoming Syrian dinner. Return to the hotel early; tomorrow brings the full Damascus city tour, after a proper night's rest.

Overnight: Damascus



A pause in the souq

Traditional drinks sellers bring character to the lanes of Damascus. A refreshing drink or a quiet tea stop offers time to slow down, watch daily life and enjoy the city’s hospitality.



Behind the Doors of the World's Great Caravan City

After breakfast, begin your full exploration of Damascus, a city whose urban layers connect the classical world with the great Islamic trading centres. Walk through the covered Souq al-Hamidiyah, where light filters into a long avenue of shops, before reaching the Umayyad Mosque. Built in the early eighth century on a site with earlier religious associations, its courtyard, arcades and surviving decorative traditions offer a powerful introduction to the city's place in Islamic history. Your guide explains both the architecture and the etiquette of visiting a living place of worship.

Continue to Azem Palace, an eighteenth-century residence that reveals the intimacy of Damascene domestic life through courtyards, stonework and carefully divided living spaces. Around Straight Street and the Christian quarter, discuss the city's connections with early Christianity and the traditions associated with St Paul and Ananias. Visits are paced with a seated lunch and opportunities to pause.

Later, explore the old city's craft and trading heritage, with time to appreciate textiles, metalwork or traditional sweets according to your interests. Dinner becomes another introduction to Damascus: shared mezze, seasonal dishes and conversation, rather than a hurried end to a checklist.

Overnight: Damascus

The craft behind the keepsake

Look closely at the patterned boxes, inlaid furniture and decorative pieces in Damascus's small shops. Your guide helps you appreciate the craftsmanship and the stories behind the objects.





DAY 3 · Maaloula → Mar Musa → Hama → Aleppo

Mountain Faiths and the Road to Aleppo

Leave Damascus early for Maaloula, dramatically set among pale cliffs. The town is closely associated with Western Neo-Aramaic, a surviving branch of the Aramaic language family, and with long-established Christian traditions. Explore the village and accessible religious sites with a local explanation of their meaning, taking care to distinguish living practice from the legends that have grown around the landscape.

Continue to the monastery of Mar Musa, tucked into a rugged hillside. Its church dates to 1058 and preserves layers of medieval fresco painting. The approach involves a sustained ascent on stone steps, so your guide discusses the climb and your comfort before setting out. Those who prefer not to climb can take a quieter pause below while the walking visit takes place.

The route then carries you to Hama, where the celebrated norias introduce the history of moving water from the Orontes to the surrounding city and cultivated land. A focused stop allows time to appreciate their immense wooden forms and riverside setting. Continue north to Aleppo for dinner and check-in. This is a full travel day, with an early departure, a planned lunch stop and regular opportunities to stretch your legs.

Overnight: Aleppo



DAY 4 · Aleppo city tour

Aleppo, Where Every Stone Has a Story

Spend the day discovering Aleppo through the relationship between its mighty citadel and the trading streets below. Rising above the city on a fortified mound, the Citadel of Aleppo reflects successive periods of occupation and rebuilding, with much of its celebrated medieval character associated with the Ayyubid era. Walk the accessible approach and interior areas with your guide, who explains how this stronghold controlled a city connected to the great commercial routes of the region.

Continue into the historic market quarters, visiting the sections open on the day. Aleppo's souqs were organised around trades, workshops and caravanserais, creating a working city within the city. Your guide places the surviving fabric and restoration work in context, allowing time to notice stone vaulting, doorways and the renewed activity of small businesses.

After lunch, explore selected lanes of the old quarters, including al-Jdeideh where access permits, to understand the merchants, craftspeople and religious communities who shaped Aleppo's identity. Food is an essential part of the experience: seek out the flavours for which the city is celebrated, from kibbeh and spice-rich grills to a carefully prepared seasonal speciality. Return to your hotel with time to rest before dinner.

Overnight: Aleppo



From a Saint's Pillar to a Castle in the Forest

Depart Aleppo early for the great sanctuary of St. Simeon. In the fifth century, the ascetic Simeon became famous for living atop a pillar; after his death, a monumental pilgrimage complex developed around the place associated with his devotion. Among the accessible remains, your guide explains how architecture served pilgrims arriving from across the late antique world, and why the site matters to the history of early Christian worship.

Continue through Idlib, keeping the city as a focused stop within the day's westward journey. Observe the changing countryside and discuss the region's place between inland Syria and the Mediterranean, before proceeding towards the forested hills above the coast.

At the Citadel of Salah ad-Din, the setting becomes part of the story. Byzantine, Crusader and Islamic phases shaped the fortress, whose spectacular rock-cut ditch demonstrates the engineering ambition of medieval defence. Explore the accessible sections at a measured pace, with attention to uneven surfaces and steps.

Descend to Lattakia for dinner and your coastal stay. The exact stop lengths on this substantial day are coordinated around daylight, road conditions and local permissions; private transport, an organised lunch and comfort breaks support the journey.

Overnight: Lattakia



An Ancient Alphabet and the Blue Mediterranean

Begin with Ugarit, the Bronze Age city rediscovered at Ras Shamra. Its clay tablets preserve an extraordinary record of diplomacy, trade, literature and religious life. Among its achievements was an early cuneiform alphabet of thirty signs. As you walk the archaeological remains, your guide helps you imagine a port-connected kingdom whose written records widened modern understanding of the ancient eastern Mediterranean. The experience is as much about the ideas recovered here as the low stone walls visible today.

Continue along the coast to Burj Islam, where the sea introduces a gentler change of mood. Take time for the shoreline views and a leisurely lunch, with fish or other local dishes selected according to what is fresh and available.

Later, drive into the green hills around Kassab. This mountain town and its surroundings are associated with Armenian heritage, orchards and a markedly different landscape from the inland cities. A measured local exploration brings the day back to everyday life: small businesses, village streets and the relationship between the hills and the coast. Return to Lattakia in the late afternoon or evening, with time to refresh before dinner and a second night by the Mediterranean.



DAY 7 · Marqab Castle → Tartous → Arwad → Amrit → Krak des Chevaliers

Sea Roads, Phoenician Echoes and Castle Walls

Travel south to Marqab Castle, whose dark basalt masonry stands above the Mediterranean. Its strategic position and association with the Knights Hospitaller introduce the medieval struggle to control the coast and the routes inland. After a focused visit, continue to Tartous, where layers of coastal history lead naturally to the harbour.

When sea conditions and boat operations permit, cross to Arwad. This inhabited island preserves the close relationship between Syria and the sea in its compact streets, small harbour and maritime life. The boat journey is part of the experience, but its timing is governed by conditions rather than a fixed promise. Return to the mainland for lunch and continue to Amrit, an ancient Phoenician site whose sanctuary offers a striking contrast to the fortresses and towns encountered earlier.

The day concludes with Krak des Chevaliers, one of the great surviving expressions of medieval military architecture. Walk its accessible courts and defensive spaces as your guide explains the relationship between the Hospitaller fortress and later Mamluk changes. Stay nearby in the Wadi al-Nasara area. With several substantial stops, today requires an early departure and carefully managed visit lengths, especially in the shorter days of winter.

Overnight: Krak des Chevaliers / Wadi al-Nasara area



DAY 8 · Al Mishtaya → Homs → Palmyra → Damascus

From the Valley of Monasteries to Palmyra

Begin in Al Mishtaya, within the valley known as Wadi al-Nasara, with an introduction to the region's Christian communities and the monastery of St. George, where access permits. The quiet setting offers a final contrast to the great castle visited yesterday. Continue through Homs for a focused city stop, placing its position on Syria's north-south routes in context before turning east towards Palmyra.

The desert approach reveals why this oasis became such an important meeting point between the Mediterranean world and the lands farther east. At Palmyra, your guide explains the city's wealth, its distinctive blend of cultural influences and the third-century story of Queen Zenobia. Explore only the areas authorised for visits, with clear explanations of what survives, what has been damaged and what the archaeological evidence tells us.

After the agreed visit, continue to Damascus, arriving in the evening for dinner and an overnight stay. This is the itinerary's most demanding overland day. Departure time, refreshments, rest stops and authorised access are coordinated in advance; the day's scope is reviewed against the final operating conditions.

Overnight: Damascus



DAY 9 · Shrine of Sayyida Zaynab → Busra Al Sham → Damascus

A Sacred Shrine and a Theatre of Empires

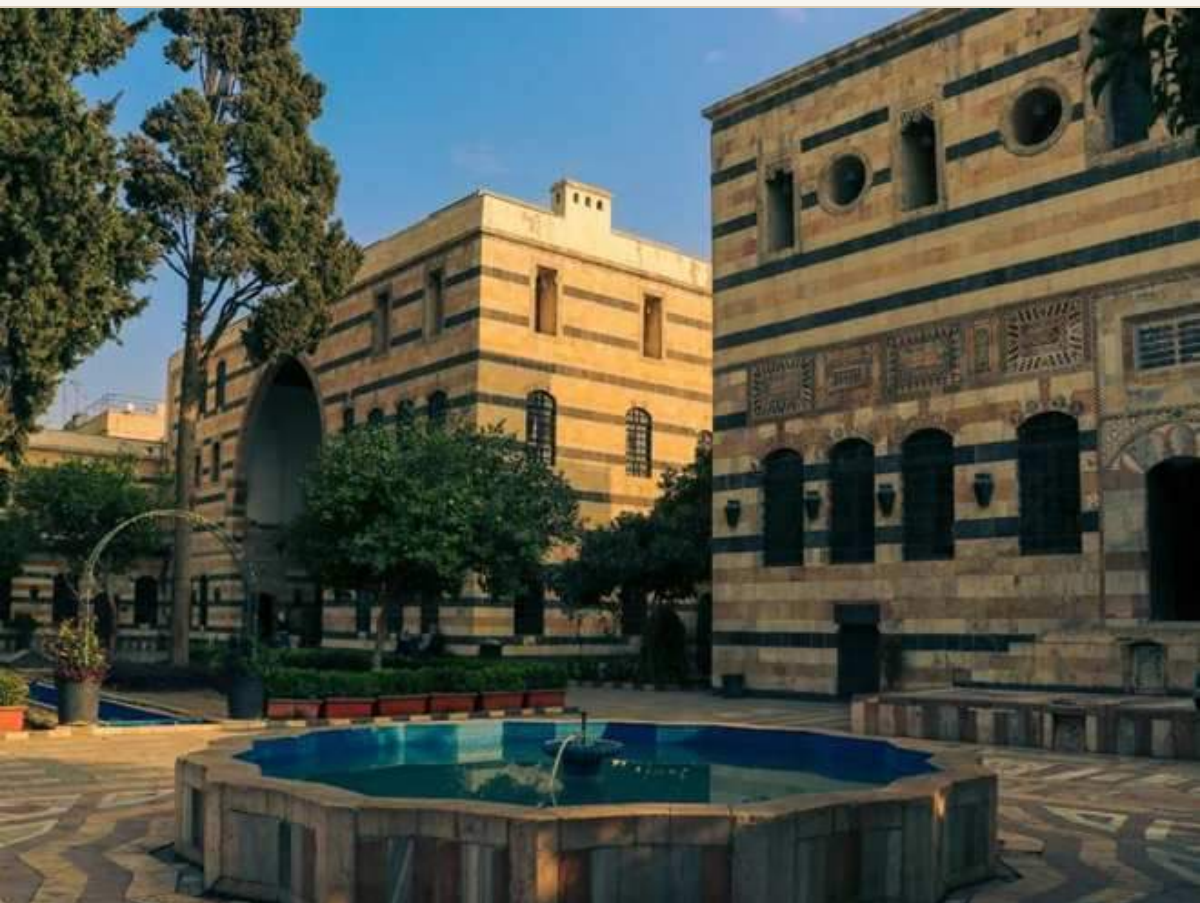
Visit the Shrine of Sayyida Zaynab, an important place of devotion associated with Zaynab, granddaughter of the Prophet Muhammad. Your guide introduces the traditions connected with the shrine and explains appropriate dress and conduct. The visit is approached as an encounter with a living religious community, with time to observe respectfully and ask questions outside moments of worship.

Continue south to Busra Al Sham, also known as Bosra. Built largely in dark basalt, the ancient town preserves evidence of successive Nabataean, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods. Its great Roman theatre, later enclosed within a fortress, is the centrepiece: step into the vast auditorium and consider how a space created for public performance acquired a very different defensive purpose.

Explore the accessible ancient streets and surviving structures with your guide, who connects the city's provincial importance with the routes and communities that crossed southern Syria. Lunch and refreshment stops break the journey before your return to Damascus.

This evening, gather for a farewell Syrian dinner. Share favourite moments from the coast, mountains, desert and old cities, perhaps ending with sweets and coffee - a fitting expression of the hospitality that has accompanied the journey.

Overnight: Damascus



Until We Meet Again, Damascus

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before your private transfer to Damascus Airport. The day's arrangements follow your confirmed flight schedule, leaving time to pack comfortably and meet your Midasia representative without rushing. Airport assistance is coordinated wherever regulations permit, and your team checks the practical details of the onward journey before saying farewell.

If the flight departs later in the day, use the available time for a quiet coffee, a final stroll close to the hotel or a last purchase of Syrian sweets. Any additional touring, late check-out or day-room arrangement is agreed according to the departure time and hotel arrangements. Nothing demanding is placed between you and the airport transfer.

For travellers continuing beyond Syria, Midasia Routes can design a separate extension to Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Oman or Pakistan. Connections, entry requirements and the length of each extension are planned individually so that the next chapter feels as personal as the first.

Overnight: Departure

ALL-INCLUSIVE SYRIA JOURNEY

Your complete inclusions

Your Syria journey is all-inclusive for the services listed below. International flights, medical / international travel insurance, personal expenses and tips for your driver and guide are not included.

1. Nine nights in the selected hotels on the agreed room basis, with an arrival room arranged on Day 1 for breakfast, freshening up and rest.
2. Personal Midasia Routes airport meet-and-greet, luggage assistance and private arrival and departure transfers.
3. Private air-conditioned transport throughout the scheduled itinerary, with a dedicated driver; fuel, road tolls and parking charges included.

- 4.** English-speaking local guiding for all scheduled sightseeing and cultural visits.
- 5.** All meals included during the programme: breakfast, lunch and dinner on Days 1–9, plus breakfast on Day 10.
- 6.** Drinking water and refreshments during overland journeys, with soft drinks, tea and coffee with included meals.
- 7.** Entrance tickets and admission fees for all monuments, museums, archaeological sites and other visits included in the itinerary.
- 8.** The scheduled Arwad Island boat excursion, when operating.
- 9.** Visa application assistance and the government visa fees required for the Syria programme.
- 10.** All applicable hotel and tour taxes, service charges and local charges for the included services.
- 11.** Tips for hotel staff and porters. Tips for your driver and guide are excluded.
- 12.** Pre-departure planning, local coordination and Midasia Routes assistance throughout the journey.

Not included

- Personal expenses, including shopping, souvenirs, laundry, minibar purchases and other items of a personal nature.
- International flights and medical / international travel insurance.
- Tips and gratuities for the driver and guide.

The package covers the published 10-day Syria itinerary. Any separately requested country extension, extra hotel night or change to the agreed room arrangement is quoted separately.

ONE PERSONALLY PLANNED JOURNEY

Combine Syria with...

Travel to Syria on its own, or let Midasia Routes join it with one or more of these destinations:

Syria + Iraq

Continue into Mesopotamian heritage, historic cities and living traditions.

Syria + Oman

Add Muscat, mountain villages and desert landscapes to your journey.

Syria + Egypt

Pair Syria with Cairo, the world of the pharaohs and a Nile journey.

Syria + Jordan

Combine Damascus with Amman, Petra and the desert scenery of Wadi Rum.

Syria + Pakistan

Extend your journey with historic cities, cultural encounters and mountain landscapes.

We personally coordinate the travel sequence, flight connections or available overland routes, visa support, private transfers and accommodation. Every extension has a separate duration and quotation.

One more dish.
One more story.



Discover the country through its generous tables, fragrant coffee and conversations along the way.

Let the journey continue.

Combine Syria with Jordan, Egypt, Oman, Iraq or Pakistan.

Midasia Routes personally coordinates the route, flights or available overland connections, visa support, private transfers and accommodation. Each combination has its own duration and quotation.

Final arrangements are confirmed with your proposal. Single rooms and extensions quoted separately.



Family, music and celebration

Syrian wedding celebrations bring generations together through music, clapping and shared dance. This glimpse of family life shows a culture expressed as warmly in its gatherings as in its monuments.



Veena Nanda

Florida · Syria journey, October 2026

“It has been an awesome tour, with awesome arrangements and a fantastic guide. I felt like I was in my own home. I loved the services, and Syria is very beautiful.”

Midasia Routes

Hand-Crafted Journeys & Seamless Luxury

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