

SYRIA (8 Days / 6 Nights)



Day 01

Depart from the USA

Day 02

Arrive in Damascus, Syria
Transfer to hotel.

Day 03

Damascus Orientation tour of Damascus. You will see the National Museum where, among other treasures, tablets bearing the thirty characters of the Ugaritic alphabet (one of the oldest alpha-

bets in the world) are displayed. The 18th century Azem Palace is a splendid example of Damascene houses. The Umayyad Mosque is a palace of exceptional beauty. It also houses the shrine of John the Baptist's head. Walk among the ruins of Straight Street, the former main link between east and west Damascus. Stop at St. Paul's Chapel, which is where St. Paul fled by being dropped in a basket through a window. The church of Annanias, the one who restored Paul's sight in Acts 9:17, is nearby.

Day 04

Damascus, Krac Des Chevaliers,

Ebla, Aleppo Stop at the Crusader-era fortress of Krac Des Chevaliers, once commanding the only significant pass of its time between Turkey and Lebanon. T.E. Lawrence called it the "finest castle in the world". Continue to Ebla, an ancient city, dating to at least 2400 B.C., one of Syria's most important archaeological sites. Arrive in Aleppo at the end of the day.

Day 05

Aleppo, rich in history, was a thriving caravan stop for centuries. Visit the medieval citadel, the National Museum, the suq (covered by stone archways for 30 kilometers), public hammams (baths) and the Al-Fardoss School.

Day 06

Aleppo, Ma'aret Al-Nooman, Aphamia, Palmyra
En-route to Palmyra stop in Ma'aret Al-Nooman where the museum has a fine collection of 5th and 6th century Byzantine mosaics. Also visit Aphia, an active city for more than three thousand years, until 18th century A.D..

Continue to Palmyra, yet another wealthy caravan stop along the Silk Road.

Day 07

Palmyra, Damascus As the most important archaeological site in Syria, Palmyra's well preserved ruins have many tales to tell. See the Sanctuary of Bel, the Colonnade, the theatre, the agora, baths and tombs. Continue to Damascus for overnight.

Day 08

Departure Transfer to the airport.

