

SYRIA

With the opening of Villa Moda- a chic boutique in the souq set within a converted 17th century old stable, and the opening up of several new boutique hotels(read: respectful restoration of vernacular buildings rather than new, design hotels), Damascus is set to to be the new style and



cultural capital of the Middle East. Aleppo has also attracted the likes of Louboutin to build a holiday home in its Old Quarters. This



Photo courtesy of Adam Hashim

9-day itinerary is a comprehensive itinerary of Syria- from favourites like Palmyra and Krak des Chevaliers to frequently overlooked sites like Ugarit (where the first alphabets were invented) and the Hama norias(water wheels, prevalent in North Africa and Spain).

An extremely efficient itinerary, this journey gives you an excellent grounding of Syria and is suitable even for the first-time visitor.

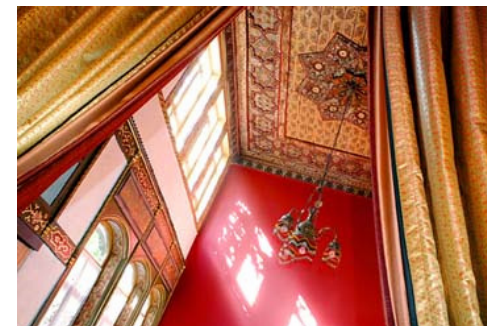
Day 1-2

DAMASCUS

Arrival and transfer to hotel. Day spent at leisure.

Day 2

Morning excursion to Bosra. Bosra is the first Nabatean city in the 2nd century B.C. Overnight in Damascus. Afternoon is spent at leisure. We recommend a visit to the souks



Calling ourselves 'travel mixologists', we've served up interesting itineraries for you to choose from- all of which are available for tweaking and embellishments whilst keeping the main ingredients.

Beautifully-themed journeys for you to choose from and to tweak according to your predilections.

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nearby, or an evening in the mosque right before Maghrib prayers- a particularly

atmospheric time to be within the compounds of Umayyad mosque.



Day 3

LATAKIA

Drive to Maaloula, visiting the Mar Taqla and Mar Sarkis churches, Mar Mousa and Krak des Chevaliers. The tiny village of Ma'aloula, is reckoned to be one of the last places on earth where people still speak Aramaic. Churches so old that it predates Christianity, this was originally built as a temple to Bacchus. You can still find pre-Christian altars on this site, with design details that reflect the sacrificial rites of the time. Continue on to Krak des Chevaliers, considered by Lawrence of Arabia to be 'the best castle in the world'. Overnight Latakia

Day 4-6

ALEPPO

Day 4



Photo courtesy of Simon Gurney

Today you'll be visiting two significant places en route to Aleppo frequently overlooked by the casual itinerary. The lost city of Ugarit, where the Ugaritic language was uncovered by French archaeologists, is

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considered the 'greatest literary discovery from antiquity since the deciphering of the Egyptian hieroglyphs and Mesopotamian cuneiform'. Revealing literary texts that refer to the Canaanite religion, the language also serves as a reference for scholars of the Old Testament.

Saladin Castle is another stop on the journey



to Aleppo. A name synonymous with the Crusades, Saladin's castle is one of the more significant of the medieval period and certainly one of the most romantic. Situated at the top of a difficult route up the mountains, its history goes back to the Phoenicians before Saladin managed to conquer it. Overnight in Aleppo.

Day 5

A tour of Aleppo's citadels, Grand Mosque, Caravanserais and covered bazaars. Visit as well, the Christian and Armenian Quarter.

Day 6

Free and easy in Aleppo. Make time for an authentic hammam session (different days are allocated to different genders) if you can.

Day 7-8

PALMYRA

Day 7

After breakfast, drive to visit Apamea, Serjileh and the norias of Hama. Right on the bank of the Orontes River, Apamea, as wikipedia would have it, was a 'treasure city

and stud-depot of the Seleucid kings'. Once one of the four cities of the Syrian tetrapolis, Apamea still remains a see of the Roman Catholic church. Continue on to Palmyra



Photo courtesy of AbdulHadi Najjar

where you will be spending the night.

Day 8

One of the highlights of any trip to Syria, Palmyra was once the stomping grounds of Queen Zenobia and an important point in the ancient trading routes. Visit the Bel temple, Valley of the tombs, Arch of

Triumph, Colonnade, Bath of Queen Zenobia, the Roman theatre and Agora before driving back to Damascus. Overnight Damascus.

Day 9

DAMASCUS

A tour of Damascus serves well for your last day in the city.

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Revisit the National Museum, the Umayyad Mosque, Saladin's tomb, Spice Market, Straight Street, St Anania's church and St Paul's window. Urbane Nomads will arrange for you to end the day at Jebel Qassioun, which gives an amazing vantage point of Damascus- a suitably inspired travel moment by which to remember Syria by!



Date	Nts.	Location/Route	Accommodation/ Details	Rooms/Travel Time/Basis
Day 1-2		Name of the airport	Arriving Flight & Time TBA	type of room plus meals (B,L,D)
		Damascus	Beit Al Mamlouka	B
Day 3		Latakia	Rotana	B
Day 4-6		Aleppo	Mansouriya	B
Day 7-8		Palmyra	Dedemans or other hotel in the 5 star category.	B
Day 9		Damascus	<u>Departing Flight & Time TBA</u>	

Total Price (Indicative Only): USD2 665 Price

Per person on double occupancy basis, land only

Price includes:

All domestic transfers and tours mentioned. Accommodations and meals specified.

Price excludes:

All gratuities and tips, tours not mentioned and items of a personal nature.

Important Notes

Trip Grading/Difficulty:

This itinerary is done at a relaxed pace, with no strenuous or overtly physical activities and is suitable for all ages.

Flights

It is essential that you give us your air schedule at least 60 days prior to departure, so that we may confirm your arrival and departure hotels.

Health

You are strongly advised to contact your own GP or vaccination centre in respect of required vaccinations for Mongolia. Check on recommended immunizations as least a month before travel. Among the items you might pack are: sun creams (factor 12 and above), insect repellent, sting relief cream, antiseptic cream, a lightweight hat and sunglasses.

Important Note

While we endeavor to make the itinerary as accurate as possible, it should be considered an approximate schedule of activities rather than a rigid schedule of events. Trip itineraries are subject to revision due to weather, road and trail conditions, government restrictions and other factors beyond our control.

Booking Conditions:

Booking your tailor-made holiday

A booking is accepted only after we receive the completed signed booking form and/or the non-refundable deposit required. If the booking is made within 60 days of departure, then full payment is required at the time of confirmation except over the Christmas & New Year period when the full itinerary amount must be made at the time of booking. The balance of payment due for your travel arrangements must be paid by you not later than 60 days before departure; otherwise we may treat the booking as cancelled.

Methods of payment

Payments for deposits and final monies for Travel Arrangements may be made by bank transfer.

Cancellation

All cancellations must be advised in writing and will take effect the day we receive it. Urbane Nomads refunds all recoverable costs after cancellation, subject to third-party cancellation and refund policies and a USD500 administration and travel planning fee.

In some cases hotels require prepayment in full for hotel rooms and services in the peak period. In such cases these deposits are non refundable.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking the Travel Arrangements that You are adequately insured for the full duration of the your travel arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage and personal items, cancellation and curtailment. The choice of insurer is the sole discretion of You. In signing the Booking Form or paying for your holiday You confirm to Us that You either have or will have procured such insurance before the commencement of Your Travel Arrangements.

Further Terms and Conditions apply. In signing the Booking Form or paying the deposit you confirm to Us that you have accepted the booking terms and conditions.

The Urbane Nomad keenly seeks the best that travel has to offer-keenly seeking out exciting design hotels with its associated mod cons, the most unique travel experiences in localities yet to be discovered by the masses or experiencing a favoured tourist destination on an entirely different level.

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