

Travcoa Independent Journeys are pre-set and priced independent travel itineraries. Each is locally hosted by carefully selected local guides, and designed to give you an ideal in-depth experience. Independent journeys include luxury accommodations, sightseeing, private transportation, meals as indicated, and more.

Syria Independent Journey

9 Days

DAY 1 – Arrive Damascus

You are met upon arrival and taken to your luxury hotel. Damascus, the capital of Syria, is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world, dating back to 4000 B.C. Meals: None included

Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel

DAY 2 – Damascus

Your full day of sightseeing starts with the **National Museum of Damascus**, with its large collection of ancient Syrian and classical antiquities. Next visit the Christian quarter to see the underground **St. Anannias Chapel** and St. Paul's Church, both situated behind Bab Keissan, one of the gates in the old wall encircling Damascus. See the infamous "**Street Called Straight**" where Judas once lived, and the **Window of St. Paul**, where he was lowered in a basket out of the window to avoid arrest. After lunch, explore the Old City. See the **Azem Palace**; with a simple exterior that contrasts sharply with the beautiful interior, it is a wonderful example of an 18th century Damascene house. Visit **Umayyad Mosque**, built in 705 A.D. when Damascus was the capital of the Arab Islamic Empire, and the adjacent **Tomb of Salah al-**



The ruins of St. Simeon Monastery

Din (Saladin's Tomb), built in the 12th century with beautiful marble mosaics inside. Continue to the old covered souqs (markets) of Damascus, with their fragrant scents, spices, and exotic colorful merchandise. At sunset, drive up 1,150 feet to **Quaison Mountain**, for panoramic views of the city. Meals: B,L

Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel

DAY 3 – Damascus to Lattakia

This morning drive to **Crac des Chevaliers**, the Castle of the Knights, a stately 12th century Crusader castle, and one of the most famous medieval citadels in the world. After lunch drive to the Mediterranean city of Tartus, a major Christian stronghold during the 4th-century. Visit the **Cathedral**

of Tartus before continuing on to Lattakia, an important historic and modern-day port city. Meals: B,L
Hotel: Afamia Rotana Resort

DAY 4 - St. Simeon & Aleppo

This morning drive to the **capital of the Ugarit Kingdom**, the ancient city of Ras Shamra. In its prime, 1450 to 1200 B.C., the city produced great royal palaces, temples and shrines, and it is where the first known alphabet was created in 1400 B.C. Next drive up into the limestone hills and visit the 5th century A.D. pilgrimage cathedral dedicated to **St. Simeon**. He preached here, from the top of a pillar, for 42 years. Four Basilicas are arranged in the shape of a cross, with an octagon at the center where the base of his pillar is still seen. Continue to Aleppo, one of

the great Middle Eastern trading centers. Meals: B,L

Hotel: Sheraton Hotel

DAY 5 - Aleppo

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Syria's second largest city, renowned for its stone architecture. See the **Great Mosque**, built in the 12th century it represents a pinnacle of Arab Islamic architecture. Visit the **Citadel**, a site dating back to the 1st millennium B.C. and a marvelous example of Arab military architecture. Next, tour the **National Museum**, containing exhibits from the Stone Age through modern times. After lunch, explore the over 7-mile long labyrinthine of old covered souqs. Dating back to the 15th century, they are living museums depicting medieval Arabian life and a wonderful place to shop – find everything from *djalabiyas* (a long loose Arabic coat) to carpets to rows and rows of gold jewelry. Meals: B,L

Hotel: Sheraton Hotel

DAY 6 – Ebla, Apamea, Hama & Palmyra

Today visit the **Kingdom of Ebla**, where recent archaeological discoveries reveal the old Syrian civilization that flourished in the 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C., including a library containing more than 17,000 clay cuneiform tablets, the earliest written documents in Syria.



Noriahs in Hama

Drive on to the ruins of **Apamea**, a city distinguished for its high walls and mile-long thoroughfare. Surrounded by columns with twisted fluting, walk along the avenue Anthony and Cleopatra once strolled. View Apamea's extraordinary mosaic panels in the **Mudiq Citadel**; built in the 12th century, with huge towers that overlook the Ghaab plain. Then continue to the beautiful city of **Hama**, well known for its enormous 90-foot waterwheels (*noriahs*), which have scooped water from the Orontes River and poured it into irrigation canals for millenniums. Continue through the middle of the Syrian Desert to arrive at Palmyra. Meals: B,L

Hotel: Semiramis Hotel

DAY 7 - Palmyra

Today explore Palmyra, the "Queen of the Desert," and oasis city and link on the ancient Silk Road between the Mediterranean and Euphrates. Visit the archeology museum, the **Tudmor**

Museum, rich in art of various periods from Palmyra and the Syrian Desert. See the **Temple of Bel**, enclosed with a double row of limestone columns on each side, and the mile long colonnaded street and monumental **Arch of Triumph**. In the late afternoon drive up to visit the **Arab castle** citadel of Fakhereddin Al Ma'an, built in the 16th century, for spectacular views of Palmyra at sunset. Meals: B,L

Hotel: Semiramis Hotel

DAY 8 – Baalbek Lebanon & Damascus

This morning drive across the Syria/Lebanon border, to one of the world's greatest historical sites, **Baalbek**. A World Heritage Site, this city's awe-inspiring city ruins and its temples are among the largest and finest examples of Roman architecture in the world. The Temple of Bacchus is the best-preserved Roman temple in the Middle East and larger than the Parthenon in Athens. Explore this ancient city, appreciating the grand columned temples and their intricately carved stonework. After lunch, return to Syria and Damascus. Meals: B,L

Hotel: Four Seasons Hotel

DAY 9 – Depart Damascus

Today you are taken to the airport for your flight home or on to your next destination. Meals: B

Departures Scheduled upon request

Land Price: From \$3,975* per person, double occupancy. Single Supplement: \$1,020

Call for price for Solo Travelers or parties of 5 or more.

International Airfare not included - Contact Travcoa for the best international flights and your air reservations.

**Prices subject to change. The price of your journey will change based on travel date and availability. Additions, changes or customization to the length or inclusions of your itinerary will incur additional costs. Christmas and New Years period supplements will apply.*

Syria

THIS TRAVCOA INDEPENDENT JOURNEY INCLUDES:

- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All transfers and fully guided daily sightseeing provided by a private deluxe A/C vehicle
- Local English-speaking guide for sightseeing in each city
- Entrance fees per final scheduled itinerary
- Airport portorage, where available (2 bags per person)
- Local taxes
- TravcoAssist (Medical & Travel Assistance Plan)

NOT INCLUDED:

- Travcoa Travel Director
- Intra Tour Flights
- Meals, except where noted in the itinerary
- International Airfare
- Airport taxes
- Visas except where noted
- Gratuities
- Travcoassist Gold Travel Protection Plan available at 8.5% of trip cost (cancellation insurance)
- Any item not noted as included

DEPOSIT/PAYMENT POLICY:

At the time of reservation: \$1,000 per person
90 days before departure: Balance due

CANCELLATION POLICY:

The cancellation policy is applicable to journey price, single supplements, intra-tour air, extensions and other tour related arrangements. Penalties are valid from date of reservation until:

90 days or more before departure	\$250 per person
89 to 60 days before departure	20%
59 to 30 days before departure	50%
29 days or less and en route	100%

Travcoa will only reimburse according to our cancellation policy

Ask your Travcoa consultant for full details on journey inclusions as well as reservation requirements and the complete Terms and Conditions. (See full details on www.Travcoa.com)

Contact Travcoa to plan your Independent Journey



The Four Seasons Damascus is a bastion of luxury set beside a lovely public garden and ancient mosque conveniently located in a prime downtown area. It is the country's largest five-star hotel.