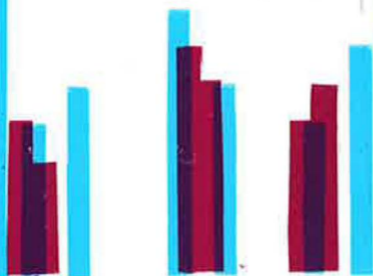


**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Central Bureau of Statistics

**Syrian Arab  
Republic**

**IN  
FIGURES**



**1985**

	1980	1984
• Total Exports by Nature of Items	8273	7276
Crude Materials	8323	5232
Semi-Finished Products	259	429
Finished Products	1891	1614
• Total Imports by Utilization of Items	16165	16154
Final Consumption	2544	1768
Intermediate Consumption	10129	11140
Fixed Assets	3492	3246
<b>TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
• Gross Product (MSP)	5553	9982
• Railways		
Length ( K. M. )	1937	2013
Locomotives	126	217
Passenger vehicles	211	615
Wagon vehicles	3206	4779
Passengers ( Mill. Pers./K.M. )	382	767
Freight ( Mill. Ton/K.M. )	578	986
• Marine Transport		
Vessels Entered	4898	2447
— Total Load ( 000 Ton )	7392	11129
Vessels Cleared	4367	2400
— Total load ( 000 Ton )	15612	7660
• Air Transport		
Planes, Arrival	12557	13046
Passengers (000)		
— Arrival	590	736
— Departure	656	755
— Transit	133	103

	1980	1984
Goods (Ton)		
— Imports	7734	3543
— Exports	3819	2885
• Land Transport		
Length of Roads (K.M.)		
— Asphalted	12969	16338 ●●
— Paved, non Asphalted	4172	4682 ●●
— Levelled	2678	1612 ●●
Transportation Means		
— Motor Cars & Landrover	71493	114303
— Buses & Microbuses	7906	12083
— Goods Vehicles	26988	35332
— Pick-Ups	56287	73481
— Tanker Cisterns	2041	2539
— Temporary Entrance	6391	7248
— Motorcycles	32277	44550
<b>TOURISM</b>		
• Arrivals (000)		
Arab	971	559
Foreigners	286	417
• Nights (000)		
Arab	967	639
Foreigners	569	1096
• Hotels & Hostels		
• Beds	19711	22447
• Antiquities Visitors (000)	108	301
• Museums' Visitors (000)	336	425
• Period 1976 - 1979		
•• Data 1983		

The Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is a government service established in 1968 in accordance with legislative decree No. 87 for 1968'. It is directly attached to the Office of the Prime Minister and has the following tasks:

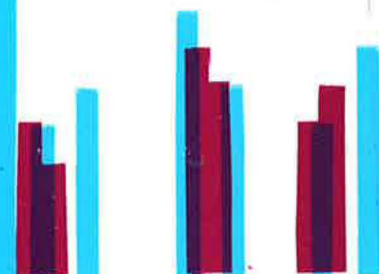
- 1 - Setting-up a comprehensive and unified statistical system, that ensures the collection and publication of reliable accurate and up-to-date information.
- 2 - Setting-up an integrated system of numerical indicators covering the socio-economic activities of the society.
- 3 - Reporting the results of the various stages of the socio-economic plans.
- 4 - Preparing reports and periodical studies for the Office of the Prime Minister, State Planning Commission and other concerned Ministries.
- 5 - Responsible for:
  - Establishing all correspondence and public relations with domestic and foreign statistical organizations.
  - Representing S.A.R. (State) at International statistical conferences.
  - Conducting all censuses and supervising all statistical bodies in the country.

Further, the CBS has 13 regional directorates located each in one of the Syrian Mohafazat .

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Central Bureau of Statistics

Syrian Arab  
Republic

IN  
FIGURES



1985

	1980	1984
<b>POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS</b>		
• Population (000)	8704	9934
Male	4455	5074
Female	4249	4860
• Density : Person/km 2	47	54
• Crude Birth Rate (000)	• 43	
• Crude Death Rate (000)	• 8.2	
• Infant Mortality Rate (000)	• 57.29	
• Expectation of Life at Birth (year)		
Male	• 73.77	
Female	• 64.70	
• Marriages (000)	90.1	85.8
• Divorces (000)	6.0	5.1
<b>NATIONAL ACCOUNTS</b>		
• At Current Prices		
Gross Output (MSP)	82732	129331
Gross Domestic Product (MSP)	51799	75126
per Capita Income (SP)	5951	7563
• At Constant Prices (1980-100)		
Gross Output (MSP)	82732	99631
Gross Domestic Product (MSP)	51799	57447
Per Capita Income (SP)	5951	5783
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>		
• Total Area ( 000 hec. )	18518	18518
Cultivable Lands	6154	6169
Uncultivable Lands	3520	3534
Steppe and Pastures	8378	8317
Forests	466	498
• Gross Product (MSP)	12810	19460

	1980	1984
• Main Crops ( 000 Ton )		
Wheat	2225.8	1067.6
Barley	1587.7	303.5
Cotton	325.1	450.6
Sugar Beet	503.9	1268.2
Tobacco	13.8	13.3
Peanut	19.4	19.6
• Animal Products		
Milk ( 000 Ton )	907	1003
Eggs for table ( Million )	1234	1619
• Livestock (000)		
Sheep	9301	12693
Goats	1025	1060
Cows	768	736
Chickens ( excl. young )	13849	16186
<b>INDUSTRY</b>		
• Total Workers (000)	249.9	284.0
Private Sector	140.3	146.4
Public Sector	109.6	137.8
• Gross Product (MSP)	23617	41762
• Main Products ( 000 Ton )		
Crude Petroleum	8324	8522
Cement	1995	4279
Phosphate	1319	1515
Manufactured Tobacco	9	13
Sugar	90	199
• Electricity Energy ( M.K.W.H )	3637	6897
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
• Kindergartens	362	493
• Children (000)	32.5	52.2

	1980	1984
• Primary		
Schools	7689	8489
Sections	60952	74815
Pupils (000)	1481.5	1823.7
Teachers (000)	50.3	67.1
• Intermediate & Secondary		
Schools	1330	1698
Sections	14779	18761
Students (000)	582.4	701.3
Teachers (000)	30.4	38.7
• Professional		
Schools	65	128
Sections	724	1484
Students (000)	24.4	53.7
Teachers	3.1	6.6
• Teacher's Colleges		
Colleges	20	19
Sections	287	291
Students (000)	10.6	10.9
Teachers	1.1	1.4
• Intermediate Institutes		
Institutes	41	62
Students (000)	12.5	21.4
• Higher Education		
Universities	4	4
Faculties	30	41
Students (000)	94.8	123.7
<b>HEALTH</b>		
• Health Institutions		
Hospitals : State	33	41
Private	109	139
Sanatoriums	4	2

	1980	1984
Clinics & Health Centers		
Beds : State	6746	8497
Private	2134	2677
• Medical Professions		
Pharmacists	3880	5543
Dentists	1398	2045
Pharmacists	1739	2367
Midwives	1638	2071
Nurses	5655	7923
<b>FOREIGN TRADE ( Million S P )</b>		
• Total Exports by International Blocks		
— Arab Countries	636	746
— European Common Market Countries	5233	2594
— Western Europe Countries	78	387
— Socialist Countries	1726	3184
— American Countries	355	8
— Other Countries	245	356
• Total Imports by International Blocks		
— Arab Countries	3987	1674
— European Common Market Countries	5647	4099
— Western Europe Countries	1444	1018
— Socialist Countries	2321	2495
— American Countries	1059	1418
— Other Countries	1707	5450



# DAMASCUS



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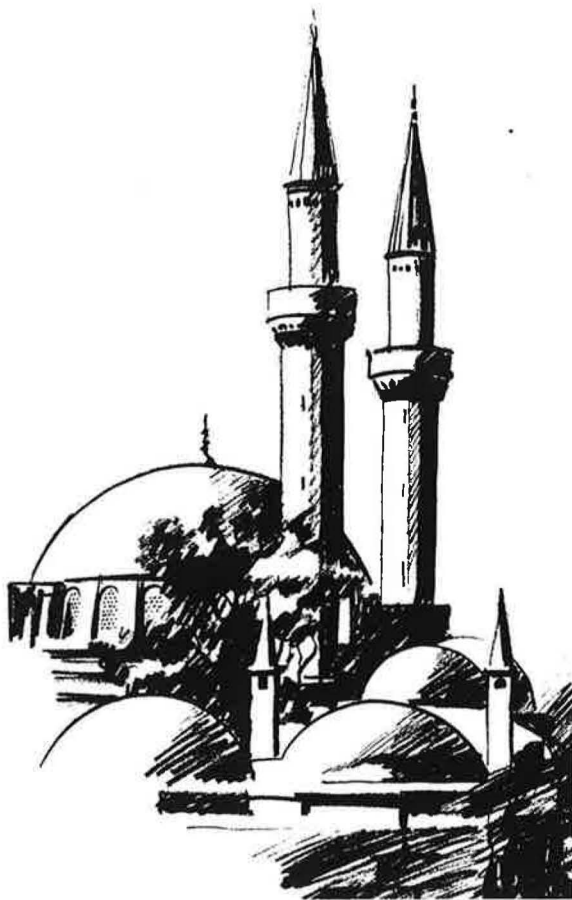
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**This is the 4th edition of Damascus City Portrait, printed in 30,000 copies – with information based on facts available in May 1983. Main changes from 3rd edition: Special airport facilities' chapter added; one night spot added, one deleted.**



Front cover: El Azem Palace with Jesus Minaret of the Omayyad Mosque in background.

## Syria

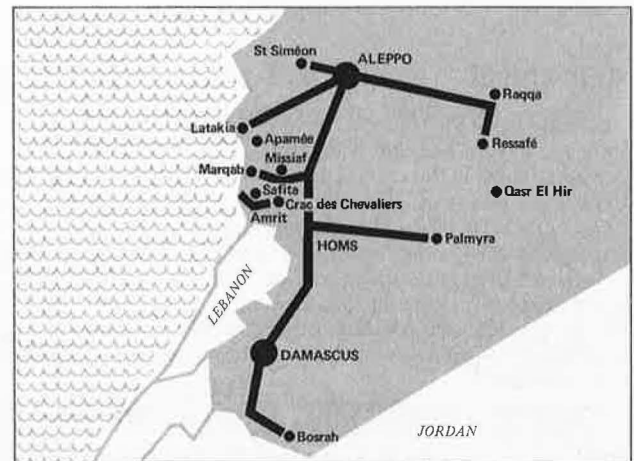
Syria – a country as old as man. Of ancient civilizations which helped shape the world. At the crossroads of three continents. A link between East and West. A jewel forever coveted, Syria has seen the Amorites, the Arameans, the Phoenicians, Alexander the Great, the Seleucians, the Romans, Tamerlane, the Ottoman Turks, the Omayyades and the Abbassides . . .

Its ruins are reminders of an intriguing and often traumatic past . . . from the building genius of the Romans to the devastation of the Mongols . . . from the turretted castles of the Crusaders to the citadels of Saladin . . . from the oldest Christian churches to Byzantine ghost towns . . . from the classical architecture of Palmyra's desert kingdom to the exquisite mosaics of the Omayyades.

Today the Syrian Arab Republic covers an area of 188,000 square kilometers (72,600 sq.miles) with a population of some 8 millions. Where tractors will soon outnumber donkeys. Bedouins prefer pick-up trucks to camels. Artisans revive age-old handicrafts and a new breed of engineers help build the colossal Euphrates Dam.

A land of Mediterranean resorts, desert oases, cotton plantations, sugar-loaf clay houses, modern villas, oil wells, whirling dervishes, souks . . .

Syria is an exciting country to visit for business and vacation traveler – a nation in the midst of an industrial and touristic revolution.



# Damascus

The oldest continually-inhabited city in the world, Damascus is mentioned in Egyptian texts from the 18th dynasty, in Assyrian tablets – and in the Bible.

Present-day Damascus spreads out from the slopes of the Cassioun Mountains into a sprawling metropolis of two million inhabitants, with tree-lined avenues, 350 mosques, green parks and narrow alleyways glinting with brass and copperware.

A city whose name comes easily to our lips. The biblical place associated with the conversion of St. Paul: "... go at once to Straight Street to the house of Judas and ask for a man from Tarsus called Saul . . ." You can still walk the Street Called Straight and see the spot where Saul escaped from the city in a basket.

Damascus, the capital of the Omayyades who turned it into a center of Islamic Arab culture. The Omayyad Mosque is a typical example of the elegant architecture which has made Damascus "The beautiful holy city".

And who has not heard of Damascus silk, Damascene mosaics and the famous chased copper?

Damascus is the clamour and color of the covered bazaars. A glass-blower. White kaffirs. The National Museum with the world's oldest alphabet. Fountains and flowers. Friendly invitations to glasses of hot tea. The more you know Damascus . . . the more you like it.

## Your arrival

Before you set out for Syria, remember that you must have an entry visa in your passport issued by the Syrian consular office in your country. In the case of groups of more than 10 persons a collective visa is usually granted free of charge.

On arrival at Damascus International Airport (23 km – 14 miles – from capital), a ground hostess will show you to the arrival hall where there is health and visa control. After you have collected your baggage you pass through customs control – red entry if you have anything to declare, otherwise green – and should ensure that your suitcases are marked by the official as having been checked.

You are allowed to take the following duty-free goods into Syria: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 50 grams (0.1 lb.) of tobacco, a bottle of wine and liquor plus a reasonable amount of perfume.



## Welcome to

## فندق شيراتون دمشق Damascus-Sheraton Hotel

### Rooms

325 air-conditioned, private baths, radios, telephones, video TV, 24 hour room service, and mini bar.

### Dining and Entertainment

Coffee Shop, restaurant, lounge, night club with entertainment, full range guest services.

### Activities

Outdoor and kiddies swimming pools, tennis, shopping arcade.

### Convention Facilities

Meeting rooms accommodating 10-600, simultaneous translation. Parking available.

### Location

3 miles from downtown Damascus,  
19 miles from airport.

### OMAYAD SQUARE

Tel.: 2293 00

Telex: 411378

P.O. Box 4795 – DAMASCUS – SYRIA





## Special airport facilities

Damascus airport has some facilities for disabled travelers. Wheel chairs and ambulances are available, and personal assistance from ground staff can be obtained if requested in advance.

## Currency

The monetary unit in Syria is the Syrian pound (SP or SLE).

## Hotels

The accommodation situation in Damascus has greatly improved in the past few years with the opening of two first class hotels – and others are now planned or under construction. But it is still advisable to make a reservation well in advance before visiting Syria. You can do this through your travel agent or SAS office.

### Airport Hotel

near Airport.  
Tel. 22 54 00, 22 54 01.

### Cattan Hotel (E7)

Jemhoriet Street.  
Tel. 11 25 13, 11 25 14.

### International (E6)

Bahsa Street.  
Tel. 11 16 00, 11 16 01,  
11 34 00, 11 34 04.

### Meridien (C9)

Shoukry el Kowatly Street.  
Tel. 22 92 00, 22 92 04,  
22 92 02.

### New Omayyad Hotel (D7)

Brazil Street.  
Tel. 11 17 00.

### Orient Palace (F8)

Hijaz Square.  
Tel. 11 15 10, 11 15 11,  
11 15 12, 22 05 01,  
22 05 00.

### Samir Palace (F6)

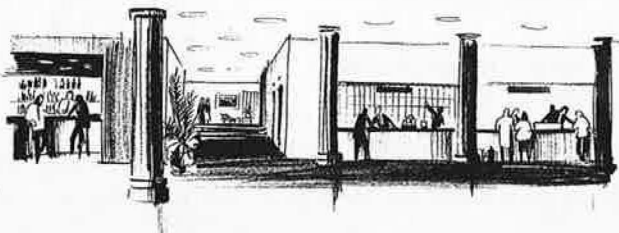
Merjeh Square.  
Tel. 11 95 02, 11 95 03.

### Semiramis (E7)

Jemhoriet Street.  
Tel. 11 38 13, 11 38 14,  
11 38 15.

### Sheraton Damascus

Omayad Square,  
P.O. Box 4795.  
Tel. 22 93 00.  
Telex 1137854.



## Restaurants and cuisine

Syrian cuisine in the best-known restaurants in Damascus has a Mediterranean and French flavor, and the visitor who wants to sample the local dishes will find a tasty selection including *kebab*, meat; *kebbeh* (meat and beans); *makzoubeh* (rice, eggplant, tomatoes and meat); *hommos* (beans) and *babaghannoj* (eggplant with garlic).

International liquor, beer and wines are available – but do try the Syrian red wine which is quite palatable.

Meal times are as follows – breakfast 07.30 to 10.00 hrs., lunch 13.00 hrs. to 15.30, dinner 20.00 to 23.00 hrs.

A selection of restaurants (it is advisable to book a table):

### Ali Baba (D6)

Fardoss Street.  
Tel. 11 98 81.

### Chaumiere (A9)

Abu Rommane Street.  
Tel. 33 88 83.

### Cordoba (C8)

Abu Rommane Street.  
Tel. 33 29 49.

### Snak Omayyad (D7)

Brazil Street.  
Tel. 11 17 00.

### Toledo (A10)

Maliki District.  
Tel. 33 38 10.

### Vandome (A9)

Abu Rommane District.  
Tel. 33 83 62.

### Versailles (A9)

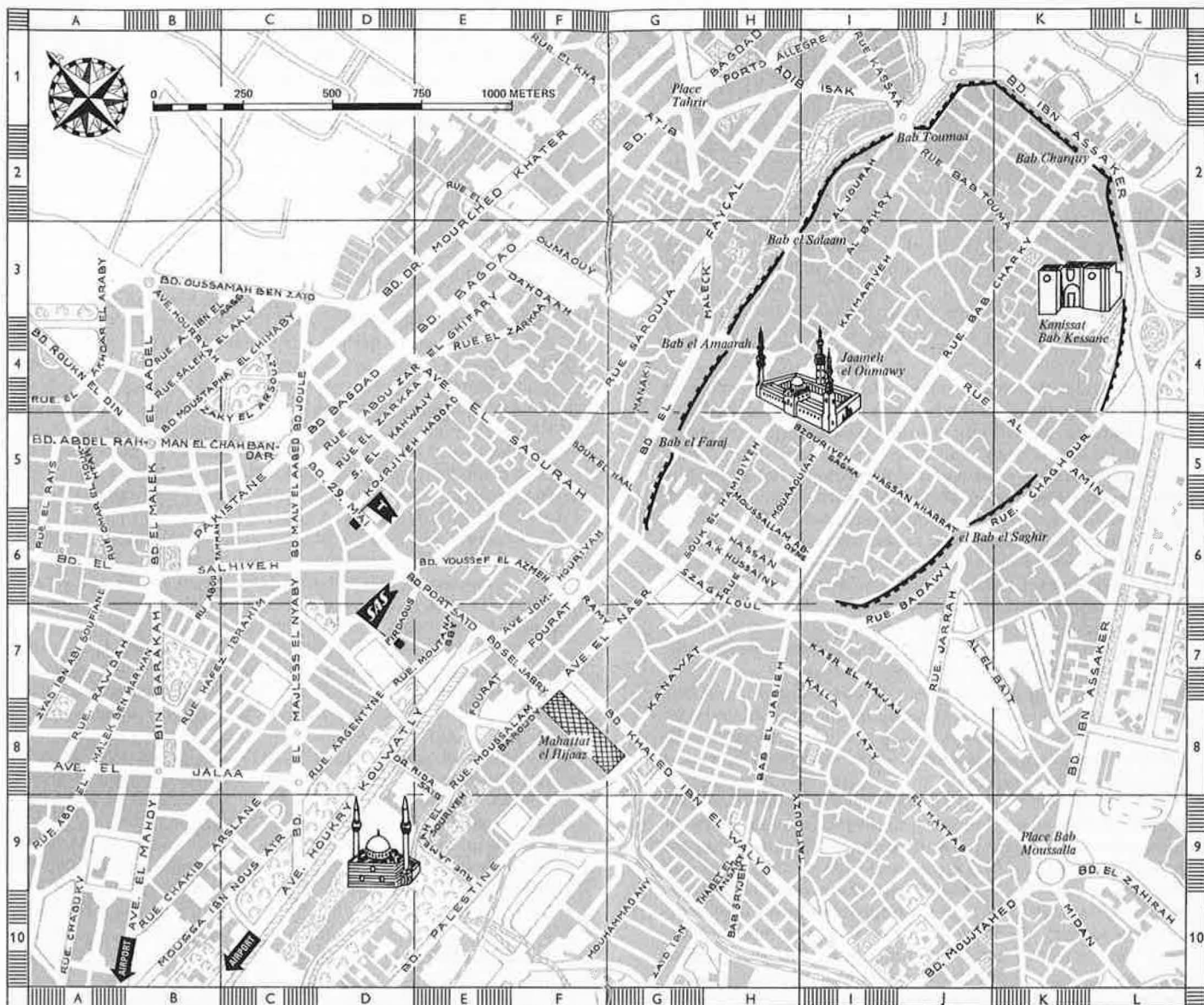
Abu Rommane District.  
Tel. 33 00 17.

# MERIDIEN



Near business and shopping area.  
372 luxurious air-conditioned rooms and suites with in-room bars, movies, colour TV and radio.  
3 restaurants, 3 bars, disco, sauna, 2 tennis courts, swimmingpool, shopping arcade, conference facilities.

**SHOUKRY EL KOWATLY STREET**  
**TEL. 71 87 30, 22 30 38, 22 49 50**





Code numbers in this booklet refer to the above map. Thus (D7) is located where lines drawn from "D" and "7" cross each other.

## Interesting sights in Damascus

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (H4) Omayyad Mosque.               | (G/H5) The Souks.                  |
| (I5) Azem Palace.                  | (L3) Anania's Chapel.              |
| (D9) The Tekiye Sulimaniye Mosque. | (L4) St. Paul's Window Church.     |
| (D9) Damascus Museum.              | (J/I3) The Street Called Straight. |

## Useful addresses

-  **SAS Ticket Office:**  
 Nahas Travel and Tourism Agency, Fardoss Street (D7),  
 tel. 11 88 01, 11 66 04, 22 11 22.  
 Open hours: daily (except Friday) 08.30 to 13.30, 16.30 to 19.30 hrs.
-  **Tourist Information Office:**  
 Boulevard 29 May.  
 Open hours: 24-hours-a-day.

Distance from city center to Damascus International Airport: 23 km (14 miles).





(cont'd from page 9)

Tourist guides are available – they are licensed by the Ministry of Tourism and such is their knowledge that it will certainly pay you to hire one if you are really interested in learning something about the country. Details can be obtained at tourist information offices – or again contact SAS if you need further information.

**Palmyra** (240 km – 150 miles – from Damascus). Possibly one of the least-appreciated of the world's major historical sites, Palmyra will shortly become known to many more tourists for a new hotel with 250 rooms is now in operation. At the present time, it is suggested that you will find it easier to visit Palmyra by joining a package tour which also includes visits to Homs and the Crusaders' fortress, Crac des Chevaliers.

Whichever way you choose to see Palmyra – there is also a regular bus service taking 4½–5 hours – you will not be disappointed. There has been human habitation in this part of the world for some 50,000 years. Palmyra, itself, was originally founded by the Canaanites. But your main reason for seeing the ruins will be to admire the classical architecture from the Second and Third Centuries AD.

Protected on all sides by desert and an army of fierce mih-rates (desert soldiers), Palmyra remained an unconquered oasis amidst the powerful Roman Empire until the first century AD when it finally became a Roman garrison. Later it became a Roman colony.

But throughout these years the Palmyrenes retained their independent thinking and when Queen Zenobia came to the throne she virtually ignored Roman sovereignty occupying the rest of Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor.

It was during this Golden Age that the present buildings in the ancient city were erected. Unfortunately, the romantic story of Zenobia does not have a happy ending: for after her armies were beaten in two battles by the Romans, Emperor Aurelian lay siege to the city of Palmyra and later captured the queen as she tried to escape across the Euphrates. But in victory the Emperor was merciful and Queen Zenobia ended her days in the Tivoli Palace, outside Rome.

Zenobia's city covers an area of approximately six square kilometers (2⅓ sq.miles). The major attractions are: **The Temple of Bel** where the outer walls and inner temple building still remain. The Palmyrenes were pagans and worshipped some 30 gods, the most important being Bel. This temple was built in 43 AD. In the center of the courtyard where ritual sacrifices took place is the principal building, noteworthy for its monolithic ceiling decorated with planets and the signs of the zodiac.

**The Temple of Baal-Shamine** – second in importance was the god Baal, known to the Greeks as Zeus and to the Palmyrenes as "The Unknown God". The temple has a vestibule with six columns. **The Agora** – once the meeting place for social and commercial events. It had 11 gateways and the square was lined with 200 statues. Note the water-troughs in the corners in remarkable condition. **Valley of Tombs** – outside the city walls were the cemeteries which underlined the uniqueness of the Palmyrene civilization. The desert valley is dotted with no less than 150 Tower Tombs. Visit the tomb of Jambeelek to see how the Palmyrenes buried their dead, storing the coffins in layers. There are also underground tombs, hypogea, individual and house tombs. Apply to the museum if you would like to look inside the Tower and Underground tombs.

**The Museum** – located on the outskirts of present-day Palmyra. Among the relics on display are stone sculptures detailing the gods of Palmyra. The tesserae, bronze and pottery "invitation cards" plus the bronze, gold and glass objects, point to the sumptuous life enjoyed in this city at the time of Queen Zenobia.

**The Castle of Ibn Maan.** Though not part of Zenobia's city, this Arab fortress, perched on the brow of a hill, offers a fine panorama over ancient and modern Palmyra.

**Maaloula** (56 km – 35 miles – from Damascus). This is a pretty blue and white village of flat-roofed houses huddled on the side of a sheer cliff. Many of the houses are hewn out of the rock. There are two old convents, a mosque, shops selling the local red wine which is particularly good – but for once, the reason you will probably want to visit this community is because of a language. In addition to their native Arabic, the citizens of Maaloula are quite unique in that they speak Aramean . . . the same language spoken by Jesus Christ. If you are with a guide he will ask the local people to converse in this ancient language . . . it is a strange, eery experience to hear a child of today speaking the same language which Christ probably spoke to his disciples.

**Sednaya** (30 km – 19 miles – from Damascus). Not far from Maaloula, is another pretty village of white, flat-roofed dwellings famous for its 6th century convent which contains a number of valuable icons. It is said that the convent was originally built by the Emperor Justinian and one of the priceless icons was drawn by St. Luke.

**Hama** (48 km – 30 miles – from Homs). An ancient town with a history embracing the Arameans (1000 BC), the Babylonians, Hittites, Byzantines and finally the Arabs from 638 AD. In a fertile agricultural area dominated by the Orontes river, Hama is a picturesque town with orchards and century-old wooden wheels which raise water from the river. Be sure to visit the old city with its souks and products of local crafts. The museum, former government palace, includes archaeological discoveries from the Orontes Valley, the most famous of which are the mosaic portraits.

**Homs** (156 km – 98 miles – from Damascus). Today Homs is a busy, industrial city with an oil refinery and fertilizer factories, as well as being an important communication center linking



cool of a summer evening. Over there is a man selling hot chestnuts from his brazier . . . and across the road a tea stall with steaming kettles . . . the flash of a kaffir, a kaftan, a veiled woman, a jeans-clad black-haired beauty . . . a donkey carrying turnips . . . a floodlit fountain . . . Damascus by night is a curious mixture of East and West.

## Tipping

Tipping is not prevalent in Syria and hotel and restaurant staff are not forever holding out their hands. If you feel the service warrants a small recognition we would suggest the following scale – parlour maid 2 S.P. at the end of your stay; hotel porter 1 S.P. (for hailing taxis, carrying bag, etc.); waiter 2 S.P. Taxi drivers do not expect a tip.

## Shopping and souvenir hunting

Throughout the ages, Syrian handicrafts have been sought after by those who appreciate hand-made quality products. Damascus continues to be the leading artisan center of the country and in the shops and souks there is a wide, exciting range of Syrian goods to take home.

**Copper and brassware** – old and new – are particularly good buys. Take a look at the 70–100-year-old coffee pots with the beak-like spouts and the chased copper plates.

**Glassware** – hand-painted glass, engraved, iridescent glass.

**Textiles** – exquisite silk brocade which you can see woven in the souks. Expensive but still bargain buys in Damascus because of the high quality. Kaftans, too, with gold and silver threads. Embroidered table-cloths.

**Woodwork** – mother-of-pearl cigarette boxes, inlaid and painted wood cases. Syria is famous for its decorative wood mosaics.

Wickerwork, carpets, gold and silver jewelry, antique fire-arms, leather pouffes . . . just a few suggestions to give you an idea of the tempting array of souvenirs you can purchase in Damascus.

If you want to haggle, there are still some tradesmen who will lower the price of their goods – but more and more the authorities are encouraging the stores to have fixed prices.

A good place to start your shopping tour is at the Government-sponsored Craftwares Market located in an old Medrassa

(a 16th-century Koranic School) near the Turkish Mosque where there are shops selling almost every type of hand-made item on sale in Damascus. There is no bargaining – you pay the amount listed on the price tag.

Naturally, from here one must go to the souks, the real shopping center of Damascus for hundreds of years. Even if you do not buy a single thing – and it's well nigh impossible not to open your wallet – a visit to the souk is an unforgettable experience of sights and sounds.

Some well-known shops:

**Azem School** (I5)  
near Azem Palace.

**Tony Stephen** (H5)  
Hamidye Souk.

**Hassan** (H4)  
opposite entrance  
Omayyad Mosque.

**Dabdoub** (I5)  
near Azem Palace.

**Koutarje & Safar** (L3)  
near Ananias' House.

**Giovanni** (L3)  
near Ananias' House.

This is a very short list and there are, of course, many equally fine stores.

Remember, too, if your time is at a premium, that several of the first class hotels have shops in the lobby selling Syrian and oriental goods.

## Business hours

**Shops** are open as follows – summer: 09.00 to 14.00 hrs. and 17.00 to 21.00 hrs.; winter: 09.00 to 20.00 hrs.

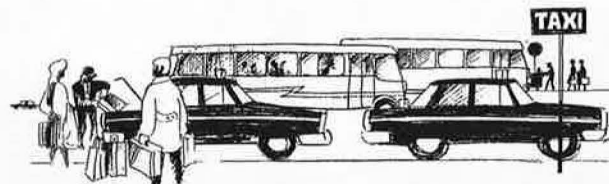
**Government offices** are open 08.30 to 14.30 hrs.

## Transportation

Within Damascus it is recommended that you use taxis. There are bus services but they tend to be rather crowded and confusing for the visitor who does not speak Arabic. Taxis, on the other hand, are cheap and plentiful. There is a fixed fare within the city of approximately one dollar.

It is not easy to rent a car and again we would recommend you join a guided tour when exploring the hinterland. There are tours by car, mini coach and motorcoach (see "Excursions").

There is also a well-organized network of buses serving the principal cities of Syria. Ask the SAS office (see center map) to give you details of the transportation facilities available.





## Climate and clothing

Syria has a pleasant Mediterranean climate with temperatures in spring and fall averaging 20°C (70°F) to 27°C (84°F), in the winter 5°C (40°F) to 15°C (60°F) and in the summer from 30°C (90°F) to 35°C (100°F).

Lightweight clothes are essential in mid-summer, an overcoat is often useful in the winter . . . and remember to bring something warm to slip on in Spring and Summer for it can sometimes be chilly in the evenings.

Remember when entering mosques to remove one's shoes – and women should cover their heads and arms. Of course, when an excursion tour includes visits to religious edifices, shorts, short dresses and beach-type wear must not be worn.

## Photography

There are virtually no restrictions against photography, except that pictures must not be taken in military zones. The local people do not mind their photographs being taken – but in all cases you will find a much more helpful attitude if you ask before pressing the button! Most makes of films are available in Damascus shops.

## Public holidays and festivals

El Adha; El Fitr; Prophet's Birthday; Holy Cross Day (only in Maaloula) 14th September; Soweida Wine Festival, July; Cotton Festival (in Aleppo), October; Flower Festival (Latakia), April; Damascus International Fair, August/September.

## Your comments

We hope you found this City Portrait useful.

All the facts were checked and double-checked before printing, but errors can still occur. If you found that any of the addresses or telephone numbers were incorrect, or hotels or restaurants of an unacceptable standard, or want to suggest additional facts to be included in the next edition, please write to:

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Name of my hotel:

Address:

Tel.:

*Edited by Brian Hill*

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