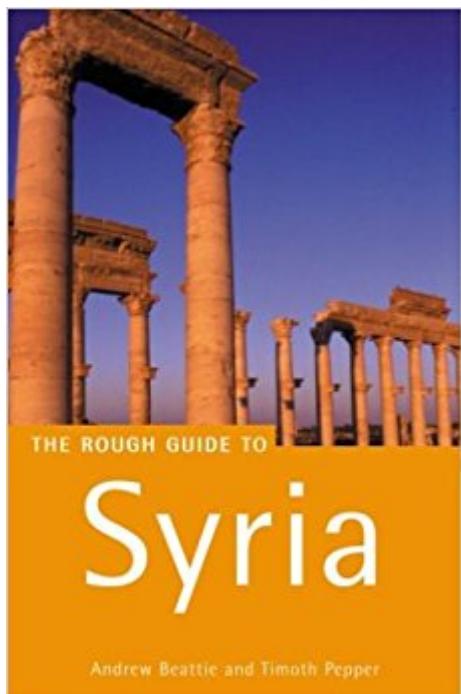


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The Rough Guide To Syria



Synopsis

The Rough Guide to Syria is the essential guide to this compact but culturally rich Middle Eastern country. Features include: Thorough accounts of all the monuments, from the ancient remains at Palmyra and Ugarit to stately mosques and hilltop crusader castles. Practical advice on shopping in the souks of Damascus and Aleppo and exploring the desert plains. Informed guidance on how to travel independently, and where to eat and sleep, in every price range. Detailed background on the country's history, culture, architecture and politics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Andrew Beattie specialises in and teaches Middle Eastern geopolitics. Tim Pepper has co-written books on Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Republics as well as travelling the world extensively.

I feel compelled to correct the unsubstantiated & unreasonable claim in another review that the authors of this guide have in any way disparaged the Syrian people or their culture. This is a quite useful book in almost all respects (chock full of maps, even for many out-of-the-way destinations). Typical of this guide's attitude: "Remember that most Syrians are unfailingly honest and courteous, and you shouldn't let a cautious outlook spoil your trip, or be tempted to read anything sinister into the genuine offers of hospitality you receive." The Rough Guide to Syria has been put together with a lot of care, and while it may not be the ne plus ultra, it is reliable, informative, and particularly strong in giving significant coverage to places throughout Syria.

This is the best book on Syria that I have (I've three others). It is so thorough that my tour guide wanted to purchase it from me at the end of our trip (a month long one). I'm sending him his own. There is "political" information in it that our guide was not aware of (e.g. the massacre at Hama). The writing style, often "tongue in cheek" made the text interesting to read. But, for me, its strength is its commentary on contemporary Syrian life, politics, culture. etc.

Great book on the dominant Arab culture and Arabic language, the religious sects of Syria which include Sunni Islam, Alawite Islam, Orthodox Christianity, Catholic Christianity, the Druze, and the Syrian Jews. The book also takes about what do and where to go in Syria, as well as Syrian Cuisine, and also about not just the Arabs in Syria, but also the Kurds and other groups in Syria.

This is another great Rough Guide for finding out about where you are going, before you get there. It's easy to read and as usual very informative.

Even though this is a used book and copyrighted in 1998, it is very detailed in the information I will need when I make my next trip to Syria. I'm not looking for restaurants or hotels, but the highlights of Syria. I have The Lonely Planet Syria and Lebanon book, but I wanted more detail for Syria. This is a good guide that separates the country highlights by region, with clear directions on how to get there. It has nice history writeups on the sidelines.

Excellent guide. It starts with a section about health, visa, currency, local transport, etc. The actual guide is a 'walkthrough', like: "When you exit the mosque, you will see on your left..." It contains maps of major cities, covering restaurants and hotels too (with price indication!) Detailed maps for places of interest. Background info on persons, political issues and history.

In this book you can find many interesting information, but it's a little bit old... Stations changed it's place and prices too. So use it only for information. Don't trust it in all parts and all will be OK. Syria is a perfect country. :)

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