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Lonely Planet Syria & Lebanon (Lonely Planet Syria And Lebanon) (Multi Country Travel Guide)



Synopsis

Discover Syria & Lebanon Smile your thanks when the elderly caretaker of a Damascus house opens the door just for you Test-drive your Arabic as you fly through the Syrian desert in a 1960s Dodge taxi What conflict? Find your peace hiking amid waterfalls, hermitages and monasteries in Lebanon's gorgeous Qadisha Valley Lather up with olive oil soap from Aleppo's famous souq - and learn how to pick one fit for a queen In This Guide: Three authors, 140 days of on-the-road research, one international conflict, countless invitations to tea Ask the archaeologist: all your questions on Syria's stunning ruins answered by a specialist Get the local lowdown: special color chapter featuring travel tips from Syrians and Lebanese

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Customer Reviews

'For tens of millions of globetrotting readers, the Lonely Planet guides are the gospel of adventure travel.'-- New York Times Magazine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Lonely planet is one of the only travel books I'll buy!

Just got back from three weeks in Syria and Lebanon, using this LP guide. I tried to stay at the cheapest possible option for the cities I visited but splurged a few times on the restaurants. Prices are hopelessly out of date... for Syria cheap hostels/hotels 200% higher, restaurants about 50%, taxi

fare 200%-up. Lebanon's price disparity wasn't quite as bad and may have been researched more recently. Curiously enough the prices for museums, historical sites, etc. were correct. City maps are awful, especially for the larger cities. LP doesn't include all the street names and in some cases not even all the streets. Get a local city map before walking around. Smaller maps for museums and sites are useful though. I did a lot of traveling by public bus and shared taxi. Syria built new bus stations in Damascus, Hama and Aleppo. LP was absolutely useless for logistics as a result. Now for the positives. Every English-speaking tourist in Syria seemed to have a LP so there doesn't seem to be any good alternative. Food, history, and sightseeing sections were great. I'm not sure about the shopping suggestions. I visited a few places but most offered stuff well out of my price range. I strongly recommend this book if you are on a guided tour and have hotels and transportation already arranged. It even recommends tea houses and massages where you can relax after a hard day's shopping, lucky you! On the other hand, if you are traveling independently, go ahead and get this book... but double-check the logistics on the internet or with other travelers when you arrive.

I have now used LPs to travel through over 60 countries around the world and I just cannot go to any other kind of travel book. It is simple, well written and great information to manage the logistics of travelling in countries which are either run-of-the-mill or more on the adventurous side. Do you have to take the information (at times) with a grain of salt? Yes. Do you have to double check for yourself certain timings and specifics? Yes. But the books are not a 100% spot on guide (things change) - they are however written by passionate people who clearly love the countries they travel in, and this is infused in every page. For the Syria trip being planned, we only have about a week (the following week will be in Jordan) and the book has already assisted in structuring a high level itinerary, deciding on border crossings, confirming we should fly into Damascus and out of Amman and guiding us re: Visa requirements, food, medical shots and relative ease of self travel in the countries. Not bad I say. Keep up the great work LP!!

Like always, Lonely Planet has problems updating their travel guides, but generally it is an easy to navigate source of information. I noticed that the list of hotels in the Lonely Planet guidebooks has become very limited and we often had to search for accommodation after arrival as the listed hotels tend to be booked out first. The "Getting There and Away" sections could be more specific as we never knew where we had to go for a specific bus station. It would also be helpful to write these places out in Arabic, as many taxi drivers cannot read English letters.

It is a great book with great content, Damascus was a good high light. I am very looking forward to the new version of Syria Lonely Planet. Good buy! Happy customer.

I ordered this travel guide in anticipation of a group trip to Syria - Damascus, Palmyra and Aleppo. It contains a brief history of the country, good city/town maps (for more detail one needs a country/city map), layouts of important buildings, customs and cultural information, language, glossary and general, very useful advice. Suggested phrases in Arabic will come in handy. French is also spoken in Syria and I plan to use it when needed since I am fluent. I like this guide and it is not bulky.

I only used a small section of this book, the section on Beirut, but it was a very useful guide that helped me make the most of my limited few days in the city, particularly the recommendations on fantastic hole-in-the-wall restaurants I would not have otherwise found. The only disappointment was that the author wrote that travelers should shun the public beach and head to one of the exclusive private beach clubs, but I found the public beach quite pleasant, particularly when trying to save money because Beirut isn't all that cheap.

"As you wish" is the response to most questions in Syria, making the LP Guide very necessary. It contains excellent information on rarer sites and ruins along with very good historical information about them. The hotel information was very helpful since good lodging in Syria can be hard to find. The information on the souks is very good for those that like to shop. Finally in the same vain, their food section was very helpful for different budgets. The LP Guide is more detailed than the new Neos Guide published by Michelin, but unfortunately the maps are awkward to read in the LP guide and the detail maps to some of the less well traveled sites are not very reliable and the directions are poor. (I searched for a specifically described site near Aleppo for over an hour.) Overall though, it contains very detailed information, which is definately necessary in Syria since one is unable to find such information locally without considerable effort. I would recommend the Neos Guide for an overview and quality maps, and the LP guide for more detailed information. Both guides are necessary for a meaningful and hassle free trip.

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