Hello everyone,

Today I want to talk about an important part of my soul Damascus the city where I have born, grew up spent the significant part of my life.

Actually, I'm thrilled to share with you some fascinating facts about Damascus City, the capital and largest city in Syria, which is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, dating back more than 11,000 years. Damascus has a rich history, stunning architecture, and delicious cuisine, making it a must-visit destination for every traveler.

**History**

Damascus has a fascinating history, having been home to various civilizations over the centuries. It is believed that the city was first founded in the 3rd millennium BC, and it has been an important center of trade, culture, and religion ever since. Damascus played a significant role in several historical periods, including:

The Aramaean Period: This was a time of great prosperity and cultural growth for Damascus, which was a major trading hub in the Middle East.

The Roman Period: Damascus became part of the Roman Empire in the 1st century BC and was a key city in the empire's eastern provinces. During this time, many impressive buildings and monuments were constructed in the city, including ***the Temple of Jupiter*** and ***The Citadel of Damascus***.

The Islamic Period: In the 7th century, Damascus became the capital of the Islamic Umayyad Caliphate, which brought about a golden age of art, architecture, and scholarship in the city.

**Attractions**

Damascus has numerous historical and cultural attractions that draw visitors from all over the world. Here are some of the most popular sights to see:

*The Umayyad Mosque:* This is one of the oldest and most impressive mosques globally, dating back to the 8th century. It is an outstanding example of Islamic architecture, with beautiful mosaics and intricate details throughout.

*The Old City:* This is one of the most remarkable historic centers in the world, with many ancient buildings and sites. Such as the Souq Al-Hamidiyya (a bustling market), the Azem Palace, the ancient Roman walls and the seven ancient gates that lead to the Old City, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Bab Al-Faradis (The Gate of the Paradise)

Bab Al-Saghir (The Small Gate)

Bab Al-Salam (The Gate of Peace)

Bab Touma (The Gate of St. Thomas)

Bab Sharqi (The Eastern Gate)

Bab Kisan (The Gate of Kisan)

Bab al-Jabiya (The Jabiya Gate)

*The National Museum of Damascus:* This museum is one of the best places to learn about the history of Damascus and Syria, with exhibits covering everything from ancient artifacts to contemporary art.

One unique feature of Damascus City is the jasmine flower, which grows in abundance throughout the city. The jasmine's sweet and fragrant scent fills the air and is an integral part of the city's culture and tradition.

**Let’s talk about Food which is one of my favorite parts**

Syrian cuisine is renowned for its rich flavors and diverse ingredients, , there are many mouthwatering dishes to try.

. Her are some popular Syrian dishes include:

* Hummus: This creamy dip made from chickpeas, tahini, lemon juice, and garlic is a staple of Syrian cuisine.
* Shawarma: This Middle Eastern sandwich made with meat (usually chicken or lamb) that has been marinated and roasted on a spit is typically served with vegetables, hummus, and garlic sauce.
* Baklava: This sweet pastry made from layers of phyllo dough and chopped nuts,
* Falafel: These deep-fried chickpea balls are a popular snack or street food in Syria and are often served in a pita bread sandwich with vegetables and tahini sauce.
* Kibbeh: This dish is made from a mixture of ground meat (usually beef or lamb) and bulgur wheat, formed into small balls or patties and fried or baked. It can be served as a main dish or as an appetizer.
* Baba ghanoush: This dip is made from roasted eggplant, tahini, lemon juice, and garlic, and is often served as an appetizer with pita bread.
* Fattoush: This salad is made with a mixture of chopped vegetables (such as tomatoes, cucumbers, and onions), toasted pita bread, and a tangy dressing made from lemon juice and olive oil.

In addition to these traditional dishes, Damascus also has a vibrant street food scene, with vendors selling a variety of snacks and sweets such as knafeh, a dessert made with layers of shredded phyllo dough, cheese, and syrup. There are also many restaurants in the city serving both traditional Syrian cuisine and international dishes.

Thank you for listening. I hope you have enjoyed learning about Damascus City's history, attractions, and cuisine as much as I have enjoyed sharing it with you. Thank you for listening, and I encourage you to consider visiting this beautiful city for an unforgettable experience.