

Syria

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Arabic

Population: 18,000,000

Currency: Syrian Pound (SYP)

Area: 185,180

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Ancient City of Palmyra', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site, Palmyra is an ancient Semitic city with monumental ruins dating back to the Roman Empire.'}
- {'name': 'Umayyad Mosque', 'writeup': 'Located in Damascus, it is one of the largest and oldest mosques in the world, known for its architectural and religious significance.'}
- {'name': 'Citadel of Aleppo', 'writeup': 'A large medieval fortified palace in Aleppo, representing centuries of military architecture.'}

Head of State / Government:

Bashar al-Assad (President)

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Damascus International Film Festival', 'writeup': 'An event showcasing Arab and international cinema, promoting cultural exchange.'}
- {'name': 'Eid al-Fitr', 'writeup': 'A major religious festival marking the end of Ramadan, celebrated with communal prayers and feasts.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Syrian cuisine features a rich variety of dishes including kibbeh, hummus, falafel, and baklava, reflecting Levantine culinary traditions with an emphasis on fresh ingredients and spices.

Brief History:

Syria has a rich history dating back to ancient civilizations such as the Ebla and Arameans. It was part of various empires including Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman. Modern Syria gained independence from France in 1946. Since 2011, it has been affected by a complex civil war.

Important People:

- Bashar al-Assad - Current President
- Hafez al-Assad - Former President and father of Bashar al-Assad
- Nizar Qabbani - Renowned Syrian poet

Current Conflicts:

Ongoing civil war since 2011 involving government forces, opposition groups, and extremist factions, leading to significant humanitarian crises and displacement.

Youtube Links:

- Syria: A Country in Conflict - Documentary
- The History of Syria Explained
- Exploring Ancient Palmyra, Syria
- Syrian Cuisine: Traditional Dishes and Recipes
- Life in Damascus Amidst the Conflict