

Syria

Information for applicants

Syria

Syria is currently undergoing a far-reaching political and institutional transition. Following the collapse of the Assad regime in December 2024, state institutions and essential public services are being rebuilt after more than a decade of conflict. Damascus is the country's administrative and cultural centre and is known for its historic old city, traditional markets, religious sites, crafts and cuisine. Arabic is the official and predominant language. English is spoken in some professional and hospitality settings but is considerably less common in everyday life. Syrian society is known for its hospitality; however, daily life remains affected by economic pressures, fragile infrastructure and an unpredictable security environment.

Climate and sights

Syria has several climate zones. The coastal region has a Mediterranean climate, while Damascus and much of the interior experience hot, dry summers and cold, sometimes wet winters. Syria is located in a seismically active region and earthquakes may occur.

The country has an exceptionally rich cultural heritage, including six UNESCO World Heritage Sites. However, access to cultural and historical sites depends entirely on the current security situation. Private travel outside of Damascus is currently not possible and even inside of Damascus dependent on movement approval.

Security and working arrangements

The security situation in Syria remains volatile and can change at short notice. The German Federal Foreign Office currently maintains a travel warning for the entire country, and security incidents have also occurred in central Damascus. Consular assistance for German nationals inside Syria is only available to a very limited extent.

All assignments, duty travel and private movements must follow the applicable GIZ security procedures. Staff are required to participate in security briefings, comply with movement and communication rules and follow instructions issued by GIZ Security Risk Management and the Country Office. Working and stationing arrangements may be adjusted if the security situation changes.

Medical care

The Syrian health system has been severely weakened by years of conflict and underinvestment. Some medical consultations and private healthcare services are available in Damascus, but reliable emergency care, advanced diagnostics, specialist treatment, medicines and medical equipment cannot always be guaranteed. The standard and availability of care are not comparable to those in Amman.

Treatment inside Syria function on a cash basis. Treatment outside Syria or medical evacuation may be required in the event of a serious illness or injury. Employees should clarify GIZ medical guidance and

bring an adequate supply of any regularly required medication. Tap water should not be used as drinking water.

Accommodation and quality of life

The arrangements for the permanent stationing of international staff, including the approved accommodation concept, are still under review. Applicants will be informed about the applicable stationing model before an assignment is confirmed. It should be expected that staff cannot choose their accommodation by themselves but are obliged to stay within GIZ selected accommodation.

Shopping and services

Damascus has traditional markets, supermarkets, restaurants, cafés and a wide range of small shops. Basic food and household goods are generally available, although availability and quality may vary. Imported products, particular brands, medicines and spare parts may be difficult to obtain or considerably more expensive. Interruptions to electricity, water, fuel and telecommunications can affect everyday services. International online services i.e. for online payments, banking or orders are often times not available due to the continued internet blockade. Syria remains predominantly a cash-based economy. International credit cards cannot generally be used in shops, hotels or at ATMs. The local currency is the Syrian pound. Some higher-end hotels and restaurants may accept US dollars or euros, but currency should only be exchanged through authorised banks or exchange offices. Employees must also follow GIZ guidance on carrying and handling cash.

Accompanying partners and children

Syria is currently classified as a category 3a duty station. Assignments to Syria are therefore unaccompanied. Partners and children are not permitted to relocate to or reside in Syria as accompanying family members.

Employees with families should carefully consider the personal implications of an unaccompanied assignment, including periods of separation and the organisation of family life outside Syria, before accepting the position. The applicable stationing and travel arrangements will be explained as part of the assignment process.

Find out more

https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/reiseundsicherheit/syriensicherheit-204278?utm_source=chatgpt.com

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Published by:

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Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Eschborn 2026

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