

A Timeline of Syrian History

| ← 1,000,000 BC | 3000 BC | 330 BC | AD 1 | AD 640 | AD 1600 ▶ |
|---|---|---|--|--------|-----------|
| <h2>PREHISTORIC TIMES</h2> <p><i>Earliest human presence to the rise of cities</i></p> | <h2>ANCIENT TIMES</h2> <p><i>Earliest cities, city-states and empires</i></p> | <h2>CLASSICAL TIMES</h2> <p><i>Greek, Roman and Byzantine Rule</i></p> | <h2>ARAB-MEDIEVAL TIMES</h2> <p><i>The Rise of Islam to Modern Times</i></p> | | |
| <div data-bbox="96 311 173 442"></div> <p>1,000,000 years ago Early humans (<i>Homo erectus</i>) immigrate from Africa to the Middle East and beyond.</p> <div data-bbox="280 476 407 610"></div> <p>100,000 years ago Neanderthals dominate the scene. More sophisticated stone tools are crafted.</p> <div data-bbox="81 632 183 756"></div> <p>8000-5000 BC Neolithic Revolution Domestication of plants and animals. Villages emerge.</p> <div data-bbox="300 784 377 912"></div> <p>5000-3000 BC The Earliest Cities Large settlements established. Trade routes develop between population centers.</p> | <div data-bbox="759 311 879 425"></div> <p>3000-2000 BC EARLY BRONZE AGE Mari, Ebla and other ancient cities flourish. Beginning of writing.</p> <div data-bbox="565 420 682 599"></div> <p>2000-1500 BC MIDDLE BRONZE AGE (Old Syrian Period) Amorite dynasties rule in the Fertile Crescent. Hammurabi rules in Babylon and Zimri-lim in Mari.</p> <div data-bbox="942 470 1090 599"></div> <p>1500-1200 BC LATE BRONZE AGE (Middle Syrian Period) Ugarit is an important Canaanite port city. Hittites and Egyptians clash at the Battle of Kadesh.</p> <div data-bbox="764 778 879 884"></div> <p>1200-330 BC IRON AGE (New Syrian Period) A dark age with few surviving written records, followed by the rise of the Assyrian, Babylonian and Persian Empires.</p> | <div data-bbox="1248 324 1472 481"></div> <p>330-64 BC Hellenistic or Seleucid Period Alexander the Great conquers the East in 334-323 BC, paving the way for three centuries of Greek control.</p> <div data-bbox="1605 347 1758 526"></div> <p>64 BC-AD 324 Roman Period The Roman Empire rules the East, including Syria, for four centuries. Syria becomes an important trade region on the empire's eastern frontier.</p> <div data-bbox="1286 644 1439 778"></div> <p>AD 270 Queen Zenobia of Palmyra defies the Roman Empire and attempts to conquer the East before her eventual defeat by Roman forces in AD 272.</p> <div data-bbox="1600 739 1758 896"></div> <p>AD 324-640 Byzantine Period The eastern part of the former Roman Empire is ruled from Byzantium (Constantinople). Christianity becomes the official religion.</p> | <div data-bbox="1961 308 2140 459"></div> <p>AD 661-750 Umayyad Caliphate Damascus becomes the capital of an Islamic empire that extends from Spain to India.</p> <div data-bbox="2242 369 2466 515"></div> <p>AD 750-1100 Abbasid Caliphate Abbasid caliphs from Baghdad displace the Umayyads. The Islamic world is at the forefront in the arts & sciences.</p> <div data-bbox="1905 711 2229 784"></div> <p>AD 1100-1260 Turbulent Centuries Seljuk Turks, European Crusaders and finally Mongols from Asia compete for control of Syria.</p> <div data-bbox="2293 716 2433 912"></div> <p>AD 1260-1516 Mamluke Rule Mamlukes from Egypt defeat the Mongols, expel the Crusaders and rule Syria until AD 1516.</p> | | |