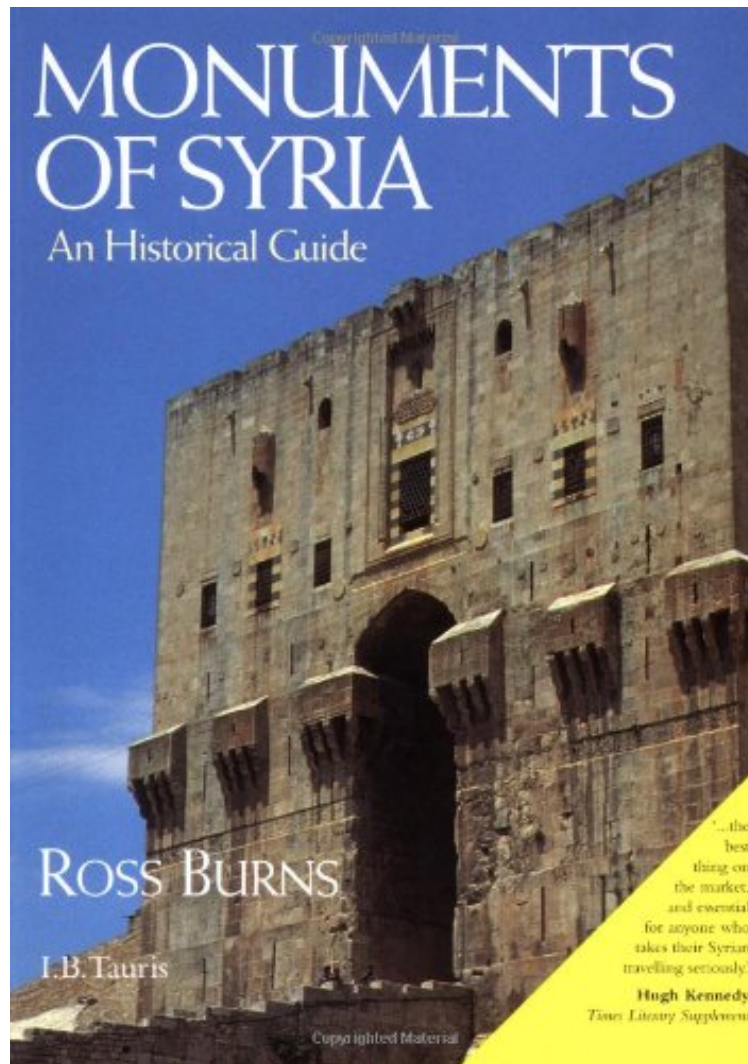


[FREE] The Monuments of Syria

The Monuments of Syria

Ross Burns

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Ross Burns : The Monuments of Syria before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Monuments of Syria:

12 of 14 people found the following review helpful. There are guides, and then there are guidesBy S. KellyI bought this book while preparing for a trip to Syria, as the Lonely Planet had mentioned it in high esteem. While it is a great source of info, and does have some suggested itineraries, it is more of an index than a guide.Not that this is any kind of fault, but I would have liked to know this while planning my book purchases. Until the Blue Guides add Syria to their line, this is a usable substitute. That is to say plan on using another guide (e.g. Lonely Planet, Rough Guide, Footprints, etc) for info on getting around and where to eat and sleep. The latter applies to the Blue Guides series as well, and is not meant as a criticism.One thing offsetting this book's usefulness, was it's poor print quality. We found

the text blurry enough to cause headaches even for those who don't wear glasses, and the photos in the color section are only a bit better. On the chance I'd simply gotten a bad copy, I'd later checked a copy in a local bookstore, and it was similar. Not the kind of thing for reading while bouncing around on a bus on your way to a site, but has some through background on Syria's rich archaeological treasures. The only other real fault this book has is the complete lack of Arabic script. Having your destination in the local script at which to point is always a plus when trying to get around anywhere, even if you can't read a syllable yourself. If you don't think that this is important, ask yourself "How many times have I had language difficulties with cab Drivers (et al) in my own country?" If you are traveling light, and looking for only one book to take as both travel guide and through history background, I would recommend Footprints' Syria Guide. If you like your history in briefer doses, look to the Lonely Planet or Rough Guides. 17 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Al Rosafa only By A Customer For many years I led many tours in many countries, amongst them, Syria. Years later, at a party here in Swaziland, I was talking to this guy who mentioned that he had been in Syria, too; in fact, he was writing a guide book on the subject. One of the many magic, even if almost unknown, places in Syria is the early Christian pilgrimage city of Al Rosafa. Ross was kind enough to fax me an excerpt from his book, covering that walled desert city. Quite simply, I haven't read anything as good before or since, and don't expect to. If the rest turns out to be as good - serious or armchair travellers alike - get this book: it will be an Alladin's cave! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A stupendous book! By Mark Stokle Having lived and worked in Damascus for two years, I must say that this book is in a league of its own. In Syria it is a respected work. The number of monuments covered by the author, along with the historical expertise he displays, are very impressive. Entries for each site are thoroughly referenced, listing possible alternative names in Arabic, the historical period to which the ruins belong, and directions about how to get to them (these generally assume you have a vehicle and do not give much info about shared taxis). As this is an historical guide, there is no information regarding hotels and accommodation. It is therefore vital that you complement it with another guidebook (Footprints probably remains the best). In any case, don't be afraid of getting stuck somewhere as the Syrians are wonderful people who are always ready to help you out. I wouldn't hesitate to say that reading this book constituted an education in itself. It certainly allowed me to discover a fascinating country whose history is often overlooked and poorly understood. No wonder there aren't that many other historical guides to Syria on the market!

Syria is home to some of the world's richest historical and archaeological remains--dating from the Bronze Age through Byzantine times to the Ottoman Period. Until now, however, they have been little known and rarely visited. Only a handful of sites are familiar from travel literature: the Roman desert city of Palmyra, the Crusader castle of Krak des Chevaliers, and the great Umayyad Mosque of Damascus. This is the definitive historical guide to Syria.

The best thing on the market and essential for anyone who takes their Syrian travelling seriously. Hugh Kennedy, Times Literary Supplement