

SYRIA MARKET ENTRY

Risk Checklist

Pre-Entry Requirements

DOCUMENTATION & APPROVALS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Valid passport (6+ months validity) | ☐ Travel insurance with Syria coverage verified |
| ☐ Visa arrangements confirmed – confirm visa requirements for nationalities travelling) | ☐ Authority mapping for destination regions completed |
| ☐ Emergency contact details registered with company | ☐ Business invitation from Chamber of Commerce secured |

FINANCIAL PREPARATION

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| ☐ Sufficient USD cash secured (most reliable and widely accepted foreign currency) | ☐ Cash-only assumption for everyday purchases outside hotels (Syrian Pounds required) |
| ☐ Local USD to Syrian Pound exchange shops identified (competitive rates available) | ☐ Emergency funds and contingency cash allocated in case of flight cancellations |

Note: No international banking services available - foreign credit/debit cards NOT accepted. ATMs visible but only work for locals - foreign cards will not function. Major hotels accept USD and local currency depending on service

SECURITY BRIEFING

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Current control map reviewed (Damascus / Syrian Democratic Forces / Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham territories) | ☐ Checkpoint protocols understood |
| ☐ Recent incident reports analyzed | ☐ Photography policy understood |
| | ☐ Communications plan established |

On-Ground Operations

MOVEMENT & TRANSPORTATION

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|--|--|
| ☐ Soft-skin SUVs with vetted local drivers arranged (drivers must know city, checkpoints, and alternative routes) | ☐ Route authority confirmed for each segment |
| ☐ All movements pre-planned and monitored in real time | ☐ Regular check-in schedule established |
| ☐ Night-time travel avoided | ☐ Alternative routes identified |
| | ☐ Rush hour traffic restrictions noted (7:30am-9am & 1pm-4pm when traffic is heavy) |

Note: Road conditions are generally good but local drivers can be unpredictable. Checkpoints and traffic restrictions apply during rush hours.

CHECKPOINT MANAGEMENT

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|--|---|
| ☐ Correct vehicle registration verified | ☐ Satellite phone rules understood |
| ☐ Documents readily accessible | ☐ Photography restrictions briefed |
| ☐ No sensitive equipment visible | |

ACCOMMODATION

- ☐ Secure hotel with controlled access and screening measures confirmed
- ☐ Hotel location assessed for security and accessibility
- ☐ Reliable utilities verified

Recommended hotels: Four Seasons Damascus (note: embassies closed, so UN/staff occupy multiple floors - book 3+ weeks in advance)
Golden Mezzeh Hotel & Sheraton Damascus (controlled access, staff experienced with business travelers and security practices)

Secondary hotel options identified for contingency planning:
Semiramis Hotel, Dama Rose Hotel (previously “Le Méridien”), Sham Hotel / Cham Hotel, Umayyad Hotel, Fardos (Firdos) Hotel

COMMUNICATIONS

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Data-roaming plan activated or local SIM card acquired (passport required) | ☐ Internal company or security provider WhatsApp groups joined (verify all information independently) |
| ☐ VPN app downloaded | ☐ Emergency contact protocol rehearsed |

Medical & Emergency

MEDICAL FACILITIES (DAMASCUS)

☐ Coordinates saved of key hospitals (listed below)

Razi Hospital, Chami Hospital, Al Mouwasat Hospital, Ibn Al-Nafees Hospital, Damascus Hospital, Assad University Hospital, Al-Shami Hospital

Note: Private hospitals and clinics accept international insurance but are below average quality. Government hospitals under-resourced - private hospitals preferred. Consider traveling to Lebanon or Jordan unless treatment is critical

EMERGENCY SERVICES

☐ Police/Fire service numbers saved

☐ Evacuation routes identified

☐ Closest Embassy/consulate contacts according to nationality confirmed (none currently open in Syria, check Lebanon or Jordan)

☐ Safe haven locations mapped

Geographic Risk Assessment

DAMASCUS/RIF DIMASHQ

☐ Government checkpoint locations mapped

☐ Airport congestion timing researched

☐ Indirect fire risk (rocket attacks) acknowledged

☐ Contingency plan for unpredictable conditions at Damascus airport prepared

☐ Night patrol patterns understood

NORTHEAST (RAQQA, HASAKAH, DEIR EZ-ZOR)

☐ Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) control areas confirmed

☐ Checkpoint density understood

☐ IED threat assessment reviewed

NORTHWEST (IDLIB, ALEPPO, AFRIN)

☐ Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) influence areas mapped

☐ Protest activity monitored

☐ Fluid control zones identified

Geographic risk assessment continued on next page

SOUTH & COASTAL (DARAA, SWEIDA, TARTOUS, LATAKIA)

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|---|--|
| ☐ Mixed authority zones understood | ☐ State presence limitations acknowledged |
| ☐ Protest patterns reviewed | |

Threat Monitoring Considerations

ACTIVE THREATS

- ISIS cell activity (nationwide, persistent)
- SDF-Government clashes in mixed zones
- Organized crime on major highways
- Kidnapping risk in urban areas
- Narcotics/theft networks active

TRIGGER EVENTS TO MONITOR

- Coalition framework implementation status
- Airspace closures
- Increased rhetoric from opposition forces / terrorist groups
- Sustained increase in Damascus/Aleppo attacks
- Sanctions policy changes
- Border closures
- Curfews implemented

Contingency Planning

IF SECURITY DETERIORATES

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|--|--|
| ☐ Safe room identified at accommodation | ☐ Alternative exit routes mapped |
| ☐ Shelter-in-place supplies secured | ☐ Embassy registration completed |
| ☐ Evacuation assembly point confirmed | ☐ Communication to key stakeholders established |

Contingency planning continued on next page

IF BANKING/CASH ISSUES ARISE

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|--|---|
| ☐ Emergency cash reserves allocated | ☐ Project suspension triggers defined |
| ☐ Informal exchange contacts vetted | ☐ Sufficient cash on hand to cover extended stay due to flight cancellations |
| ☐ Alternative payment channels identified | |

IF MEDICAL EMERGENCY OCCURS

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| ☐ Private hospital costs budgeted (expensive) | ☐ Blood type and allergies documented |
| ☐ Medical evacuation insurance confirmed | ☐ Emergency medical contact on speed dial |
| ☐ Trauma care facility GPS coordinates accessible | ☐ International insurance coverage confirmed with private hospitals |

Webinar Contacts

EXPERT PANEL



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Remember: Syria operates as a multi-authority environment. Success requires zone-specific intelligence, robust local partnerships, and conservative security assumptions.

This checklist has been updated based on recent operational experience in Syria (November 2025) by Sicuro Group personnel. The security situation in Syria is fluid, travel at your own risk.

For detailed risk assessments and operational support: www.sicurogroup.com