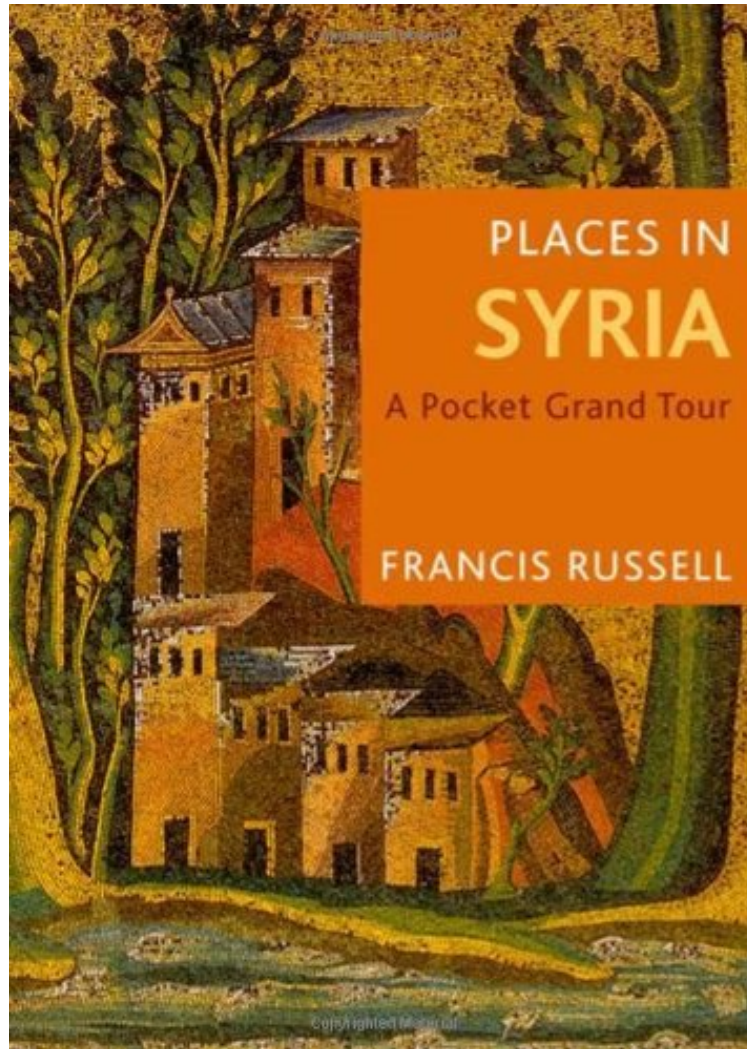


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Places in Syria: A Pocket Grand Tour

Francis Russell

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting historical insights with nice photos By P. Szostek I enjoyed the details about the castles, which is the main reason I bought the book (an interest in castles). There is a lot of information, and it would be more enjoyable if all the photos were in color and maps were included.

In this compact guide, the erudite and highly readable Francis Russell describes nearly 60 places in Syria. Following an itinerary that allows the independent sightseer to see as many major monuments in their proper contexts as is

practical in a limited time, he visits cities, towns, and desert villages; the great monastery of St. Simeon, at the heart of the series of "dead cities" of Byzantine times; Hama and its famous nourias, the great wooden wheels used to raise water from the river; and many other wonders. Russell's easy and elegant ability to share with the reader his knowledge of Syria's history, geography, and culture makes the book a well-informed read with a personal touch.

About the Author Francis Russell was born in 1949 and educated at Westminster and Christ Church, Oxford. Since 1972, he has worked at Christie's. He has been associated, as a selector or cataloguer, with a number of exhibitions, including Treasure Houses of Britain (Washington, The National Gallery of Art, 1985-1986). He contributes for specialised review to 'Apollo' and 'The Burlington Magazine', and has written Portraits of Sir Walter Scott (1987), John, 3rd Earl of Bute, Patron and Collector (2004) and 52 Italian Places: A Pocket Grand Tour (2007).