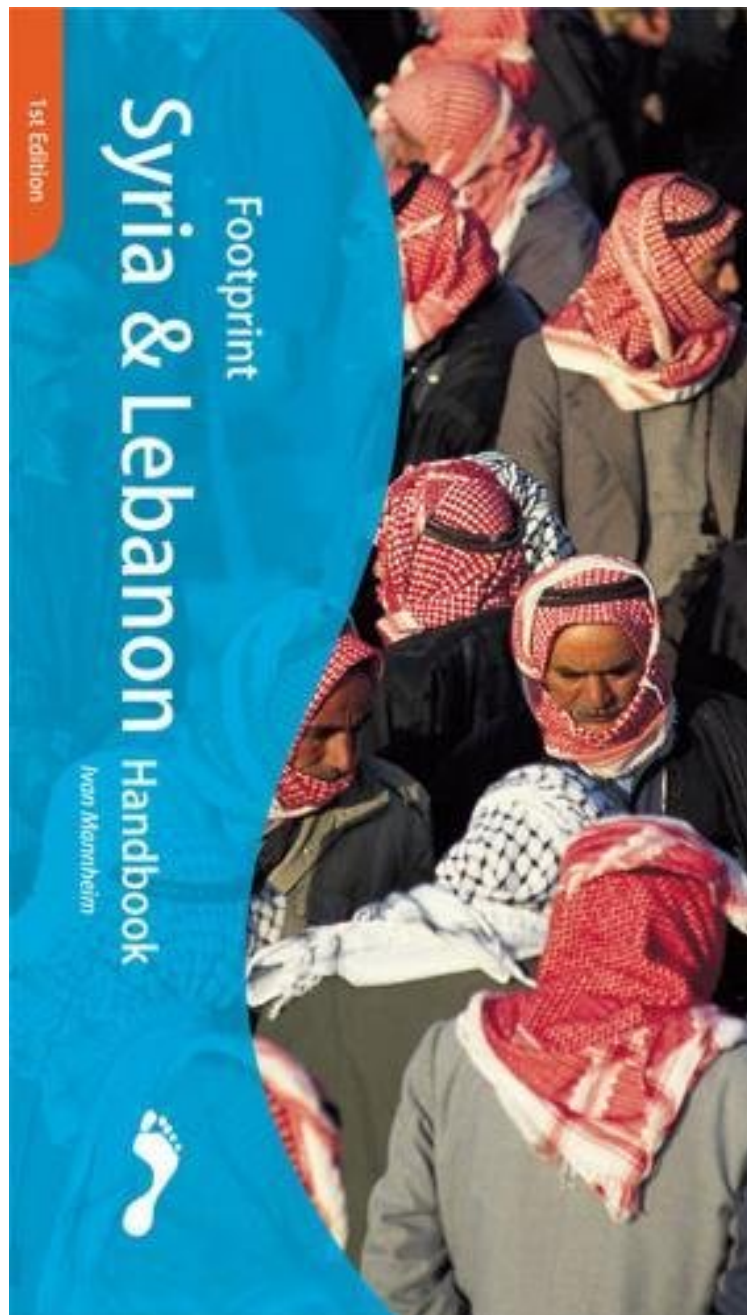


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Ivan Mannheim

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Both Syria and Lebanon still labour under their media stereotypes as places of religious fanaticism, terrorism and intractable conflict. True, the region has had more than its fair share of wars, atrocities and suffering, and the Arab-Israeli conflict continues to cast its tragic shadow. Indeed, this is a conflict which goes right back to the dawn of history, resonating through the Old Testament stories of the origins of the Israelites, and the Exodus, when Moses led his people from exile in Egypt back to the Promised Land. But these same twists of religion, history and geography are also what makes this such a fascinating region to visit. Forget your preconceptions and go see for yourself; the day-to-day reality on the ground is a world away from the media stereotypes. Rather, you will find yourself stepping into a wonderful world of breathtakingly beautiful and well preserved historic monuments, stunning scenery, delicious food and diverse peoples.

About the Author Ivan Mannheim Ivan has a geography degree from the London School of Oriental and African Studies. This involved long periods of travel in Asia and the Middle East.