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### **Glory of Tourism Sector of war-torn Nation Syria: Historical Perspective with Future Prospects**

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#### **Introduction**

The objective of the paper is to evaluate the tourism sector of Syria and its future prospects. The ongoing conflict has greatly reduced tourism in Syria since 2011 because of the instability and safety issues. Before the war, international tourists numbered over 8.5 million, but in recent years, the numbers have dropped significantly. There is hope that tourism could recover as efforts continue to rebuild the industry in the country after the war, but the situation remains complicated. Syria was famous for its ancient sites and rich culture, which attracted visitors from all around the world. However, with the fall of the Assad government and changes in the political situation in 2025, there are early signs of a recovery. More people from within the country are traveling, and some international companies are showing interest, though safety is still a major concern. As Syria recovers from the conflict, the political situation continues to affect tourism. Traveling to Syria still needs careful planning. Tour operators and local guides are important for helping visitors navigate the country and learn about its history, especially when visiting ancient ruins. Visitors should be respectful, especially when visiting sites that have been damaged, and avoid actions that could be seen as disrespectful to the experiences of the Syrian people.

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### **Tourism in a time of conflict**

Syria has always been a prized part of the eastern Mediterranean, known for its beautiful landscapes, rich culture, and warm hospitality. The land that makes up modern Syria has welcomed many ancient kingdoms and empires throughout history. During the Islamic Golden Age, which lasted from the 8th to 13th centuries, Syria was a hub for learning, science, and the arts. The region played a major role in trade, with cities like Damascus serving as key economic centers, especially during the Umayyad era. Syria is home to ancient sites like Palmyra, which was a key point on the Silk Road, and it is one of the oldest continuously inhabited regions in the world. The objectives of the study are to evaluate the current tourism sector of Syria and its future prospects.

Tourism was growing a lot before the Civil War started in March 2011. The tourism industry brought in US\$6.5 billion in revenue, which made up 12% of the country's total economic output and 11% of its workforce. However, tourism was severely damaged by the civil war that began in 2011, leading to a sharp drop in visitors and serious harm to historic places like Palmyra. Syria has many UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Aleppo and other ancient cities, which are now central to efforts to restore them. Experts are working to repair these sites and plan for their future opening to tourists. Tourism in areas affected by war, known as "dark tourism," must be handled with care and respect for the suffering of the Syrian people. It should not be used for political purposes or in a way that shows disrespect for the people's experiences (Malaj and Malaj, 2023). Tourism is important for Syria's future because it can improve the country's image around the world, help people from different cultures understand each other, create jobs, and help the economy recover. Syria has a lot of culture, history, and natural beauty, which makes it a special place with a rich past. This can be used to share a positive story about Syria and show its heritage, helping to change how people see the coun-

try beyond the war-related stories. Tourism can help the country recover from war by bringing people together, promoting culture, and building a sense of unity. It helps shape how the world sees Syria by showing its rich heritage and diversity, which can improve its global image. Encouraging people to travel within the country helps deal with the effects of war and brings people closer, helping them feel more connected to their nation. Syria needs a good plan for tourism that uses these strengths to support long-term growth and bring back stability. Tourism can give jobs both directly and indirectly, helping different parts of the economy, especially in areas that have been affected by conflict. It also helps the country's economy by bringing in money for the government and private businesses, which can be used to rebuild and develop the country. Tourism can also show off Syria's cultural treasures, ancient sites, and beautiful landscapes, helping to change negative views. A strong tourism industry can show that life is returning to normal and bring hope for the future (Lachhab and Fraj, 2015).

#### **An overview of the diverse tourism potential of Syria**

Syria is a country with a long and rich cultural history. Syria has many places of interest from the past, like old cities and remains from the Canaanite, Roman, Byzantine, and Umayyad times. Because of its history as a place where many civilizations met, it gives people a special experience of history and spirituality. The land has different kinds of natural features, such as mountains, deserts, flat lands, and coasts, which offer a variety of experiences for tourists. Syria has six UNESCO World Heritage Sites. They are the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria, the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din, the Ancient City of Aleppo, the Ancient City of Bosra, the Site of Palmyra, and the Ancient City of Damascus.

The Ancient Villages of Northern Syria consist of about 40 villages showing rural life from the late Antiquity period and the Byzantine era. These villages were abandoned during the 8th to

10th centuries, but they still have a lot of their original buildings and monuments. The Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din are two medieval fortresses. These sites represent the past conflicts and cultural exchanges in the region, and they are important parts of the area's history. However, they have suffered because of the conflict and lack of money for restoration.

The Ancient City of Aleppo is the main old part of Aleppo. Aleppo is one of the oldest cities that has been lived in continuously for a very long time; it may have been home to people since around 6,000 years ago. Some of the major places to visit in Aleppo are the Great Mosque (also known as the Umayyad Mosque), Al-Hamidiyah Souq, and Aleppo Citadel. Other important places include the Saint Simon Citadel, the Aleppo National Museum, and Al Azem Palace. The city is famous for its ancient culture, traditional crafts, and strong history of learning, making it a great place for those interested in history and culture. Before the Civil War started, many areas of the ancient city were still mostly kept in their original state as they were built between the 11th and 16th centuries.

The Ancient City of Bosra is an archaeological place in the city of Bosra. It shows the history of the Roman, Byzantine, and Muslim times. At its busiest time, Bosra was the capital of the Roman region of Arabia and was a key point on an old trade path heading to Mecca. Inside its strong walls, travellers can see a big Roman theater from the 2nd century, parts of early Christian buildings, and several mosques. Palmyra, an oasis located in the Syrian desert to the northeast of Damascus, is home to the ruins of a once-thriving city that functioned as a significant cultural hub in the ancient world. From the 1st to the 2nd century, the art and architecture of Palmyra merged Graeco-Roman styles with local traditions and Persian influences (Jurdana, 2024).

The Ancient City of Damascus is the historic heart of Syria. It is one of the oldest cities that has been inhabited for thousands of years. The city was founded more than 5,000 years ago and has important historical buildings from different times. One of the most famous is the Great Mosque of the Umayyads, which was built in the 8th century. During the Middle Ages, Damascus was a major place where skilled craftspeople made beautiful work. Damascus is a city with a rich and extensive history, featuring approximately 125 monuments from various periods of its past. In Damascus, popular tourist attractions include the historic Old City, which has a traditional Backdash ice cream shop, Saladin's Mausoleum, Azem Palace, St. Ananias Chapel, the National Museum, Straight Street, and the Umayyad Mosque.

Syria's Mediterranean coast, from Latakia to Tartus, has beautiful beaches, green mountain areas, and is becoming a popular spot for Syrians looking for a peaceful break after years of war. This area was once hard to reach because of checkpoints during the conflict, but now it's easier for many Syrians to visit. The region has its own special coastal culture and is starting to develop as a tourist destination with hotels, restaurants, and outdoor activities. The Mediterranean culture here is different from other parts of Syria. The government has been encouraging tourism in this area, and more Syrians are traveling there to relax and explore places they couldn't visit before. The coastal region is seen as one of the most stable parts of Syria. People can enjoy activities like fishing and kayaking, as well as simply enjoying the seaside. Latakia is the main port city of Syria and serves as the capital of the Latakia Governorate, situated along the Mediterranean coast. Historically, the city was also known as Laodicea in Syria or Laodicea ad Mare (Jafari et. al. 2023). Latakia has beautiful Mediterranean beaches, and several seaside resorts. The city has a nice coastal feel and is well-known for its fresh seafood, which locals love. It is also a great place to start exploring nearby mountain villages and important his-

torical sites. Latakia offers a peaceful coastal experience and a lively social life. Visitors can enjoy the local seafood, which is a special dish from the region, and also try local farm products like olives and cotton. Tartus is a port city on the Mediterranean coast of Syria. Some of the main places to visit in and around Tartus are the Cathedral of Our Lady of Tortosa, the Old City of Tartus, the ancient Temple of Amrit, the island of Arwad, the historic Templar Fortress of Tartus, and the Crusader fortress of Krak des Chevalier.

Hama is a city located along the banks of the Orontes River in west-central Syria. It is famous for its seventeen large water wheels, called norias, which have been used for irrigation in gardens since around 1100 BC. Major attractions in Hama include the Norias of Hama, Hama Museum, al-Nuri Mosque, Mamluk al-Izzi Mosque, al-Hasanain Mosque, and the Great Mosque of Hama. Homs is a city in western Syria and is the capital of the Homs Governorate. It plays an important role in connecting the inland cities with the Mediterranean coast. The main tourist attractions in Homs include the Um al-Zennar Church, the Khalid ibn Al-Walid Mosque, the medieval Krak des Chevaliers castle, and St. Moses Monastery. Throughout history, Homs has been a key market and trade center in northern Syria, mainly because of its role as a major agricultural and production hub.

Raqqa is a city in Syria located on the northern side of the Euphrates River. The city was once a major capital of the Abbasid Caliphate and is known for its rich history and the old walls that are still there today. The city went through a lot of damage during the conflict with ISIS. Tourist attractions in and around Al-Qamishli include cultural and religious sites like the Saint Hirmiz Chaldean Church, historical places such as the ancient Dara Ruins, and Aadi Park (also known as Freedom Park), which has small monuments and a market where handmade goods are sold. Deir ez-Zor city is located on the banks of the

Euphrates River. The city and its surrounding countryside are a fertile and productive area for farming, with animals, grains, and cotton being major crops. Since oil was found in the Syrian desert, the city has become a key place for extracting crude oil in the country (Bramwell, 2009).

Syria's geographic diversity gives it important touristic advantages. It has many places for lake and river tourism, with spots like Muzayrib Lake, which has cafes by the water and boat rides, and 16 Tishreen Lake, known for its beautiful views, camping, and kayaking. The biggest lake, Lake Assad, is great for nature trips, while the Euphrates River is Syria's main water source and the only river that can be travelled by boat. 16 Tishreen Lake, near Latakia, is an artificial lake with calm waters, green forests, and chances for kayaking, camping, and nature walks. Lake Qattinah, near Homs, is a big reservoir that is popular for bird watching, taking photos, and fishing. Lake Assad offers large waters and a great setting for people who love nature and adventure. The Orontes River flows through mountain areas and the Ghāb Depression, offering beautiful views and chances for nature walks. Syria also has hill station tourism with Mount Qassioun and the coastal areas. Mount Qassioun, near Damascus, is a peaceful place with lovely scenery and is great for exploring nature and finding calm. The coastal region has stunning mountains and clean beaches, making it a perfect area for adventure and exploration. Krak des Chevaliers is a historic castle located on a hill in the Homs Valley, surrounded by green landscapes.

Syria also has beautiful natural areas with lots of diverse plants and animals, making it a great place for eco-tourism. People can go hiking, watch birds, and camp in the country's natural parks and forest paths. The country's countryside also has many old historical places, like ancient villages from the Roman and Byzantine times, with buildings that are still in good condition. Tourists can experience real rural life, meet friendly locals, and

try traditional foods. They can also enjoy eco-friendly activities such as tasting local dishes, living in traditional villages, and going on hikes.

### **The Economics of tourism before and after the conflict**

Table 1 represents international inbound tourist's arrivals in Syria. It has shows that tourist arrivals peaked in 2010 and declined since 2010. Tourist arrivals was 6.33 million in 2004, 11.0 million in 2010, 1.29 million in 2017, and 2.42 million in 2019.

**Table 1: International inbound tourists (overnight visitors)  
Arrivals in Syria**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Tourist</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Tourist</b>
2004	6.33	2010	11.0 (42.1%)
2005	5.86 (-7.5%)	2011	6.48 (-41.0%)
2006	5.68 (-3.0%)	2016	1.04 (-83.9%)
2007	5.43 (-4.4%)	2017	1.29 (23.3%)
2008	6.95 (27.9%)	2018	1.80 (39.6%)
2009	7.72 (11.1%)	2019	2.42 (34.5%)

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/syria/international-tourism-number-of-arrivals-wb-data.html>, Note: Figure in million.

Tourism in the boom years centered on famous places like Palmyra, Krak des Chevaliers, Bosra, and the Old City of Damascus, along with religious pilgrimage spots and popular seaside resorts. Cities such as Latakia and Tartus became go-to destinations during the summer, while historic hotels like Aleppo's Baron Hotel and Damascus's Four Seasons set new standards for style and service in the region.

Despite having of the oldest cities in Western Asia, such as Damascus and Aleppo, Syria's tourism industry has greatly declined due to the civil war which started in 2011 and the refugee crisis it caused. The situation was worsened by the outbreak of the corona pandemic. The war severely damaged

Syria’s tourism sector by reducing international visitors and revenue, destroying important cultural sites like Palmyra, and negatively affecting the infrastructure and jobs in the industry. Before the war, tourism was a major part of Syria’s economy, but the 2011 conflict caused a sudden and steep drop in tourism income and a significant loss of jobs. By 2012, hotel occupancy had dropped from 90% to just 15%, with many hotels now housing refugees instead of foreign tourists. Five of Syria’s six UNESCO World Heritage Sites were affected by the war, with damage and destruction impacting key archaeological areas like Palmyra. The conflict also led to a major lack of necessary tourism facilities, including enough hotel rooms, rental cars, restaurants, and transportation services, which has made recovery efforts very difficult.

**Table 2: Revenue of Tourism Sector of Syria**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
2009	3760	2015	109 (263.3%)
2010	6190 (64.8%)	2016	171 (56.9%)
2011	1750 (-71.7%)	2017	244 (42.7%)
2012	116 (-93.4%)	2018	382 (56.6%)
2013	55 (-52.6%)	2019	323 (-15.4%)
2014	30 (-45.5%)	2020	78 (-75.9%)

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/syria/tourism-revenues>, Note: Figure in million USD.

Table 2 charts levels of revenue generated by the tourism industry of Syria. Tourism income started to fall quickly in March 2011, with a 76% drop in foreign visitors and a total 94% decrease by 2013. In 2020, tourism income in Syria went down to 78 million USD, which is much less than the 323 million USD it made in 2019. The highest amount ever was 6,190 million USD in 2010, and the lowest was 30 million USD in 2014. The war in Syria caused a big drop in tourism income because there was ongoing fighting, damage to buildings and roads, more people staying in hotels instead of tourists, and the

country's economy getting worse along with international sanctions. The war severely damaged key areas of the tourism industry, such as hotels, transport networks, and restaurants, making it extremely difficult to recover the sector. Millions of Syrians, including those employed in tourism, were forced to leave their homes, resulting in a loss of skilled workers and a significant brain drain. International economic sanctions and the sharp decline in the value of the Syrian pound have greatly hurt both the economy and tourism. The war has caused a lot of damage to nature, which affects the environment that is vital for tourism. Recent events, including attacks and threats against tourist attractions, have made people hesitant to visit. The civil war in Syria has caused massive damage to the country's financial system and economy, leading to losses of hundreds of billions of dollars in GDP, a sharp decrease in investments, widespread destruction of buildings and infrastructure, a collapsed economy, and a dramatic increase in poverty and dependence on aid (Andolina et al., 2021).

Even though there are some signs that tourism was starting to come back, with more local and some foreign tourists returning after the fall of the Assad government, there are still problems to overcome. These include rebuilding the country's buildings and roads, handling ongoing instability in the region, and using people who left the country to help increase tourism in the future.. Jobs in the tourism industry dropped by almost two-thirds during the early years of the war. The war also greatly reduced Syria's exports, including tourism revenue, from \$18.4 billion in 2010 to just \$1.8 billion in 2021.

Foreign money coming from tourism is very important for the economy that has been badly affected by war. It helps reduce the problems caused by the falling value of money and lack of energy supplies. The tourism industry is now slowly bringing some economic activity, making jobs and helping areas that were hurt by the fighting recover. The Syrian Ministry of Tour-

ism is trying to make their services better and train more people for the job market to bring visitors and better results from tourism. Even though there has been some improvement, there are still safety issues. Right now, they are trying to attract tourists from Arab countries and Syrians who left the country, as well as those interested in visiting historical places. There are plans to develop seaside tourism, focusing on high-end and environmentally friendly options, using Syria's long coastline.

Remittances from the Syrian diaspora can help grow tourism by raising people's income, spend on services, and giving the country foreign money to invest. For remittances to help tourism, they need to be used in ways that build up the tourism industry, which needs a stable economy and political situation that Syria doesn't have right now. These remittances give families more money to spend on things like travel and other services. They also bring in foreign currency, which is very important for Syria's economy and can help buy needed goods and invest in areas like tourism. By helping people meet basic needs and improve education and health, remittances can reduce poverty and build a bigger middle class that has more money to spend on things like going on vacation. However, in Syria, the bad economy with a weak currency and no enough energy makes people use remittances just for basic needs. For remittances to really help tourism, there needs to be a stable economy and political situation that encourages investment in the tourism sector.

**Table 3: Remittances in Syria (2009-2020)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Remittance</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Remittance</b>
2009	1200.00	2015	1600.00 (38.4%)
2010	1420.00 (18.6%)	2016	1700.00 (5.9%)
2011	1570.00 (10.7%)	2017	2100.00 (24.0%)
2012	1520.00 (- 3.2%)	2018	2405.00 (14.3%)
2013	1050.00 (- 31.2%)	2019	1650.00 (- 31.4%)
2014	1160.0 (10.5%)	2020	2160.00 (30.3%)

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/syria/remittances>, Source: Figure in million USD.

Table 3 charts remittances to Syria. Remittances in Syria went up to 2,160 million USD in 2020, compared to 1,650 million USD in 2019. On average, remittances in Syria were about 1,192.19 million USD each year from 2000 up to 2020. The highest amount ever recorded was 2,405 million USD in 2018.

The tourism industry used to be a major part of Syria's economy and employed 11% of the workforce in 2010. But the ongoing conflict has badly affected the employment rate in general and that in the tourism sector in particular. The war greatly reduced the role of tourism in job creation, showing the challenges the industry is facing. Table 4 charts the unemployment rate in Syria.

**Table 4: Unemployment Rate in Syria**

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)	Year	Unemployment Rate (%)
2013	14.4	2019	13.4 (-1.5%)
2014	14.7 (2.1%)	2020	15.2 (13.4%)
2015	14.2 (-3.4%)	2021	14.9 (2.0%)
2016	13.9 (-2.1%)	2022	13.3 (-10.7%)
2017	13.7 (-1.4%)	2023	13.2 (-0.8%)
2018	13.6 (-0.7%)	2024	13.0 (-1.5%)

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/syria/unemployment-rate>

The unemployment rate in Syria went down to 13 percent in 2024, which is slightly lower than the 13.20 percent recorded in 2023. On average, the unemployment rate in Syria has been 10.59 percent between 1991 and 2024. The highest unemployment rate ever was 15.20 percent in 2020, while the lowest was 6.80 percent in 1991.

In parallel, investment spending fell sharply, with the share of investment in GDP dropping from 20% in 2010 to under 7% by 2020, according to the World Bank. The war destroyed key physical assets like more than half of the water treatment plants and damaged or destroyed energy infrastructure, which broke the national power grid. The destruction of facilities, along with the loss of workers and disruption of supplies, greatly affected how the economy runs and how productive it is. Because of the failing economy, many people now rely on aid for basic needs like food, health, and clean water. Economic sanctions from foreign governments further pushed Syria's economy to the side, limiting trade and making the economic crisis even worse.

Now, there are efforts to rebuild the tourism industry by training workers, improving services, and encouraging people to visit Syria. These initiatives aim to help the economy recover and provide jobs in areas that are still rebuilding. Tourism is seen as a way to create new opportunities, especially for skilled workers, and to improve the quality of services. Reviving tour-

ism is considered an important step towards a stronger economy and a more stable future for Syria. The Ministry of Tourism is working to provide the job market with skilled workers to improve service quality and attract more visitors. Repairing and investing in tourist sites and cultural attractions are key for the long-term recovery of the tourism sector and for continuing to create jobs.

### **Future Prospects and Growth**

After the fall of the Assad regime, a weak but visible revival of tourism, especially domestic tourism, is being seen. The country's tourism industry is starting to see a "renaissance" after a decade of conflict. Domestic tourism is increasing, and international airlines are once again flying to Damascus. However, even though some stability is returning, many countries still warn people not to travel to Syria because of the ongoing risks from war, civil unrest, and terrorism. Syria's rich history and culture, including sites like Palmyra and Aleppo, are being restored, even though many of these places were damaged or destroyed during the conflict. Local tourists are now visiting coastal resorts for a break and exploring historic sites, which is helping to bring the tourism sector back to life. International airlines, such as Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines, have restarted flights to Damascus, showing a major step forward for the industry's recovery. Tourism is considered a key method to bring economic growth to Syria, which has suffered greatly because of years of war and the low value of the Syrian currency. The Syrian diaspora, with their language skills and cultural connections, could help build the future of tourism by organising trips and offering guided tours (Alaji et. al., 2021). The relaxation of rules about foreign visitors has increased interest in Syria's tourism potential, with companies offering tours. Syria has signed investment deals to help rebuild its tourism sector, which has been affected by years of war. These investments will come through direct agreements or memoranda of understanding. The projects focus on improving facilities, construct-

ing hotels, resorts, and entertainment areas, as well as restoring historic sites

The growth of domestic tourism along the coast is a key part of reviving Syria's tourism and economy. The coastal areas offer a calm and peaceful place for people from inland cities who have faced a lot of challenges. With the hope and energy of the Syrian people, along with foreign investment, there is potential for a tourism revival, similar to what has worked in the Gulf region. While some areas are now peaceful enough for local tourism, the safety of traveling to certain parts of Syria, like Idlib and other less developed regions, is still a major concern because of continued instability.

Syria's future in tourism is cautiously hopeful, supported by government, a shift towards domestic travel, and efforts to bring back its rich archaeological sites and natural landscapes (Akamavi et. al., 2022). Besides its ancient sites, Syria also has natural attractions like its Mediterranean coastline, mountains, and deserts, which could support eco-tourism, adventure activities, and wellness retreats. The government aims to involve the private sector in upgrading hotels and improving transportation, showing a commitment to developing a diverse tourism industry.

However, tourism still faces many challenges, including security issues, damaged infrastructure, effects of the refugee crisis, political uncertainty, the spread of false information, and ongoing regional tensions. Despite its rich history and geography, these problems have greatly slowed the recovery of the tourism industry, making a full recovery a slow and difficult process. The country also struggles with a lack of essential tourism facilities, such as hotels, rental cars, restaurants, and public transport. Many tourism offices are struggling to stay open due to poor support and declining business. While the mass displacement of people is a major humanitarian issue, the loss of

skilled workers due to the refugee crisis has further hindered tourism recovery. Overall, the road to fully restoring Syria's tourism industry, especially in attracting international visitors, is seen as long and uncertain (Agulles et. al., 2022).

### **Conclusion**

Syria has many ancient and cultural places that date back to the Byzantine times, as well as the Islamic and Ottoman periods, which makes it a very important place in history. During the Assad government, there were economic changes in 1973 and 1986 that helped the private sector get more involved in the tourism industry. Syria has a lot to offer tourists, including its beautiful Mediterranean coastline with sandy beaches and old castles, large deserts with ruins like Palmyra, and mountain areas with green forests and clean air. Syria's tourism industry is starting to come back after a long period of war. It is moving from a place of destruction to becoming a spot where more Syrians are visiting, and a small but growing number of foreign visitors are also coming.

Ancient places in Damascus, Aleppo, and Palmyra, and beautiful coastal areas and mountains are the special attraction for travellers. These places are slowly being shown again to the world. The Syrian government is doing its best to help tourism recover by organising cultural events and working with international journalists to share good news about the country and improve its image. In places like Tartus on the coast, Syrians are returning to enjoy the sights and take a break from their tough situation. The Ministry of Tourism is running campaigns like "Always Beautiful" to promote Syria's beauty and stability. They are also supporting cultural events and foreign media to show a positive image of the country. Many areas that were closed off because of the war are now open, letting people explore and enjoy Syria's charm again.

The war has left many cities with damaged buildings and systems, including not enough hotels, rental cars, and working buses and trains. There are not enough good places for tourists, like restaurants and guides, which makes it hard for the tourism industry to get back on track. Even though the main fighting is over, people still worry about safety and the risk of attacks, which makes both international and local tourists hesitant to visit. The recent war between Israel and Iran, along with violent fighting in parts of Syria, has made the region less stable and hurt tourism. Even though the battle lines have moved, some areas are still affected by the war, causing safety issues for both locals and visitors. The government is trying to fight bad stories from other countries and show that Syria is stable and trustworthy. Investing in tourism is helping to fix the broken economy and improve Syria's position with other countries. The Syrian government is working hard to bring back tourism by getting investment deals. Many Syrians have left the country, causing a big loss of workers, but the people who are away might help Syria recover in the future.

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