

Levantine Arabic transcript:

اللذقيه

ليندا: شو أحلى مكان في سوريا؟ بالحقيقة الشام، دمشق، حلوه كثير، بس بالعادة كل الأجانب والسياح بيحجوا على الشام. بس الشام شوب، في كمان إزدحام، الهواء أحيانا ملوث شوي. فبعنقد، أحلى مكان، بالنسبة لا إلى.. أنا بحب مدينه أسمها اللذقيه، هي مدينه بغرب سوريا على البحر المتوسط، مدينه كثير حلوه وفيها طبيعه حلوه كثير. كمان في مكان إسموا سهل الغاب، كمان حلوه. في أماكن سياحية، يللي هي أماكن أثريه، مثل تدمر، أكيد بتعرفوا تدمر، Palmyra بالإنجليزي. في كمان مدن قريبه من الشام، في مدينه إسمها معلوله، ومدينه إسمها صيدنايا، هذول مدن مسيحيه قديمه، والناس فيهم لهلاً بيحكوا اللغة السيريانيه، مو اللغة العربيه، اللغة السريانيه، فهذول الأماكن فيها كنائس قديمه، بالحقيقه أماكن كثير حلوه. لازم ترحوا لسوريا وتشوفوا لحالكم.

English translation:

Linda: What is the nicest place in Syria? Actually, the Sham [Damascus] is very nice, but ... all the foreigners and tourists usually come to the Sham, but it is hot. It's crowded. Sometimes the air is polluted. So I think the nicest place, in my opinion ... I like a city called Latakia. It's a city in the west of Syria on the Mediterranean Sea. It's a very nice city with very nice natural areas. There is also an area called Sahl al Ghab – it's also nice. There are tourist areas, which are archeological sites like Tadmur -- I'm sure you know Tadmur, Palmyra in English. There are also cities close to Damascus. There is a city called Ma'loula, a city called Seidnaya. These are old Christian cities and people there up to today speak Aramaic. Not Arabic, Aramaic. These areas have old churches. Actually, they are very nice areas. You have to go to Syria and see for yourselves.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.