

# AAINews

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## Souq Al Juma - Damascus

There are some street markets called "Souq" in Damascus. The most popular souq is "Souq Al Juma" which opens even on Fridays. The official name of this Souq Al Juma is "Souq Al Sheikh Mohyi Al Deen". A historic mosque which has the same name is inside the Souq. There are a lot of small shops selling daily necessities such as food, clothes, kitchen wares and so on. But unfortunately, most of the clothes sold there do not fit Japanese taste particular in terms of quality and design. Vegetables are very fresh and less expensive, and the prices of some of them are a half of those sold in other Souq. However, fruits are rather expensive and their quality is relatively low. Expensive vegetables such as green asparagus and mushrooms are not sold here.

What made me happy in this Souq is a charcoal shop, because it is difficult to find a charcoal shop inside the town, although charcoal is very necessary for barbecue. When you buy charcoal, they usually ask what kind of meat you are going to barbecue, because they sell different kinds of charcoal according to the kind of meat, such as chicken, mutton etc. Charcoal costs around 100 yen per kg. The charcoal shop also sells gridirons, small kitchen stoves and fans made of feathers which are useful for setting fire. The street is so long and narrow that people can not stay standing when trucks come over. And that is why I always turn and come back before I reach the other end of the souq, however, I would like to try and go to the other end someday.

(Reported by Onuma in Syria)

