

Mead®

日本

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★★★★★

2017

May 8th/9th

5月8日/5月9日

1

Travel day!

カ4/L-プス に バンクーバー の ひょう

は ごせん たはん です。

From there, we had a 3 hour layover in Vancouver until our next flight. バンクーバー

に なりた の ひょう

は ごご -はん です。

十日 月 日! すごい です!

私 は ニがい ねた です。



The meals that the airline served were surprisingly good. Once we landed, we went through customs, got our bags, and got on the subway to the dorms. ちかこつ は とても しずか

です。バンクーバー の

skytrain は とても

うるさい です。Japan is

much greener than I expected. We saw

tons of rice fields on the way to the dorms.

Kosuke Tanaka~たんか

greeted us at the

last subway station and showed us around the

Bunkyo Gakuin University Dorms. Tony, Martin,

and Kevin are staying in the International Dorm



and the ladies (minus Cara~ちゃん) are staying in the Nishikata (female) dorm. Cara~ちゃん is staying in a building between the two. The rooms in the dorm are very roomy and the ladies all get a room to themselves. ベッドはかいこぎですか? でも まくらはありません。Our dorm mother and the other ladies in the dorm are very friendly and welcoming. 女の子は18さいでも、私は14さいで、I didn't talk with the girls long because I was tired due to jet lag, so I said goodnight (おやすみなさい)。I went to my room, settled in, and fell asleep.

May 10th

5月10日



3

#4 は こんばん 五時 1 に おきた。No surprise there, because jet lag. It finally sunk in that I'm now in Japan. I got myself ready for "full day #1", and went to the bakery with some of the girls who were ready for food as well. バンヤ は とても おいしいです。#4 は あさごはん を かつた そうです。おいしい そうです! We all met at the International Dorm for a lecture on "purification and prayer at a shinto shrine" from Unoura~the~. He told us to walk on either the right or left side of the path, but not in the middle. The middle is the deity's path. Also, when you approach a Y~ gate, bow and then step over. Unoura~the~ also showed us how to purify ourselves before entering the main part of the shrine. You fill the scoop with water, rinse your left hand, right hand, mouth (don't drink the water; just pretend), then pour the remaining water down the handle so it is clean for the next person. We also learned about the Dedication of Tamagushi; it is an offering to the shrine. You make your offering, bow 2 times, clap 2 times, make a wish, and then 1 final deeper bow.

After the lecture, we walked to Nezu Shrine that was close to the dorms. ねず"しんじ"はきれいで"す。One of the monks performed 土まじり, a type of exorcization on our group, and also 祝言司奏上 which is a prayer for safety and success in our studies. Afterwards, we drank 土まじり (the Deity's sake) in a very small stoneware cup. I was expecting a horrible taste, but I was pleasantly surprised that the sake tasted quite good. There wasn't any burning sensation either. Clarissa and I found a long line of torii (鳥居) gates and took pictures in them. We also bought fortunes; mine was a bad fortune so I tied it with the other bad fortunes to get rid of the bad luck. After the shrine, we walked to the Bunkyo Ward Office Building and went up to the observation deck on the 26th floor. We had a very good view of the town from up there. Next to the Observation Deck, we spotted an



outdoor amusement park with a rollercoaster. Cara~the~ told us that we had some free time until we had to be back at the dorms by 六時 for the welcome reception. A good sized group of us went straight for the amusement park. We all got a

"ライド 5" pass which lets us on 5 rides. We all went straight to find the line up for the rollercoaster. All of us laughed when we found out that the rollercoaster is named サンタードルフィン. We were expecting a 可愛い name. サンター

ドルフィン は とても かわいい ですよ。 We rode it 3 times in the misting rain because we could. Then, Annie wanted to go on the ferris wheel so we went on with her.

After the ferris wheel, we found a Beaver Tail food truck. We explained to the worker that we are カナダ人 ですよ。 \$4 は Beaver Tail を 買った ですよ。 I shared mine with Martin since he

ライド5

有効期限
'17.10.31

- 好きなアトラクションに5回ご利用できます。
- 悪天候、機械整備によりご利用にならないアトラクションもございます。
- シアター・Gロッソ、コインゲーム、他特別興行はご利用できません。
- 売買禁止 ●払い戻し、再発行は出来ません。

★複数人でのご利用は出来ません。
お一人様のみ有効となります。

東京ドームシティ アトラクションズ
●お問い合わせ: TEL 03-3817-6001

03

東京ドームシティ アトラクションズ



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has never had one before (not a true Canadian). Then we decided to start walking back to the dorms. Somewhere along the way, we somehow managed to stray off of Hongo-dori Street (本郷通り) and got lost. Tony~^{さん} used his Google Maps and got us back to the dorms just in time for the welcome reception. The welcome reception

consisted of 5 マディー
Bunkyo Gakuin
University

students; most were 一年生 ^{さんねんせい}.

At the beginning, it was very awkward, but as we played some little games



everyone became more at ease. One game we played was we all had to get into a circle, ranking in our birthdays. We had to constantly ask "おなじのたんじょうび" (おなじのたんじょうび) はいつですか". マリアン ^{さん} と私はおなじたんじょうび ^{さん} をもっています! 8月23日!

We continued to play fun, silly games such as charades and telephone. Soon enough, it was past

9pm (九時) and we were all getting sleepy. We said our thank you's and goodbyes, and even got some new friends on various social media sites. Back at the female dorms, I got to try out the communal showers. It was very clean and the water pressure was perfect. After the shower, I got ready for bed.

JAPAN RAIL PASS

Please show this page when going through the ticket gates,
and when asked to by staff.

The ticket will be invalidated if it is removed from this pass.
Both the ticket and this pass together are required for boarding the train.

Name
(氏名)

Mr. / Ms.

Mr. Madison

Irving

Nationality
(国籍)

Canadian

Passport Number
(旅券番号)



JAPAN RAIL PASS
(ORDINARY 14DAYS)

547
-61

2017.-5.11~2017.-5.24

YEAR-MONTH-DAY

(普通車 14日間用)

*Only the signer can use this ticket ¥46390(A)

*VOID if detached.

*Not for use in automatic ticket
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29.-5.11 VP上野R21 (2-タ) 30031-05 C20

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ORDINARY

●指定席発行欄
Reserved seat issued

●係員押印欄 (入鉄印)
Seal of station clerk (Entry to railway)

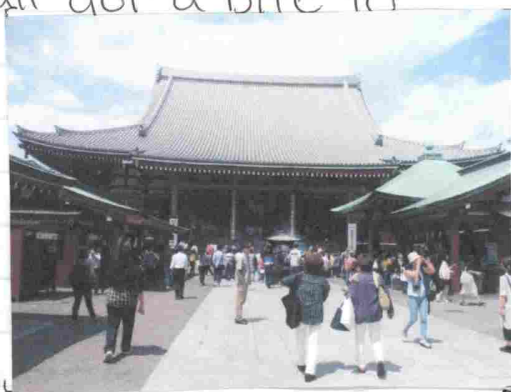


May 11th

5月11日

8

私は今朝六時 には 起きた。I don't think that I've started getting used to the time change yet. So many things happened yesterday that it is hard to believe that this is "full day #2". Today I got breakfast from 7eleven. I got 2 containers of drinkable strawberry yogurt. とてもおいしいです。私は (いちご) を たくさん 食べました。We all met at the International Dorm again and Cara~the~ told us that today would be a more relaxing day. We started out by going on the subway to Ueno Station. At Ueno Station, we got to activate our JR passes (Japan Rail Pass) and after got something to eat. Bakeries are everywhere in Tokyo, and Ueno Station just so happens to have one. 私は sausage pastry と ハム と チーズ pastry を たくさん 食べました。After we all got a bite to eat, we got on a JR Line to go to Asakusa. In Asakusa we visited another shrine. この 神社 は ほんとうに おおきい です。We got to



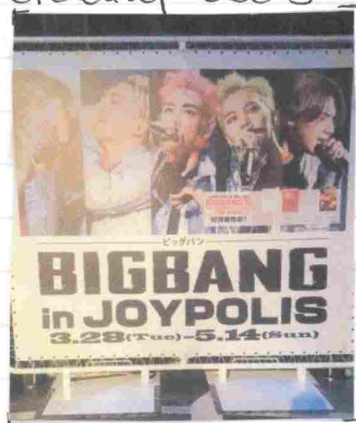
adventure around the shrine for a while until we met back up and started to walk towards the river cruise. As we were walking, we found a big concave cement circle on legs. There were also big holes in various places, so some of us stuck our heads in. On the inside of the circle was kind of like a garden. すごい (1)



すごい. After we had our fun with the "bowl of leaf"

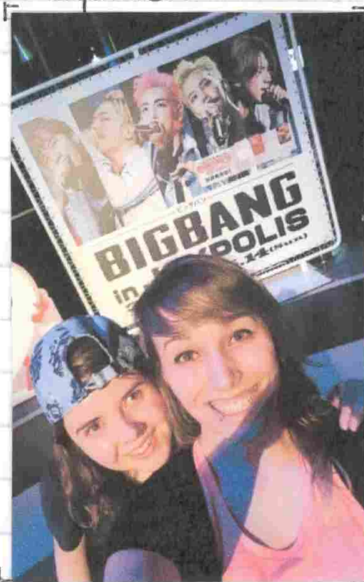
as we called it, we continued to the river cruise. Cara~ちゃん bought the river cruise tickets for us which will eventually take us to Odaiba. 川クルーズは すごくいいです. At the dock in Odaiba, there was a 'statue of liberty', Aqua City Mall, and Joypolis. Cara~ちゃん said that Joypolis was an arcade, but she didn't think it had a rollercoaster. She also explained that we had some free time to shop and look around. Annie~ちゃん and I went into the mall to find food. アニ~ちゃんは カレーを 食べた です. 4人は ハンバーガーを 食べた です. After we ate, Annie and I ventured to Joypolis, an indoor

10
amusement park and arcade. As soon as Annie and I got inside, we saw a giant Big Bang poster. The poster was advertising the kpop group, Big Bang, and some dates. I suddenly remembered that one of the Youtubers that I watch actually was here and went on a Big Bang ride. Both Annie and I being avid kpop fans, that was the first ride that we went on. This ride had a pool of 4 seats, each with rollercoaster harnesses. Each harness had a red button by your lap and one white button on either side of the red button. As the ride starts, one of Big Bang's songs play and it's almost like Dance Dance Revolution in which you have to hit the red or white buttons at the correct time. They played a snippet of 3 of Big Bang's most popular songs: Bang Bang Bang, Fxxk It, and Last Dance. After the snippet of Last Dance,



the ride turned into a rollercoaster with Last Dance continuing to play. The whole pool spun around as the track had sharp corners and even upside down sections. After the rollercoaster, Annie and I explored the rest of the arcade and found some really cool looking rides. After looking around for a while, we only had time for one more ride. What do we do? ふたたび

ビッグバンをしたらです!
いきましょう! とてもたのしい

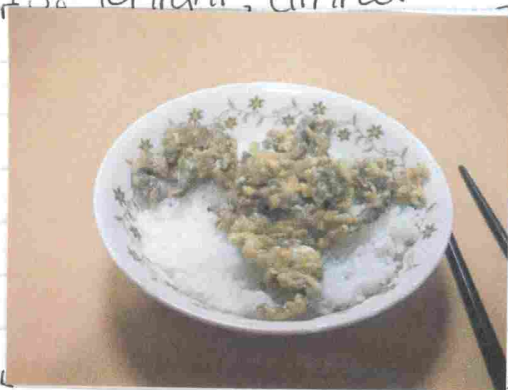


です。Then it was time to meet back with the group, so Annie and I had to leave. As soon as everyone was back together, we took a few subways to get back to the dorms. Tonight, dinner was being made by Breanna, Annie, Marta and Clarissa.

ぎょうざをつくって
です。とてもおいしいです。

After dinner, we had a chance to relax a

bit before we all went to bed.



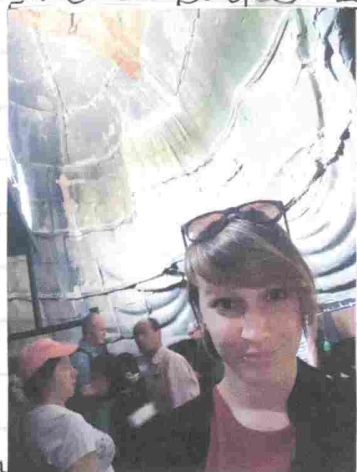
May 12th

5月12日

12

今日はマーティンさんのtskl'bi
です!今日は金持倉を

りょこうしたです。We had to ask
for directions a few times as
some people gave us the wrong
directions. After asking for
directions, we finally got on
the right JR Line to Kamakura.
Once we reached Kamakura,
we met up with Cara+the's
friend, Holly. Holly lead us
into Kamakura to see the
Great Buddha. The Great
Buddha is approx. 44 feet
tall and is made out of
bronze. すごいです。Clarissa
and I payed 200円 to

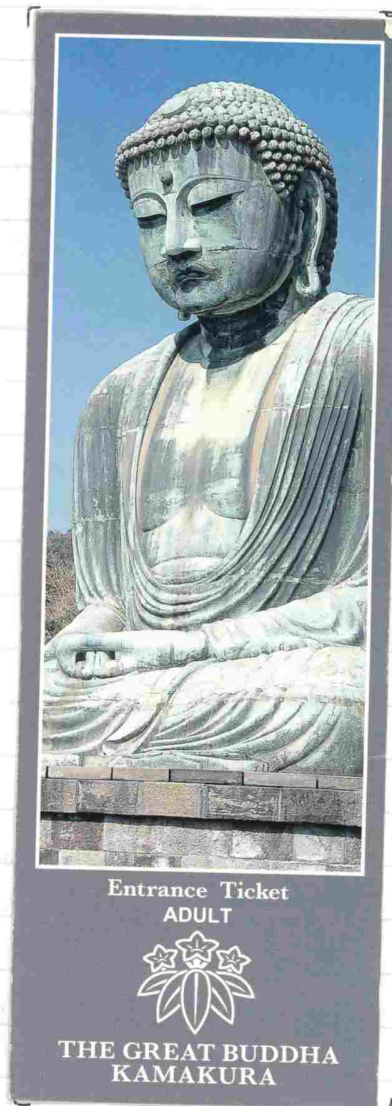


enter the
Great Buddha,
which is
hollow. すごい、

の Great Buddha は ふるい です。

でも、とても 美しい です。After
some exploring around the
temple, we had roughly
an hour to go find

something to eat for lunch. Martin, Tony,



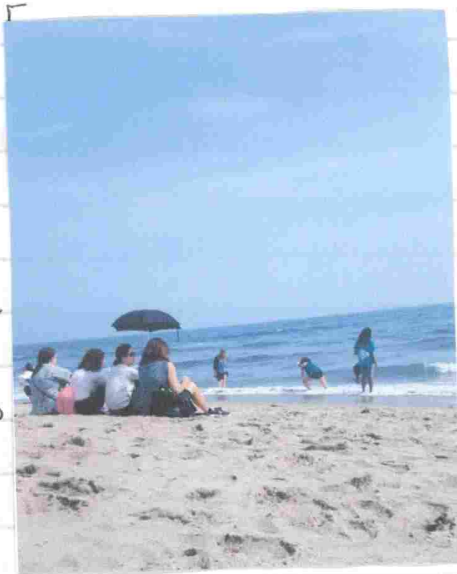
Annie, Caitlyn, Clarissa,
Lorina, Laurianne and I
found a relatively cheap
place. 料金は4千7百の
バーハンをとって食べた。
とてもおいしいです。Once
we were done eating,



we all met up at the train station and
took the train to a beach.

うみはきれいです。とても
くつろげます。Breanna and
Lorina ended up playing
in the sea and got
soaked. Martin and
Caitlyn were having a
little competition about
who can find the most

sea shells. Everyone
else sat in the sand
and took the time to
relax. After the tide
started to come in,
roughly 5:00 PM, we
left the beach and
came across a famous
railroad crossing. This
crossing is very
famous among a
variety of anime, one of them being



Kuroko no Basket. Any anime taking place in Kamakura has this railroad crossing in at least 1 scene.

After taking pictures of the railroad crossing, we got back on the train and headed to the subway station.



At the subway station, we all said じゃあまた to Holly and continued back to the dorms.

When we returned to the dorms, Kendalyn, Marta, Avery and Tony wanted to go to Akihabara so Laurianne, Martin, Annie and I joined in. We took the city bus to the last stop (Akihabara) and got off. All of us were hungry but it was hard to find a place that would seat 8

people, so we split up. Eventually Martin, Tony, Annie, Laurianne and I

ate at Denny's. Denny's in Japan

is very different; their menu has items that you can only order at certain times of the day. Grand Slam

は すごく 美味しい。でも、すごく 美味しい Denny's は 美味しい けど。After eating our food, we



explored some of Akihabara. We leisurely walked through many stores before we caught the last bus back to the dorms. Afterwards, we split up and got settled in our dorms for the night.

May 13th

5月13日

16

けさ, we didn't have to meet up until
ごめん 九時! If only I could sleep in,
but my sleeping schedule is still out of
wack. 私 は 六 時 を おきこて, ツアワー を
して 七時. the forecast called for あめ.
私 は レインコート を きて, コソビニ を
行こいませう. 今日, 私 は ham + cheese breakfast
burrito and an (いちご) drinkable yogurt.

After, everyone was at the International
Dorm, Lorina lead us to the Kanda
Festival. 今日, 三 の 文京大学生 joined us.

It was pouring rain
as we tried to walk
to Kanda. We had to
stop at a コソビニ so
some of us could
かき を かう 七時. It
was とても おもしろい



trying to find a walking festival.



Eventually, we
made it to 神田
しんじょう, where the
main events were
held. みんなは
ぬれこ 七時. we only
stayed at 神田
しんじょう for 1 hour

before everyone wanted to go back. Once we all met up, we バスにのって back to the dorms. Once back, we heard that Caitlyn~sk got a nosebleed at 神田 U'hLi which caused her not being able to meet up with us. Apparently it was a bad nosebleed which made all of us worry. Luckily, Kevin stayed behind and waited for her. Once Caitlyn was back, Cara~the(1) called for a meeting. As we were leaving, our dorm mother (主婦さん) taught us how to dry our 傘と

U'hLi'sh 2"t. She left us with t<L'h の

U'hLi'sh and told us



to change it every 3-4 hours. After our talk with Cara~the(1) about how the next few days would go, we went back to our dorms. アニ-sk と 4 は combined laundry since we both only had half a load each. The real problem was trying to figure out how to work the washing machine as it only had kanji (that we did not know) on it. 主婦さん(1) 2"t we finally got it to work. Once we switched everything over to the

dryer, it was time to meet at the International Dorm for dinner. Tonight, dinner was being made by Nicola, Hendalyn, Martin and Avery. やきそばを

つくって います。とても

おいしい ですよ。でも、私は

やさしい を たべいきらい ですよ。

Clarissa and Martin were teasing me about not eating my



veggies. After dinner, we went back to our own dorms for the night. By that time, アニキの 洗濯機 clothes were dry

so we took them out so another person could use the machines. Then all of us relaxed for the night. We found one corner on our floor that has wifi, so 3 or 4 of us would gather there. We called it the "wifi corner". After some time of winding down, we went to bed.

おみくじ
★ Written Oracle ★
No. 40

立ちよれば
たてに
なむれし
自らの
花のか
ゆらぐ
月の下かげ

May 14th

5月14日

今日 I woke up at the usual time: 6:00. Since it was technically Mother's Day here, I video called my 母 over Facebook. Over much confusion of both my 母 と 父 trying to call me over 2 phones but 1 facebook (they share a facebook account), I was able to finally connect. 母 と 父 と I talked for about 30 minutes before I had to say bye and get ready for the day. 今日 は 私の 日 です。I am leading us to the 東京 Sky Tree.



Leading everyone was easier than I thought. We only had to go on 三つがてつ です。Once we made it to the 東京 Sky Tree, we went in and bought our tickets for the first observation deck.

Clarissa and a few others didn't buy tickets since they were afraid of heights. The huge elevator that took us up went 600 metres per minute! すごい! 私はここから東京

東京スカイツリー

天望デッキ 入場券

TOKYO SKYTREE TEMBO DECK TICKET

2017.05.14

大人/当日

Adult



タッチしてください
Please scan here

¥2,060

2017-0514-0800-0950-0017

08-00095



すべてをみてです!
 たくさんのお金を払った。
 We had to pay an extra

20



1030円

to get to the second
 observation deck, but
 it was so worth it.
 As soon as the
 elevator doors opened,
 we were confronted

with a giant face of The Colossal Titan.
 This whole floor is "Attack on Titan"
 themed! とてもすごいです! A lot of us
 were happy since

"Attack on Titan" is a
 very well known anime.
 After looking around
 on this level, we had
 a free afternoon.

アニメと4 made
 our way down to
 the main level and

東京スカイツリー

天望回廊 入場券

TOKYO SKYTREE TEMBO GALLERIA TICKET

2017.05.14

大人/当日
 Adult

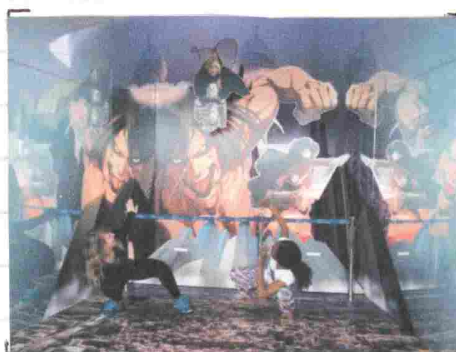


タッチしてください
 Please scan here

¥1,030

2017-0514-1100-1020-0016

11-00102



back to the
 ちがってです。 We
 then took the JR
 Yamanote Line to
 新宿区 駅
 です。この駅 is
 essentially the

entrance to Korea Town. Korea Town is like China Town in Vancouver, but the Korean version. There were Kpop のうた playing in every みせ です。うたがなみの は おもしろい です。アニーさんと 私は とても うれしくして です。ALL THE FANGIRLING! Almost every store also had multiple "Live Concert" videos of numerous Kpop groups. We found a store that had nice sized ポスター for 100 円。



アニーさんは 三つの ポスター を買った です。私は 二つの ポスター を買った です。

After a few shops, we found a バブルティー stand. 私は いちごの バブルティー を買った です。とても おいしい です! たし いすき です! アニーさんと 私は

continued shopping until we looked in every store. 私は 一つの Tシャツ、三つの ポスター、一つの ぼうし、二つの ツーティー を買った です。私は げんき です。After we were finished, アニーさんと 私は went back to the dorms. Once we got back to the dorms, Annie and I went into

the lounge room and looked at all of the stuff we bought. One of the 日本に girls came in and saw my BTS の ポスター and asked which ones I liked. Then, she got up and left for a few minutes and returned with a BTS の ポスター that she had. She said "BTS を た" () き て "す".

After fangirling with her, I got a message from Tony ~ さん about going shopping for our dinner tonight. さん さん Tony, Laurianne, Lorina, Caitlyn, and I are cooking. Kohei helped us a lot with picking the right kinds of food to buy. Kohei さん ありがとう" () す" () ます!

After getting back to the International Dorm, we started cooking. カレーライス と チキン を りょうり () て () ます。 We did

have some difficulties, such as the stove top only liking certain pans on certain burners. Since we learned the hard way, 12" の 12" was served around 18 時。 During

clean up, Henry (an International student) showed us these 12" は 12" 12" 12" that he made out

of chocolate, syrup, and fondant. 12" は 12" 12" 12" After we cleaned

up, we said 12" 12" 12" to Henry and

Kohei, as we were
leaving 東京 tomorrow.
We went back to our
own dorms and
started packing. #4

はシャワーをあびて

(い)ましてて。 After my

shower, I showed アニメ some kpop
variety shows before we went to
bed.



May 15th

5月15日

今日、I woke up a little earlier (二時半 六時) to finish packing. I brought all of my bags downstairs and set it down in the entry way. Then I went into the lounge room to pleasantly find out that our dorm mother (お母さん) made us あさごはん。お母さんは かわいいで"も、りょうりは おいしいで"も。It was とても おずかしい to say さようなら to her, since she



was such a sweet lady. After あさごはん we paid and said さようなら to Kosukeさん。We got on the ちかご to 東京 えき, and from there we got on the Shinkansen



(新幹線)。新幹線は とても かいこ"す。After 三 hours, we transferred to another 新幹線 at Osaka to Hiroshima. I sat beside Martinさん と Clarissaさん on this ride。マーティン と 私は なま"してで"も。According to Clarissa, Martin and I

fell asleep leaning on each other; she

thought it was adorable. We finally reached Hiroshima, and got on a バス to get to the Hiroshima International Youth Hostel. The lobby to this youth hostel is so fancy; complete with many fancy chandeliers. We payed and got sorted into our rooms. I am rooming with Clarissa, Breanna, and Caitlyn. We walked into our room and it is a traditional 日本式 room. We had tatami mats and 障子 screens. すてき!!! かわいいです。



Once we got beds sorted and got settled in, it was time to meet everyone in the lobby. Once everyone was there, we walked to the

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. The exhibit that they had was とても かわいい,

M No 095637

観覧券



HIROSHIMA
PEACE MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

大人券200円

(当日1回限り有効・消費税込み)

広島平和記念資料館
TEL:082-241-4004



ツヨクをうけいまも One of the relics from the bombing was a

Y(+) that was stopped at 3:15 (the time the bomb hit). I tried to read as many testimonies and stories as I could, but soon became overwhelmed. I skipped part of a section of the exhibit. Once out of the museum, we all met up and walked to the Eternal Peace Flame. The 日本人说 say that the flame will remain lit until all nuclear bombs are destroyed and everyone is free from nuclear bombing. Then we



visited the A-Dome. This building was closest to the hypocenter of the bomb and still stands 今, but in ruins. It is labelled as a historical building.

We got a chance to walk around the perimeter and reflect on that tragic time. After some time, we were all 疲れた。As everyone wanted something different and is hard to seat a large amount of people, we split off into groups. Clarissa & 4 found a place called Watami Cafe.

They served all kinds of different
 たくさんもの。たくさんもの

はとてもやすかった
 でした。私はニンニク
 のエビ、ぎょうざ、
 ふらいを食べて
 ました。After 中は、



Clarissa と 私は went back to the
 A-Dome to look at it quickly at
 night. Then we went back to the
 hostel. Caitlyn-さん told me that she
 found a place where you can
 rent コスプレ costumes and しゃしんを
 とります in the photobooths for
 とても やすい でした。 We agreed to go
 tomorrow night if there is time.
 Once we finished winding down, we
 ねます。

May 16th

5月16日

This sucks. I keep waking up every hour or so with cough attacks. I'm taking lozenges like candy and they aren't helping at all. I eventually figured out that the a/c that we had on is making the air in our room really dry. We do have a humidifier in our room, but I can't reach it from where I'm sleeping. I decided that I would deal with it later and eventually fell back asleep. We all woke up and got down to breakfast at 〇〇たん 八時 〇〇. あつこは included

in the fees and we got あつこは coupons. The たべもの that was brought to us was aesthetically pleasing, but was kind of bland.



私はマーマレードがすきじゃないです。

ベージュはたいていすきです。

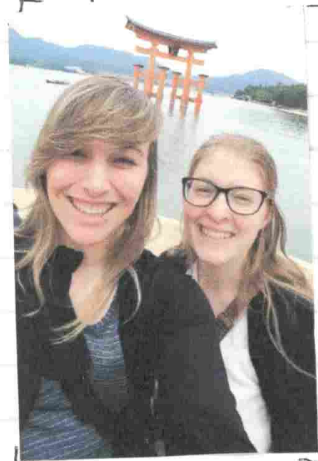
After あつこは, we took the tram to the JR 〇〇. Then, we took the JR Line to Misajima. Once we got to



Miyajima, we got in line for the JR Ferry to go across the water to Itsukushima. When we docked and got away from the



ferry, we quickly found that there were しか everywhere. しか は ヲモヒンキ オモ。 They followed you since they expect you to have トモモノ。 私 は しか を ベツト に オモ。 We got to explore through the market place, and eventually found our way



to the famous 鳥居 in the water. Afterwards, we all purchased tickets for a gondala ride. The only small bump was that it was a 10 minute walk to the gondala. No biggie.

There were funny "english" signs along the way. we were



able to take 2 gondalas to one peak.



紅葉谷線 循環式
< Momijidani Line The circulating type >



MIYAJIMA ROPEWAY

獅子岩線 交走式
< Shishiwa Line The funicular type >

宮島 ロープウェイ

世界遺産・日本三景「宮島 弥山」への直行便

When we reached the top, we got to choose whether or not we wanted to take a 30 minute hike to the next peak. Marta & Avery & #4 decided to do it, so we all had to take our inhalers. #4 は すき か "ハイキング" して います。でも、おもしろい ですよ。Along the



way, Marta-san & #4 は 楽し を しています。The hike was おもしろい ですよ, it was all worth it when we saw the view. とても きれいで した。After looking at the view and

resting for a while, it was time to head back down.



Going down was 簡単 (い) でした。Once we reached the end of the gondola back at the bottom, we sped walked to the 駅 as we were going to be late for meeting up. We got back to find out that our

time was extended, so Annie^{ちゃん} & #4 は アイスクリ-ム を かつて じい^{ちゃん}。 I had to constantly keep walking because the deer would follow me. Once I was done, they left me alone. When we were all back together, we went back to the ferry and headed back to the hostel. When we got back to Hiroshima, Annie^{ちゃん} & Caitlyn^{ちゃん} & Martin^{ちゃん} & #4 は か(い)もの を じ(い)ま^{ちゃん}。 Soon enough, after some searching, we found the store that Caitlyn was talking about the night before. Martin went off and did his own thing, while



Annie^{ちゃん}
&
Caitlyn^{ちゃん}
&
#4 tried
on
various

cosplays. コスプレ は 100 円 じい^{ちゃん}。
や(い) じい^{ちゃん}! The photo booths cost
400 円, so we alternated who would
pay. We were easily at this for
2 hours, trying on different
cosplays and posing. & じ(い)ま^{ちゃん} ()
じい^{ちゃん}! Afterwards, we had a quick



dinner at Watami Cafe.
 Caitlyn ordered quail
 eggs and offered some
 to Annie. ¥4. That
 was definitely
 the weirdest thing
 I have eaten
 here. すごい、
 すごい すごい。



After some すごい, we
 went back to the dorms to start
 packing since we are moving places
 again tomorrow. After we were all
 settled in, mostly packed, filled and
 turned on the humidifier, we fell
 asleep.

May 17th

5月17日

Today is easily the hardest day to wake up yet. 昨日はつかうて"た。今日、we finished packing and went down for お昼"はん。お昼"はん was basically the same as yesterday. Still not super おいしい

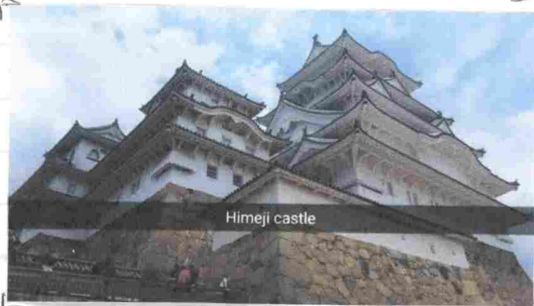
て"た。After お昼"はん, we went back to our room and made it look nice and did a final check in case if we missed any thing. Then we brought our bags downstairs. When we were all accounted for in the lobby, we left for the バス。We took the バス to the ちかてつえき て"た。We then took the JR Line to Himeji. We put our



bags in lockers and we walked to ひめじ"じよ て"た。We bought tickets to take the じよ" tour。ひめじ"じよ はとても かわいい

て"た。There were lots of steep stairs。こわい て"た。The hardest part was

going down the stairs in sock feet since we had to take off our shoes. We got to see a すごい view from the castle. After



getting out of ひめじ, we had time for ひろこい. Nicolash &

Tonysh & Laurianneh & #4 ate



at a place called ラーメン ギョーザ. Can you guess what we had there? #4

は ラーメン と ギョーザ に ハンパチです。とても

おいしいです!



After ひろこい, we walked back to the JR 駅, got our bags, and took the Shinkansen to 京. When we arrived in 京,



we tried to find our hostel. It was 迷った but we eventually found it.

We are staying at the Tomato Kyoto Youth Hostel. We paid upon check-in and got

sorted into our rooms. I am rooming



with Clarissa^{さん} & Laurianne^{さん}. A few of us did a group load of laundry, which got washed pretty quickly. Then we took the ^{洗濯物} in a hamper, upstairs to the rooftop with clothes lines. We

hung our ^{洗濯物} to dry in a typical 日本^{日本} style. Then we all split off for dinner. Carath^{さん} & Martin^{さん}



& Clarissa^{さん} & Caitlyn^{さん} & Laurinn^{さん} & ^私 went to a レストラン called ^{ちゃんかつ}. ^私 は ^{ちゃんかつ} と ^{みそ} と ^{ごはん} と ^{ビール} を ^{たべ}て ^でました。

とても ^{おいしい} でした。After ^{ちゃんかつ}, we went back to the hostel, collected our laundry and settled in for the night. Maybe we may get to sleep in tomorrow?

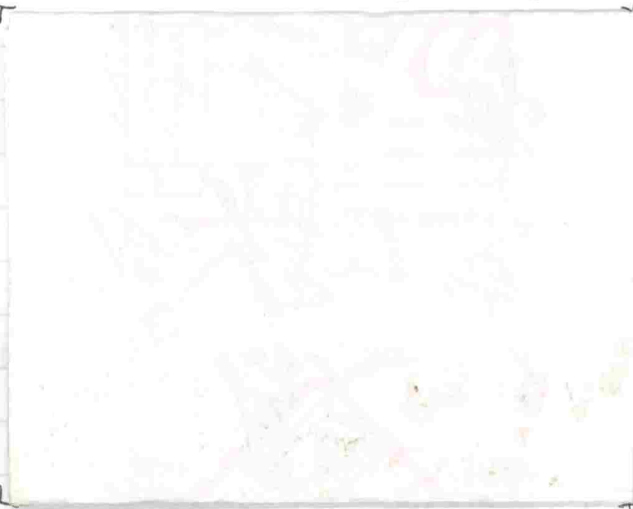


May 18th

5月18日

36

今日, we got to sleep in! Yay! #4
はまきつ and got ready for the 日。
When we were all ready to go, we
walked to the ちんちん to grab
おしん, and got on a バス to go
to the ゴールド・リバー。 ゴールド・リバー は



YZE きれいな
ところ。 We
unfortunately
couldn't go
inside it, only
look at it from
a distance. The
リバー is
covered in
real gold.

すてき! Afterwards, we walked
to a せきけん ところ。 Cara
ちゃん is YZE passionate
about this place. せきけん
は きれいな and peaceful. The
rock garden to me was

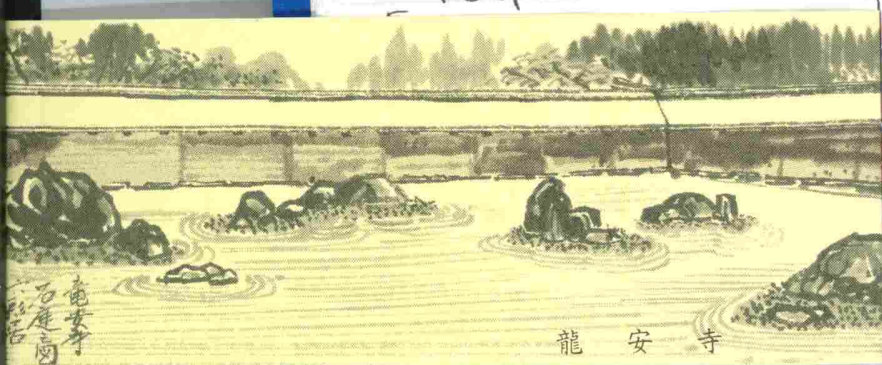


YZE
peaceful
and serene. The
idea is to try to
be quiet and



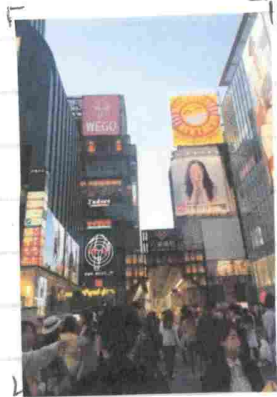
respectful in this kind of place,

but people still talked unfortunately. After we exited the 寺の境内, Caitlyn's 父 Annie's 父 Laurianne's 父 Lorina's 父



Breanna's 父 4 went to the Shinkansen 新幹線 and

went to Osaka. Osaka is known for its 繁華 (shopping district). It definitely was 繁華 (shopping district) so we split up into groups. Caitlyn's 父 Annie's 父 4 wanted to find the clothing stores. 繁華 (shopping district) でした。 Once we found the clothing stores, we



didn't have much time until the Shinkansen. We went into this store called "We Go" that

Caitlyn has been ranting and raving about. 4 は We Go を すき でした。 4 は スカート と フォーカス

カートを でした。 By the time we were done in We Go, it was time to leave. We met back up with Lorina,

Lorianne and Breanna. We made a run for the ちかこ and got on it. On the ちかこ, we told everyone that we have to run for the Shinkansen. As soon as the ちかこ stopped, we ran for it. Caitlyn^h & Annie^h & #4 made it to the 駅^h. The Shinkansen hadn't arrived yet. We waited a couple of minutes, but didn't see the others. Caitlyn^h ran back through the 駅^h, since she had かみの 土^h & き^h 土^h. It should be かん^h to see her. She came back without any one. She ran back and tried again. No luck. By this time, the shinkansen had arrived, so we had to get on without them. The whole ride, we hoped that they were on a different Shinkansen or line and would make it back. Once we got back to 京^h & 駅^h, we waited in the 駅^h for them. I sent a message to them and hoped that they got it. Shortly, Lorian^h messaged back saying that they took a JR Line back and are at the hostel. We were all relieved and walked back to the hostel. Once we got back we all hugged and said #4 is "アハハ" to

おひといましたで。 Then,
I relaxed a bit in the
common room with
Caritlyn^{さん} & Annie^{さん}.
Afterwards, we all went
to bed.



May 19th

5月19日

今日はきものの日です! Well, technically today is our full free day in 京乙! #4 はおきて and started getting ready for the day. Once I was ready to go, I met up with the group of us that have reserved a きもの rental. We walked to 京乙 乙き and took the ちかてつ to the きもの store. When we got there, we



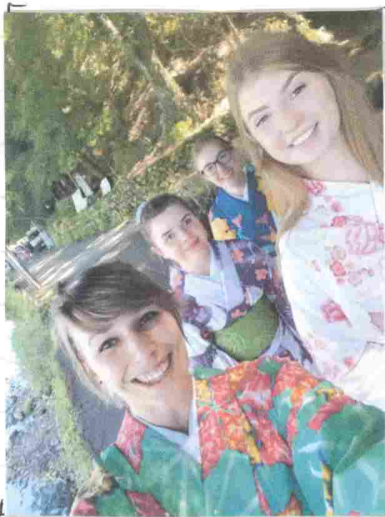
got divided into who paid for getting their hair done and who paid for only the きもの. The group I was in, that just paid for the きもの, got brought upstairs to an おまきい へ with a bunch of きもの in it. A nice lady helped us get bags for our belongings and showed us where to look for きもの depending on our height. We got to choose a きもの and an おび, and then the ladies lead us to another room to get changed. Here, the ladies dressed us in the きもの of our choice. The ladies tied my おび so tight that it felt like a corset. After getting dressed, they lead us up another flight of stairs to drop off our belonging bags.

and directed us to go downstairs to get the 土履 sandals. Finding shoes for my feet was おずかしい because I have size 9.5 ladies feet. The biggest pair of 土履 sandals that they had were a little ちがひ but I would make them work. Once we were done, we waited for Caitlyn, Breanna and Laurianne to be done getting their カミ and makeup done. Once they were done and ready to



go, we walked for what seemed like forever, to a creperie. #4 は チョコレート クレープ を つまんで、 ショコラ サングリア を のみこ ます。 とても おいしい です。 After ひるご はん, we walked back to 京と えき to go to Arashiyama. Arashiyama は まち を かちこ ます。

Once we arrived, we tried to find the bamboo forest to リンを とります。 We ended up on a とても きれいな walking trail and we リンを とります。 After a while of walking, my feet started to ache due to the ちがひ shoes. Caitlyn と #4 ended up turning around to go back into まち to sit down.



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Caitlyn^h & #4 ended up in a cafe right at the start of the walking trail. #4 は オリジナルジュースを のみて 待ち。 We waited for everyone at the cafe. When the others

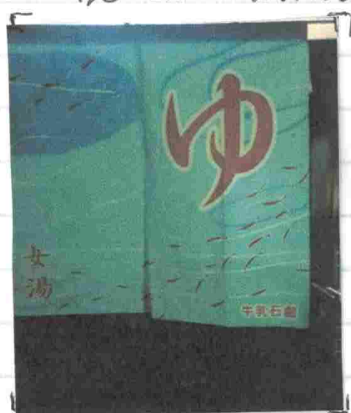
finally came back, they explained how we were actually on a pilgrimage trail and that they found a 寺^h ^h. We also found out that the bamboo forest was on the other side of town. Some of us ventured over there, but



Caitlyn^h & Lorina^h & Breanna^h & #4 took the ちかてつ back to 京^h. We all wanted out of these 寺^h ^h. Once we got back to 京^h, we returned the kimonos and headed back to the hostel. Once we were all back, we

talked about going to an 寺^h ^h. Annie^h found one but it was 1 hour away

and closed early so we couldn't be able to make it. We did find a public bath house about a 15 minute walk away so we all agreed to go there instead. As soon as we walked in, we saw naked old ladies. It definitely made us all a little awkward thinking that we will soon be all naked in front of each other. It



was definitely awkward at first, but we bared through it and it got less and less awkward as time went on. It actually became $\chi\chi\epsilon$ relaxing. In the bath house, was a wall of washing stations, 2 おっ() baths, 1 おっ() bath, and 1 electric pulse bath (to soothe muscles). None of us wanted to try the electric pulse bath. おっ() ですね。 After we were all ready to leave, we got dressed and decided that we needed アイスクリ-4, so we headed to Baskin Robbins. After Baskin Robbins, we headed back to the hostel.



44

At the hostel, there was talk about going to カラオケ, but everyone was too tired. Plus, we had to pack as we were leaving for Uji tomorrow. ♪4 は

ツァワーをあひて いまして to wash my カミ and went to bed.

May 20th

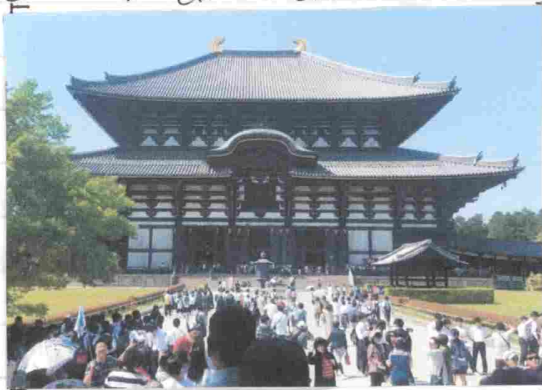
5月20日

今日、我々 woke up とても つかれていてです。
 We finished packing and made the room look nice and returned the room keys. Then we walked to 京へ with our bags. We got on a JR Line to Uji へ。When we arrived at Uji へ, we met some of the ホステス ladies. They gave us name tags and took our おまけ bags from us to keep them safe for the day. We also ordered ひろしん from them. I chose エビフライ です。After they got everyone's information, they lead us to a レストラン and we got our おまけ made for us.



「エビフライ は とても
 おいしいです。After
 we ate ひろしん,
 we took a じんり
 to Nara へ。At Nara,
 we would be walking
 to 三つ different

shrines. 今日 は とても
 おついでです。We got
 to see the bowing
 deer of Nara and
 even got to feed them
 cookies. Shortly after
 the 2nd shrine,



Kendalyn's feet hurt and mine were



so sore, so Cara, Kendalyn and I took the 100 ¥ short バス to the third shrine. At the third shrine, we saw another buddha. Buddha は おじいちゃん。 I bought Sam a shirt while



we were there. After that



shrine, we had some time before we had to be back at Nara 駅。 Tony ちゃん & Annie ちゃん & I used that time to do our directions 練習。 We asked one of the shop ladies on how to get from here to the JR Nara 駅。 She spoke 英語 clearly and

gave us lots of hand signals. She was 英語 helpful. Afterwards, we got back on the short バス and headed back to the JR Nara 駅。 At the 駅, I found a bakery, and \$2 pieces of pizza to eat. Once we were all at the 駅, we took a JR Line

back to Uji 宇治. Then we walked to Uji City Hall, where we met with our host families. Clarissa さんと I have the same ホーリスティ family! Yay! We



grabbed our bags and got driven home by our ホーリスティ family. Along the way, we introduced ourselves. Their house is a standard 日本式 household. They had 二つ へや; one western style and one 日本式 style. Clarissa さん chose the western へや and I chose the 日本式 へや. We quickly got

settled and both gave our お礼の言葉 (words of thanks) as gifts to Akemi さん and Ted さん. They were both とても happy and Akemi さん was とても excited. かわいかったです. Afterwards, I had a nice, relaxing shower. It was perfect after the 日本式の 入浴. When I was finished, it was ちゃんとした time. Akemi さん and Ted さん served us a "make your own ice cone" ちゃんとした. とても おいしい でした. Clarissa さん isn't big on fish, but she tried it to 好きにならず, so like a good お客さん, I secretly ate the rest of hers. Carachi さん was right when she said that they feed you well.

I was ㄣㄘㄝ full afterwards. Clarissa and I both offered to help clean up but they refused. Akemish said that in their house, they both cook and clean. After they cleaned a bit, we talked about hamloops and ㄱ some more. We also learned new vocabulary. Soon enough, Akemish brought out dessert. It was a fruit platter with banana, pineapple, and white kiwi. ㄣㄘㄝ ㄱ ㄱ ㄱ ㄱ. Akemish explained that white kiwi is ㄱ ㄱ ㄱ, she wanted to buy it since we would be here. We continued to talk while we ate dessert. Afterwards, we said ㄱ ㄱ ㄱ ㄱ ㄱ ㄱ, for the ㄱ ㄱ ㄱ, brushed our teeth and went to bed. I stayed up talking to my ㄣㄘㄝ ㄱ ㄱ as I was starting to feel a little homesick. Soon enough, I fell asleep.

May 21st

5月21日

今日, Akemich woke me up. I quickly got up and got ready for the day. I could smell something おいしい coming from the kitchen, so 私は びっくりして です. Akemich は パンケーキ を 焼いて くれました。 We told her that we missed パンケーキ from カナダ。 She also made おちの ラズベリー - です。 Everything was とても おいしい です。 I did burn my tongue since I can't drink hot things fast. Akemich drove Clarissach と 私は to Byoduin の 庭園 to meet up with our group. Once we got into the 庭園, we got divided into groups with 京都 と Uji 大学生 です。 Nicolach と Caitlynch と Clarissach と 私は were put into a group with 三つ boys. With

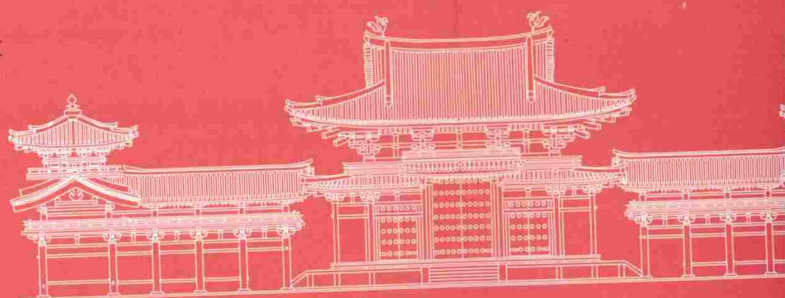


our groups, we explored the 庭園 area. We also got to go into the relic museum, where there were たくさん

17-547280

平等院

BYODOIN ENTRANCE TICKET



とていないです。からい

で。 We got to see the original relics from the 江戸時代。 Afterwards, we had a 10 minute break.

The 3 boys were 来てはすかしからて, with

Taiga being the most talkative. We got them to

open up a little by talking to them. They are all 18歳と

いちゃんです。 After talking to them,

they seemed more relaxed around us.

Then we got to take part in a 茶会

ceremony. This meant having to sit せいざ again.!!

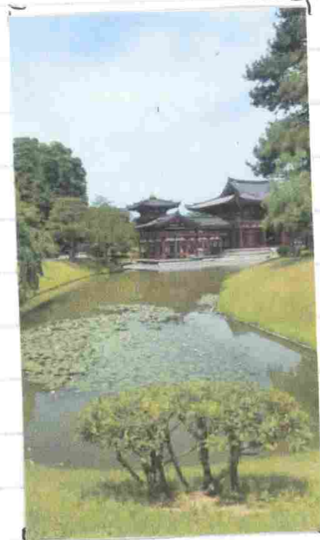
Somehow I managed to sit せいざ the entire time. The

ceremony itself was 来てからい to watch and participate in. After the 茶会

ceremony ended, I tried to stand up.

It took a few tries, but I did eventually stand up. Then it was time

for 江戸時代。 We went to a 庭 where they had a bunch of 茶



茶席券

No 025949

治市市営茶室 対鳳庵

宇治市宇治路川1番地の5 ☎ 0774-23-3334

開席期間 1月10日~12月20日

(期間中無休)

開席時間 午前10時~午後4時

※本券は、当日に限り有効です。

歴史街道

boxes laid out on desks for us. We all picked a spot and started eating. #1

は ㄥㄜㄝ ㄆㄢㄣㄣㄣ ㄘㄣㄣ。 After we finished ㄅㄣㄣㄣㄣㄣ, we

started a "rogaining" activity with a different

group of students. The activity was basically a scavenger hunt, with certain objects

worth certain points. Each group had 1

guide to let us know if an object was

correct or not. On one street that we

were crossing, an elderly man fell into

some bushes. A bunch of people rushed

to help him. Martinㄣ ㄥ Breannaㄣ ㄥ

#4 gave some space since we wouldn't

be much help due to the language barrier.

After multiple tries to help the man back

up, he was too weak so our guide

called the ambulance. We stayed with

the man until the ambulance arrived.

After the paramedics started helping

the man, we continued the scavenger

hunt. 今日 は ㄥㄜㄝ ㄆㄢㄣㄣㄣ ㄘㄣㄣ。 Martinㄣ ㄥ

Breannaㄣ ㄥ #4 は アイスクリー-ㄣ を

ㄘㄣㄣㄣ ㄘㄣㄣ。 The アイスクリー-ㄣ didn't help

much to cool us down. Momokaㄣ ㄥ

#4 were joking every so often that

we were going to die because ㄆㄢㄣㄣㄣ ㄘㄣㄣ。



Finally, the time was up for the scavenger hunt and we all headed back to the main building in the C'h'l'ka. The guides tallied up the points and we came in 3rd place. Yay! Momoka^h & I got each other on Twitter and said ^{さよなら} to everyone. Then we all waited for our ホーステイ families to pick us up. Ahem^h & Ted^h arrived and took Clarissa^h & I to see Uji dam. The view was とてもきれいで"た。 After looking at the view, we got back in the くらま and headed home. Once we got home, I went straight into the シャワー。 It felt so nice to シャワー and get the sweat off of me. After my シャワー was しばらく time. We had



homemade やきそば and homemade たこやきです。とてもおいしいです。 We could put whatever we wanted into

the たこやき。私のいちばんはイチ & フース"です。 For dessert, we had another fruit platter of strawberries and bananas.



おいしいです。 As we ate,



we talked
about our
families and



what we did today.

Clarissa と 友 offered
again to help clean, but
they still refused our
offer. We explained to them
how everyone helps clean
up in our households so
we feel bad not doing

anything. Afterwards, we said おやすみ and
went to bed. I talked to my
友達 on facebook for a bit before
I fell asleep.

May 22nd

5月22日

54

今日、私は ぐはん を おきって でした。私は
got ready for the day, and went down
stairs. I said おはようございませう to Akemi-san
and she was surprised that I was
ready early. I was a little early for
お昼ごはん, but I told Akemi-san たいしやうふ
and that I didn't want to rush
today. お昼ごはん は とても いい でした。



Akemi-san made a
typical 日本ごころのお昼ごはん。
私は ごはん と サバ と
とふ と みそ と やさい
を たべて でした。 There
was only 1 problem: there was too
much たべもの。I couldn't eat it all
and told Akemi-san that I feel bad
since my お昼ごはん at home are とても
ちがいます。 Akemi-san was very understanding.
She said that she wasn't sure how much
we would eat, so she prepared a lot
just in case. After お昼ごはん, we got ready
to leave. We met everyone at City Hall
and got on a バス to go to a びん
factory. As soon as we got out of
the バス, the first thing we smelled
was びん でした。 We walked into the
building and met our guide. He was

とておもしろいので。He explained how to make matcha from tea leaves, and once their tea surpasses 京〆 then we can destroy 京〆。Thank you very much。" He brought us on a little tour through the tea factory。He also taught us that they can make lots of different お茶 like black, oolong, and green depending on the sun exposure。After the



tour, we got to whisk our own お茶 from matcha powder。We also got to "h〆" matcha to eat

with our お茶で。おもしろいので。Then, we got to check out the gift shop。We all received a 500円 gift voucher。お茶は



グッキーのお茶をかって。After everyone bought something, we got back on the バス and headed



to a レストラン。お茶は was another prepared meal。お茶は お茶とみそとちがう (with the head still attached) を食べて。"

It wasn't bad, but it wasn't すごい (great) でした。 ずっと。 After 13:15h, we took the バス to another 寺 (temple). We met a monk



and he showed us around the 寺 (temple). Then, we got to practise 禅 (Zen) which is a kind of meditation. You have

to sit on a cushion with your legs crossed with your feet facing up. It slowly got 辛い (painful) to hold this pose. We meditated for 30 minutes, and then I could get the feeling back into my legs. Carac'h told me that I was ちゃんと still beside her, but it felt like I was swaying side to side. After 禅 (Zen), the monk continued giving us a tour. The ceiling planks that they used in one area used to be the floor planks of a castle that used to stand here. On => of the ceiling boards you can see a dried bloody footprint and handprint. すごい (great) でした。 Once we finished the tour, we got a map and had to make our own way back to City Hall.



Annieth & Lorinath & #4 teamed up. I ended up trying to lead us and got lost. We had to back track which took some time. I was getting more and more internally frustrated since I didn't know if we were going the right way or not. 今日 は ヲツヅ ヲツヅ, so that didn't help at all. We ended up at City Hall 30 minutes late. I said オミエ to Akemith & Tedith & Carath. I also cried a little due to frustration. Akemith & Tedith took Clarissath & #4 to a お土産 store. #4 は kit kat の お土産 を かっつて. We then went to a スーパー to get コーヒー for my お母さん & お父さん. #4 も plum wine and しゃべり for my ヲツヅ. We then went to a chinese



food フォード. We ate so much しゃべり. I ate so much, I felt a little sick. After paying, we went home. As soon as we

got home, Akemith brought out dessert. I was still too full, so I told her that I would have 二つ desserts tomorrow night.

While they ate dessert, we talked some more and got Ted^xh & Akumish on line. I also got Akumish on facebook. After dessert, we got ready for bed around 5:30 五時三十分。I sat down in my bed and downloaded some music before falling asleep.

May 23rd

5月23日

I can't believe that it is our last full day in 日本。今日はごぜん六はを
おきこてです。Akumichan はおきこはんを
(よう)にしてです。私はチキンとたまご



やさいと pizza
toast をとべてです。
おいしいです。After
おきこはん, we got
ready to meet the
mayor today. We

wore nice clothes today. Akumichan
drove us to City Hall where we all met up.
We were then directed upstairs and into
this おきこ board room. Tomichan's
group was here for the
meeting as well. Our
group had to introduce
ourselves to the mayor
in 日本。I said



"はじめまして。私はアーバソマディソンです。
にじゅうさいです。にちゃんです。せんこは
かかくです。よろしくおねがいします。" 私は
とても nervous です。Afterwards, I bowed
and sat down. I felt とても relieved that
my speaking part was done. After the
meeting, we walked to Todoh Daini
Elementary School. We got split up into

⇒ classes of grade 6 students. The kids were 〆〆 〆〆 〆〆. We introduced ourselves and played some name games. Then it was time for recess. ⇒ or ⇒ kids asked me to follow them outside. Once we were outside, we played tag (おにごく) and dodgeball. Some of those kids can run so fast that I couldn't catch them in a full out sprint. After recess was over, we went back to class and did some calligraphy.



おす〆〆 〆〆. After perfecting the character, it was time for ひろ〆〆はん
 〆〆 はう〆〆ん ときゅうり
 〆 ツナ 〆 パリ 〆
 ⇒ 〆〆を たべって 〆〆.

After we ate and cleaned up, there was time for a short recess. We played tag again. Once recess was done, we went back to class and said 〆〆〆 to our classes. We got on a バス and went to the genji museum. We got to watch part of the genji love tale and explore the museum. Then, we got to visit the gift shop. After everyone was ready, we got on the バス and went back to City Hall. As soon as we walked

into one of the main rooms, music started playing and all of the ホ-4ス-1 families were here for the welcome パ-ティー。The band played these



YZE かこ(い) looking instruments. It was like a keyboard mixed with a guitar. When the band stopped

playing, it was time for the 5th fashion show. We got lead into a room to

get a 5th on. #4 は 5th の Akemiさん を 5th で "5th. YZE 5th 5th" で "5th. I was the first female changed so one

of the host mothers lead me back to the main へ。

Tony 5th & Martin 5th were

already dressed up and waiting at the front of the room. The host mom lead me down the center aisle and it felt strangely like I was getting married off.

Soon, everyone was back in the へ and

the fashion show started.

We would walk down the imaginary catwalk while the MC described our 5th and 5th. Then, we had to move to the center, say



our name, and strike a pose. Some of us thought it was a competition with a winner at the end. I was the 1st person to go. I was doing good until the



MC said that the translation for my 太い baw style was "fat sparrow." I started laughing and was slightly embarrassed, but carried on anyway.

After the fashion show, we got changed back into our normal clothes and returned to the room. We got to enjoy some 和菓子 and a sweet. I also saw a calligraphy stand. I chose the kanji character for love because I'm a sap and wanted to show my boyfriend. Tom's group showed up around 5:30 and the band played some more songs. One song sounded familiar to Lina. She looked it up and it was a Hatsune Miku song. Around 6:00, there was a "light meal." More like an all you can eat buffet. There was all sorts of food including

ham and potato pizza from Pizza Hut.



It was strange,
でも いいです。 At
this meal, our group
gave the rest of
the thank you gifts
and expressed our

gratitude to the ホームステイ parents.
The uji origami club gave us おりがみ
bookmarks. かわいいです! We said our
おりがみとうごさいます and さようなら and
left with our ホームステイ families. When
Clarissaさん と 私 got home, Akemiさん
brought out dessert. 私 は red
bean paste, sponge cake, chocolate
cake を 食べました。とてもおいしい
です。 After dessert I had a shower.
Then, Akemiさん helped Clarissaさん と
私 with our おりがみとうご cards. We wrote
them mostly in 日本語 and Akemiさん と
Tedさん were とても happy. Then, it was
time to start packing. Clarissaさん と
私 packed the majority of our stuff
by 午後 十二時 です。 I couldn't seem
to fall asleep tonight, but eventually
did around 午後 一時 です。

May 24th

5月24日⁶⁴

今日はさよなら日でも