

ALICE SPRINGS LANGUAGE CENTRE

JAPAN STUDY TOUR

Term 3, 2018



ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME

During weeks 8 and 9 of term 2, students studying Japanese at Centralian Senior College and Centralian Middle School had the opportunity to participate in an overseas educational study tour to Japan through the Alice Springs Language Centre. The group of 11 students, accompanied by Shin Nojima and Susan Moore, travelled to Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima and Kyoto. Students were encouraged to put their language skills to the test for everyday activities such as purchasing subway tickets, ordering meals and navigating the cities of Japan. It was great to see the students actively using their Japanese language skills.

The group started in Tokyo and visited the old downtown district of Asakusa, the Imperial Palace, Shibuya Crossing and Harajuku.

The first school visit was the Kaetsu High School in Tokyo, one of the oldest high schools in Japan. Student were welcomed into classes with their Japanese peers.

After travelling to Osaka on the famous bullet train, the group spent the morning at Tsukinoki High School, where a former Language Centre exchange teacher now works. The group were greeted by students in the school's calligraphy and tea ceremony clubs. Our students then participated in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony as well as practiced their calligraphy skills.

The afternoon saw a visit to Mino Jiyu Gakuen High, a private school renown

for its strong after school activities program. Students were welcomed by a full brass band performance and were then introduced to their Japanese host families. The next day was spent at the school, joining in school club activities such cheerleading, brass band, chorus and the shooting club. Students also attended classes with their peers and ate a Japanese bento box prepared by their host families for lunch.

That afternoon, the group visited the Cup Noodle Museum, the only one in the world where you can make you own customised cup of noodles. Students were able to choose the ingredients and soup flavours and decorate their cups.

On day 7, students said goodbye to their host families and boarded the bullet train again, this time travelling to Hiroshima.



Walking through the Hiroshima Peace Park, students viewed the statue of Sadako, A-Dome Building and other peace monuments in the park. A visit to the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Museum, where students learnt about the events of August 6th 1945, was a powerful and moving experience.

Next stop was Miyajima Island, a beautiful and sacred island with many shrines and temples. The group wandered through Japanese gardens, visited the world heritage site, Itsukushima Shrine and travelled up the mountain slope.

On day 9, students visited the Mazda Car Factory where they joined in a guided tour, in Japanese. Students listening skills were put to the test during the factory and museum tour where they learnt about the history of the company and how the cars are manufactured.

The final city on the tour was Kyoto where students visited many temples including the Golden Temple, Sanjusan Gendou Temple and Tenryuji Temple. The group also wandered about the Arashiyama bamboo forest and famous Zen temple of Ryoanji where students were able to spend time meditating and reflecting on their experience whilst overseas.

Overall the trip was a huge success and enormously valuable for Japanese language students to practice their language skills, learning about different religions and spiritual practices, and to immerse themselves into the culture of Japan.

Special thanks to G.E.T Educational Tours, Kaetsu High School, Tsukinoki High School, Mino Jiyu Gakuen High School and Centrecorp.



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