

Highlights

August 20, 2001 (Day 1)

Afternoon: - Depart from HK

Evening: - Arrive at Kagoshima Airport
- Our first dinner in Kagoshima

We were welcomed by Japanese officials at the airport. For dinner we enjoyed the Japanese cuisine, Shabu-shabu in paper containers. We also had a nice chat with the Wingbeat members and delegates from Kagoshima.



August 21, 2001 (Day 2)

Morning: - Visit to Takeoka Primary School

When we arrived at the primary school, a group of kids have already queued up for the welcoming. Then we entered the hall and a student representative began to present her speech (in English and Japanese) and students sang some Japanese folk songs for us. We played games and sang songs together later on, and had time for sharing too. We all enjoyed that moments very much.



Afternoon: - Courtesy visit to Kagoshima Prefectural Government

The view outside the building was beautiful and all of us grabbed this golden opportunity to take pictures of the views of Kagoshima City. After that, we went to the Conference Room and met the Prefectural Treasurer, Mr. Masamichi Wada. He gave a speech and answered a lot of our questions. The answers were helpful to us as they have given us a better understanding of Kagoshima.



Highlights

Visit to Kagoshima aquarium and tour around the Kagoshima City

We arrived at around 4:00pm. We could see lots of extraordinary sea creatures there. We also bought many souvenirs including special sweet potato cakes in the souvenir shops inside the Aquarium. Some of us who watched the Dolphins Show could even took “Close-up” pictures with the dolphins!



Evening:

- Welcoming Dinner at Station Hotel New Kagoshima

Due to the typhoon on 20/8, the Welcoming Dinner was postponed to 21/8 in the Kagoshima Station Hotel. We had a great feast and met many new friends from Japan. We chatted with each other throughout the meal and we got to know more about their culture. Of course, we had also shared with them what we usually do in Hong Kong.



August 22, 2001 (Day 3)

Morning:

- Visit to Youth Centre and experience Japanese Culture

Japanese songs ‘Sakura’, ‘Ochibano Odori’ and 花花宇宙 were first presented by the group Yanoi with traditional instruments of Japan - Kodo. Then we had a great time playing 花花宇宙 with Kodo. We also have chances to wear beautiful Yukata (Summer Kimono).



(Kendo performance)

Kendo was then demonstrated by the best team in the Kagoshima Prefecture. Detail explanations were given, ranging from the costumes and equipments of Kendo to the right manner of Kendo playing and its striking techniques. We played Kendo for some time too. Real Kendo competition was demonstrated at the end.

We had a Farewell to Mr. Kwok Ka Ming, our tour consultant, as he left that afternoon.

Highlights

Afternoon:

- Tour of Kagoshima City with Kagoshima youths



We were divided into 5 groups and have five hours of free time with Japanese delegates. Some of us went shopping at Tenmonkan (天文館); some of us visited a Glass factory and had such an eye-opening experience to take a look at expensive Japanese glassware; Some of us visited 巖園 and tasted 刨冰...etc.

Evening:

- Arrive at Ibusuki and played firework at hotel

After we had had dinner at ‘小牧庵’, we arrived Ibusuki and accommodated at Nanohana-kan. We played firework at the seaside of the hotel – we had never expected that we could play firework in this trip before! ^0^ We tried public bath in this hotel too!



August 23, 2001 (Day 4)

Morning:

- Arrive at “Apron House Ikeda” and make rice cake with seniors

We made Rice-cake in the Apron House Ikeda, with the help of the elderly. When the rice-cakes were made, we shared it together with the elderly as brunch. We talked with the elderly and found that they were cute and friendly. We sang songs for them and they danced for us in return. Also, we bought sweet potatoes which were famous products in Ibusuki as souvenir. Later on, we packed the cakes that we made and took all the cakes with us as souvenirs when we left. We had a great time and we were so unwilling to say goodbye when we left. We greeted each other once again before we got onto the bus.



Highlights

Afternoon:

- Visit to a dried bonito making factory



In the afternoon, we toured around Ibusuki City. First, we visited a factory which produced dried Bonito fish. We learned and observed the process of making bonito fish. The instructor of the factory was very enthusiastic in describing and explaining the manufacture procedures to us.

- Experience natural hot sand bath

We were already very excited before we tried it. At the moment when the helper poured the hot sand on our body, we really felt hot and some of us hoped to leave the sand as early as possible. However, after a while, we started to get used to the temperature and stayed in the sand for almost 15 minutes. It was a good and relaxing experience for us and we were still excited in discussing our feelings when we left the venue.



Evening:

- Enjoy the rustic taste of somen noodles cooled by fresh natural spring water



Highlights

-Return to Kagoshima city



It was a good feeling for most of us as it might be the first time that we tried the special method of cooling the noodles in the spring water fountains. After we finished our dinner, we sang a song to thank the Japanese youths for their help and warm hospitality. When the bus finally arrived in Kagoshima City, we said goodbye to the Japanese youths and the atmosphere was a bit sad because we missed one another so much.

August 24, 2001 (Day 5)

Morning:

- Visit to Kagoshima University



We have a better understanding of Kagoshima University after the Vice President gave an introductory speech of Kagoshima University and answered our questions. Then we toured around the library of Kagoshima University, which was established for only a few years. We visited the library archive, tried the library system and took some photos there.

Highlights

- Return to Kagoshima city
- Visit to Koryo High School, meet school students and watch high school club activities

We received warm welcome from a group of Koryo High School students who played orchestral music at the school entrance, followed by welcoming speech and introduction by the principal.

We gave them a cultural presentation in return. We had lunch with them and talked a lot with one another.



Then we observed the tea ceremony, the Judo demonstration and later on took photos with baseball team members. We had a joyful moment there.



- Welcoming reception. Meet host families. Starting of home stay programme



The welcoming reception was hosted by the Mayor of Koriyama Town. A welcoming speech was given.

We watched a drum performance and had our own performance presented to the host families before we gather with our individual host.

Our hosts and we were then called out one by one. All of us were extremely nervous and excited to have our first meet with our host families! After chatting for some time, we separated from our team members for the next two days and started our homestay programme.

Highlights

August 25, 2001 (Day 6)

Homestay

August 26, 2001 (Day 7)

Morning:

Say goodbye to Host families

In the early morning, all of us went back to the Koriyama Center and had farewell to our host families.



Arrive at Kirishima and climb “Ebino Kougen”

Some Japanese youths accompanied us to climb up the “Ebino Kougen” mountain, it was tough but most of us have tried our best to walk up those rocky path. When we looked down from the mountain, the whole view of Kirishima was so clear and nice, we took lots of pictures there too.



Afternoon:

- Shopping in Department store

As we have time left, we went to a department store nearby for shopping for about one hour. We tried our best to explore and bought the most we could given the short period of time.



Highlights

Evening:

See Japanese drum performance and try practicing ourselves

Kirishima was beautiful where hot spring vapour appeared in lots of places. When we arrived at Kirishima International Hotel, we got a chance to experience Japanese culture, which was by watching the drum performance presented by a group of girls. We tried to play with those Japanese drums too.



Dinner with Japanese drum members at Hotel

After the performance, we had our dinner with the Japanese drum members and Japanese youths.

August 27, 2001 (Day 8)

Morning:

Arrive at Kagoshima airport



Afternoon:

Leave Kagoshima for Hong Kong

We really had a great time in Kagoshima and did not want to say goodbye to the Japanese delegates, staff and translators when we left. We really hope we can meet them again in the near future and will keep in contact!