



Winter's life in Kakumagawa area

Date :2015.12.23

Overview

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Participant

- Jasmine Gatten
(AIU • USA • Female)
- Stefanie Berrier
(AIU • USA • Female)

Schedule

11:00 Leave AIU
12:00 Making "Hanabi roll Sushi" & Lunch
14:00 Mochi pounding
15:00 Tour of some traditional houses
17:30 Winter illuminated fireworks festival
18:00 Finish
19:00 Arrive at AIU

Questionnaires

Please select and write your answer on the following 6 categories.

1. Making "Hanabi Sushi roll"
2. Mochi pounding
3. Tour of a Japanese traditional house
4. Experience of Japanese tea ceremony
5. Winter illuminated fireworks
6. Communication with local people

7. Which is the favorite program you experienced?

8. "You are Travel Agency, and will sell this day trip in your country. How much will be the price?"

9. We want to promote the area of Kakumagawa to the world. Would you write any comment about your experience? Also we will share your message to local people.

1. Making "Hanabi Sushi roll"

Evaluation : 5

I really enjoyed this activity! Even though initially it was somewhat difficult getting all of the rolls to stay together inside of the larger egg roll, I somehow managed to pull it off. Everything tasted great!

Evaluation : 5

It was very difficult, but a lot of fun! I had done simple rolls before, but it was my first time trying to make a picture out of sushi. I have always wanted to try it, so it was a good opportunity to have someone who knew how to do it teach me. It didn't come out perfectly, but it still tasted good thanks to the kind ladies who helped us.

1. Making "Hanabi Sushi roll"



2. Mochi pounding

Evaluation : 4

The mochi pounding was fun. I was nervous I was going to accidentally hit the woman who would readjust the mochi, therefore I didn't hit it as hard as I could have, but otherwise I really enjoyed this event. The mochi that we made, with the anko, was really yummy! Also, I thought that it was pretty cool that we were introduced to the audience.

Evaluation : 4

There wasn't very much explanation of how to do it properly or why we were doing it. I had done it before so I knew a little bit about it, but I didn't know how hard to hit it or how to hold the hammer correctly, so it was a little awkward.

2. Mochi pounding



3. Tour of a Japanese traditional house

Evaluation : 5

This aspect of the tour was nice because I got to learn some of Kakumagawa's history. I thought that the house was quite spacious, which is something foreigners don't usually think of Japanese houses as being, and parts of the interior remained in the same arrangement as it had been in the past.

Evaluation : 5

It was very interesting to learn the history of the town and the important role the house played in its community.

3. Tour of a Japanese traditional house



4. Experience of Japanese tea ceremony

Evaluation : 5

The tea was very delicious, not too bitter, and the sweets were quite delectable. The tea ceremony was elegantly demonstrated, and everyone's attire was very beautiful.

Evaluation : 5

It was much more relaxed than other tea ceremonies I have attended. From what I could tell, it was very well done and interesting to watch. Having had experience was really helpful, but I still didn't really know what to do. If someone were to take this tour not knowing anything about tea ceremony, they'd be really lost. This is more the host's responsibility, but some explanation of the rules (how to sit, how to bow, when to eat/drink etc) would make it easier for the guest to appreciate the ceremony without worrying if they're doing it right the whole time.

4. Experience of Japanese tea ceremony



5. Winter illuminated fireworks

Evaluation : 5

The fireworks were outstanding! I've never been so close to the setting off of fireworks before, so I got a very clear view of them when they lit up the sky. There were colors I'd also never seen before in the firework display, and it was really cool how the show went along with the music playing in the background. Maybe suggest bringing earplugs since the fireworks are extremely loud (or just not standing so close)?

Evaluation : 5

The fireworks were fabulous! I loved the music that they played, and the display was well designed. We had a great view too, though there were some trees in the way. I absolutely loved it!!

5. Winter illuminated fireworks



6. Communication with local people

Evaluation : 3

I did manage to talk to a few people, however, with my level of Japanese (and cause I'm really shy at speaking it) I wasn't really able to communicate as well as I would have liked to. But the few people that I did interact with, I really enjoyed our conversations.

Evaluation : 4

My Japanese is very limited, but the local people really worked hard to understand me. It made me work hard to improve so that I could be understood, and together somehow we managed to communicate. I really enjoyed talking to people. They all had interesting things to say and seemed interested in what I had to say as well. There were times when I wanted to talk in Japanese, but people went straight to the translator to talk to me. Even when I tried to answer in Japanese, they would continue to address the translator. I wished people would try to talk to me in Japanese first and only get help if there was a problem because I want to learn and improve my Japanese.

6. Communication with local people



7. Which is the favorite program you experienced?

1. Making "Hanabi Sushi roll"

I love making food, so this cuisine session was perfect for me! Everything we learned was very practical; a skill that can be used in future cooking!

6. Communication with local people

It was really hard to pick a favorite, but I really enjoyed communicating with local people at each place we went. We got to meet so many new people and it was fun going from place to place getting to know the people who were with us the whole time.

8. "You are Travel Agency, and will sell this day trip in your country.
How much will be the price?"

Choices

1. Less than 2,000 JPY
2. 2,000 - 3,000 JPY
3. 3,000 - 4,000 JPY
4. More than 4,000 JPY

Answer

4. More than 4,000 JPY

2. 2,000 - 3,000 JPY

9. We want to promote the area of Kakumagawa to the world. Would you write any comment about your experience? Also we will share your message to local people.

This was such a great experience for me! I really enjoyed my time in Kakumagawa, and I would love to come back!

The food was delicious and the activities were a ton of fun, but the best part of the trip was meeting the local people. The people of Kakumagawa are incredibly kind and eager to share their culture with you. I really felt welcome by the people everywhere we went and they made my day there super fun! It was a day I hope I will always remember and I hope I can go back again someday.