



Japan Tour Report – December 2007

The tour of Japan, headed by Mrs Foster and Mr Jeppesen, illustrious Guru of all things Japanese, was an amazing experience.

Our Journey began with a flight to Osaka, arriving in Japan on a rather cold night, as everyone sampled the first delights of Japan, the infamous vending machines. Osaka however was not our first destination but rather Kyoto, the old Capital of Japan.

In Kyoto we spent three days experiencing some of the grandest Temples and Castles showing a wealth of history of Feudal Japan, such as Kinkakuji Temple (Temple of the Golden Pavilion). We continued to use Kyoto as a base for operations whilst using the Bullet Trains to travel to Himeji and Nara at speeds of up to 300km/h.

Nara, Japan's first ancient capital provided more temples, this time situated in a large park – complete with wandering deer. One highlight of the day was watching some of the taller members of the group squeeze through the hole located at the bottom of one of the enormous pillars that holds up Todaiji (the world's largest wooden structure). It is said that crawling through this hole will bring you good luck. This was followed by a quick trip to Osaka's Dotonbori area – famous for bright lights and good food.

Day seven was the day we made our way to Hiroshima. This day was a day of introspection and contemplation, as we were faced with the graphic images of destruction at the Hiroshima Peace Museum.

From here, we deeply appreciated a day of pure relaxation and satisfaction at the New Pegasus Inn, Hakone; a traditional Ryokan inn, with traditional style rooms and an immense amount of fun.

Our Final stop was also the stop which provided some of the most fun for the group - and that was Tokyo, the bustling metropolis of Japan. Whilst in Tokyo we also spent the large part of one day at Kinjo High School, who have visited us at Knox several times in recent years.

I recommend firmly and sincerely that should a Japan Tour opportunity come before you, to take it in both hands, it is an experience that will remain dear to you for all your days.

James Kwong (Yr11)

