

JAPAN: Dazaifu

July 10, 2016



On Sunday morning, I met Mr. Mochizuki in front of Kushida shrine and planned to visit Dazaifu area. Dazaifu was where the imperial officer governed Kyushu island before. The most famous shrine there is called Tenmangu and is dedicated to a scholar and politician of the Heian Period. This is why it is common to see students there before exams. Just like other Japanese shrines, we had to wash our hands before approaching it. I threw a coin inside and later got a fortune that happened to be all good things. Mr. Mochizuki was so kind and gave me a good luck charm that I can carry everywhere hanging from my bag. It has “health” and “Dazaifu” written on the sides in Japanese.



After the shrine, we walked through the tori gate and across the bridge to an impressive Zen garden. Before coming to Japan, I knew that Japan had these beautiful gardens and I was hoping that I would be able to visit one. Komyozenji temple was just a 5 minute walk from

the main Temnangu shrine but apparently it is not as well known. There were many tourist at the big shrine, but hardly anyone at this hidden temple which made it even more peaceful and enjoyable. Komyozenji temple was founded in 1273 and is composed only of stones, moss, and trees. The stones are raked in the morning in representing ripples in water. Visiting a Zen garden was on my bucketlist of things to do in Japan so I was delighted that I was able to visit such a beautiful one.

Dazaifu is known for having delicious mochi treats so we stopped at dessert shop and Mr. Mochizuki ordered traditional matcha tea and mochi that was so fresh it was still warm. After this, we went to a traditional sushi restaurant where we were required to take our shoes off and eat on the floor. Usually dessert comes after the main meals, however, this time it was the other way around. But I’m certainly not complaining, I always liked eating my dessert first!

We headed back to the center of Fukuoka and that concluded our afternoon trip to Dazaifu. I am so thankful for Mr. Mochizuki because he really made it a special day full of laughter and interesting activities. We even arranged to meet up again in 1 week to go to a Japanese onsen.

