

## Japan: Nagasaki

July 14, 2016



On Thursday morning, I boarded the JR 1.5 hour express train from Hakata train station to Nagasaki, a beautiful port city on the west of Kyushu island. On August 9 at 11:02 am 1945 when the atomic bomb was dropped in Nagasaki, hundreds of thousands of people suffered and were directly affected. With donations given, the “Fountain of Peace” was built for remembrance. It is sad that the shape of the fountain is in shape of a pair of wings symbolizing peace. The fountain was finished on August 1969 but was reconstructed on August 1985 and currently has a diameter of 18 meters and height of 1.5 – 6 meters.

Nagasaki was the second city that suffered an atomic bomb just 3 days after Hiroshima. I went to the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and can honestly say it had an impact on me. It was full of graphics, descriptions, and photographs taken right after the bomb. It was extremely informative and detailed and would highly recommend it. One of the images that stays in my mind is a real clock that was found after the bomb and had the exact time of 11:02 when the clock instantly stopped working. It is one of my favorite sections in the museum. I also visited the surrounding areas with a catholic church and the Peace Statue. I learned that the statue has a lot of symbolism. The statue's right hand raised is a sign of the threat that nuclear weapons cause while his left hand is a symbol for peace.



I visited a traditional Japanese bridge and then walked to the Confucius shrine and museum. I also went to the bay and beautiful park and then went back to Fukuoka. Overall, I find Nagasaki to be a fascinating city full of interesting history. In addition, it impressed me how quickly the city has developed again considering its massive destruction. They have a great transportation system making it very easy for tourists to go around. Of course, I had learned about the war events in school, however, there is nothing like learning in person!