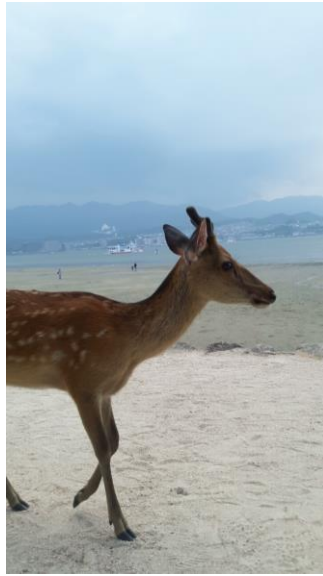


JAPAN: Hiroshima

July, 2016

For my journey to Hiroshima, Kyoto, and Osaka, I bought a 1 week pass for unlimited use of the “shinkansen” bullet train in Japans Honshu Island and was able to benefit by rapidly visiting different places.



Hiroshima is probably most famous for its okonomiyaki dish, and of course, the Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima Island as well as their museum. During the time of day that I was there, the tide was low and I was able to walk all the way up to the Shrine. One day, I would like to go back to Itsukushima Shrine when it is a high tide and see it through a new perspective. Miyajima Island was unique because as soon as I got off the ferry, I was greeted by deer! They were friendly and not aggressive and walked right next to people (probably seeking food). I thought it made the place extra special and unique.

Another reason that I decided I wanted to go to Hiroshima was because I learned so much about history when I visited Nagasaki that I became even more intrigued to learn about Hiroshima. I could spend several days learning, reading, and visiting the A-Bomb Dome, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, and the Peace Memorial Museum, but with my limited time, I had to do it all in one day.

One of the most valuable things I have learned is that traveling is another form of education. I was able to learn so much more by visiting the places in person than I ever could have by a textbook in class. Historical museums were amongst the first places that I liked visiting in a new area. In my opinion, the reason is simple: it is impossible to physically walk in front of the skeletal A-Dome in Hiroshima and not feel an emotional impact from the August 6, 1945 atomic bomb destructions. In 1996, the A-dome was accepted in the World Heritage List.



Although the museum in Hiroshima is more crowded with people, it is bigger than the Nagasaki museum and had more details. It was very updated and even had a section about President Obamas visit that he made the previous month.



オバマ大統領が記したメッセージと折り鶴
折り鶴は、メッセージの傍らに添えられたものです。

President Obama's
Message and the Paper Cranes
President Obama put the paper cranes beside the message.

私たちは戦争の苦しみを経験しました。
共に、平和を広め核兵器のない世界を追求
する勇気を持ちましょう。

We have known the agony of war.
Let us now find the courage, together,
to spread peace and pursue a world
without nuclear weapons.