

February 2, 2019

Journal Entry #4

Ohayō gozaimasu! We are back with another blog entry. Today, it was difficult getting out of bed. The bed was so soft and nice! We also had brand new PJs to wear. Just another day, living out of a suitcase. We stumbled down to breakfast and had yet another delicious meal. After breakfast, we had to part ways with our beloved hotel and said hello to Nagoya Castle. Unfortunately, they are reconstructing the main tower to be authentic to the original material it was built with: cypress, a special type of wood. One plank of cypress cost about \$20,000 USD and the castle and surrounding structures were made completely out of cypress. The Shogun lived a lavish lifestyle to say the least. We had a fun time with our tour guides who gave us a great tour of the palace that had been reconstructed after being burned down during World War II and the area inside the complex walls. We also had the opportunity to take a tour of the Hommaru Palace and the architecture was mind boggling! Every individual detail was hand carved and the entire Palace only took less than 3 years to be build. We made a quick stop at the gift shop, then made our way back to the bus, then headed off to Toyota for lunch. We ate a big lunch with sashimi, tempura, udon, japanese salad, tofu, grilled mackerel, and rice. After eating, we skirted over to the Motomachi Toyota factory. We were given a thorough tour of the factory. We walked along a cat walk over the assembly line that pumps out 240 cars a day!!! We saw the cars being assembled right underneath our feet, but sadly we didn't have enough money to buy a new one ☹️. After the tour, we got back on the bus, and headed out to Mie Prefecture to meet our host families.

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