Cameron's Mountain Trip to Koyasan!

Since it was almost the end of Autumn, and the leaves had begun to fall from the trees, I decided to do a final trip with a friend to enjoy the scenery! We travelled to Wakayama prefecture in order to take the cable car to the top of Koyasan. Once we arrived we first checked in at our hotel, a wonderful temple called Zofukuin. A priest guided us to our rooms, past a beautiful garden, where we left our bags.

Then it was time to explore! First was Okunoin cemetery, the final resting place of Kobo Daishi. This area has many ancient shrines and graves in the middle of a forest and it has a very unique atmosphere. Some of the graves were around 1500 years old! After walking for a long time we reached the entrance to Kobo Daishi's temple where there were many Buddha statues that visitors would splash with water. After crossing the bridge to the temple, no photographs were allowed. However, it was absolutely beautiful with many candles, incense sticks and flowers to celebrate Kobo Daishi. There was Even a sign which read "if this stone is heavy then you do not have peace in your heart" (I couldn't lift it so I think I might be evil). On the way back it was getting dark so the lanterns turned on! The area seemed a little scary at night but it was very beautiful.

The next day we woke up at around 6am to join the morning prayer. We listened to their chanting and one by one we prayed at the front. When I went to pray I was so sleepy, and my legs were dead from sitting in seiza, so I nearly fell over.

Later we visited many of the other temples in the area and even found an injured deer! I had to use my terrible Japanese language skills to ask a priest to call for help. After celebrating by eating some delicious mochi, we began our journey home down the mountain. This was one of my favourite trips so far and I learned a lot about Japanese culture and history!