

Cameron's Sapporo Snow Festival Sightseeing

This month I had my first experience flying to a new island in Japan! As soon as I arrived in Hokkaido I was so shocked by the change in temperature. It was so cold and everywhere was so busy with tourists going to ski or explore Sapporo! I was really excited to be on my second solo adventure in Japan so I spent the afternoon running around in the snow to see all of the famous landmarks such as the clocktower and the Nikka sign in Susukino. Once I had left my bags at the hostel I went out to meet with some of my friends from Tokyo and experience the lively Sapporo nightlife!

Due to a very exhausting first day, I decided to spend the next day more leisurely by walking along the river and stopping to read at a nearby cafe. On my walk I even saw a fox hiding in the snow by the riverbank! Eventually I met with my friends again for lunch to try kaisen-don at one of the famous fish market streets before climbing the Sapporo TV tower for a stunning view of Odori park. At this point the others had to leave to catch their flight so I said goodbye before getting food at the market stalls and walking around Odori park to see the impressive snow sculptures. There were even local musicians playing the piano and a percussion instrument made of ice!

Day 3 involved a trip to the nearby Mt Moiwa, which overlooks the surrounding city. I took a walk through Nakajima park before taking the tram to the mountain ropeway. Unfortunately the morning's clear weather had begun to be replaced by clouds and falling snow so the view from the top was not as spectacular as I imagined. However, I've heard it's amazing on a clear night! It is also a famous spot for couples so it was quite funny to explore by myself and help people on dates by taking romantic photos.

On my final day I woke up early to visit the nearby town of Otaru and spent the morning relaxing by the canal and enjoying the town's seaside atmosphere in the local cafes, breweries and art museums before racing to the airport to catch my flight back to Kansai. Hokkaido has such a unique atmosphere compared to other places in Japan and I really enjoyed it. I can't wait to visit again one day to ski in Niseko or see the flowers in the summertime!

