

## Danita's Road Trip in Kita Kyushu!

During spring break, I travelled to Kyushu with 2 of my ALT friends, Marlon and Bella!

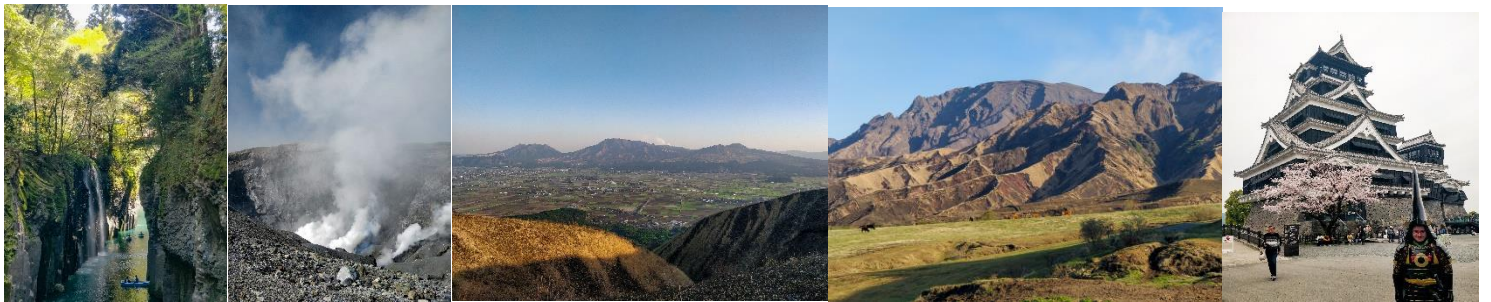
We started our week-long adventure in Fukuoka. We spent our first day at Keya no Oto in Itoshima and walked through the Totoro forest and along the black sand beach. At the cliff, there was a cave with an entrance on the ocean side, but the waves were too strong so the boat tours were canceled. Later that day, we went to the top of Fukuoka Tower, where we could see a 360° view of both the ocean and the city. At night, we enjoyed Hakata ramen at the famous yatai along the river.

The next day we took a train to Beppu and visited the Hells (地獄). We also enjoyed onsen and a sand bath! I laid down in the sand bed and buried myself under the warm sand - I almost fell asleep!



After a relaxing day in Beppu, we rented a car and drove to Takachiho Gorge in Miyazaki. The weather was beautiful and the sunlight made the water extra green. There were many people who did a boat tour along the gorge but the wait time was 5 hours! So we didn't do that.

The next few days were spent in Kumamoto prefecture. First, we visited Aso-san, an active volcano. From January to March, the volcano was too dangerous to visit. Now it is a little safer, so we were lucky to see the volcano from the top of the crater! As well, the drive along Milk Road was one of the most beautiful views I had seen in my life, but I couldn't take any pictures because I was driving. We also visited Kumamoto Castle and admired the sakura! I was surprised to see so many bears in Japan...



From Kumamoto, we took a ferry to Nagasaki. We visited the Atomic Bomb Museum and Peace Park. After learning about the history of the city, it was interesting to see the places affected by the disaster in real life while we walked across Nagasaki. Although I felt upset after the museum, I was happy to see that the city was lively even after such a terrible event. Later that day, we visited Chinatown, and took the ropeway up to Inasayama to watch the sunset and see the beautiful night view of Nagasaki one last time before returning home.

