

NIPPON NEWS

10 Day Tour of Japan | March 2023 | Heather and Blayze

Blayze's Impressions

Today on Mt. Fuji or as the locals call it Fuji-san, we had a trip to the first station. Unfortunately, the rest of the stations were closed due to natural circumstances we are not aware of.

But as a plus I saw snow for the first time in my life, when I got out of the bus, I was excited to feel the snow. It felt like a frozen drink, but I thought it would feel more like very cold dirt.

We started throwing snow at each other, I was worried at first as there was some security guards, and I thought that they would come over, and tell us that we can't throw snowballs.

However the guards never came over, and we continued enjoying the scenery of Fuji-san.

Fuji no Yama

The best fun today was seeing Blayze really enjoy the snow with the beautiful backdrop of Mt Fuji ahead of us. Every day, the staff of the national park decide on the basis of likelihood of volcanic activity and landslides, how far anyone can venture up the mountain. Today was only the lowest level — maybe it is because we are having exceptionally warm weather — maybe the snow is melting faster than normal. Anyway the view was stupendous. And the snow around us, even at that level was quite deep. Blayze nearly fell over in the deep stuff.

We enjoyed the moment and then drove down to the lower level to a beautiful small village that straddled a number of lovely ponds formed by spring water. We wandered and enjoyed the old buildings, the odd piles of snow on the ground and the unusual koi. Most were a blue and some a bright yellow. Apparently the minerals in the water determines the colouring. Fuji-San, graced the horizon like the princess she is deemed to be.





Interesting that they use the honorific of “san” because I thought that meant ‘Mr.’”

Our next stop was a nearby lake where we went on a tour to get yet another angle on the mountain. It was funny, because we could not see it until we got out onto the water and then realised that it had been behind us all the time. We were so lucky to get this picture-postcard view. It was clear and perfect and actually getting hot on occasions.

Two hours of driving to our next overnight location of Matsumoto was only punctuated by a late afternoon stop at an eatery beside yet another lake. We decided to take our main meal here — ramen for me and rice and curry for Blayze. I love this Japanese food!!

After getting to yet another nice hotel (surprise, surprise really, as I did not expect such comfort on this low budget trip) we paired up with another couple to walk to the local castle — Castle Matsumoto. At this time it was dark and just the right time to view the illuminated beauty. I wish we had time to stay and see inside. This is the problem with tours — pluses and minuses. Blayze (and I) would really have loved the half day tour and samurai experience.



We are in bed now with just enough energy to write this missive and download the photos. Tomorrow we are off to a few villages and farms.

