

# NIPPON NEWS

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

## Blayze's Impressions

Today, we took an optional tour to the city of Hiroshima. It started with a Shinkansen bullet train from Osaka. Surprisingly the shinkansen was comfortable and quiet.



After around 1.5 hrs we got to Hiroshima. The first place we went was a divine island. We then drove to the peace memorial which was made to commemorate the A-Bomb dropped on 6th of August 1945. We preceded to the museum where they told tales of the victims, and showing the horrors of nuclear bombs.

## Fast Train

Blayze was excited to ride the bullet train. It is so hassle free, that it really belies all the hype. Everyone gets lined up at a precise point to board through the correct door when the train arrives. The track barriers open and you have about 60 seconds to board. Take your seat (lots of leg room), relax, buy a drink or something to eat and watch the inside of the tunnels flash by. Hey presto, with very few stops you are 150km away in no time. Hiroshima here we come.



## Hiroshima

Of course Hiroshima has been totally rebuilt since 1945. It was actually to my eyes rather pleasing (now). It is clean, relatively signage free (as is most of the urban areas we have seen) and has more trees than most.

Our first stop — the Devine Island — was reached by a short ferry ride. The most interesting part of that ride was seeing the famous tori gate sitting in the water. We were then escorted through a long area of shops and eateries to the Itsukushima Shrine. Unfortunately our guide did not really explain the history or significance of this place prior to arrival, so our viewing of the place consisted of walking in a continuous line past things we did not understand or appreciate. Yes, many of the views were attractive, but!! Reading later on informed me that the place had been established in the 1100s and was the centre of the creation of many of the now traditional court dances.



The thing Blayze most enjoyed was the wild deer who wandered the foreshore, just ignoring the thousands of people gawking at them. The best fun for this part of the day was, once again, our stop at a little restaurant to sample yet more Japanese cuisine. I tried tempura and Blayze had eel and rice. This boy really has expanded his diet! We had to rush like crazy back to the ferry terminal to meet up with the group. Not good for the blood pressure.

Our trip into central Hiroshima, took us to the Peace Gardens which are located at the epicentre of the bomb drop. It has many peaceful fountains and monuments but once again they were not explained to us in sufficient detail. One thing that was very worth mentioning is that Blayze chose to ring the peace bell. A plaque asks all to ring the bell for peace. It has a very deep resonant sound and I was proud that Blayze chose to be the first of our group to ring the bell.

The Peace Memorial Museum was very sobering. Once again we were required to walk in a continuous line and read, study, observe the exhibits. The most startling was the many photographs apparently taken a short time after the bombing, of mutilated, burnt people. One photograph showed a man with one eye ball totally exposed. Another showed a stone step with a darker spot on it. The darker spot, now etched into the stone, was caused by the body of the person who is thought to have been sitting on the stone. Where he lay, it remained the same colour it was and all the remaining stonework was bleached. We read stories about people who were lost and watched some videos of survivors. In my grandson's words, "everyone needs to see this".

Our return trip by train was just as easy as the one this morning. We arrived back late. We both needed to sit for a while before venturing out to find some tea. Blayze spied a restaurant across the road and used google translate to decipher the offerings. With our booty in hand, we made it back to our room to have a meal on our beds.









一発の原子爆弾が、無差別に多くの命を奪い、生き残った人々の人生も変えました。  
 広島平和記念資料館は、被爆資料や遺品、証言などを通じて、  
 世界の人々に核兵器の恐怖や非人道性を伝え、ノーモア・ヒロシマと訴えます。

A single atomic bomb indiscriminately killed tens of thousands of people, profoundly disrupting and altering the lives of survivors. Through belongings left by the victims, A-bombed artifacts, testimonies of A-bomb survivors and related materials, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum conveys to the world the horrors and the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and spreads the message of "No more Hiroshimas."

一颗原子弹夺走了无数宝贵的生命，也改变了幸存者的人生。  
 广岛和平纪念馆通过原爆资料、遗物和证言等，将核武器的恐怖与非人道诉诸全世界，  
 呼吁不能再重演广岛悲剧。

한 발의 원자폭탄이 무너져 내린  
 히로시마 평화기념자를  
 비인도성을 전하고 노

기버렸습니다.  
 핵무기의 공포와


