

International Student Seminar in Mt. Fuji 2019

DATE : Saturday, November 30th – Sunday, December 1st, 2019

PARTICIPANTS : 35 international students

DESTINATION : Tokaido Utagawa Hiroshige Museum, Kunosan Toshogu Shrine, Fujisan World Heritage Center, Oshino Hakkai (The Eight Sacred Ponds, from both Shizuoka and Yamanashi prefectures)

The 2nd international student seminar was held in fall at the end of November 2019 around Mt. Fuji stretching from Shizuoka to Yamanashi prefectures.

Our trip started in a friendly atmosphere with an opening self-introductions on the bus.

When we first caught the clear sight of Mt. Fuji from the bus windows, many shouts of joy arose and everyone was excited.

Within a drive of 2 and a half hours, the bus arrive at Tokaido Utagawa Hiroshige Museum in Shizuoka prefecture. The participants were divided into 2 groups there to experience a memorable 'Ukiyo-e' wood block printing. Following the instruction given by the lecturer, the students each chose a favorite design from the two types and created their own piece of artwork which they took home carefully. After that, everyone enjoyed a Sakura shrimp lunch plate that is a local specialty at a restaurant only 10 minutes-walk from the museum.

Then the party visited Kunosan (Mt. Kuno) and at the gate of ropeway met the volunteer guides who, spread in 3 groups, took us to Kunosan Toshogu shrine and explained its history in English.

Our accommodation provided a beautiful view of Mt. Fuji from Yamanashi side, and after Japanese-style dinner each spent their free time playing cards, enjoying 'onsen' (hot spring bath) and so on.

The next day was scheduled to go half way up to the top of Mt. Fuji but the frozen road prevented us from going, so we changed our plan and visited Fujisan World Heritage Center and Oshino Hakkai instead which gave us a great pleasure as well. Our lunch spot was by Lake Kawaguchi where they served Yamanashi's soul food 'hoto', and after the meal all enjoyed the view from the restaurant's upstairs and souvenir shopping on the first floor. The excursion ended smoothly without getting trapped by a traffic jam back to Minami Osawa where we said goodbye.

