

The Ise-Japan study program gave me an amazing opportunity to broaden my knowledge about history and culture of Ise City and Mie Prefecture. This intensive three-weeks program also provided me a great chance to get more information on practice of Shinto from cultural, historical and local perspectives.

Since Ise is home to Grand Shrine of Ise, the most sacred shinto shrines in Japan, it is not surprising that important part of the program was related to phenomenon of Ise Jingu. In my opinion, this program is the best choice for those who want to know as much as possible about Shinto in relatively short period of three weeks. Although there might be voices saying that the program is something like Shinto „propaganda”, I totally disagree with it. It is obvious that the program is only trying to emphasize irrecoverable and inherent position of Shinto in Japanese culture and society from ancient times till nowadays.

Whole three weeks were perfectly organized – Kogakkan University prepared many interesting lectures on wide scale of topics. Lectures were taken seriously, and conducted in the proper way, often followed by sightseeing trips on which all new learned information were put in context. I think it's one of the best pragmatic way of teaching knowledge. I have experienced many great moments not only in the Shinto shrines, but also in the historic parts of the city where we were taken by local guides.

Since the whole program has offered me interesting lectures and sightseeing trips almost on daily basis, it is almost impossible to pick up some negative points. Now, my intention is to incorporate information I have learned during the program into my future lectures on Japanese culture and religion. I am grateful for being able to participate in this program, if I compare it with my previous visits in Japan, this time it was definitely the best spend stay ever. Thank you!

今回の「伊勢」と日本スタディプログラムに参加させて頂き、誠にありがとうございました。短い間でしたが、この 3 週間で伊勢の歴史や伊勢の文化についての様々な講義を受けて、想像していた以上に楽しいものでした。皇學館大学から、事前にそれぞれの授業のスケジュールや毎回の講義内容を詳細に明示してもらいました。私の最も重要な狙いは伊勢神宮について学ぶことだったので、内宮外宮を訪問し、それについて学ぶことは大変貴重でした。伊勢と言えば内宮や外宮が有名ですが、他にも回りきれないほどの神社があります。例えば、倭姫宮や二見興玉神社です。それらもこのプログラムで訪問することができ、神道の伝統や神道建築の知識を深めることができました。スロバキアの大学で、必ず伊勢の神社とその歴史についての特別講義を実施するつもりです。

このプログラムは最初から最後までよく構成されており、不満を見つけることができません。皇學館大学の先生とそのスタッフ、伊勢市民にこころから感謝の念をささげます。以上