

By: Mina Böhning

Japanese exchange 2019

At first I was unsure about signing up for the exchange, but now I'm happy that I did! Most of us didn't know each other very well before going to Japan, so I was a bit nervous, but we quickly befriended one another and all got along well. Everyone at school was so kind, polite and ready to help that I felt welcome and at ease.

We went on a few trips during our stay, the biggest one being to Hakone, where we stayed for one night. I think this was my favourite trip. We arrived there in the afternoon and got to our hotel, which had its own hot spring (onsen) included. It was an amazing experience. After coming back from the onsen fully relaxed and a bit tired, we had a traditional Japanese dinner, which included many things I'd never eaten before that tasted surprisingly good. The next day, we headed out after breakfast to visit numerous sights in Hakone, including the Open Air Museum, the Hakone shrine by lake Ashi and the Odawara castle. It was a great trip and I liked seeing the traditional part of Japan.

What I also enjoyed a lot was the time we got to spend with our exchange partners. Me and my buddy, Riho, decided to go to Tokyo Dome City, an amusement park with lots of cool attractions. Together with two friends of hers, we had a fun time riding roller coasters, eating street food and going shopping in the Tokyo Dome City mall. It really helped us get along better and I can't wait for her to come to Germany.



Shibuya, Tokyo



Enoshima shrine



Tokyo Dome City



Asakusa, Tokyo