Japan Culture Program

Location: Kyo-nan, Chiba, Tokyo
Host: The Film Academy at Magic Hour
Dates: January 2-6 at Sunset Breeze, select dates in Tokyo

Description:

The intent of the culture program is to give students a taste of Japan’s history and culture through classroom instruction and field trips. This includes discussion ranging from how to buy a metro card, to staying to the left rather than right on an escalator, to the range of exceptional foods (i.e. Japanese eat sushi on special occasions. They have a far more varied cuisine than most who’ve never traveled to Japan realize). The culture program will primarily be held at Sunset Breeze-Hota, a seaside retreat center in Chiba. Students will receive a block of instruction on basic Japanese history and culture. Take a trip to the nearby largest Buddha in Japan and explore the Japanese tradition of celebrating the New Year. Another block of instruction will cover survival Japanese, essential phrases, feminine versus masculine speech, etc. Other highlights include haiku by the sea, fan making and woodblock printing, a viewing of a Japanese film classic, a Matsuri performance given by the local townspeople followed by barbecue. In Tokyo, students receive a lecture from a featured special guest, a program dinner, and a day of Sumo (assuming group tickets are available).

Requirements:

Full attendance, punctuality, participation, and exemplary behavior for the entirety of the program. A journal to record observations, notes, and thoughts for each culture program event and class as a minimum. A final reflective essay (6-8 double-spaced, typed pages) on your impressions of Japan, its history, culture, cuisine, and so on with final attention and thoughts on your immersion experience, coursework, and personal journey (due January 24th). Ultimately, the journal and final reflective essay are not only for your “grade” but mementos of your trip as well.

Texts:

Saga, Junichi. *Confessions of a Yakuza*
Course packets (provided)
Journal, un-lined, medium-size to regular (no pocket size or ring-bound notebooks)