

## Home Stay

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I am a student from Myanmar. This is my very first time joining the homestay program. I joined it because I want to know more about Japanese culture, especially what it is like in their private life or family. I was excited and worried before meeting with the host family. But when I met with the host family, I felt relieved since they were so kind and friendly. They treated me as one of their families, letting me experience Japanese culture, treating me to delicious food, and explaining much about it.



On the first evening with my host family, they took me to a shopping center for 串焼き. Sadly, the restaurant had already relocated, so we opted for Okonomiyaki (お好み焼き) instead. I had tried okonomiyaki once before with my foreign friends, but this was my first experience enjoying it with Japanese people. They demonstrated how it's traditionally eaten in Japan. The one time I had my first Okonomiyaki was over a year ago, so I had already forgotten how it tasted. But the Okonomiyaki I had with the host family was delicious and filling. Later, I was taken to a supermarket, where they did the grocery shopping. We bought some fish for the next day's breakfast and some desserts for the night. Then, we went to the host family's home.

When we arrived at their home, they first led me to the room where I would be staying on my stay there. Then, after a while, the daughter from the family returned home, and we greeted each other before gathering to eat the dessert. After that, they let me use the bath before calling it a night. On the next day, we had a typical Japanese-style breakfast, which was amazing. I was then resting in my room before going to an Indian curry restaurant for lunch, and then we moved around Hamamatsu City for a while. We also went to soak our feet in a footbath (足湯) before grocery shopping for dinner. I have experienced Japanese-style hand-rolled sushi (手巻き寿司) for the first time, and it was so delicious. The next day, we had a fantastic Japanese-style breakfast again before heading to Nagoya City. We moved around Nagoya City and went sightseeing to different places, including Nagoya Castle, before returning to Hamamatsu again. Then, they sent me back to my place before we said goodbye. I am glad that I signed up for the homestay program. It was a lifetime experience that I can exchange for nothing.