PONNUSAMY BALAJI MURUGAN (India)

Over the weekend, I had an enriching homestay experience that showcased Japanese culture and hospitality.

Friday Night:

Upon arrival, we enjoyed a traditional Japanese dinner of **Oyakodon**, a comforting chicken and egg rice bowl. This hearty dish set a warm and welcoming tone for the weekend.

Saturday:

In the morning, we visited **Okuni Shrine** and the nearby wild area park. The peaceful surroundings and natural beauty offered a serene start to the day. For lunch, we indulged in delicious **udon noodles**, savoring their chewy texture and flavorful broth. In the evening, we explored **PLEHA WALK Hamakita**, a vibrant shopping and entertainment complex. We dined at **Ramen Station**, where the variety and richness of ramen dishes left a lasting impression.

Sunday:

The day began with a visit to the exquisite **Ryotanji Garden and Shrine**, known for its meticulously landscaped grounds and historical significance.

This was a cultural highlight, offering insight into traditional Japanese aesthetics. For lunch, we stopped at **Neopasa**, a modern highway service area, where we enjoyed a delightful meal with diverse options.

The weekend concluded with the **Hamamatsu International Event** at Hamamatsu Station. This lively gathering featured cultural performances and interactions with locals and visitors from around the world, leaving us with unforgettable memories.

The homestay provided a perfect blend of cultural exploration, local cuisine, and meaningful interactions. It deepened my appreciation for Japanese traditions and modern lifestyle, making it a truly memorable experience.

