

Aung Bhone Pyae Kyaw (Myanmar)

Recently, I participated in a homestay program, and it was one of the most enjoyable and meaningful experiences I have ever had. The host family was very kind and friendly toward me, and from the first day, they treated me as if I were a member of their own family.

On the first day, they prepared a guest room for me with a traditional Japanese futon. The room was very comfortable, and I slept extremely well. I felt relaxed and welcomed, which made me less nervous about staying in a new environment. Their warm hospitality helped me feel at home right away.

The next morning, we enjoyed breakfast together as a family. After breakfast, they introduced me to shogi, a traditional Japanese board game that is similar to chess. At first, the rules and movements were difficult to understand, but they patiently taught me how to play the game. Thanks to their clear explanations, I learned the basic moves and even played one match with their son. Although I lost the game, I learned a lot and truly enjoyed the experience.



Later that day, we went shopping to buy ingredients to cook a traditional food from my country, Myanmar, called MonHinGa. Finding the necessary ingredients was quite difficult, and it took us the whole morning. However, the process itself was fun and memorable. After shopping, we visited “Hattasan Soneiji Temple”. It was my first time visiting a temple in Japan, and it was a very interesting experience. We enjoyed delicious dango with green tea there, which tasted very good.

When we returned home, the family taught me some basic piano and violin skills. It was exciting to try new instruments, and by the end, I was able to play simple notes like “do, re, mi, fa.” I had a lot of fun learning music with them.

The following day, we prepared and cooked MonHinga using the ingredients we had bought. Cooking together was enjoyable, and although the taste was slightly different from what I had imagined, it turned out well. I was very happy that all the family members liked it. After breakfast,

we went BBQ camping at a place called “Sato no Ie”, where I experienced many new things.

Finally, the family kindly sent me back to my dormitory. This homestay program was the best weekend I have ever had, and I am very grateful for the wonderful memories and cultural experiences I gained.