

Kushida Shrine

Date of visit: 5 of March of 2023

Purpose: Guide training



The visit began a bit before the Shrine itself, with the group going inside one of the historical houses and understanding a bit of the history of the area.



Then, once inside the Shrine area, the first highlight was a big tree on the left side of the shrine. I thought it was so interesting the pieces of History related to this shrine's mythology and the real life events surrounding it.

After, we were led inside the shrine and taught about the respectful practices. The group did the cleansing ritual before entering the Shrine building, and was taken to the side so more of the history of the place could be explained. I liked how the tour guide leading the training would focus on the details, and show pictures as she explained everything. She would often ask questions and prompt others in the group to answer or explain something. It was very engaging.

After that, we were given the opportunity to give an offering as well as take out our fortune. I learned a lot about the right way to pray at the shrine, and also the fact that each shrine has a different way of praying. There was a ceremony happening inside the shrine, which was very interesting to see.

Then, we were once again outside, there being a lot more history to be explored. We were told about the festival that happens in Fukuoka during the summer, and about the sumo wrestlers and the myth surrounding it. There was even a rock visitors were invited to try and lift – I didn't try, but it looked very heavy! There was also a different ceremony happening outside, so we had a better view.

Overall it was a very thorough tour – the guide leading the training was engaging and friendly, and she would explain things clearly and be honest when she wasn't sure about something specifically. I had a lot of fun learning about Kushida Shrine, and hope to return another time.



