



MPMA students (2022-2023)

# MPMA FIELD TRIP-WINTER

The excitement was evident as we got ready for our class vacation to Hokkaido, the northern gem of Japan. A trip that none of us wanted to miss was what Hokkaido, known for its stunning scenery, vibrant culture, and unique seasons, offered. That excursion into a realm that promised to be extremely different from our daily lives was more than a trip. The week before our vacation started was filled with excitement and full preparation. Lists of necessities were created, with winter clothing topping the list due to Hokkaido's freezing weather. Conversations moved around us, speculating on the places we'd travel and the meals we'd try. Our professors prepared the program, emphasizing both the educational value and the enjoyment.

The vacation is not only enlarged our perspectives but also left a long-lasting impression on our personal and intellectual life.

Our travel from Chitose Airport to Otaru was full of anticipation as snow-covered landscapes went by our windows. Upon arrival, the calm beauty of Otaru with a layer of snow welcomed us, setting the mood for our trip. The canal was previously a vital component of the city's busy waterfront, but it is now a lovely memory of Otaru's heritage. The snow-covered walks and quiet glow of gas lamps along the canal produced an adorable environment right out of a fairytale. The lovely background, surrounded by historical warehouses that have been turned into restaurants and businesses, provided several photo opportunities.

Beyond the beautiful gastronomic delights, the trip provided an in-depth look at Hokkaido's geological history and cultural significance. Participants and fun activities taught travelers about the land's environment, its indigenous people, and how seasonal changes affect life on the island. These experiences increased the way we understood things, making the vacation not only fun but also quite educational. As the days passed, the vacation became more than simply a trip; it was an experience of personal development. We learned how to navigate new environments, appreciate different cultures, and see the world in a larger context. The connections that were built among classmates and professors in the beauty of Hokkaido were unlike any classroom experience, full of moments of happiness, discovery, and mutual support.



Otaru Canal



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Otaru Canal

Hachiko



Trekking challenge

The morning's challenges included steeper slopes and deeper snow, which put our newly acquired abilities and working together to challenge. It showed our ability to persevere and the connections we created as we encouraged each other, shared laughter, and overcame difficulties together.



Clock Tower

TV Tower

The final part of our field trip began with a visit to Sapporo City, Sapporo Clock Tower, which is a symbol of the city's past and an indicator of its growth. As we learned about its history, we couldn't help but go back to when our journey began, which seemed so long ago. The Sapporo TV Tower stands out as an era despite the city's natural majesty. Next, the Sapporo Beer Museum surprised us with a deep smell of brewing hops and stories going back to the nineteenth century. It was a lesson not just in brewing, but also in the development of a brand that has become a symbol of Sapporo. Last, The Sapporo Old City Hall is evidence of the city's architectural and civic past. Its red brickwork and Western-style architecture recalled eras of transition and adaption. This visit was more than simply a historical tour; it was a reminder of all of the layers of history that created the basis of modern-day Sapporo. Unfortunately, while we were there, there was instruction.

Our guides welcomed us with cheerful smiles, instantly establishing the tone of the day. They took us through the fundamentals of snow trekking, emphasizing safety and care for the environment. Each of us got snowshoes and gloves, which would assist the team in the icy landscape.



Jozankei

## Last but not least

As our trip came to an end, we convened to reflect on our full experience. The intense, shared experiences of the previous two days had not only brought us closer together but also increased our awareness of Hokkaido's unique landscape and culture. We left Hokkaido with much more than just memories and souvenirs, but also a renewed feeling of interest and a commitment to study far from the classroom. Throughout the trip, our schedule included fun educational activities and team-building activities. These experiences were more than simply enjoyable; they provided opportunities to improve collaboration, critical thinking, and a greater respect for the environment and people around us. The trip may have been short, but the impressions it left were deep and lasting, inspiring a desire to learn more about and enjoy the world in more meaningful ways.



Sapporo Beer Museum

Old City Hall