

## Nagasaki Journey: History and Reflection



Our trip began with excitement and curiosity as we set off for Nagasaki, a city rich in history and culture. On the first day, we visited **Gamadasu Dome**, which showed the history of the Shimabara Rebellion, one of the largest peasant uprisings in Japan during the Edo period. This place was fueled by both religious and social issues, and the exhibitions inside the memorial provided detailed accounts of the event. As I walked through the museum, I was deeply moved by the artifacts on display, especially the meticulously preserved samurai armor and weapons, which transported me back to that tumultuous era.

Next, we visited the **Volcano Memorial Museum**, where we explored the long history of volcanic activity in the region. The exhibits covered not only the scientific aspects of the volcanoes but also their significant impact on local communities. It was fascinating to learn how the geological features of the area had shaped life here over the centuries. The relationship between natural forces and human society was captivating and thought-provoking.

By evening, we arrived at our accommodation, a tranquil onsen hotel nestled in the mountains. After a full day of learning and exploration, soaking in the hot springs was incredibly refreshing, washing away the day's fatigue.

The next morning, we set out early to visit the **Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum**. The museum documented the devastation caused by the atomic bomb dropped on the city during World War II. Inside, there were photos and personal stories from survivors, which vividly illustrated the horrors of war.

From there, we traveled to **Hashima Island**, also known as **Battleship Island**. Once a thriving coal mining facility, it is now a ghost town, with its abandoned buildings and structures standing in eerie silence. Walking through the ruins, I could almost hear the echoes of the workers and families who once lived and labored on the island. The stark contrast between the island's former industrial glory and its present desolation was striking, leaving me to ponder the passage of time and the impermanence of human endeavors.



This trip to Nagasaki was a deeply enriching experience, filled with historical insights and poignant moments. It captured stories of both

human and natural disasters, highlighting the resilience and perseverance of people in the face of adversity. It is a journey I will never forget.