

Report on trip to Nihonmatsu from Elena Mikhailova

The first destination of our trip was Nihonmatsu. On arriving at Kasumigajo Park, we received brochures written both in Japanese and English, which was very helpful for general guidance.

We entered the territory of the Nohonmatsu-jo Castle remains and were struck by the beauty of the potted flowers and flowers arrangements. The dome-shaped flowers looked miraculous and I was thinking of all human efforts of growing such chrysanthemum flowers. They are incredible!

We then moved to the chrysanthemum figures part of the exhibition and viewed the flower figures with great interest. They give a good impetus to learn more about various historic events of the Japan's past. There were two singers singing pleasant Japanese songs and many people were listening to them. The whole atmosphere created by the music and autumn colored trees in the background was enchanting.

The Chrysanthemum Exhibition surpassed all expectations. It is really exceptional! Nohonmatsu provides an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the Japan's history and culture.

The lunch at Sora-no-niwa restaurant was very delightful. The conversation at the table was easy going, as we were enjoying good food. The fish offered to us deserved the highest possible praise. I wish I knew the recipe what was in the sauce .

After a walk on Dake onsen street we found ourselves in Hanakanzashi, a very special ryokan with private open air baths. It is a refined guest house where one can enjoy Japanese traditions and food. All of us were highly impressed by this ryokan.

We were brought to Kounkaku hotel with a wonderful view of the forest below. Soaking and relaxing in the hot spring was a great treat. Since I go to onsens with regularity, I have acquired a taste for hot springs and appreciate their beneficial effects on the body. Considering all the facilities provided in Kounkan hotel, it's no wonder that it is such a popular place.

At the end, we were in for a pleasant surprise. Free coupons for buying books at any bookstore were given as a present. It was really thoughtful and gracious of the trip organizers !

I will keep very warm memories of this trip to Nohonmatsu and Dake.