

3rd visit in Japan

Spain M.A.R

“In this third visit to Kyoto, second to Otsu, by chance I stayed with M. O a new and young Servas member. I was her first guest, a lucky experience with a lovely family (and 2 friendly dogs in cages!). The 2 women –she and Y- her mother- are real artists in the kitchen (M makes also beautiful earrings and different handcrafts) and the men -father and brother- artists also in their own way (music, photography, painting, designing...). And I almost forget to mention a so shy grandmother! (I saw her only when she was not quick enough to hide herself!) All they were busy working but still there was time to chat, interchange information and joke during meals (translated by M). The women brought me to Miitera Temple (for the autumn night lighting) and to an “untypical” bar (only Mozart music). Since I knew in 2011 Otsu and Biwa lake, during those 2 days I went to Kyoto city (in Gion, with a DH N. T, the most delightful *kaizeki* meal of my life) and to Arashiyama (a complete Sunday walking by myself around was only enough!).



Another 2 days, in Kyoto gave me the possibility to visit Sochei-en Garden and Higashi-Honganji temple (a more complete visit than in 2011; I read somewhere this is the biggest wooden building in the world!?). And some hours before dark in Daitokuji temple. Kyoto is a “must” in Japan, I will never finish to discover this wonderful city. I wish to stay at least a week in my next Japan trip in 2018! (fourth, maybe!) Just a few words to mention the H family’s generosity for these 2 last days. T -still suffering from jetlag after a long trip abroad- accepted me and managed to make delicious dinners and breakfasts. To stay with H family was to be with an old friend, so familiar as crossing magnificent Tofukuji in the way to her home..., I felt already in my neighborhood! Thank you again to T and E. H for everything!



Thanks to all Japan Servas and thank you all Japan people!

Have a wonderful 2017, with my warmest regards:

M

Report from SERVAS visitors

Australia A.& N.H

Me and my wife have just returned from a memorable trip to Japan, and just as we hoped, the SERVAS component of our trip was what made it particularly special. It is always with a touch of apprehension that we feel when we arrive in a new country and try to make sense of a new city's

(Osaka) public transport system and find our destination. Luckily for us, our first SERVAS host, T and K. A had provided us with very clear directions so we had no problems. They made us feel very much at home and we got on so well that we were invited back in a week to stay with them again for a few more days. We then went down to Shikoku and walked around 10 temples before heading over to Kyoto where we enjoyed the hospitality of SERVAS hosts T and E. H. It really made our trip very special. Thanks for the lovely meals, & sake. Trip to Fushimi Inari shrine before breakfast is definitely the best time to go. As well as being very helpful in helping us organise our activities. It was also great to hear some of our hosts experiences as SERVAS hosts and SERVAS visitors. In Kyoto we took Taiko, Kumbu, Dance and Koto lessons, and in Osaka we bought a Koto which we hope to learn how to play when we get back to Australia. We look forward to the time when T, K, T and E visit us in Bendigo, Australia.

Much thanks

A. & N. H

彼らはオーストラリアの小さな町に住んでいられるのですが、友達にも手伝ってもらってお二人で建てられたログハウスに住み、電気は太陽から水は川からと公共の設備は一切使わない生活をされているユニークなご夫婦です。

H. T