

Marlborough College – Japan Tour 2016

Sugadaira

Day 1

After a long flight, Marlborough College arrived into Tokyo Narita International airport and transferred to Sugadaira. On arrival into Sugadaira the group checked into their accommodation in a private chalet style building – where they could experience Japanese living by sleeping on Tatami Mats. The rest of the evening was spent at leisure to acclimatize to surroundings.



Day 2

The next morning brought a group training session. After lunch the group met up with, and played a game of baseball with, Kawaguchi High School who were already training in Sugadaira. Marlborough College then transferred about 30 minutes to the local hot springs to enjoy a dip. In the evening the group returned back to their accommodation and met back up with Kawaguchi High school for a campfire, welcome presentation from the mayor and dinner. The welcome evening was then finished off with a firework display.





Day 3

After breakfast and a pool session, Marlborough College transferred to their first matches of the tour.

The U16's took on Nagono Pref Team and won with a score of 37 – 5. The 1st XV played their first match against Niigata High School which ended with a victory of 33 – 17. Both teams enjoyed a post-match function mixing with the opposition.





Kyoto

Day 4

Day four started with a transfer to Tsumago on the way to Kyoto. After 3 hours the group arrived on the Old Nakasendo road and were able to explore. The boys were able to enjoy lunch whilst exploring.

On arrival in Kyoto it was time to check into the Ark Hotel. The remainder of the evening was spent at leisure.

Day 5

Breakfast was spent at the hotel before a morning spent at leisure where the boys could go off in groups to explore Kyoto.

After breakfast it was time to walk to Shijo Station to depart to Kyoto Station. Here the boys were given bullet train rail passes for their 2-hour journey to Hiroshima.

On arrival in Hiroshima there was a short walk to the pier to jump on a ferry which went to Miyajima Island. On arrival at the port there were photo opportunities under the Great Torii shrine. Next stop was the Hiroshima Peace Memorial.

After a traditional Okonomiyaki dinner, it was time to head back to Hatchorbori Station and transfer back to Horishima Station for a train that returns to Kyoto via Shin Osaka.





Day 6

After lunch the group transferred by rail to Doshisha High School for the second fixtures of the tour. The U16's played their second fixture against Doshisha High School winning 28 – 17. The 1st XV played their second fixture against Rakuoku High School winning 38 - 12. After the match both teams enjoyed the post-match function mixing with the opposition before catching their return trains back to the hotel.





Yokosuka

Day 7

After an early breakfast it was time to check out of the hotel and walk to Shijo Station to catch a train to Kyoto. On arrival into Kyoto the group got on a train to Shin Yokohama which was a 2-hour transfer.

It was a more relaxed day where the boys enjoyed some downtime, stopping off at shopping centres and amusement arcades. It was then time to check in at the Central Hotel Yokosuka before enjoying an evening at leisure.



Day 8

After a brief train journey, the boys arrived at Yokosuka High School to meet their hosts. The principal welcomed the group to the school and the dance troop performed a welcome dance before their hosts provided activities including, Archery, Shofu (calligraphy), A Sado Tea Ceremony, baseball and a Kendo lesson. There was even a surprise birthday party arranged by Yokosuka for one of the Marlborough players.

After a fun packed day, the boys headed off with their host families for the night and the opportunity to experience Japanese living first hand.





Tokyo

Day 9

After breakfast with their hosts the boys said their farewells and met back up with their group. It was match day 3 against Waseda Jitsugyo High school.

The 1st XV had victory over Waseda with a score of 21 – 14. The development side had an impressive win at 31 – 7. Both teams delighted after wins on a very hot and humid day.

After post-match functions with the opposition, it was time to transfer to the Toyoko Inn, Todakoen for a four night stay.



Day 10

After a morning at leisure recovering after the previous matches the group used their rail pass to travel to the Meiji Jingu Gaien where they could walk to the batting cages for some practise. From here they had a short walk to the Meiji Jingu Stadium, (Japan National Stadium) to watch the Tokyo Yakult Swallows vs Hiroshima Toyo Carps in a professional Baseball game.





Day 11

After breakfast the boys took a short train journey and arrived at Disneyland Toyko. After a full day enjoying the rides the group headed to The Hard Rock Café for dinner and the presentation of the tour awards. These going to Toby Hargrove – best U16's tourist, XV player of the tour – Dom Coulson and Hugo Hentenaar winning best overall tourist!



Day 12

Today marked the last full day on tour and the final matches. After breakfast the group enjoyed a trip to the Tokyo Tower, where they were able to see the sights over Tokyo.

After lunch it was time to transfer to Japans oldest rugby club, Yokohama Country & Athletic club for the fourth and final fixtures of the tour.

The 1st XV took on Yokosuka High School and had a hard fought win of 10 – 7.

The U16's took on the Keio Junior high school and had a very impressive win of 52 – 0. Marlborough finished the tour with a successful 8 wins out of 8.

The group enjoyed their post-match function with their opposition before returning to their hotel.



