

“Kanagawa Expedition in Kawasaki～Journey to a good old days’ Japanese village and the cutting-edge space travel～” on Feb. 18

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Kanagawa International Fan Club organizes “Kanagawa Expedition” which gives you an opportunity for international exchange. This time, we explored Kawasaki area, where we have never visited as “Kanagawa Expedition.” We had participants from Thailand, Mexico, China, Republic of Korea, Spain, Union of Comoros, Vietnam, Indonesia and a Supporting Member of KANAFAN.

We headed for Japan Open-air Folk House Museum.



A 15-minute walk from the station led us to a good old days' Japanese village! It felt like we time traveled to the Edo period. Let's get close to the house and look at the inside!



Two guides were really kind to answer our questions. We learned many things: the style of roof varies depending on the era when the house was built. Some used straw and the other used wood or stone. Houses in eastern Japan tend to have irori, which means hearth, whereas those in western Japan usually have kamado, or traditional oven. Irori is used for cooking, and the smoke from irori has an effect to exterminate harmful insects.

The houses here were collected from all over Japan. When they re-thatch the roof, they ask the professionals to come from the area where the house was built to maintain the quality.

We took a group photo in the yard surrounded by three good-old houses! It looks like as if we slipped back into the Edo period, doesn't it? The volunteer guides made locusts with grass for us. It also looks like a real one!



So, what are they doing?



A-frame House!



This house was moved from Nagase, Shirakawa Village, Ōno County, Gifu Prefecture and designated as an Important Cultural Property by Kanagawa Prefectural Government.

After we enjoyed strolling around the folk houses, we went...

A SPACE TRAVEL!

We moved to Kawasaki Municipal Science Museum. We watched stars at a planetarium with the world's top level technology, MEGASTER.





Special program for February is Betelgeuse supernova explosion! Betelgeuse is the second-brightest star in the constellation of Orion. Supernova explosion is a rare astronomical event that occurs in the last stage of a star's life. We enjoyed the 45-minute space travel.

The place where we visited

Japan Open-air Folk House Museum (15 minutes walk from the Mukogaoka-Yuen Station south gate on the Odakyu Odawara Line)
Kawasaki Municipal Science Museum (2 minutes walk from Japan Open-air Folk House Museum)

We had so much fun even though it was a half-day tour.

Kanagawa Expedition aims not only to visit nice places in Kanagawa but also to encourage interpersonal exchange among KANAFAN members. People with nice and outgoing personality gathered this time, too.

Mission successfully completed, this time as well!

Thank you for reading and hope to see you in the next Kanagawa Expedition 😊