

A trip to Kyoto with my wife

made me discover another new world.

We were staying in Kyoto as we rented a small apartment from April 4 to 9 this year. On this trip we went around Kyoto city for 6 days! Day by day we planned to visit the place where we were longing to visit.

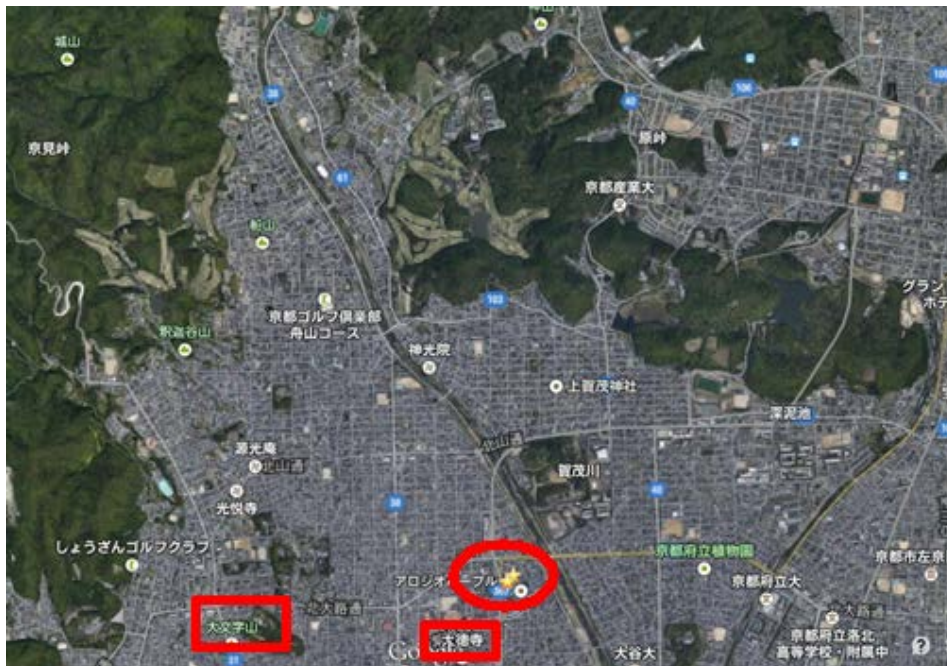
The first day

we left home for Kyoto at about 10 o'clock and got to the destination at 12. We loaded such heavy luggage that we needed much time to unload and made them ready for use.

After that, I suggested to stroll in the neighborhood. I walked along with pushing the wheelchair on which my wife rode.

We walked along the shopping street and got to a supermarket. We bought some and then got out of the store. I talked to a woman who was just about to leave at the entrance.

I asked her how we could get to Daitokuji Temple. She kindly told me the path and we soon arrived at the temple. The area where we stayed was located in the north part of Kyoto and surrounded by mountains on its three sides--the east, north, and west--except the south. We could see the west mountain nearby which is named Daimonjiyama. And the north and east mountain, at a little distance.



(the left red rectangle shows DAimonji mountain. The next rectangle shows Daitokuji Temple. And the red circle shows our apartment house.)

The second day we went to Kyoto National Museum,

Heisei Chishinkan Wing (new Collections Hall)



It was rainy. So we had a hard time to move to the building from the parking area pushing forward the wheel chair in the rain.

We began to appreciate the exhibitions from the third floor.



On the third floor there were archaeological relics of ceramics.

I had a deep and great impression of the bright color of the glaze of the ceramics. I couldn't conceive of it as ancient relics.

To go down to the second floor there were illustrated handscrolls, buddhist paintings, medieval paintings, Momoyama-Edo paintings and Chinese paintings.

I took a look at a painting which depicts the Momoyama period's way of life in great detail. There appears many samurais, peasants, women and so on. I was just absorbed in the paintings and felt the friendly atmosphere. It was a great pleasure.

To go down to the first floor, there were sculptures, calligraphy, textiles and costumes and metalwork etc.



This is the standing Tamonten of Jyoruriji Temple, one of the Four Heavenly Kings (Shitenno). The Four Heavenly Kings were often depicted on armor to protect the wearer from enemies in battle. I went to Jyoruriji Temple in my high school days. I might have seen the sculpture, but I can't remember it.



This is the picture of the entrance gate. I shot it from the new Collections Hall. It's a long distance from the gate to the hall. So that distance gave us difficulty to get to the hall by wheel chair in the rain. That's a shame.





The third day

we walked along the kamo river. The scenery fascinated us very much.

The cherry blossoms began falling. This shot shows a wall of the embarkment. Petals of cherry blossoms scattered on the wall.

Kamo River is located beyond this



embarkment

Then we walked along the river.

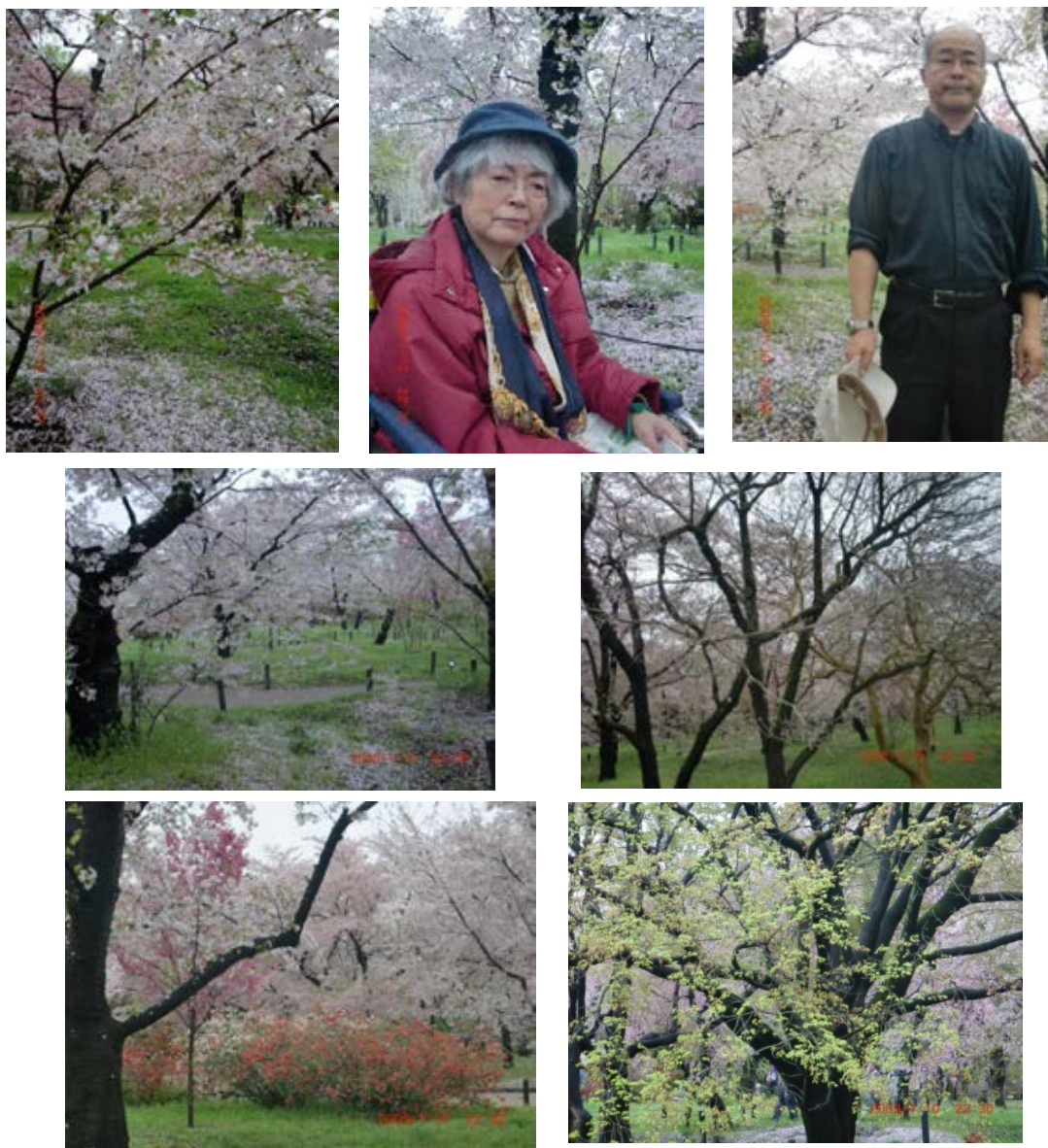


From here the Kyoto Botanical Garden's photos are as follows.



These three shots are the ones in the greenhouse of the Botanical Garden.

And then we found the cherry blossoms below out of the greenhouse.



Besides the cherry trees we found many other flowers.



After strolling around the Botanical Garden, we went to the Kyoto Station by subway. It was a pleasant journey. We took lunch and bought souvenirs.

The fourth day we went to Reikanji Temple(霊鑑寺).

Reikanji is a little temple that clings to the hillside where the slope of Higashiyama begins to get steep. This temple is a nunnery of the Rinzai school of Zen. The garden spreads out over the hill and the one-way path leads first steeply up, and later again down, through flowering bushes and trees. The flowering trees in the northern part of the garden include red and white camellias, plums and cherries. It is a fine, small



garden. By all means we wanted to see the garden, but the slope was too steep for me to push the wheelchair up along .



Two priests accompanied and guided us in the temple. Seeing me in trouble, they were kind enough to carry my wife up to the hill on their backs by turns. They gave us rare sorts of camellias too.

I was overpowered with gratitude at the kindness which they showed us.



The temple is only open to visitors for a few weeks in spring (early April), when the cherry trees are in full bloom, and autumn (late November) when the maple trees are on fire.

We left behind Reikanji Temple and went through the Tetsugakunomichi Road, a famous sight named “Philosopher’s Walk”.

Then we got to the apartment house.



The fifth day we went to Hirano jinja Shrine and Ninnaji Temple and Kamigamo Shrine.

This is Hiranojinja Shrine. In 985 A.D, the Emperor Kazan gave an order to plant this garden with a lot of cherry trees. Through the Edo Period(1603-1867), the cherry garden of the Hirano shrine was a popular festival place of spring season in Kyoto. Today, about 500 cherry trees are planted in the garden.



Ninnaji Temples's photos follows below.



Ninnaji (仁和寺) is one of the many great temples in Kyoto which are listed as World Heritage Sites. It is the head temple of the Omuro School of the Shingon sect of Buddhism and was founded in 888 by the reigning emperor. Over many centuries, a member of the Imperial Family used to serve as Ninnaji's head priest, and the temple was also known as Omuro Imperial Palace.

Ninnaji is famous for blooming cherry trees called Omuro Cherries. Because the trees are late blooming, Ninnaji is a good place to visit towards the end of Kyoto's cherry blossom season which is usually around Mid April.



The east side of Ninnaji Temple there is Omuroreien Cemetery. My Family's grave is there. So I have been visiting my father's grave once or twice a year for about 40 years. We got a little tired of viewing cherry blossoms. So we decided to get to the apartment. But on the way my wife wanted to go to Kamigamo Shrine. So I was compelled to drive a car to the shrine.



These following photos are the shots of Kamigamo Shrine.



The sixth day we went to Toji Temple and returned home.



Established by imperial edict in 796 AD and named Kyo-o-gokoku-ji, Toji was built to guard the city. It is more commonly known as Toji (Eastern Temple) because it once had a partner, Saiji (Western Temple), and the two stood alongside the Rashomon, the gate to the Heian capital. These were the only two temples that Emperor Kammu permitted to be built in the city.



Our apartment house



My wife has Multiple Myeloma and hemiplegia. So she can't stay in common hotels. She can eat only foods which are well grilled, roasted and boiled. I made breakfast almost every day and we took lunch of nabeyakidon in an eating house and have supper of obentou which we must heat up in a microwave.

The five days we'd stayed were very comfortable, because we could go out, eat, rest, sleep at any time we needed. We could truly have free time in Kyoto.

To my great happiness, she enjoyed the trip in Kyoto very much. It was my great pleasure.

(There is a date and a time on each photo. 2009/1/** are there. It's my fault. The battery of the camera was out. The all the setting of the camera were resetted. And I forgot to set the time and date. So 2009/1/** is 2015/4/** .)

