

TRAVEL TO JAPAN!!

Noboribetsu Festival

This summer, I went to Japan with my family. Japan is quite different from Taiwan. I know they make their bed every day, and I want to experience it. We came at a perfect time in late August, when Noboribetsu Festival was held right below our hotel. I couldn't wait to join in the festival, for no other places have this kind of festival.



Though most of the hotels in Japan don't make bed every day, some hotels still keep the tradition. I was so excited that I could see how they make bed, and I can't wait to participate in the festival!

The festival is in memory of a girl who was seriously ill. A demon called Yamaraja told the girl to take a bath in Noboribetsu Hot Spring. The girl did as told and was cured of her illness, but she fell in love with the demon. She was so in love that she jumped into the river in order to be with the demon. After she jumped into the river, she was transformed into a dragon. Now, every August, people of the town hold a festival to remember the girl.

At the festival, a score of people carry a red demon and walk down the street.



People are waiting for the big red demon to pass by.

The highlight comes when the Demon Drum comes with the parade. People wear special clothes to join in parade and dance to the drums.

Men play drums with rhythm, and other people dance to rhythm happily. It is interesting that even old men join in the event with joy.

At last, I danced with other people. This was a special memory for me whether it wasn't what I expect originally. I thought I would never forget it.