Sweet TOKYO

Sangmi Oh

It has been a month since I arrived in Japan. Every day has been filled with surprises, but in this report, I would like to reflect on the two aspects that impressed me the most and made me truly fall in love with Japan.

A Harmonious Blend of Modern and Traditional Elements

The first thing that surprised me after coming to Japan was the breathtaking scenery. The landscapes I had only seen in Japanese movies or dramas came to life right before my eyes. In particular, spring in Japan—when Sakura is in full bloom—was so beautiful that I looked forward to waking up every day. I didn't want to miss a single moment. Although I felt sad to see the Sakura falls, I noticed other flowers blooming in their place. This made me start to look forward to the next season filled with new blossoms, even as I missed the sakura. Tokyo during this warm, flowerfilled season is truly beautiful. As I walk around the city, I often find a mix of modern areas and places that preserve the traditional atmosphere of Japan. I believe this coexistence is what makes Tokyo such a charming city. For example, you can enjoy the urban atmosphere of Azabudai Hills while also experiencing the traditional charm of Asakusa.

The Remarkable Cuisine of Japan

In Japan, "Kissaten" (traditional Japanese-style cafés) offer a retro Showa-era atmosphere where you can enjoy Japanese-style Western dishes and desserts. The menus are impressive, featuring Western cuisine reinterpreted in a uniquely Japanese way and using local ingredients generously, making the food incredibly delicious. I highly recommend trying the cakes at Japanese bakery cafés —they are consistently high in quality. Japan also excels in dairy products such as milk, butter, and cheese. Among the musteats in Japan is Japanese-style parfait, which is a beautifully layered Japanese parfait with fruits, ice cream, and jelly. It is a treat you definitely shouldn't miss. Japanese food is so delicious that it makes me want to try an even wider variety of dishes.