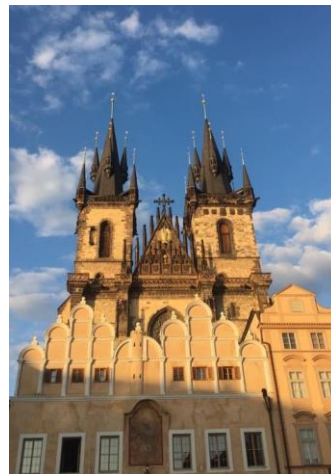


# Prague

July 2018

In 2018, I received a scholarship to take a short study at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic. It was funny because I didn't know anything about the Czech Republic.

A few days before my departure to Russia (You can read my short travel experience in Russia here), my senpai(先輩) from Uzbekistan bumped into me at our campus in Beppu, Japan. She told me to apply for a short study program in Prague. "Prague? Where is it? Is it a country near Italy?" I said. I actually had no interest in applying for the program because I had no clue about Prague. I was also scared, what if something bad could happen to me there? I didn't know any alumni from my schools who lived in Prague. But my faith was pretty funny. A few days later, I went to Sochi, Russia, and accidentally met a new friend, a young man from the Czech Republic, Petr. In the end, I applied for the scholarship program because he promised that his family could help if something bad happened to me.



I hadn't made friends with anyone since my arrival. Moreover, Petr lived in another city 200 km away from Prague. I decided to walk around the city center, hoping that I would be able to make friends with someone. I was really hungry, but I had limited cash and my ATM card got blocked. So, I had to wait for a few days until my bank sorted it out. "Would it be a miracle if someone bought me food?" I hoped. Unexpectedly, I bumped into an Indonesian family of a man, his wife, and their two sons. We had some conversations. I was surprised that this man and I went to the same high school! And he used to be my grandpa's student! What a small world!

Then, they asked me if I could show them around. We spent the whole day together and they treated me in a fancy restaurant with a good meal!

I took them to Prague Castle and Charles Bridge. You must go to those places when you visit Prague! Prague Castle used to be the house of Czech kings. Under the castle, there is a beautiful Charles bridge. It stands over the largest river in the country

