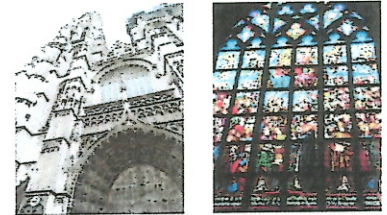


# Benelux

I went to Benelux this summer with my husband for a week.  
I went to Narita from Centrair and arrived at Netherlands via Helsinki.  
In Amsterdam, we went to museums by taking a tram and train.  
Van Gogh Museum, Rijksmuseum, Mauritshuis.  
Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Vermeer...  
It was a luxurious time to watch these wonderful pictures closely and carefully.



Next day, We went to Anne Frank House.  
I could not believe that she lived hiding with seven peoples in such a narrow attic for two years.  
Anne was a girl with passion and talent.  
I think a war that take girls's future away should not exist.



We moved to Antwerp by a train.  
Antwerp is Belgium's second largest city and a hometown of Rubens.  
For the Japanese, it is famous as the place became a stage of "A Dog of Flanders"  
At first, we went to Notre Dame Cathedral.  
There is a picture by Rubens that Nero wanted to see.  
I remembered the story and became sad.  
We visited Rubens's house.  
He was also a diplomat speaks seven languages.  
His few self-portraits and a beautiful garden were impressive.



The next day, we went to Luxembourg on a one-day bus tour from Brussels.  
Luxembourg is a country as large as Kanagawa prefecture.  
It is a city surrounded by cliffs and walls left from Middle Ages.  
We enjoyed taking a walk around the old city.



On the fifth day, I went to Bruges.  
Bruges is a beautiful city with canals, called "Venice of the North"  
And it is called an art museum with no ceiling.  
We enjoyed cruising by ship.  
The Markt Square was a beautiful place with attractive buildings on all sides.



Last day in Brussels, at last I went to the flower carpet  
I was looking forward to very much.  
Flower carpet is a popular event held once every two years in Grand Place.  
Grand Place is said to be the most beautiful square in the world.  
The beauty of the flower carpet to see from the city hall was very special!!



Mussels, Fritz, Chocolates, Waffles, Beers, Belgian foods were all delicious.  
We enjoyed the trip of Benelux very much.

