

What's New?

Niihama City

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Living like a foreigner

Nicole McCoy

This year I turned 24, which means that I had the privilege of participating in the Setsubun ceremony at Ishizuchi Shrine. I was chatting with a lady as we were getting ready at the shrine (she is 48 years old this year) and she told me that this was her first time going through the Setsubun ceremony.

It surprised me that someone would pass up this rare event so many times. The opportunity to be a participant in this ceremony only comes once every 12 years. For me, a foreigner who likely won't be in Japan 12 years from now, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. It seemed strange to me that someone who had the chance to be involved in such an interesting tradition would pass it up.

A few weeks later, I was talking to a Japanese person who was interested in going to Canada. She asked me "I've heard that the Yukon is very beautiful. Is that true?" To which I replied "I don't know. I've never been there." It occurred to me then that I was guilty of the same behavior as the woman from the shrine.

This is my second time living abroad, and both times I've found the time to visit the nearby attractions and participate in any

cultural event I heard of. So why have I allowed myself to make excuses not to explore Canada?

I've been so blessed, living in a country that is full of natural beauty, and yet I've seen so little of it. Why is it that we will travel great distances to see other cities and countries, while ignoring and neglecting our local treasures?

To anyone reading this, I challenge you to think about Ehime and Shikoku as though you were a foreigner here. Think about the places you would recommend to a tourist. Do some research on upcoming cultural events in your area. Think about local restaurants that you've heard about or a camping spot you've been meaning to visit.

Now make a list. A physical list, with a pen and paper of all of these things you've come up with. Divide this list into three groups:

1. Things you can do in an evening; a walk in a nearby park, a trip to the ocean, a coffee at a cafe that's caught your eye. I want you to do two things from this list every week.
2. Things you can do in a weekend; day trips, festivals and overnight stays. Choose one of these to do per month. And finally
3. Things that take a few days or a week. Maybe you want to take a trip around Shikoku or go camping or even start your 88 temple pilgrimage. Now look forward in your calendar to your next holiday. Fill in your breaks with trips and adventures. Take the time to discover the amazing things that Shikoku has to offer, because it truly is a privilege to live here.

In August, I will go back to Canada. I want to explore my province as though I were a foreigner there, taking advantage of every opportunity for a new experience, and I challenge you to do the same here in Ehime.

Hi everyone. My name is Nicole McCoy. I'm from Alberta, Canada and currently live and teach English in Saijo. ---

Strawberry Picking in Saijo

(from Hoo-JA! February 27, 2016)

“ひのいちご^{えん}園 “、Hino Strawberry Farm, is located to the south of the Supermarket Fuji Saijo Tamatsu. It is near the Sangyo-doro and has easy access from Niihama. The owner loved strawberries so much that he opened his own strawberry farm in 2006. He has been making every effort to produce very delicious strawberries. Strawberries from his farm are very juicy and red as they are given plenty of good water from Mt. Ishizuchi.

You need to walk a little to the strawberry greenhouse after checking in. So you should bring an umbrella with you on a rainy day.

You can enjoy strawberry picking in the greenhouse in any weather. You can move by wheel chair or with a stroller without any trouble because it is barrier-free. Once you enter the strawberry greenhouse, you can eat as many as you like without any time limit. You do not have to crouch to pick them because they are cultivated in elevated beds. Please try all 6 kinds of strawberries and find your favorite. The temperature inside the greenhouse is warm on a fine day even in March. Layers you can easily take off are recommended. It is OK to bring something to drink and eat into the greenhouse. But I recommend you enjoy the taste of fresh strawberries.

Hino Ichigo En (Reservations needed)

Address----- Tamatsu 489-2, Saijo

Tel ----- 090-7627-0667 or 0897-55-7930

Open ----- until the end of May 10:00-17:00

Closed----- Monday -----(Tuesday if Monday is holiday)

Fee ----- ¥1600 for 7th graders and over

¥1100 for elementary school students

¥600 for children 2-6 years old

Free for children under 2.

Market price is charged for strawberries taken out.

MOVIES

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

March 4 ~	The Big Short	2D English
March 25 ~	Batman vs Superman : Dawn of Justice	2D English, 3D Dubbed
April 15 ~	Spotlight	2D English • Dubbed
April 22 ~	The Revenant	2D English
April 29 ~	The Sea of Trees	2D English
April 29 ~	Captain America: Civil War	2D English, 3D Dubbed

Information Service

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 050-6868-5019(in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check.

April Event

Cherry blossom viewing spots

- ✿ Takinomiya Park
- ✿ Hirose Park
- ✿ Yamane Park
- ✿ Minetopie Besshi
- ✿ Ikeda Pond Park
- ✿ Kokuryo Riverside Park
- ✿ Kuroshimakaihin Park
- ✿ Inariyama Park

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles.

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*The editors for this month are K. Kaida & K. Kumata

From an ALT's blog

Before I came to Japan, I didn't know any Japanese. The thought of moving somewhere I didn't speak the language terrified me, and when I got here, I knew I had to start learning.

I've studied pretty hard so far. I read a textbook, use flashcards, and struggle through NHK Easy articles (with the help of a good online dictionary). Given that when I first got to Japan I could only say 今日は I have come pretty far in the past few months. But it's easy to forget that.

In August, a few weeks after coming to Japan, I tried (and failed) to speak Japanese in Kaldi.

I had seen sign that read アイスコーヒー, and decided that a drink of iced coffee would be nice. I managed to tell the clerk that I wanted "iced coffee please," but couldn't understand her response, and just said "はい" in reply — a bad habit I've gotten into when speaking Japanese. It turned out, the sign I saw was not for a glass of iced coffee, but instead a bag of cold-brew coffee grounds.

I was too embarrassed to say anything, and I'm not sure I would have been able to anyway. I took home half a kilogram of ground coffee when I just wanted one drink. I'm still far from being fluent in Japanese, but I can answer and ask basic questions and make small talk now. At an enkai I went to at work, one of the teachers complimented my Japanese, and when I brushed her off, she reminded me just how far I have come. I may make a lot of mistakes when I talk in Japanese, but I am learning how to communicate, and that's what matters.

Information in English & Chinese on the Web

***What's New?**

***How to sort garbage and trash**

Visit  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp>

Clair: *Multilingual Living Information

<http://www.clair.or.jp/tagengorev/en/index.html>

ONE POINT JAPANESE

いろいろな「新～」

A : ご入学 おめでとうございます。Gonyūgaku omedetō gozaimasu.
(Congratulations on your university entrance!)

B : ありがとうございます。Arigatō gozaimasu.
(Thank you very much.)

A : 新入生代表で挨拶したそうですね。
Shinnyūsē daihyō de aisatsu shita sō desu ne.
(I hear you made a speech as representative of the new students.)

B : ええ、緊張して、頭が真っ白になりました。
Ee, kinchō shite, atama ga masshiro ni narimashita.
(Yes. I was so nervous that my mind went blank.)

A : 新生活はいかがですか。Shinsekatsu wa ikaga desu ka.
(How's your new school life?)

B : 初めての一人暮らしなので、食事を作るのが大変です。
Hajimete no hitori gurashi na no de, shokuji o tsukuru no ga taihen desu.
(It's my first time to live alone, so it is very hard to make meals.)

(イチゴ狩り) Ichigogari Strawberry picking

A : わあ! 甘い香りでいっぱい! Wa! Amai kaori de ippai!
(Wow! Full of sweet smells!)

B : 新鮮なイチゴはやっぱり違いますね。
Shinsen na ichigo wa yappari chigaimasu ne.
(Fresh strawberries are clearly different!)

A : 本当に。すごく甘くてジューシーで、味が濃いですね。
Hontō ni. Sugoku amakute jūshī de, aji ga koi desu ne.
(That's right. Very sweet and juicy, with lots of flavor!)

B : 新種のイチゴもあるみたいですよ。
Shinshu no ichigo mo aru mitai desu yo.
(It seems they have new types of strawberries, too.)

A : あれ? 新車ですか。Are? Shinsha desu ka.
(What? A new car?)

B : ええ、転職をきっかけに、思い切って買いました。
Ee, tenshoku o kikkake ni, omoikitte kaimashita.
(Yes. Changing jobs gave me a push, so I went ahead and bought it.)

A : 乗り心地は? Norigokochi wa?
(How does it ride?)

B : 最高ですよ。燃費もいいし。Saikō desu yo. Nenpi mo ii shi.
(It's the best! The gas mileage is good too.)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

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