

# What's New?

Niihama City

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## Cycling around Niihama and Saijo

**Colin Lacy**

Cycling around Saijo and its surrounds is one of my favorite pastimes. I'd like to share with you a few of my favorite places that some of you might be interested in exploring too. All you'll need is a good bicycle -- no mama-chari -- and lots of energy!

In Niihama, you'll often find me cycling up the steep, zigzagging road that leads to the Takinomiya Golf Club, which is about a 3km ride from Route 13. At the top of the ridge, just before you start your descent down towards the Golf Club, a spectacular view awaits. Standing on the ridge, you'll experience a commanding view overlooking the northern port area of Niihama, and to the south, the valley below with Route 11 running through it. Looking up from the valley, you'll see a view of the mountain ranges behind it stretching all the way up toward Mt. Ishizuchi. And while you're up there, you might like to consider playing a round of golf (you can hire the clubs -- you'd be crazy to bring your own on the back of your bike) and finish it off with a thirst-quenching, icy-cold beer at the 19th hole.

Warning: Watch out for the big black crows!

Another interesting place in Niihama, suitable for exploring on a bicycle, that you might like to check out is Oshima Island. I've nicknamed this island "The Island of Cats" because on my last trip there (May 2013), I saw more cats strolling around its deserted streets than people. It's a quiet, idyllic little island which looks and feels like someplace from a bygone era. The island is a 15 minute ferry ride from Kuroshima Port and the fare for a return ticket costs 120 yen -- possibly the cheapest ferry service in Japan.

Warning: Beware of the big black cats!

In Saijo, where you'll see signs promoting the city as "The Spring Water Capital of Japan", you might like to try cycling around the "Aqua Route". This route takes you past many of Saijo's spring water fountains, which are conveniently located throughout the city's central district. Saijo's spring water is known as "Uchinuki", and is well-known throughout Japan as being one of the best sources of spring water in the country. You'll never be thirsty while cycling around Saijo.

Warning: Keep a lookout for a man who likes to walk his big black pig around town!

And finally, another place in Saijo that I'd highly recommend you cycle around would be the

foothills of Mt. Ishizuchi. Mt. Ishizuchi is the highest mountain in western Japan, and has been considered one of Japan's seven most sacred mountains since ancient times. And for the really adventurous, try cycling along the kamegamoririndou (瓶ヶ森林道). It's a 27km stretch of sealed road running along just below the ridge of the mountain range to the south of Mt. Ishizuchi. This road snakes its way all the way from Ishizuchi Skyline Drive in the west to Route 194 in the east. It's closed to traffic during the winter months. This road is truly a hidden treasure for all adventure-seeking cyclists (google Google for more information).

Warning: Keep an eye out for big black wild boars!

See you on the road!

Colin Lacy is from Melbourne, Australia. He's been living in Saijo City for the past 9 years and works as a language instructor. He teaches Business English at various companies throughout Niihama and Saijo, and he also teaches privately at home where he has his own classroom.

## **December Events**

\*12/15 (Sun): **Sunday Market** 7:30-12:00 Chuo-Koen Park

\*12/14 (Sat) 9:00-12:00 for people under 18 years old

**Drawing Pictures on white board fence around the construction site before JR Niihama Station**

Maximum 20 are chosen by lottery if there are many applicants.

Please apply to Machi-pro by December 10, 17:00

TEL: 090-9453-8242

e-mail:machipro2006@gmail.com December 10

## **The 7<sup>th</sup> Hama 2 Winter Festival 2013**

December 8, 2013(Sun) 12:00-18:30,

Marine Park Niihama

(If stormy, postponed to December 15)

\* Young local entertainers and cute mascot characters will attend the festival to liven up the atmosphere.

\* You can enjoy fishing this year. Through fishing you can feel familiar with nature and have a chance to think about nature.

\* Delicious local food and other items will be sold. There will be the popular Hama Flea

Market as well. We hope you will find something you like.

\* Vehicles used by the police and the Self Defense Forces will be exhibited and you can try on the uniforms of the police officers and the Self Defense Officials.

\* We will invite Mr. Takashi Fukunishi, former member of the Japanese national soccer team, who will share with us how he has realized his dream. Rice cakes will be scattered for the crowd to catch so that everyone will have a lucky year next year.

\* Niihama Winter Fireworks Finale can be seen on the beach against the clear winter night sky.

Further Information: Call Niihama Seinen Kaigisho (the Niihama Youth Chamber of Commerce) 0897 34 5559

### **A hint for your life**

Advice for using tatami mats.

(from Ehime Shimbun September 27, 2013)

New tatami mats smell good and are comfortable to touch. They should be wiped with a dry cloth not a wet cloth. For the first year, they are more likely to get moldy, so you have to think about ventilation, windows should be kept open when the weather is fine. Electric fans or the dehumidifying function of air conditioners, are good options for keeping tatami mats dry.

When tatami mats have mold on them, don't wipe them with either a dry or wet cloth. Mold can be forced deeper into the mats and this makes it more difficult to get rid of the mold. Remove the mold with a vacuum cleaner or spray a mixture of ethanol and water on the moldy area and dry the tatami mats in a well ventilated place. Ethanol is available at drug stores.

### **A Flash Light that can use four different sizes of Batteries**

(from Ehime Shimbun September 30, 2013)

You can use four different sizes of batteries (D, C, AA, AAA) in the Panasonic "Denchi ga Doredemo Light" flashlight and it will even provide light with just one battery. The flashlights we use in our daily life are often rather large and usually use a size D battery.

Sometimes it is inconvenient to use a large flashlight. After the Great East Japan Earthquake, dry batteries sold out quickly all over Japan.

We often have a reserve of size AAA batteries, which led to the development of this flashlight. The flashlight can be operated by any kind of dry battery (D, C, AA, AAA) and even by a single battery. You can choose whichever battery to use.

Electric discharge is kept low and the use of LED bulbs means that electric consumption is lower. A single AAA size battery can produce enough energy to run a light for 4 hours and 45 minutes.

It can be used as a lantern during a power failure.

## **EPIC Traveling Support Service**

### **-EPIC Caravan Service-**

**【Dairy Life Consultation for Foreign Residents】**

Language available: Japanese, English, Chinese

Date: Wednesday December 18, 2013 10:00~12:00

Place: Niihama Community Exchange Center 2F, Study room

Since 1997, Ehime Prefectural International Center(EPIC) has been acting as a point of contact for foreign residents living in Ehime by providing consultation services and answering questions regarding daily life in Ehime.

In 2012, EPIC made 1,222 contributions in the way of providing medical information and legal advice, providing answers to educational queries, and assisting in employment searchers.

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, the consultation service as well as aforementioned services will be offered in Niihama city.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, and please come for consultation regarding concerns that you may have regarding issues and concerns that you may face in daily life.

In addition to the way that Japanese people support foreign residents in Ehime, EPIC also is a place where news can be obtained. EPIC is waiting to assist you!!

Please contact:

Ehime Prefectural International Center(EPIC) Supervisor : Noriko Omori

1-1 Dogo Ichiman, Matsuyama, Ehime 790-0844

TEL : 089-917-5678 / FAX : 089-917-5670 / e-mail : morimori@epic.or.jp

# MOVIE

## TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Mall)

November 29 ~ CAPTAIN PHILLIPS 2D English · Dubbed  
November 30 ~ RED 2 2D English · Dubbed

December 6 ~ 47 RONIN 2D · 3D Dubbed  
December 13 ~ GRABITY 3D English  
December 20 ~ WALKING WITH DINOSAURS 2D · 3D Dubbed  
December 21 ~ PLANES 2D · 3D Dubbed

### Information Service

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

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)

Movies might be changed without notice. Please check beforehand.

· General	¥ 1,800
· Student (college)	¥ 1,500
· Student (Junior or Senior high, Elementary)	¥ 1,000
· Child (3 & up)	¥ 1,000
· A married couple, either one over 50	¥ 2,000
· Senior (60 & up)	¥ 1,000
· The first day of every month	¥ 1,000
· Cine MILEAGE Day (members only, every Tuesday)	¥ 1,300
· Every Wednesday (only for women)	¥ 1,000
· After 20:00 (every day)	¥ 1,200
· The first show on Friday mornings	¥ 1,300
· TOHO Cinemas Day (14 of the month)	¥ 1,000
· The disabled or the helper	¥ 1,000
· 3D	add ¥ 400

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: [yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp](mailto:yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp)  
[kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp)  
[sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp)

\*The editors for this month are K. Kaida & T. Masuda

You can read on the Web.

**\*What's New?**

**\*Garbage and trash Collection Calendar**

**\*Information living in Niihama**

Click  <http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/english/>

**Clair: \*Multilingual Living Information**

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

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

## いろいろな “～め”

A : 忘年会の場所は、もう決まりましたか。

Bonenkai no basho wa, mo kimarimashita ka.

(Have you decided on a place for the year-end party?)

B : 今、相談しているところなんです。

Ima, sodan shiteiru tokoro nan desu.

(We are just discussing it now.)

A : 早めに決めないと、予約がとれないかもしれませんね。

Hayame ni kimenai to, yoyaku ga torenai kamo shiremasen ne.

(If you don't decide soon, you won't be able to get a reservation.)

A : クリスマスパティーの飲み物はどのくらい準備しますか。

Kurisumasu patī no nomimono wa donokurai junbishimasu ka.

(How many drinks should we prepare for the Christmas party?)

B : 去年より多めに買っておきましょうか。

Kyonen yori ōme ni katteokimashō ka.

(Shall we buy more than last year?)

A : そうですね。今年は参加者が増えそうですから。

Sodesu ne. Kotoshi wa sankasha ga fuesodesu kara.

(Right. This year more people are likely to attend.)

(美容院で) (At a beauty parlor)

スタッフ : いつもと同じでよろしいでしょうか。

Itsumo to onaji de yoroshīdeshō ka.

(Is the same as usual okay?)

客 : えーと、前髪は長めに、サイドは短めにお願いします。

Eeto, maegami wa nagame ni, saido wa mijikame ni

onegaishimasu.

( Well, please leave my bangs longer and make the sides shorter.)

(レストランで) (At a restaurant)

A : ライス、<sup>すく</sup>少なめに しょうかな。 Raisu, sukuname ni shiyōka na.  
(Maybe I should ask for a smallish serving of rice...)

B : <sup>しょくよく</sup>食欲がないの? Shokuyoku ga nai no?  
(Don't you have any appetite?)

A : <sup>じつ</sup>実は ダイエットしているんです。 Jitsu wa daietto shiteirun desu.

(Actually, I'm on a diet.)

B : そんな <sup>ひつよう</sup>必要ないよ。ぼくは <sup>ひと</sup>ポツチャリめの <sup>す</sup>人が <sup>す</sup>好きなんだけど。  
Sonna hitsuyō naiyo. Boku wa poccharime no hito ga sukinandakedo.

(You don't have to do that. I prefer girls on the plump side.)

A : <sup>ほんとう</sup>本当? <sup>おおも</sup>じゃあ、ライス 大盛りで! Hontō? Jā, raisu ōmori de!  
(Really? Then, I'll have a large serving of rice!)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel 0897-34-3025 (Manami Miki).

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