

# What's New?

Niihama City

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## From New York to Niihama

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Hello everyone! My name is Zack and I'm an Assistant Language Teacher at the Niihama City Board of Education, currently working in Niihama's many Elementary Schools. I have been in Niihama for almost eight months, and while I am very comfortable with my life here now – especially as the weather begins to warm up again – this was not necessarily the case when I first arrived. The initial acclimation period was in no small part due to my lack of experience living on my own; the past eight months have brought with them a fair amount of lessons in the apartment maintenance and cleanliness department. But a lot of my initial discomfort came from the fact that I'm from New York.

I am, as so many of my co-workers like to jokingly point out, a city boy. I've spent my whole life in New York City, and the transition from a city of eight million to a city of 125,000 was a bit surprising at first. I missed the bagel and cream cheese with smoked salmon I'd have for breakfast with my dad on Saturdays,

or the late night slice of pizza with friends. I missed my favorite cafes and restaurants, live music, museums, subways and more. But as I spent time in Niihama, I found that a lot of what I was missing wasn't too far out of reach.

Pizza and bagels, two of my favorite foods and NYC classics, are available if you know where to look. For great pizza, look no further than Marubun, an Italian eatery located a short walk from Niihama station. Marubun offers a wide variety of authentic pizzas made in a wood burning pizza oven that easily hold up to some of the best New York has to offer. If you're in more of a bagel mood, stop by Cook's Cafe, another short walk from Niihama's police station. Their lunch set will get you a bagel sandwich with a soup, salad, french fries, and drink of your choice for a very reasonable price. For Niihama's most authentic bagels, though, you'll need to try your luck at the Gyomu Super Market in Wakamizu-cho, near the Fuji Grand. They don't always carry bagels in stock, but you're in for a real treat if you are able to find them.

Niihama also has some really great cafes. The aforementioned Cook's is a real treat, as is the architecturally exciting Cafe La Miell (nearby Kinei Elementary School) and the cozy Tent (located just off Heiwa-dori, near Aeon Mall) which has some nifty knick-knacks for sale in addition to the standard cafe fare. You'll find some of the regulars at Tent also frequent Jeandore, one of Niihama's live music halls and the center of Niihama's small but lively punk rock scene. (I was surprised when I found out about it too.) For a more refined cultural experience, stop by the Ehime Prefectural Science Museum in the Ojoin area of Niihama. While it doesn't quite match the sheer size of the American Museum of Natural History in my hometown, it makes up for it with animatronic dinosaurs and the second largest planetarium in the world.

There are plenty of other places to see, things to do, and delicious food to eat in Niihama, but these are just of a few of the things that made me feel a little bit more at home in our city. I hope you can enjoy this taste of New York in Niihama!

## **April Event**

- Cherry blossoms viewing
- Boat Cruise around Ooshima Island

**Date:** Sunday, May 5

**Time :** Cruises at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm

**Reservations:** From April 3 until sold out.  
(first come, first served)

**Route:** From Niihama East Port around  
Ooshima Island

**Capacity:** 40 people each (aged 3+)

**Fee:** ¥200 per person

**If it is rainy or bad weather, it 'll be called off.**

**Enquiry:** Marine Park

**TEL:** 46-5636 or 46-4100

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### **Exploring Restaurants: Ramen**

## **Ryouka(りょう花)Ramen**



**by Brad Patterson**

After being recommended by co-workers and students, this ramen shop was on my list of places to eat. I recently went and was not disappointed. I ordered the Shio ramen with chāshū, the Sudachi shio ramen and gyoza. The Shio ramen was excellent! The chāshū was tender and the broth had just the right amount of salt. The Sudachi shio ramen was good as well, but I was expecting a stronger citrus flavor. The gyoza was a nice addition to the meal and had that perfect fried crisp that I love. Ryouka Ramen is located on Route 13 near Yamada Denki. 新居浜市東雲町 2 丁目 6-12. 0897-34-6309. Open 11:00 – 22:00. Closed Tuesdays.

## MOVIE

### TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

March 8 ~	OZ: THE GREAT AND POWERFUL	3D & 2D English
March 23 ~	JACK THE GIANT SLAYER	2D English 3D Dubbed
March 23 ~	WREC-IT RALPH	3D & 2D Dubbed
April 6 ~ April 19	DJANGO UNCHAINED R15	2D English
April 13 ~	ZODIAC	English
April 19 ~	LINCOLN	English

#### Information Service

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

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

Movies might be changed without notice, so please check beforehand.



<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

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

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\* The editors for this month are E. Okada & T.Kashimoto

## **PM2.5 Worse Than Environmental Standard**

(From Ehime Shimbun February 9, 2013)

PM2.5 is one of the causes of air pollution and people all over Japan have been showing a serious apprehension about PM2.5 which is thought to be carried from China to Japan by the wind.

The amount of PM2.5 in Ehime was reported to have been above the designated safety standard.

"The level is not high enough to be directly harmful to our health", the national government announces, but the Ehime prefectural government shows the result of measurement conducted in the Eastern and Central Ehime on the website of the Ehime Prefectural government. The highest figure of 62.5 microgram was confirmed in Niihama on February 1st.

The Prefectural Environment Policy Section says, "We suspect it is coming from China but we can't conclude that, because there are many other factors to check such as the direction of wind.

PM2.5 is particulate matter whose diameter is 2.5 micrometers contained in the exhaust gas of the car and smoke and soot from the factories. It gets deep into the lungs and causes asthma or bronchitis. It isn't grasped accurately what is causing it and how much it is spreading. In 2009, Japan set the environment standard: lower than 35 microgram per 1 cubic meter.

### **The "Syspla" plug adapter**

(Nihon Keizai Shimbun 2012)

This is an adapter plug, which can be used with various kinds of wall outlets around the world.

It can be used with eight different kinds of outlets by combining several shapes of pins attached in two parts.

However, when you use electric appliances designed only for use in Japan you need a transformer.

It is useful when you use electric appliances abroad. It is also a compact, stable and handy plug.

It could be a good souvenir for people living abroad. It costs 2480 yen at Churi-International.

TEL: 042-477-8241

[www.churi-international.com/syspla](http://www.churi-international.com/syspla)

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 “そろろ と そろえる”

(会議室で) In the conference room

- A : そろそろ 打ち合わせを 始めましょう。  
Sorosoro uchiawase o hajimemashō.  
(It's about time. Let's get the meeting started.)
- B : あのう、まだ 二人 来ていないんですが・・・。  
Anō, mada futari kiteinain desu ga...  
(Well, two people haven't come yet...)
- A : では、全員 そろろまで、少し 待ちましょうか。  
Dewa, zenin sorou made sukoshi machimashō ka.  
(OK, shall we wait for a minute till everyone is here?)

(料理教室で) At the cooking room

- 生徒 : 先生、ニンジン は どのくらいの 大きさに 切るんですか。  
Sensei, ninjin wa dono kurai no ōkisa ni kirun desu ka.  
(Ms. A, what size pieces should I cut the carrot into?)
- 先生 : 他の 材料と 大きさを そろえて ください。  
Hokano zairyō to ōkisa o soroete kudasai.  
(Make them the same size as the other ingredients.)  
そろって いると、見た目も きれい ですよ。  
Sorotte iru to, mitame mo kirē desu yo.  
(If the size is the same they look nice.)

(グループ旅行 前日) On the day before a group trip

- A : 旅行の 準備、もうできた？  
Ryokō no junbi, mō dekita?  
(Are you ready for the trip?)
- B : ええと、チケット、カード、現金、着替え・・・、全部 そろってるよ。  
Eeto, chiketto, kado, genkin, kigae... zenbu sorotteru yo.  
(Let's see... tickets, card, cash, change of clothes... I have everything I need.)
- A : みんなに 渡す 資料は？ Minna ni watasu shiryō wa?  
(How about the materials you'll hand out to everyone?)
- B : あっ、いけない。コピーするの(を) 忘れてた。  
A, ikenai. Kopī suru no (o) wasureteta.  
(Oh, no! I forgot to copy them.)
- A : えー、大丈夫？ Ee, daijōbu?  
(Oh, my! Are you alright?)  
あしたまでに、そろえて おいてね。  
Ashita made ni soroete oite ne.  
(Make sure you prepare them by tomorrow, OK?)

**NNK** also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at: Tel **0897-34-3025**  
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