

Elementary School Kids Cooperate in Offshore Island Expedition

(Ehime Shimbun : May 14, 2026)



On May 9, an expedition event was held on the offshore island Oshima, Niihama-city, where about 40 students of all grades from the city's elementary schools worked together using a map to navigate their way around the island.

Students were divided into groups of six or seven members, and held a strategy meeting with maps in hand. As soon as they arrived on the island by ferry, they began exploring five sites, such as the ruins of Gobansho (former guard house), Kisshoji-temple and other places, collecting fragments of the treasure map. Some children got lost and asked islanders for the best way. The final point was Funakakushi at the north part of the island where Murakami-suigun (naval forces) used to hide their ships.



Similar events will be held in Saijo-city in August, and Shikokuchuo-city in November.

(Oda Ryosuke)

This newsletter is published by SGG, a volunteer group that helps foreigners living in and around Niihama. If you need any advice, information, or support, please contact SGG. SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions, or ideas for monthly articles.

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* This month's editors are Yasumi Okame & Naomi Negoro.



ONE POINT JAPANESE

「しか」の使い方
(How to use "only")

A : 給料日まで 一週間 あるのに、3000円しか ない。どうしよう。
Kyūryōbi made isshūkan aru noni, sanzenyen shika nai. Dōshiyō.

(There is still a week until pay day, but I

What should I do?)

B : 貯金は ないの？
Chokin wa nai no?

(Don't you have any savings?)

(Don't you have any savings?)

A : ほとんど ない。少し 貸してくれない？
Hotondo nai. Sukoshi kashite kure nai?

(Almost nothing. Can you lend me a little?)

(Almost nothing. Can you lend me a little?)

B : 僕も 貸すだけの 余裕は ないよ。
Boku mo kasu dakeno yoyū wa nai yo.

(I can't afford it either.)



A : 例の 資料が まだ 半分しか できて ないんだ。
Rē no shiryō ga mada hambun shika dekite nainda.

(The document is only half finished.)

B : 締め切りは 明日だよ。あと 1日しか ないけど 大丈夫？
Shimekiri wa ashita da yo. Ato ichinichi shika nai kedo daijōbu?

(The deadline is tomorrow. Can you finish it with just one day left?)

(The deadline is tomorrow. Can you finish it with just one day left?)

(The deadline is tomorrow. Can you finish it with just one day left?)

A : もう、徹夜で やるしか ない。
Mō, tetsuya de yaru shika nai.

(All I can do is work through the night to get it done.)

(All I can do is work through the night to get it done.)



A : 旅行に 行っている 間、うちの 犬を 預かって くれな？
Ryokō ni itteiru aida, uchi no inu o azukatte kurenai?

(Can you take care of my dog while I'm away?)

(Can you take care of my dog while I'm away?)

B : ええ？ 僕が？ Ē? boku ga?

(Really? Me?)

A : 君しか 頼める 人が いないんだ。お願い！
Kimi shika tanomeru hito ga inainda. Onegai!

(You're the only person I can ask. Please!)

(You're the only person I can ask. Please!)

B : 仕方ないなあ。
Shikata nai nā.

(Well what can you do?)

(Well what can you do?)



< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at:

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What's New?

Niihama City

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Column: "Earth's Axis"

(Ehime Shimbun: June 8, 2026)

My heart flutters as I scoop a lump of translucent gold, semi-solid food from a bottle in my hand. The label on it simply reads "Ingredients: Ehime mandarin orange and sugar".

The occasion to be so enchanted by marmalade in a bottle was the opening of the world marmalade convention in Yawatahama-city. The eighth annual convention was held in May. The convention boasts of more than two thousand entries of marmalade, and flourishes just as much as the original Britain-based event.

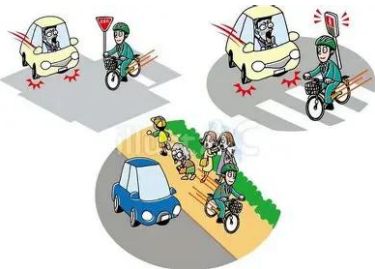
Leading up the first Japan convention held in 2019, selection of the venue was very difficult. The conclusive factor in deciding the michi-no-eki (roadside station) "Yawatahama Minatto" as the site of the commendation ceremony was the surrounding scenery. In front of the potential venue was a wide view of the sea and on the opposite shore were groves of mandarin oranges. It was thought that this scene might strike the eyes of the British visitors.

The British climate is too cold for growing citrus fruit. That is the reason why preserved marmalade became a traditional favorite. It is no wonder that marmalade is a part of everyday life in Ehime prefecture, where mandarin oranges grow in abundance.

We hope that the number of people in Yawatahama-city will increase as the city's charm spreads through marmalade boosting local farmers. By now, Yawatahama can be called a sacred place.

Traffic Tickets for Cyclists

(Niihama Monthly City News : June, 2026)



We asked Hiraoka Yusuke, Niihama Police traffic section chief manager, about bicycle traffic tickets, commonly known as “blue tickets”.

Q: There are over 100 types of bicycle traffic violations. If a cyclist commits a traffic violation, do they need to pay a fine instantly?
A: No. Basically, instructions and warnings are given to cyclists. But if a violation is very serious and dangerous and could cause an accident, there is the possibility that a traffic ticket will be issued without a warning.

We are often asked if it is a violation for cyclists to use the sidewalk. Certainly riding a bicycle on the roadway is a principle, but the road traffic rules say that cyclists can go on the sidewalk in some situations. Cyclists should ride carefully, while confirming their surroundings. When cyclists go on the sidewalk, they should go slowly between its center and the side closest to the roadway (at a speed in which they can stop immediately). If they are in the way of pedestrians, they should stop for a moment to let them pass.

Q: Since the blue ticket system started, there have been a lot of fraud cases in which fake police officers cheat people and steal their money, right?
A: Yes. But police officers never collect a fine at the site where a cyclist commits a traffic violation. The police officer issues a blue ticket and a payment slip with which the cyclist pays the fine at the bank or post office. On top of that, as for traffic violations, ununiformed police officers never give instructions or warnings.

Q: Do you have anything you’d like to say to citizens?
A: People should follow traffic rules not because they don’t want to pay a fine, but because they want to stay safe. They should follow the rules so that they will not become either a victim or cause of a traffic accident.

I Hope the ¥10 Swimming Pool is Open Every Summer

(Ehime Shimbun: July 2, 2026)

Niihama’s nationally known “¥10 swimming pool” will be open again this summer. This pool has been open every summer for 54 years since it started in 1972. I used to take my own son and daughter there by bicycle when they were very young.



The pool has become well known throughout Japan because it was featured in an NHK documentary program last year. My friends, acquaintances, son and cousins living in Tokyo, Chiba and Saitama contacted me, saying that they had seen the TV show. When my son and cousin came back home, they of course talked excitedly with my daughter and grandchildren about the good old days at the ¥10 pool in Niihama.

I’m sure many people who used this pool in the past have worked hard in our society. I guess both seniors and young people have common memories in their minds about the good times swimming in this pool. I don’t know how long this pool will continue as a summer tradition, but I hope the “¥10 pool” will be open in the future.

(Tomohisa Morikuni (86), Niihama-shi)

August Events

★Summer Night Train

The Summer Night Train at [Minetopia Besshi](#) is a limited-time evening mining tour featuring a cool trolley ride, light-up tunnels, and special souvenirs.
Date: August 8 th (Sat) to 16th (Sun)
(Final service: Outbound final train at 19:30/To return at 20:25)
Adults:¥2,000 / Junior & Senior High School Students:¥1,600
Children (Ages 3 through elementary): ¥1,400
For further information, please call Minetopia Bessi at 0897-43-1801

★Indian Chintz Exhibition

This special exhibition features 80 rare, vibrant pieces of Indian chintz (*sarasa*) from one of the world's leading private collections.
Venue: Akagane Museum
Date: July 25 (Sat) to September 27(Sun), 2026
Hours: 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM (Entry until 4:30 PM)

Admission fee	Adults	College Students or seniors aged 65 years or older	Pair Ticket	High school students or younger
Same-day	¥1,300	¥1,100	¥2,200	Free
Advance	¥1,100	¥900	¥1,800	Free

For further information, please call Akagane Museum at 0897-31-0305

Online Information in English from Niihama City

- ☆ A Guide for Living in Niihama 
- ☆ The Niihama Medical Institution Map 
- ☆ Trash & Garbage Sorting Information 
- ☆ What’s New? in English 
- ☆ Niihama Tourist Information 
<https://niihama.info/>
- ☆ Help with legal matters, discrimination, insurance, etc. Japan Life Guide (Nationwide service) multilingual 
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