

# What's New?

Niihama City

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12



## Christmas in Jamaica Rohan Mitchell

Tiptoeing around on the concrete floor, my little sister and I searched the house like little detectives while my parents were gone. Every move was calculated as we ensured that we left no traces of our mischief. The mission was to find the Christmas presents that we only guessed were in the house somewhere. After about 15 minutes, we hit the jackpot! There they were, brand new toys, still in their packaging. We took them out with great precision; it was almost like a surgical procedure. Immediately afterwards, we played with them for about 10 minutes and then carefully tried to put them back in place. Although we weren't surprised, when we officially got them we were still so overjoyed with the Christmas spirit.

A Jamaican Christmas is not that different from around the world but it has its own unique flavor. The reason for this is may be that, Jamaica is made up of so many cultures. Christmas carols flood the streets and radio airwaves throughout the season. Although many of the carols are described by the tones of North American and European influences, there is also a strong Caribbean presence in some. These songs are sometimes recorded and performed to the rhythm of reggae music, which originated in Jamaica. Parties and live concerts also become increasingly popular around Christmas time. Patrons come dressed in some of the most fashionably outrageous clothes that creativity will allow. These parties are usually very exciting with lots of dancing and

an abundance of drinks.

Apart from the music and partying, you will know that its Christmas season in Jamaica by the household preparations. Fresh wall paint, nicely groomed yards, new bed linen and curtains are a few things that highlight the Jamaican Christmas pride. The beauty of these spaces is further enhanced by colorful lights and ornaments, which seem to scream that Christmas is here. If lights and carols aren't your thing, well the taunting aroma of Christmas food is sure to put you and your 'belly' in the mood. Passing by different houses you can get a whiff of all the Christmas goodies being prepared. One such is the ever-popular fruitcake, a signature of tradition in Jamaica. Mixed fruits that have been marinating in rum for several months are used to bake this delicious goodness. There is also the Jamaican drink of Christmas, a nice chilled glass of Sorrel. This drink is made from the sorrel plant along with rum, ginger, pimentos and a few other choice ingredients. All of this goes well with the usual big feasts on Christmas day. I can let you in on a little secret; this is actually my favorite part of Christmas—all that food yummy! Rice and peas, ham, roast chicken, curried mutton and I could go on and on.

Amidst all the food, drinks and partying, many Jamaicans use the time to reflect and give thanks for life and families. Many who are less fortunate are treated to gifts and an extra dose of care at Christmas. We have no chimneys for Santa to climb down but his presence is still portrayed everywhere. As kids, we all looked forward to gifts and sometimes maybe with too much anxiety. Me and my sister's childhood antics are a perfect example of this. We eventually confessed and after a minor scolding, we all laughed about it and merry was the Christmas!

Rohan Mitchell is a Jamaican ALT who works at 6 senior high schools in Ehime. He is also a visual artist who enjoys sports and music. He has been living in Japan since July 2011.

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/>

## MOVIE

### TOHO CINEMAS NIIHAMA (AEON Shopping Center)

November 11 ~	MONEYBALL		English
November 11 ~	IMMORTALS	3D	English/Dubbed
November 23 ~	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS	3D	Dubbed
November 26 ~	HAPPY FEET	3D	Dubbed
December 1 ~	THE ADVENTURES OF THE UNICORN		
	THE SECRET OF THE UNICORN		
		3D	English/Dubbed
December 9	REAL STEEL		English
December 16 ~	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-		
	GHOST PROTOCOL		English

#### Information Service

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

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



<Contributed by **Adam Schartup**>

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

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\*The editors for this month are Emiko Okada & Terumi Masuda

Exploring Restaurants: Western - style No.3

# Lau lau



by Michael Newlin

Hawaiian/Japanese fusion food in Niihama is a surprise! The owner speaking English quite well is a big surprise. This is the only place in Niihama to get loco moco and spam sushi. They also serve Guinness beer, Snyders pretzel snacks, and Martinelli's sparkling cider. Directions: From the Watamin-chi parking lot, turn left and go 3 meters, turn right, it is on the left with a large sign.

## Be Careful when Packing for an Overseas Trip!

( from The Ehime Shimbun's "A Note for your life" column )

\*For departure from a Japanese airport

It is prohibited to take a container holding liquid of over 100 milliliter on international flights from Japan. You should divide liquid into containers below 100 milliliter capacity and put them in a transparent plastic bag with a zipper.

\*For security checks at a U.S. airport

When you are leaving your luggage at the check-in counter of a U.S. airport, please keep in mind that U.S. Transport Security Agency(TSA) officers may open your suitcase for a security check without you being present. TSA requires owners to leave their suitcases unlocked. TSA takes no responsibility for any damage to the lock that might be caused during their security check.

For you information, you can buy a suitcase or suitcase-belt equipped with a TSA lock which can be unlocked with a special key held by TSA officers.

← Less than 20cm →



Less than 20cm



The total of width and length should be within 40cm.

# December Events

- \*12/4 (Sun): **HAMA<sup>th</sup> Winter Festival** by JC 12:00-  
at Marine Park; concert; flea market, firework
- \*11/26-12/25: **Hirayama Ikuo Art Exhibition** 9:30-17:30  
at the City Museum for adult ¥500 under 15 free
- \*12/1-1-15: **Illumination of the Chuo-Koen Park** 17:30-22:00  
12/4 (Sun) **Lighting Ceremony** 11:00-
- \*12/4 · 18 · 25 (Sun): **Sunday Market** 8:00-14:00  
at Chuo-Koen Park
- \*12/11 · 18 (Sun): **Making Konnyaku** (Devil's Tongue)  
at Ikatazu Sanso  
¥1000 Please book a week before the date TEL 64-2018
- \*12/25(Sun): **San-san Market** 8:00-14:00 at Noborimichi

## Please Note

12-29-1/3: Most public facilities are closed.

## Shodoshima Island in Kagawa Prefecture

If you have a plan to visit Shodoshima Island, the following website will give you useful information in English and Chinese.

**[http://www.town.shodoshima.lg.jp/en/map\\_access.html](http://www.town.shodoshima.lg.jp/en/map_access.html)**

### **Recruitment of volunteers for the 22nd Global Party**

The Global Party association is recruiting volunteers for the 22nd Annual Global Party (Feb.12<sup>th</sup> '12). It is planning to prepare various sweets, dancing, music and other events.

If you are interested, please contact

Ms. Okame: [yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:yasumi@galaxy.ocn.ne.jp) or 0897-34-8914

Next meeting will be held at Women's Plaza, 10:00am, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> '12.

# ONE POINT JAPANESE

## いろいろな“とる” No.2

- A : 冬休みの予定は、決まりましたか。  
Fuyuyasumi no yotei wa, kimarimashita ka.  
(Have you decided your plans for the winter vacation?)
- B : ええ、ホテルが取れたので、家族旅行します。  
Ee, hoteru ga toretanode, kazokuryoko shimasu.  
(Yes. We got hotel reservations, so we are going on a family trip.)
- A : 年末年始は、どこも高いでしょう？  
Nenmatsunenshi wa, dokomo takaidesho?  
(During the New Year holidays, everywhere is very expensive, isn't it?)
- B : ええ、でも、ネットで予約を取れば、結構安くなりますよ。  
Ee, demo, netto de yoyaku o toreba, kekko yasukunarimasu yo.  
(Yes, but if you make reservations on-line, it becomes very inexpensive.)
- A : Cさんは？ C-san wa? (How about you, C?)
- C : 運転免許が取れたら、車で旅行する予定です。  
Untenmenkyo ga toretara, kuruma de ryoko suru yotedesu.  
(If I can get my driver's license, I plan to take a trip by car.)  
Aさんは？ A-san wa? (How about you, A?)
- A : わたしは、近くの温泉にでも入って、疲れを取ろうかな。  
Watashi wa, chikaku no onsenidemo haitte, tsukare o torokana.  
(I suppose I'll go to a nearby hot spring and relax.)
- B : ところで、お腹がすきましたね。  
Tokorode, onaka ga sukimashita ne. (Well, I'm famished, aren't you?)
- A : ええ、ピザでも取りましようか。  
Ee, piza demo torimasho ka.  
(Yes. Shall we order a pizza?)
- B : カロリーとり過ぎですよ。  
Karori torisugidesu yo. (That's too high-calorie!!)
- C : じゃ、お寿司を取りましよう。  
Ja, osushi o torimasho. (Then, let's order Sushi.)

< 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).  
e-mail : manami-m@js6.so-net.ne.jp

