

VIVA ! ひめじ

Himeji Cultural and International Exchange
Foundation newsletter editing volunteers
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<People> Mr. Dion Corey Ward

Dion from New Zealand first came to Japan in 2001, and taught English in Hidaka-cho, near Toyooka for three years from then. Having returned home after getting married and staying there for one year, he came to Japan again. Currently, he runs an English-language school in Himeji, and also teaches English there.

Q: What is your hometown like?

A: My hometown, New Plymouth is a very beautiful city with a population of 60,000, surrounded by mountains and sea. It is also an untouched, natural and normal city not having many tourists. It is well known for having Mt. Taranaki where the movie "Last Samurai" was filmed. I heard that the movie was also filmed in Mt. Shosha, Japan.

The climate of New Plymouth is mild and comfortable. You can enjoy not only surfing and wind-surfing but also snowboarding in winter. When it comes to sports in NZ, rugby would come first, but I played soccer as a kid.

Q: What did you get first interested in Japan?

A: I majored in social anthropology at University. I was interested in Asian people whose ways of thinking are different from ours, and I even studied Chinese. I was interested in several countries other than Japan, but decided to come to Japan since I thought Japan had a mature culture and was open to people from different countries. Coming to Japan, I found my guess proved right.

Q: How do you like Japan?

A: I think the Japanese are nice, adventurous and open-minded, embracing foreign cultures, and don't interfere with each other or quarrel in public. Although I was a bit confused how to communicate with them in the beginning, I had no trouble particularly.

Q: What are you planning to do for the future?

A: Well, I sometimes go out for lunch with my wife while our three-year-old child goes to international school twice a week, so I enjoy the lifestyle. In the future, I want to increase the size of my school. I would also like to go abroad to visit some of my friends there.

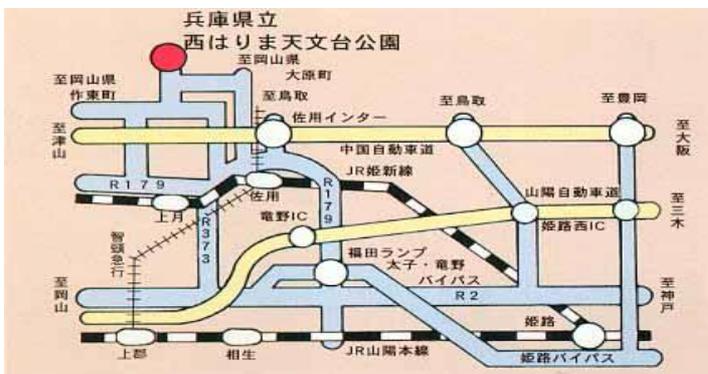
2010 Summer Outing Information ♪



We would like to introduce some good spots for going out around Himeji. There are some spots you can go even in the rainy season, so check them out with your family, friends or boy/girl friends.

●Nishi-Harima Astronomical Observatory Park

<Access> Located at the top of Mt. Onade



The nearest train station is Sayo Station. It takes about 10 minutes by taxi and about 90 minutes on foot from the station.

<Recommended points> There are many facilities in the park.

☆Nayuta Telescope: You can experience the largest public telescope in the world.

☆Shop and Restaurant: You can buy original souvenirs, and some from other planets or the universe at the shop.

☆Playground: there is playground equipment ideal for children along the promenades in the park.

☆Flower Gardens: There are some gardens and promenades in the park, so you can enjoy seasonally blooming flowers. Apple mints and lavenders bloom from the end of June till early July.

☆Lodging facilities: Camp sites or family lodges are available.

<Admission> Free

<HP> <http://www.nhao.jp/>

●“ Hoshinoko Yakata, Atom no Yakata/Himeji Science Museum, Kodomo no Yakata”

These three facilities are located near to one another, so there is something to enjoy wherever you go.



◎“ Hoshinoko Yakata”

< Access > Take the No. 37 bus from Shinki Bus Station North No. 3, located at the north side of Himeji Station, then get off at “Hoshinoko Yakata Mae”. The bus fare is 270 yen.

< Recommended points >

☆There are many interesting rooms and lodging facilities in Hoshinoko Yakata.

< Admission Fee > Free

< Accommodation charges > 3600 yen per person ~ (Charges vary depending on the number of children and their ages)

< Reservation >

☆If you stay with children, you can make reservations up to six months in advance.

☆If you stay only with adults, you can make reservations up to one month in advance.

Tel: 079-267-3050

< HP > <http://www.city.himeji.lg.jp/hoshinoko/>

◎“ Atom no Yakata/Himeji City Science Museum”

< Access > Take the No. 37 bus from Shinki Bus Station North No. 3, located at the north side of Himeji Station, then get off at “Hoshinoko Yakata Mae”.

< Recommended Points >

☆One can experience scientific experiments and see small events (scientific shows).

☆The planetarium has one of the world’s largest domes, with a diameter of 27 meters.

< Admission Fee > Adults: 400 yen · High-school students: 100 yen · elementary and junior high school students: 50 yen.

< HP > <http://www.city.himeji.lg.jp/atom/>

◎Hyogo Prefectural “Kodomo no Yakata”

< Access > Take the No. 37 bus from Shinki Bus Station North No. 3, located at the north side of Himeji Station then get off at “Kodomo no Yakata Mae”.

< Recommended Points >

☆Children can play in nature, and also learn in the theatre or library.

☆Childcare consultation are offered. Tel: 079-266-4133

< Admission Fee > Free

< HP > <http://kodomonoyakata.jp/>

Summer Events Information in 2010

(Information subject to change without notice.)

☆Yukata Festival June 22nd - 24th

This festival takes place around Osakabe Shrine. There are events such as a Yukata parade in which parents and children wear yukata, and a concert. Nearly 1,000 stalls are set-up in Otemae Street and it is called the best in West Japan. This is also a specialty for the Yukata Festival. People wearing yukata can enter Koukoen, Art Museum and History Museum free of charge and can get discount tickets for the shopping street and cinema.

Osakabe Shrine



☆Himeji Castle Festival August 6th - 8th

On the first day, it starts with "Himeji Castle Takigi Nou" at Himeji Castle Sannomaru Square/ Hiroba. On the second day, "Citizens and History Parade" is held at Otemae Street from the evening. At night, Souodori (Bansyu Ondo), which everyone can join, is held. On the final day, Himeji Yosakoi Festival is held and its parade takes place at the stage of Otemae Park and at Miyuki and Nikaimachi Streets and other places. The Yosakoi performance is full of enthusiasm with dancing with *naruko* (clapper).

☆Mt. Shosha Summer Night Festival (end of August (expected))

The last event of summer is the festival at Mt. Shosha. Engyoji and Shosha no sato Industrial Art Gallery are open for free after dark. You can enjoy music, performances and a game rally which are held near the ropeway gates both at the base and at the top.

《Mt. Shosha Ropeway》

Ticket (Round-Trip): Adult 720 yen, Children 360 yen

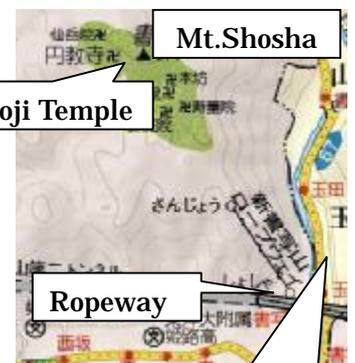
Access: Take the No.8 Shinki Bus at Himeji Station to the final stop.

The bus gate is at the west from North Exit of Himeji Station
25 minutes ride and 260 yen.

Engyoji Temple

Ropeway

Art and craft Museum



【About Himeji Castle】

From April 12th the palace is under construction but Okiku-well and Nishinomaru hyakken corridor is open to visitors.

Open Hours: (Until August 31st) 9:00-18:00

(After September 1st) 9:00-17:00

※Last admission time is one hour before closing.

Entrance Fee: Adult (high school age and over) is 400 yen.

Children (aged 5 to junior high school age) are 100 yen.

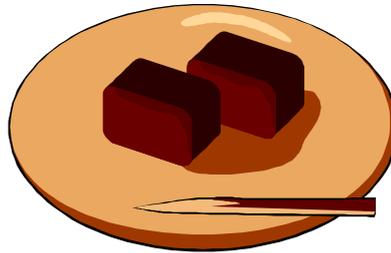
※August 7th is only free for entrance (expected).



Simple sweets ~Soft azuki-bean jelly~

<Ingredient>

koshian (Sugar added)	500g
Water	400cc
Gelatin (Powder)	4g
Salt	a little



<Recipe>

1. Boil water in a pan
2. Reduce heat and put gelatin powder into the pan and dissolve it
3. Add koshian into (2) and slowly stir and dissolve them
4. Put a pinch of salt into the pan and mix
5. Simmer at low heat for about 5 minutes
6. Put it into a slightly wet container and let cool to about room temperature, then place in the fridge

★Gelatin powder should be dissolved with mentioned boiled water as above.

If you reduce the amount of water, jelly will be a little stiff. Adjust amount of water as you like.

★Instead of koshian, sweet potato or purple colored sweet potato is also recommended.

<Preparation for sweet potato>

- Peel potato thickly and slice in rounds and soak for about 10 minutes.
- Put dried potatoes and just enough water to cover the potatoes in a pan and boil until they get soft.
- When potatoes are boiled, dry and then mash.
Add sugar to sweet potatoes as you like.
- The same procedure as above 1 ~ 6

☆☆Information about the Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation☆☆

■Donations Wanted!

Got any traditional clothing that you never wear? The Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation is looking for donations for the International Exchange Festival. Japanese clothing will of course be appreciated. Contact us via email or telephone.

■We are hosting International Exchange Festival

International Exchange Festival will be held on Sunday, October 24th from 10 am to 3 pm at Himeji Otemae Park. Come visit us and enjoy various events, including sampling world famous foreign cuisines and stage performances.



※※※ Editor's Postscript ※※※

2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa will start in June. The World Cup games will attract people from across the globe, and foster international exchange. Even if you cannot go to the country and directly participate, watching the games on the TV will allow us to gain knowledge about foreign countries and cheering players regardless of whether they friends or foes. This is a small scale international exchange. That being said however, it is very exciting to see how our countries do in South Africa.

Volume 34 of 「VIVA! ひめじ」 will be published in September. We welcome letters to the editors. Readers should address their comments to the email address or telephone number listed below.

Translators and Proofreaders

English : Tomoko Izumi, Makoto Hara, Kaori Kamoda, Sakiko Hashimoto, Paul McCrea

Chinese : Wenjun Gan, Mika Tsuda, Keiko Tachibana, Reiko Kawauchi, Zhu Xiang Yu

Portuguese : Yu Kunimitsu, Yuma Hasegawa, Kozue Higashimura

Vietnamese : Nguyen Thu Huyen, Vo Minh Nhut, Hoang Nam Phuong, Pham

Spanish : Keiko Abo, Reina Wakamatsu, Mika Oya

These names are used with the contributors' permission.

Their assistance is much appreciated.

We are always looking for translators and native speakers to assist us with translating and proofreading upcoming editions of 「VIVA! ひめじ」. If you are interested, please contact us at the following address:

Contact Office
Himeji Cultural and International Exchange Foundation
Egret, 3rd floor 68-290 Honmachi,
Himeji City, Hyogo 〒670-0012
TEL : 079-282-8950 FAX : 079-282-8955
Email: info@himeji-iec.or.jp