



MIA news

Miyakonojo International Association

Miyakonojo International Association
 6-21 Himegi-cho, Miyakonojo-shi,
 Miyazaki-ken, Japan 885-8555
 TEL 0986-23-2295 FAX 0986-23-3223
<http://miyakonojo-mia.com>
 E-mail mia@btvm.ne.jp

MIA Information

Come dance at the Bonchi Matsuri!

MIA is dancing at the 46th Bonchi Matsuri and we're looking for volunteers to dance with us!



- **Matsuri Date & Time:** Sat, 3 August @ 18:00–18:40
 - **Venue:** Miyakonojo Central Street (Route 10)
 - **Dance Practice and Preparation Venue:** Miyakonojo Chuo-Community Centre (7-10 Himegi-cho)
 - **Practice Time:** 16:00–17:10 (15:00 if you need help dressing into a yukata)
 - **Attire:** Yukata
- ※MIA can provide 10 female and 9 male yukata (170cm height) to the first foreigners who register. Please advise if you need a yukata when registering and arrive at 15:00 on the 3rd.

Capacity: 25 people (first come, first served basis)
 Register: Contact MIA by Tel or E-Mail
 TEL 0986-23-2295 E-mail mia@btvm.ne.jp



2019 World Beer and Trivia Night

* You must be 20 y.o. or above.



The World Beer and Trivia Night is back once more! We'll be introducing beers from around the world, whilst testing your knowledge of all things local & global as teams of 6 go head-to-head in our trivia night.

- **Date:** Saturday, September 7th
- **Time:** 18:30–21:00 (Doors open at 18:00 and we start promptly at 18:30 so don't be late!)
- **Location:** Main Hotel 5F (8-9 Kanmachi)
- **Restrictions:** Please note this is an adult event as alcoholic beverages will be served, so registration is limited to those 20 years and older.
- **Participation Fee:** Members—2800 yen
 Non-members—3300 yen

(Includes light snacks and coupons for 3 bottles of beer.)

You must buy tickets in advance by applying in person. Priority is given to those who buy tickets first. Tickets are not available on the day of the event.

- **Capacity:** Limited to the first 66 people who sign up (11 groups of six people). You may apply individually or as a team. Partial teams will be joined with other individuals.
- **Inquiries / Tickets:** Contact MIA by phone or email.
 TEL 0986-23-2295
 E-mail mia@btvm.ne.jp

Garbage Collection Information is now available in Vietnamese

In addition to English and Chinese versions made available on the City Hall Home Page, Vietnamese Garbage Collection Information documents are now available. These documents include general information on separating garbage and its collection, as well as a calendar for collection around Miyakonojo. These documents can be found on the English Home Page portal. For those who know or are in contact with our Vietnamese citizens, please share this information along.

<http://cms.city.miyakonojo.miyazaki.jp/display.php?cont=190528092842>

Vietnamese Garbage



Cách phân loại và vứt rác hộ gia đình Niên khóa 2019

Seven Wonders of Miyazaki Prefecture *By Graham Marsh (Miyazaki Kencho CIR)*

Hi everyone! I'm Graham, one of the CIRs from the Miyazaki Prefectural Office, and I was most honoured to be asked by the MIA to write a brief column for this month's newsletter. These columns are usually meant to inform people about intercultural exchange and inspire interest in other areas, but I thought it might be interesting to take a slightly different tack – one of the great aspects of learning about and interacting with other countries and cultures is that it causes you to think more about your own, and look at things from a different perspective. To that end, I wanted to write about a few things I've found interesting while travelling around this lovely prefecture, with the hope of inspiring people to take another good look at everything; whether you're a newbie like me or a seasoned pro in all things Miyazakian, odds are there's something wonderful less than a stone's throw away from where you are right now, just waiting for you to discover it!

Without further ado, let's get started! There's a convention in Japan for listing bizarre and interesting features of a place (like statues that number differently depending on what direction you count them in, or remnants of local legends) in sevens, as the 七不思議 – *nana fushigi*, or Seven Wonders of that particular area, so I thought it might be fun to play up to the adventure game cliché and list seven 'mysterious' things I've found around the prefecture. While we're on the subject, I'm pretty sure the stairs to the Support Office at Miyazaki University number differently going up and down...

1 – Mysterious Markings in Miyazaki City!

While wandering around on my lunchbreak one fateful day, I happened upon this strange marking carved into a wall:



I had a look through some local guidebooks to see if they had any information on it, but all the local map said roughly translated to; "What could this symbol mean? Whatever is it doing here, of all places?" It looks a bit to me like the Nazca lines in Peru, so maybe it's there to celebrate the links between Miyazaki and South America. Maybe it's a salute to the delicious local chicken. Who knows?

2 – Daikon Town?!

It's pretty well known that the humble daikon radish is Japan's most popular root veggie, making an appearance in almost every lunch and dinner. What people might not know, however, is that a significant percentage of Japan's daikon are grown in Miyazaki – Tano,

specifically! A local restaurant served me so many variations on daikon (roasted, boiled, grated, fried, stewed, pickled...), I'm pretty sure I was so dosed up on vegetables by the time I left that I could have lowered someone's blood pressure just by shaking their hand! Joking aside, Tano's enthusiasm for daikon is both endearing and infectious – I ended up helping to harvest some, and hang them on a special rack called a *yagura* to dry, so they can be made into the ubiquitous pickled daikon that find their way into almost every box lunch meal in the country:



3 – Unusually-Named Place has Unique Population!

Towards the north of Miyazaki Prefecture, just south of Hyuga, there's a town named Kawaminami. This isn't unusual in and of itself, but within Kawaminami, there's a place named Toron-toron. It's cropped up on a few variety programmes on TV, as nobody believes it's a real name, so it's a good bit of trivia ammo. I asked around about where the name came from, but nobody seemed to remember, so it remains a mystery. Another interesting fact about the area is that it contains at least one person from each of the 47 prefectures of Japan (when they founded the town, they invited people from all over to move there), so you could probably pick up a lot of different local dialects if you hang around!

4 – Island-Hopping

Moving more to the south of the prefecture, the Nichinan area has some of the best swimming and surfing spots in the country, as well as an island populated entirely by monkeys. If you head to Takamatsu, by Kushima, you can also play with dolphins and swim to uninhabited islands, if you feel like having an adventure – you never know what you'll find! (This goes without saying, but of course, be careful if you go off swimming to uninhabited islands.)



5 – A Place Outside of Space and Time

No, I don't mean the British public transport system. In the northernmost part of Miyazaki, northwest of Nobeoka, there's a lovely little island named Shima no ura, with a population of a couple of hundred people, which is like an entire universe contained within itself. It's known locally as a great spot for fishing and surfing year-round, but the general attitude of the people on the island really caught my eye – the place is so laid back, it's amazing! The person showing me around, for example, left the keys in the ignition of their car and the window open. When I asked them if it was okay to just leave it like that, they looked at me like I was crazy, and asked; "Who would steal it? And where would they go?" Fair point! There's only about a mile or two of road on the whole island anyway.

6 – Eagles and Scarecrows

Ebino is an interesting place for a trip: Besides the nature reserve with its volcanic scenery (and a lake that changes colours throughout the day due to volcanic particles suspended in the water, which probably should be a whole other wonder), the mountains around the area are home to eagles, various wild herbs, and a lot of scarecrows – a drive around the local rice fields might end up provoking an awful lot of double-takes, and be best avoided around Halloween if you're easily scared!

7 – Buried Samurai Gold

Yes, I saved the best for last! There's a legend about buried gold in Miyazaki City. During the Edo Period (1600-1868), the wealthy Shimizu family, for reasons best known to themselves, stashed a chest containing 100,000 ryō... (a ryō was an old coin made from about 36g of gold) underground on an island called Zunburi-tō. The island was unfortunately lost in a heavy earthquake, but thanks to some nifty river management, the region around where the island stood was later developed for

farming, and was then built into houses. They never dug deep enough to find the treasure, though, and apparently it's still out there somewhere...

So there you have it. Samurai gold, mysterious carvings, root vegetables, rare flora and fauna, interesting urban planning and an island community that might be an alternate universe. How about getting out there and seeing if you can solve the mysteries? Or, better yet, find a few wonders of your own! There's wonderful and fascinating things all over this prefecture, so even if you're a Miyazaki lifer, try taking a good look at everything around you as if you're seeing it for the first time – it'll help you be more adaptive to new things, too!

Author Profile:



Originally from Reading, a small town near London in the UK, Graham's love for Japan came from listening to his father's stories about this far-off, mysterious place when he was a child. A big martial arts fan, he studied Judo, Jujitsu and Karate for about 15 years. Other hobbies include surfing, cooking, music, videogames and rambling inanely. Graham spends much of his free time on various hare-brained adventures around the prefecture, and seeking out tasty *kaisen-don*. If you see him around, be sure to say hello! Just leave plenty of time for a long, rambling reply...



Movies info C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571)
17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540*55



- Toy Story 4 (Japanese Dub)
- Diner (Japanese)
- Aladdin (Japanese Dub)
- X-Men: Dark Phoenix (Japanese Dub)
- Godzilla: King of Monsters (Japanese Dub)

*The 1st of every month is ¥1,100 for everyone.
*Every Wednesday is 'Ladies' Day', all ladies ¥1,100.
*The cinema is closed every Tuesday.
*For session times visit: <http://movie.walkerplus.com/th286/schedule.html> (Japanese)