

shikoku
IMABARI

Shikoku・Imabari

IMABARI STYLE

Location Issue



Take *free*

imabari style
VOL.3 2018.03

The Imabari Ginza shopping arcade appears in the novel "An Angel Wishes for a Miracle."



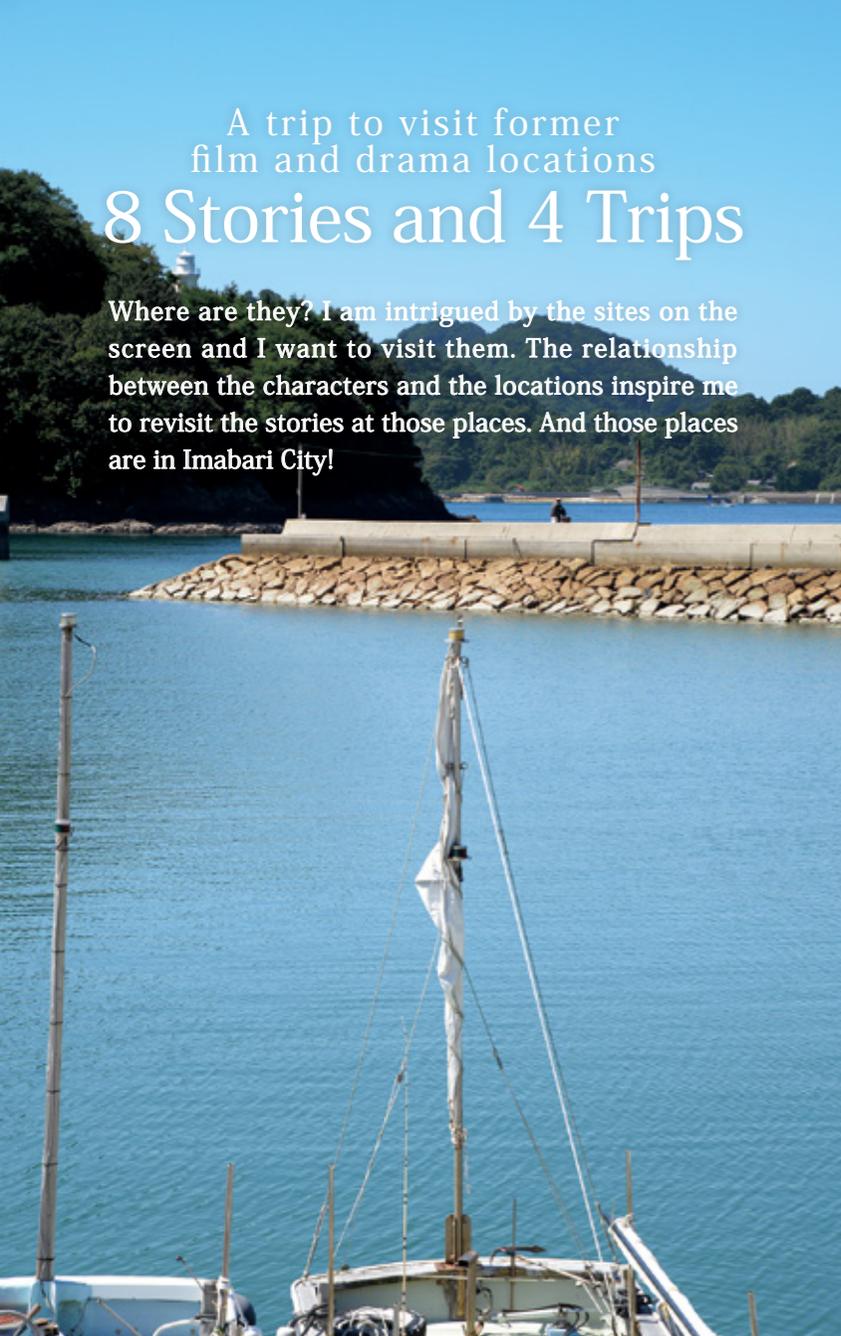
Let's go on a trip!



When I see familiar places on the TV screen, I get so excited that without knowing it I shout, "Hey! I know that place!" Over the past few years, there have been many movies, TV dramas, and commercials shot in and around Imabari City. There is also a novel set in Imabari (published in 2016). The familiar locations in Imabari seem to gain a new dimension when seen on the screen or read about in a book, and it may lead you to make new discoveries around the town. With this in mind, let's take a step back from our screens and books and embark on a tour of the film and drama locations and novel settings in and around Imabari. It may give wings to your imagination and inspire you to plan a trip of your own that can't be found in any guidebooks.

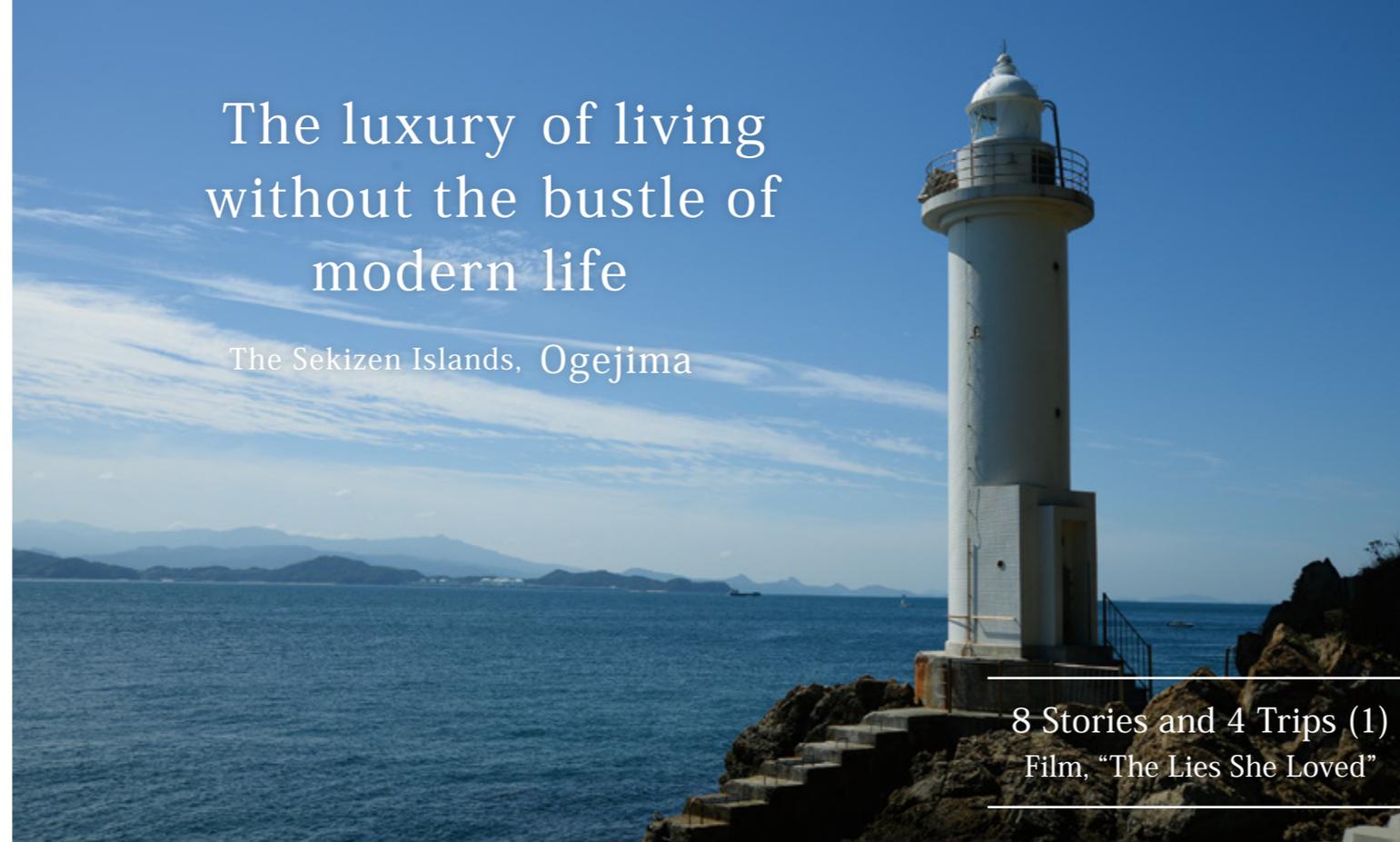
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A trip to visit former film and drama locations 8 Stories and 4 Trips

Where are they? I am intrigued by the sites on the screen and I want to visit them. The relationship between the characters and the locations inspire me to revisit the stories at those places. And those places are in Imabari City!



The luxury of living without the bustle of modern life

The Sekizen Islands, Ogejima

8 Stories and 4 Trips (1)
Film, "The Lies She Loved"

Ago-no-Hana Lighthouse



The model of an old ship displayed on the ceiling of a shrine



An old fire watchtower near Hayatsusa Shrine



An old well in a village



A village on Ogejima where few people are seen

The Sekizen Islands consist of three islands: Okamurajima, Ogejima, and Kogejima. Before they were merged into Imabari City in 2005, these three islands were called Sekizen-mura (village).

A Trip to a Remote Island

Ogejima is a remote island in the Seto Inland Sea. Looking at the distance, I thought that the trip would take several hours and a change of boats. However, it only took forty-five minutes, by high-speed ferry, from Imabari Port. Why do I feel that it is so far? Maybe it's because Imabari and Sekizen are separated by water and there are no bridges between them. I realised that this idea of being separated by water often affects my judgement of distance.

On remote islands, nature and the traditional culture of each island are often preserved, and Ogejima is no exception. On getting off the boat, I seemed immediately to feel more relaxed and time seemed to slow down. There are two lighthouses on the island. I walked through the village, along the seashore, heading for the lighthouse at Ago-no-Hana. I didn't see anyone along the way. After a twenty minute walk from the port, a tall, white, lighthouse appeared in front of me, rising into the sky. It is 17 meters tall and stands on a cliff. It was one of the sites in the film "The Lies She Loved," released in January, 2018.

Another lighthouse, Ogejima Lighthouse, is located on the west side of the island. When I was climbing up the promenade, an elegant, retro-looking lighthouse came into view. It was made of stone and was built in the Meiji Period (1868-1912). This lighthouse is also seen in the film.

On the island, there are no traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, convenience stores, supermarkets, coffee shops, or restaurants. Although I found a small shop near the port, it seemed to be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. There are no schools but there is a community centre including a post office and waiting room for the port, as well as a clinic that opens one day a week. Life on the island must present many inconveniences for its residents. Modern people tend to be bombarded by a lot of information and are swayed to go somewhere or see someone, trying to obtain fulfilment. However, there is nothing to distract one on this island. Isn't this luxury and contentment compared to the rest of us living such busy lives?



Ogejima Lighthouse

GoogleMap



Ago-no-Hana Lighthouse
Oge, Sekizen, Imabari, Ehime

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Visiting the Island of God

Omishima



8 Stories and 4 Trips (2)

Film, "Wolverine: Samurai"

Film, "Beyond the Memories"

Film, "The Lies She Loved"

Drama, "A Girl and Three Sweethearts"

Drama, "A Clinic on the Sea"

The first torii (shrine gate) facing the sea



Statue of Princess Tsuru standing by the sea



The path along the seashore Miyaura, a location in the movie "Wolverine"



The main building of the Oyamazumi Shrine



"Ikiki no Gomon" is a well-known energy vortex.

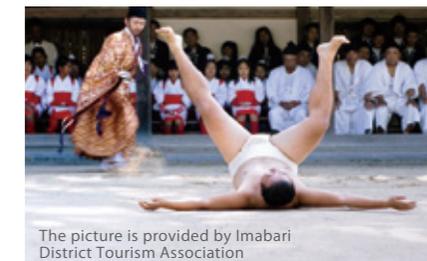
Oyamazumi Shrine

I went through the new gate which was rebuilt for the first time in 355 years. On the shrine grounds I was amazed by a gigantic 2,600 year old camphor tree. For a long time the tree has welcomed people visiting the shrine to pray. It is traditionally said that, if you go around the tree three times, your prayer will be answered. I saw a young man who was running around the tree with his face flushed. May his wish come true!

In the seventh episode of the TV drama "A Girl and Three Sweethearts" (Fuji Television), there is a scene where Mirei Kiritani and Kento Yamazaki stop at the shrine on their cycling trip from Onomichi, and reverently pray in front of the main shrine. That scene was very impressive. Since the old days, Oyamazumi Shrine has always drawn people's respect as the guardian god of the sea, mountains, and battles. You should go and pray there when you have a special wish. By the way, I drew an omikuji (fortune) at the shrine and it had "凶 (worst fortune)" written on it. To tell you the truth, I have drawn 凶 three times there. The omikuji at Oyamazumi Shrine never seem very optimistic about my future.

The area around the shrine is the oldest camphor forest in Japan and 38 trees are designated as natural monuments. Among them, one standing on the way to the inner shrine has always drawn people's attention. Going out of the north gate, after a five minute walk following small signboards, I arrived at the three thousand year old gigantic tree. There is a big opening at the foot of the tree. For many years, people going to visit the inner shrine have always gone through the hole. They considered it the sacred gate to the inner shrine and it has been called "Ikiki no Gomon (Living Tree Gate)."

The place around the tree is also seen in the TV drama, "A Girl and Three Sweethearts." In the drama a young couple climb up the stone steps and reach the tree's opening where they feel a mystical power. Surrounded by unspoiled nature, they are inspired to listen to their inner voices. The tree is one of the reasons Omishima is considered an energy vortex.



The picture is provided by Imabari District Tourism Association

Traditional divine ritual, hitori-zumo (one man sumo wrestling), to pray for a good harvest.



Shooting scenes from "Wolverine" Film, "Wolverine: Samurai" TM and © 2013Marvel©FOX

Omishima is the biggest island in Ehime Prefecture with a population of about 6,000 people. It is located in the middle of the Setouchi Shimanami Kaido Highway. Because Oyamazumi Shrine, which worships the god guarding all of Japan, is in the centre of the island, the island is called "Island of God" and is a popular destination as an energy vortex.

Miyaura

Miyaura is the shrine town of Oyamazumi Shrine. In the past, many ships stopped at this port, bringing visitors to the shrine, and the area was bustling. The first torii (shrine gate) standing in front of the pier is truly reminiscent of those old days. Shops along the approach to the shrine used to be full of people every time a boat arrived. However, since the Shimanami Kaido was built, people have been coming to the island by car instead of

boat, and things have changed a great deal on the island. This old shrine town is now very quiet. Few people know that this area was a location for the Hollywood movie "Wolverine," where an action scene of hand-to-hand fighting was shot. I wonder how the star of the film, Hugh Jackman, liked the island.



Miraculous Scenery

Omishima, Munagata, Nonoe

The southwest part of Omishima is a treasure trove of amazing scenery. When you visit Omishima, you should definitely go there.

From the top of the hill, the winding road leads down to the glittering sea. This slope, located in Munagata, from which the beautiful water and islands can be seen, has appeared in many films and dramas recently. In the film, "Beyond the Memories," the heroine (Masami Nagasawa) and others are riding bicycles down this hill. In the Fuji Television drama, "A Girl and Three Sweethearts," the characters (Mirei Kiritani and Kento Yamazaki) are pushing their bicycles up the hill against the backdrop of the sea. The film released in 2018, "The

Lies She Loved," also has a scene shot here.

This island is endowed with beautiful natural scenery. If you go there, you realise that the sky and the sea are not a single colour blue, and you will be moved by the richness of the surrounding nature, as if you have known this place for a long time. It is a relaxing place for body and soul. With the opening of the Shimanami Kaido the life of the people living on the island was made more convenient, but they still remember the days before the highway came and the importance of living simply in their daily lives. The beauty of nature and the sea that surrounds them keeps these memories protected and their peaceful lives unchanged.

GoogleMap



Munagata Port
397 Munagata,
Omishima-cho,
Imabari, Ehime



A ferry arriving at Munagata Port



A cyclist I met at Munagata



A shipbuilding yard seen from the pier of Urato Port



A scene from the film, "Beyond the Memories"
©2013 Production Studio of "Kiyoku Yawaku"



Nonoe Fishing Port was a location of the drama "A Clinic on the Sea" (Fuji Television)



Waiting room at Munagata Port



'Tis all that's left of ancient warriors' dreams

Hakatajima, Oshima

Funaori Seto, known as a treacherous area for sea traffic.

Hakatajima flourished in salt works in the past but it now boasts maritime and shipbuilding industries. Oshima is an island where people have grown up with the sea. Alongside it is Noshima, which was a base of the Murakami Kaizoku.

Funaori Seto

The 300-meter wide narrow strait between Hakatajima and Ushima is well known as a treacherous area for sea traffic. This is because of its rapid current which may break a ship and the different directions of the current depending on the tide.

There is an inn which was chosen as a location for a TBS drama series "For N," near the Funaori Seto strait. The view of the sea from the inn dispels the stereotypes that the Seto Inland Sea is calm.

The current speed reaches up to 8 knots (about 15 kilometres per hour). The roaring and swirling rapid flow of the water makes me feel weak at the knees. A ship cuts through the roaring waves against the current, sometimes being pushed back. I want to shout encouragement to the ship. The Murakami Kaizoku, who became famous through the novel "Daughter of Murakami Kaizoku" by Ryo Wada, dominated the Seto Inland Sea area through their familiarity with the tides. It would be interesting to travel through the Islands of the Shimanami Kaido thinking of them.

8 Stories and 4 Trips (3)
Novel, "Daughter of Murakami Kaizoku"
Movie, "The Lies She Loved"
Drama, "For N"
Drama, "A Girl and Three Sweethearts"



Suigun Race, in which they race on "Kohaya", small ships used by the Murakami Kaizoku. Held in Oshima every summer.

GoogleMap



Funaori Seto Camp Site, where you can enjoy the current of the Funaori Seto. 1979 Arouzu-ko, Hakata-cho, Imabari, Ehime.



Daily Life at Shitsumi Fishing Port.



A fisherman mends his net (Miyakubo Port in Oshima).

GoogleMap



Coastline which boasts a beautiful view of the Kurushima Straits Bridge. Myo, Yoshiumi-cho Imabari, Ehime.



You can see the Kurushima Straits Bridge clearly from the coast of Myo.

A Quiet Fishing Village in Calm Setouchi

It is possible, however, to enjoy the calm scenery of the mirror-smooth sea in the southeast area of Oshima. There are a lot of places which have a glorious view of the Kurushima Straits Bridge along Prefectural Highway 49, east of Iki-iki Kan, a road side station. A sunset scene of the Fuji Television drama, "A Girl and Three Sweethearts" was filmed at one of these locations. On the coast of Myo, Yoshiumi-cho. The sunset over the Seto Inland Sea against the bridge is bittersweet and romantic. It's a perfect place for couples.

Some parts of the road around the outskirts of Oshima are too narrow to pass other traffic. But every now and then a vista

appears through the trees which is so beautiful that you can't help but exclaim.

There is a fishing port called Shitsumi in the southeast part of Oshima. Houses are built close in the gentle slope between the sea and the mountain. This place was chosen as a location for a film "The Lies She Loved". At that time this area must have been bustling. I walked around the area to find someone to talk to, but I didn't see anyone. Not even any dogs or cats. Fishermen get up early and they rest at home during the day. I got a glimpse of the daily life of a quiet fishing village.

8 Stories and 4 Trips (4)
Film, "I am a Monk"



The Beautiful Mountain Village Tamagawa-cho, Imabari.

The location of the film "I am a Monk"

Imabari City seen from Iwashimizu Hachimangu Shrine

The popular essay, "I am a Monk" in which Missei Shirakawa, wrote about his experiences as a chief priest of Eifuku Temple, was made into a movie in 2015. It was shot on location in Tamagawa-cho and Imabari, with many locals participating as extras. The mountain town is usually quiet, but at that time it must have been full of clamorous voices.

Eifuku Temple

the 57th temple of the Shikoku 88 Temple Pilgrimage

Tamagawa-cho is located up Souja River from the downtown area of Imabari. Eifuku Temple is in Yawata, Tamagawa-cho, an area richly endowed with nature. Missei Shirakawa, who the main character of the movie is based on, serves as a chief priest there. It is one of the 88 temples of the Shikoku Pilgrimage and many pilgrims visit every year. On the way up the mountain to Eifuku Temple, you come across Iwashimizu Hachimangu Shrine. It was considered as part of Eifuku Temple through the Edo Period, but became independent in the separation of Shinto and Buddhist religious buildings in the Meiji Period. The precinct of Iwashimizu Hachimangu offers scenic views of the Seto Inland Sea and Imabari City. Please walk up the mountain when you visit Eifuku Temple.

GoogleMap



Eifuku Temple
200 Yawata-ko,
Tamagawa-cho,
Imabari, Ehime



A scene from "I am a Monk"
© 2015 Production Studio of "Boku wa Bousan"



Mikonomori

The location of the funeral scene in "I am a Monk"

The terrain becomes more rugged further from Yawata, where Eifuku Temple is located. Tamagawa-cho is surrounded by high mountains and the landscape has many different characteristics, such as mountain villages and gorges.

The "S" shaped curved street in Mikonomori, Nibukawa, was used to shoot the memorable funeral scene of the movie. Every now and then a pickup truck threads the woods and fields. It is as if time stands still here. You can never get tired of this scenery. With the sounds of birds and wind in the trees, you can find a priceless tranquility in this place. The feeling that being alive is wonderful, even if there's nothing special happening. You may happen to find a door to your own soul.



GoogleMap



Mikonomori,
Tamagawa-cho,
Imabari, Ehime



A scene from "I am a Monk"
© 2015 Production Studio of "Boku wa Bousan"

Special Column

Special Column

“An Angel Wishes for a Miracle”

I visited the Seto Inland Sea for the first time in my life for research for this novel. I clearly remember my surprise to see that the sea was calm.

I had imagined that the sea would be rough but it was so still that it was like a lake.

My editor had lived in Imabari in her childhood and she told me her memories of the place, which were vivid and seemed to have a dream-like quality. That’s why I wanted to go to Imabari and set a novel there.

Imabari has a well organised bicycle rental system, so I explored the city by bike. I saw

the Imabari Kokusai Hotel, which can be seen from anywhere in the city. I also saw an apartment that looked like a castle, and a very nice cafe in a residential area.

The best part was the Kurushima Straits Bridge. I was overwhelmed by its size and I really enjoyed riding over it and having an amazing view of the Inland Sea. While I was exploring Imabari, the story of the hero and heroine popped into my mind.

It occurs to me that people don’t often visit their local tourist sites. I hope that my story will inspire the people of Imabari to visit these places.



Photo courtesy of Bungeishunju Ltd.

Author
Takafumi Nanatsuki

Born in Osaka, Takafumi Nanatsuki’s first novel was “Astral” (Dengeki Bunko). “My Tomorrow, Your Yesterday” (Takarajimasha Bunko) went platinum in 2015, mainly read by girls between ten and twenty years old. It was made into a movie starring Sota Fukushi in December 2016.

BOOK DATA



“An Angel Wishes for a Miracle”

by Takafumi Nanatsuki, Bunshun Bunko (publisher)

Yoshifumi is a high school student in Imabari, a town facing the Seto Inland Sea. One day, a real angel, Yuuka, transfers into his class. Yoshifumi knows that she is an angel and they work together so she can return to heaven. His childhood friends Narumi and Kengo help them and they all form a special bond.

This is a story of love, miracles, and an angel’s lie. “Send me back to heaven.” When he knows her lie, the real story starts.

EDITOR’S COMMENT

I never imagined that he would write a story set in Imabari. It was like a miracle to me. I transferred from Tokyo to Tokiwa Elementary School in Imabari when I was in the 3rd Grade. I stayed there until I was in the 5th Grade. The two years I spent in Imabari were full of unforgettable memories. My teacher and classmates welcomed me warmly. This time was full of interesting events, like going out to Imabari Port and to Citizen’s Park on weekends. I also remember getting a cake in the shape of towels and receiving embroidered towels for my birthday, and camping at the school ground during summer vacation. But most of all it was the open air and sea, as well as the kindness of the local people that has stayed with me. When I talked to Mr Nanatsuki about my memories of Imabari, during the meeting about the new series, he said, “Ok. Let’s go and see.”

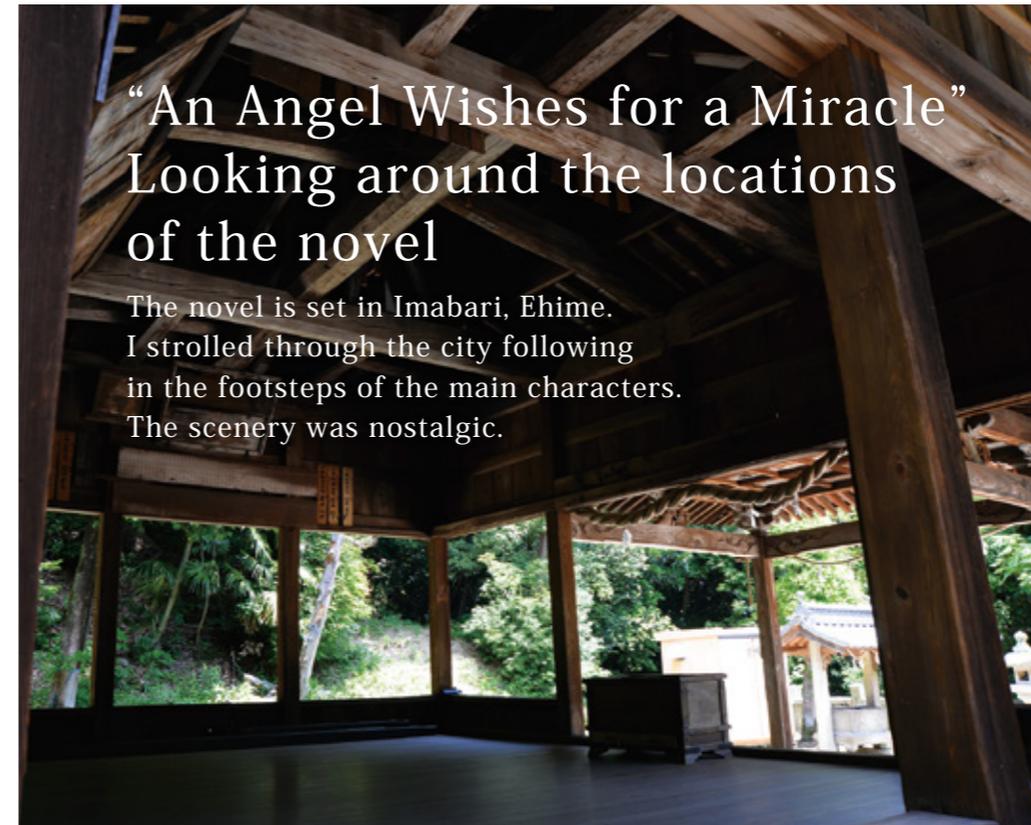
Imabari was just as I remembered it, which made me happy. After a glorious view of the Great Seto Bridge, which connects Okayama and Kagawa, from the Shiokaze,

the limited express train, we arrived at Imabari. We went straight to the Shimanami Kaido. We went to the places I remembered from my childhood, contacted old friends and they talked about their school days. While I blithely imagined the school days I could have had, Mr Nanatsuki was building the plot of the novel.

It was my teachers at Tokiwa Elementary School that made me the editor that I am today. They sent my essays to Ushio, a local anthology, and gave me a lot of praise. They taught me the joys of writing and helped me get to where I am. It was only two years, but it was special for me and it further connected us with Imabari.



Ai Asai,
editor of Bessatsu
Bungeishunju.
Bungeishunju Ltd.



The main building of Mishima Shrine

“An Angel Wishes for a Miracle” Looking around the locations of the novel

The novel is set in Imabari, Ehime. I strolled through the city following in the footsteps of the main characters. The scenery was nostalgic.

A shrine surrounded by silence Mishima Shrine

Mishima Shrine, which plays an important role in the story, is located in Koizumi, Imabari. The main shrine of Mishima is Oyamazumi Shrine in Omishima (p 6). There are several shrines named Mishima Shrine in Imabari and it was difficult to identify the Mishima Shrine from the story. It was located in a high place with long stone steps and branches and leaves which hung down like a bamboo blind. Using this description to narrow it down, I eventually made a guess. When I asked Ms Asai, who came along with the author, Mr Nanatsuki, she replied, “Yes, you’re right!” In this way, the mystery of the correct Mishima Shrine was solved.

Taisan Temple, the 56th temple of the 88 Shikoku Temple Pilgrimage is

nearby, but few people visit this shrine. There was no one around. After slipping between the stone-carved guardian dogs and passing through the shrine gate, the long stone steps loomed in front of me. At the top of the steps I found a small shrine in a narrow precinct just like in the story. It has a well-kept atmosphere, the shrine has been loved and honoured for a long time.

I enjoyed the view of the town. Fields and rice paddies are scattered between houses and schools. I saw Mt Kasamatsu in the distance. It is a commanding sight, and the thick close trees add a feeling of mystery, as if I were looking through a tunnel. This is definitely the place where the story is set.



Stone-carved guardian dogs at Mishima Shrine



View of the town from the top of the long stone steps

GoogleMap



Mishima Shrine
1-9 Koizumi,
Imabari, Ehime

“Overlooking the forests and the sea,
the islands look like they’ve fallen from heaven

Quoted from part 2; You too. “An Angel wishes for a Miracle”

Mt Kiro

In the novel, Yoshifumi and Yuuka cycle across the Kurushima Straits Bridge to visit Mt Kiro on Oshima. The Shimanami Kaido connects Imabari and Onomichi for cars, but there are also paths for cyclists and pedestrians. Recently, it has gained international publicity as a popular place for cycling with beautiful views of the Inland Sea. The Kurushima Straits Bridge is the closest of the seven bridges to Imabari. The four kilometer bridge connects Imabari and Oshima.

Mr Nanatsuki and his editor Ms Asai also cycled across the Kurushima Straits Bridge for their research. They intended to go up Mt Kiro by bike, but they took a wrong turn and ended up at the highway tollgate. They eventually went up Mt Kiro by taxi on the advice of the tollgate staff. This incident is included in the novel.

The first time Mr Nanatsuki visited the summit of Mt Kiro the weather was bad. But the cloud cover created an aura of fantasy and mystery. Because of this he decided to make it an important location in the novel. Later, he revisited Imabari and enjoyed the Kurushima Straits Bridge during better weather.

Mt Kiro Observatory boasts the best view of Setouchi. It has a bird’s-eye-view of the Kurushima Straits Bridge and the Hiuchi Sea. If the weather is good, you can even see Mt Ishizuchi. In 2017, it gained global recognition by coming second in the Best Observation Deck in Japan, a competition run by Trip Advisor. It is hard to climb to the summit by bike, but if you consider yourself a climbing cyclist you should give it a try!

GoogleMap



Mt Kiro Observatory
487-4 Minamiura, Yoshiumi-cho,
Imabari, Ehime.

Kurushima Straits Bridge seen from Mt Kiro Observatory (designed by Kengo Kuma)



Imabari Castle lit up. The castle tower, “Tensyu” commands a full view of the Imabari Plain.

An Impregnable Castle on the Sea Imabari Castle

Imabari Castle is one of the greatest Mizujiro (castle built next to the sea, river, or lake). It was built by Takatora Todo who was a member of the Eastern Army who won the Battle of Sekigahara. Because Imabari was an important place for marine traffic, boats were able to enter the moat directly from the sea. This design aspect of the castle took full advantage of the terrain in this location. In the novel, Narumi, who really loves Imabari, talks enthusiastically about the details of the castle. The sea water going into the moat and the water level changing depending on the tide. It becomes a pretty big topic for locals when sharks and sting-rays stray into the moat. These incidents serving to remind people that the moat is directly linked with the sea. Todo built seventeen great castles during his life. He was called “a great castle builder,” but he was also a great city planner.

Even though he built strong castles during periods of war, he developed the surrounding towns for the practicality and comfort of the peace that was coming. They had orderly roads and easy accessibility to the center of town. Todo made the foundations of the current Imabari city.

Also, the “Family Mart in front of the castle” in the novel is real. It is located just across the road from the moat.

There were oyster farms in the moat in 1936. The sea water in the moat, with the sluice, which adjusts the water level depending on the tide, was good for farming. However, these days, the moat is mainly enjoyed for leisure activities, a sea-bike race on the moat, rowing races, and so on.



Sea fish swimming in the moat



The sluice gate which allows sea water into the castle moat

GoogleMap



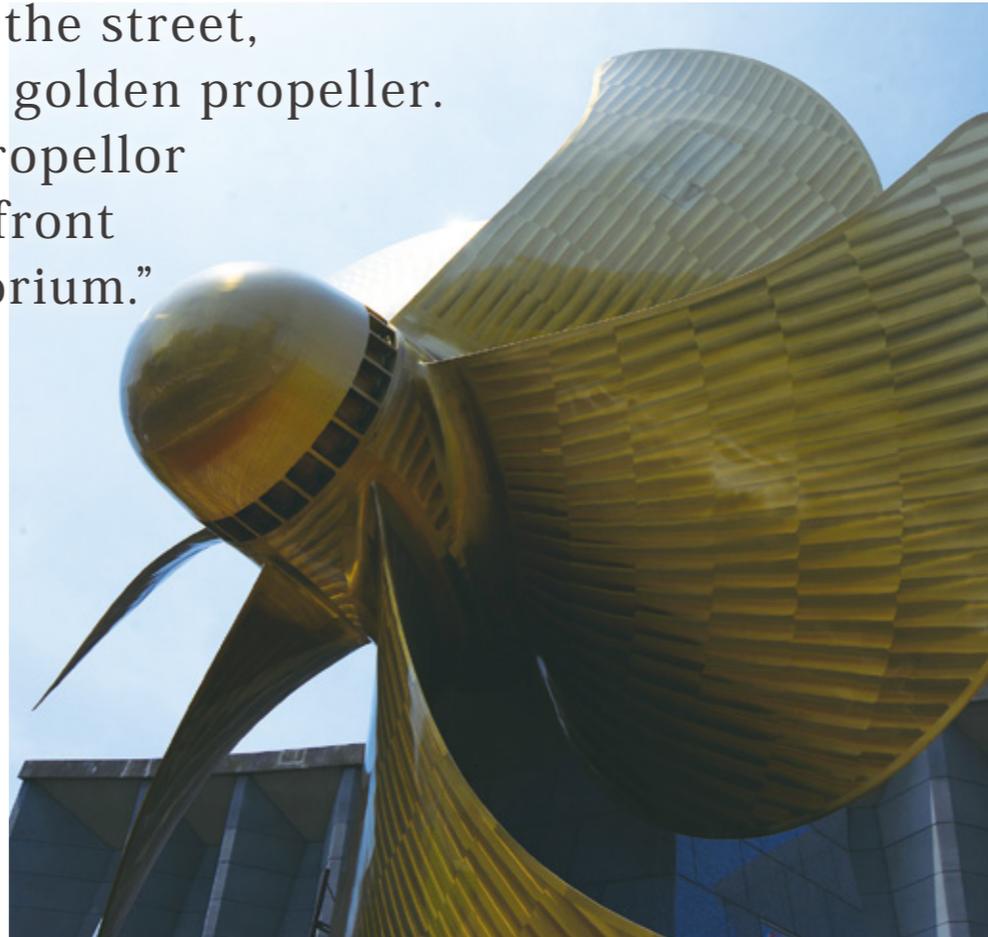
Imabari Castle
3-1-3 Tori-cho,
Imabari, Ehime

“As you walk down the street, you can see a giant golden propeller. It’s a huge ship’s propeller being displayed in front of the public auditorium.”

Quoted from part 1; I can feel God. “An Angel Wishes For a Miracle”



The public auditorium, designed by Mr Kenzo Tange, world-famous architect who grew up in Imabari



The ship propeller in front of the Imabari City Hall and public auditorium

There is a huge propeller in front of the public auditorium. The auditorium was designed by Mr Kenzo Tange, a world-famous architect who grew up in Imabari. The propeller is a symbol that Imabari is an important maritime city.

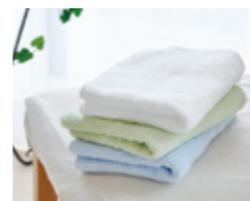
In the Meiji Period shipbuilding in Imabari was started by repairing and maintaining small ships which needed to wait for a favourable tide. Kurushima Strait has been an important point of maritime traffic, of old. This is why shipbuilding and a shipping industry developed in this area. Imabari is home to many of Japan’s biggest shipbuilding companies, including Imabari Zousen Group which is one of the biggest shipbuilding companies in the world. There are also many ship equipment manufacturers dealing with electrical equipment and facilities for ships. Imabari is well known, throughout the world, as a huge maritime hub, where you can find anything maritime.

This huge propeller, the symbol of Imabari as a maritime city, has a diameter of 9 meters. It’s a very impressive structure up close. It was donated by Imabari Zousen Ltd. in 2013, and it’s the same type of propeller as the one installed in the huge container ship “MOL COSMOS” which has the capacity of 8,100 containers. “MOL COSMOS” has a total length of 320 meters. Considering that “Yamato”, the biggest battle ship in history had a total length of 263 meters, you can imagine how big it is.

Another important industry in Imabari is towel manufacturing. In the novel, the four characters visit a towel factory to interview them for their school newspaper. Imabari Towels are now well-known throughout the world, as having a soft texture and outstanding absorbency. It’s as if the Imabari towel industry supports the people of Imabari softly, while the shipbuilding industry empowers its people to go out into the world.



The same type of propeller as the one installed in “MOL COSMOS”

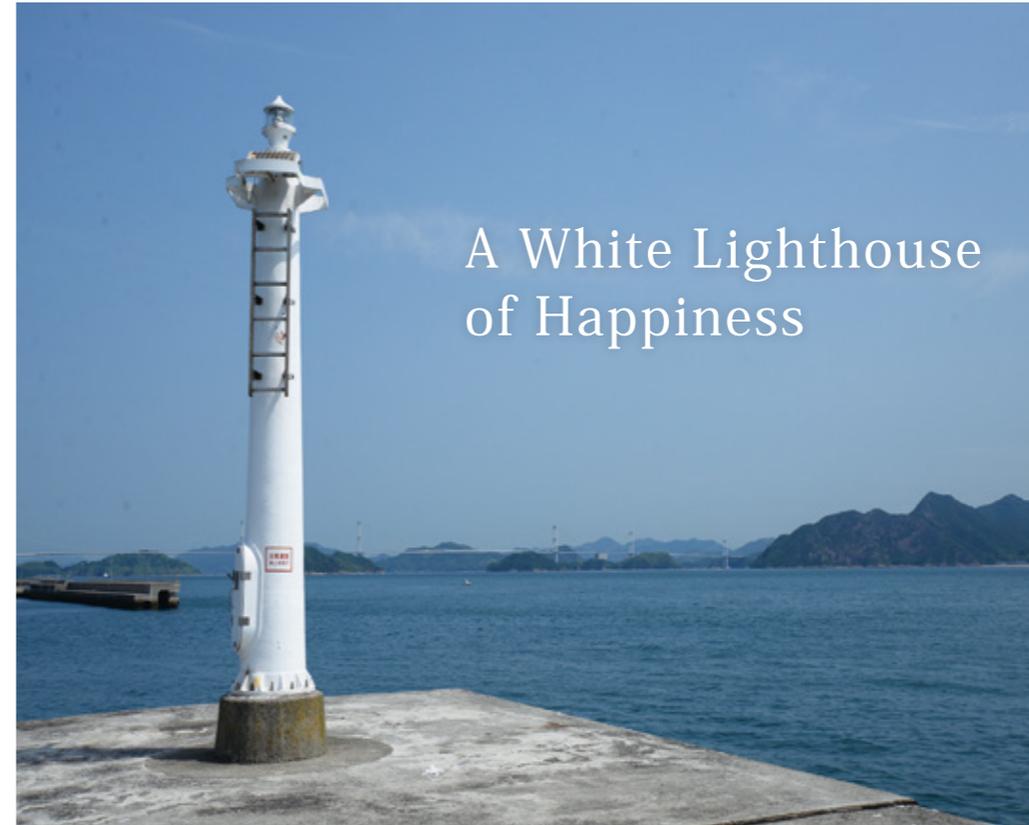


Imabari Towels

GoogleMap



Public auditorium
1-4-1 Bekku-cho,
Imabari, Ehime



A White Lighthouse of Happiness

Miho Lighthouse. You can see the Kurushima Straits Bridge in the distance

Miho Lighthouse

In the last scene of the novel, Yoshifumi and Yuuka share their feelings at Miho Lighthouse. This place is familiar to anglers but is not a popular sightseeing spot even though it is scenic.

Going through the park, climbing up the narrow and steep steps, and going to the end of the breakwater, you can see the small white lighthouse standing lonely. Walking along the breakwater, seeing an array of fishing boats, fishermen, and hundreds of ships coming and going, you get the feeling that Imabari has grown up with the sea.

You can see the Kurushima Straits Bridge in the distance. The contrast between the clear blue of the sky and the sea and the white of the lighthouse is absolutely beautiful. At night it

completely changes to an otherworldly atmosphere. Miho Lighthouse silently stands watch over the ever-changing Kurushima Strait.

Our journey through Imabari started at Ago-no-hana Lighthouse and finishes at Miho Lighthouse. Ships are able to navigate the straits because the lighthouses light the sea routes so ships can find their way. In the novels and movies, lighthouses are described as special, important buildings, which can guide characters, like a sign post, lighting their journey through life. Perhaps the writer is implying that you shouldn’t lose sight of what is important to you. That there is a light of hope heading to the future.



A view from the breakwater. Fishing boats are moored in a line behind the breakwater



The Imabari Port area still has a good old fisherman’s atmosphere

GoogleMap



Breakwater Lighthouse
No.1, Miho-cho,
Imabari Port
Katahara-cho,
Imabari, Ehime



Local Food in Imabari

Restaurants and food that appear in novels and movies



©2015 Production Studio of "Boku wa Bousan"

Delicious, as usual

These are some of the local specialties of Imabari: fresh fish caught along the Kurushima Strait, Imabari style yakitori, broiled sizzling on a hot griddle, Senzanki, which is fried chicken seasoned with soy-sauce, Imabari comfort food Imabari Yakibuta-Tamago Meshi, Udon with a soft texture which is different from the chewy Sanuki Udon, and more. You can enjoy a different style in every restaurant. Every dish is cheap, good and fast. It is said that many people in Imabari are merchants who are in a hurry. In order to make them happy, it has to be cheap and good, obviously, but quick service is also important. In Imabari there are many shops that keep their style unchanged. Each shop has a best selling dish which has always been loved

by the local people, such as the milkshake served at Tamaya, the shaved ice bowl at Tosendo, Doitsu-koppe bread at Fukusuke Bakery, and Melange cream-bread at Ogawa Bakery. All of them appeared in the novel "An Angel Wishes for a Miracle." You might want to start by trying some delicious bread in the morning, having Imabari Yakibuta-Tamago Meshi for lunch, with a bowl of shaved ice for dessert, and at night having Torikawa (chicken skin) and beer at a Yakitori restaurant. And don't miss out on Senzanki. Some of the yakitori restaurants even serve seafood like sashimi. A novel or movie won't let you in on these super Imabari secrets, though.

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| 1 Milkshake served at Tamaya Santonore. Many celebrities like this restaurant and have left autographs. | 2 Strawberry and crème served at Tosendo. No.1 in the "Best Shaved Ice Bowl Which You Really Should Have Even If You Have To Wait in Line" rankings, in west Japan, 2013, the Nikkei. | 3 Imabari Yakibuta-Tamago Meshi served at Shigematsu Hanten. It's Imabari comfort food. | 4 In a movie Shigematsu Hanten appeared as a Chinese restaurant. You should visit them when you're very hungry! | 5 Cuisine Ryokan Seto in Hakatajima. In the drama "For N", it appears as Naruse's parents place. |
| 6 An owner of Fukusuke Bakery, Etsuko Takeda. She welcomes customers with a kind smile. | 7 Doitsu-koppe at Fukusuke Bakery. It's been a consistently popular bread since the establishment opened. | 8 French restaurant Bonheur Boussole 3373. In the drama "For N", it appears as the main character's parents old place. | 9 Drinking restaurant Nagatsuki, one of the locations for the movie. You can enjoy Yakitori and fresh seafood like you had at home. | 10 Torikawa, a popular dish at Nagatsuki. It goes very well with beer. |
| 11 Melange at Ogawa Bakery. It has always been loved by school kids. | 12 Ogawa Bakery, located in front of the Minami High School main gate. | 13 Bar Roku-san, where Junpei Mizobata acted as a bartender in the movie. | 14 A cocktail served at Roku-san. The same glass as the one in the movie. | |

1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12 Shops appearing in the novel "An Angel Wishes for a Miracle"
3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 14 Locations in the film "I Am a Monk"

Films, dramas, and commercials that were shot in Imabari. There are so many!!



Film: "The Wolverine: SAMURAI"
TM&©2013Marvel©FOX

Film: "The Wolverine: SAMURAI"
Production Co : Twentieth Century Fox, Cine Bazar
Shooting period : Sep. 2012
Release date : 13 Sep. 2013
Cast : Hugh Jackman, Hiroyuki Sanada, TAO, Rila Fukushima etc.
Main location : Omishima

Website : <http://www.foxmovies.jp/wolverine-samurai/>



Film : "Kiyoku Yawaku" (Beyond the Memories)
Production Co : Nippon Television, C&I, Toho
Shooting period : Feb. Mar. 2012
Release date : 26 Oct. 2013
Cast : Masami Nagasawa, Masaki Okada etc.

Main location : Omishima, Imabari city



Film : "Boku wa Bousan." (I Am a Monk)
Production Co : ROBOT
Shooting period : Sep. 2014
Release date : Oct. 2015
Cast : Atsushi Ito, Mizuki Yamamoto, Junpei Mizobata, Gaku Hamada Miyuki Matsuda, Issei Ogata etc.

Main location : Tamagawa-cho, Imabari City
Website : <http://bosan.jp>

Film : "Usu wo aisuru onna" (The Lies She Loved)
Production Co : ROBOT
Shooting period : Mar. 2017
Release date : Jan. 2018, in Toho circuit national-wide
Cast : Masami Nagasawa, Issei Takahashi, Koutarou Yoshida etc.
Main locations : Imabari City, city area and island area
Website : <http://usoai.jp>

You can watch some of these dramas and films on DVD even though they have aired on TV or their cinema run is finished. Please enjoy them if you have the opportunity.



TV drama : Fuji Television drama at 9pm Monday
"Umi no ue no Shinryujo" (A Clinic on the Sea)
Shooting period : Sep. to Dec. 2013
TV station : Fuji Television
Date aired : Nov.4,18,25 Dec.16,23 2013

Cast : Syota Matsuda, Emi Takei etc.
Main locations : Omishima, Hakatajima, Sekizen Ogejima
Website : http://www.fujitv.co.jp/uminoueno_shinryujo/



TV drama : Fuji Television drama at 9pm Monday
"Sukina Hito ga Iru Koto" (A Girl and Three Sweethearts)
Production Co : Fuji Television
Shooting period : 19 to 20 Aug. 2016
TV station : Fuji Television
Date aired : 29 Aug. 2016
Cast : Mirei Kiritani, Kento Yamazaki etc.
Main locations : Omishima, Oshima

Website : <http://www.fujitv.co.jp/sukinahitogairukoto/index.html>

TV drama : TBS Friday drama "N no Tameni" (For N)
Shooting period : Sep. 2014
TV station : TBS
Date aired : 17 Oct. 2014
Cast : Nana Eikura, Masataka Kubota, Kento Kaku etc.
Main locations : Imabari City, Oshima, Hakatajima, Omishima,
Website : <http://www.tbs.co.jp/Nnotameni/>

TV advertising	Main shooting locations
Foreign auto manufacturer, Audi	Omishima
Domestic auto manufacturer, Nissan	Hakatajima
Domestic auto manufacturer, Subaru	Kurushima Straits Bridge
Domestic drink manufacturer, Suntory	Omishima

Co-operation / Support for shooting and materials
Imabari District Tourism Association
Imabari District Film Commission
Tel : +81-898-22-0909
Website : <http://www.oideya.gr.jp/i-fc/>

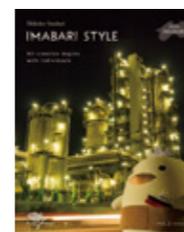


This poster, "The Ehime They Love," was made as a tie-in with the film "The Lies She Loved".
Bary-san, at the top of the picture, is Imabari's local mascot. Mikyan is a mascot representing Ehime's rising image. Here they can be seen in the poses of the characters in the film poster. They are standing in for Masami Nagasawa and Issei Takahashi, who acted in the film. They are promoting the film as well as tourism spots around Ehime.

BACK NUMBER



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Welcome All the Way to Imabari
Interview with FC Imabari Owner Takeshi Okada
People charmed by Imabari -people returned or moved from big cities-
Imabari Towel Mr Kashiwa Sato
Etc.



Vol.2 Issued Dec. 2016
Industries All creation begins with individuals
Shipbuilding, Towel Industry, Food, Tourism, Traditional Industry, Agriculture

Photos of places we visited for research



The corridor of an inn, Furusato Ikoi no Ie in Omishima



An old fish shop in Miyaura



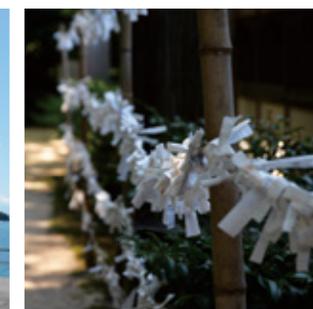
Ticket machine for the Blue Line Ferry



View from underneath the Kurushima Straits Bridge, from a boat



Munagata Port Office



An omikuji (fortune) at Oyamazumi Shrine

Imabari Style Vol.3

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Imabari District Film Commission

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Shikoku・Imabari

IMABARI STYLE

Location Issue



Take *free*