

Cameron's Shimanami Kaido Adventure!

Recently, I travelled to Onomichi, in Hiroshima prefecture, and rented a bicycle so I could begin the Shimanami Kaido cycling route to Ehime! I took the ferry to Mukaishima and cycled quickly through the first two islands [1], stopping briefly in Innoshima to see the giant dinosaur statue at the beach [2] as well as the breathtaking views near the bridge [3].

Once I reached Ikuchijima I decided to stop for lunch and had ice cream at the famous 'Setoda Dolce' [4] before visiting Kosanji temple nearby [5]. There was a cave there filled with 1000 Buddha statues [6]. Also, behind the temple was an area called the 'Hill of Hope', which was made completely from white marble [7]. The view was beautiful!

After that I continued cycling through the islands and eventually reached Hakatajima when I realised I needed to return to my hostel in Ikuchijima before nightfall [8]. On the way back I stopped by the port to read a book and watch the sunset. I was really surprised when a red stingray (アカエイ) swam below my feet! When I returned I stayed for the night in a room above a beautiful coffee shop [9] and used the local sento bathhouse (which was completely empty, lucky me!).

On my second day I cycled to Omishima and took the ferry to Okunoshima, known as 'Rabbit Island'. Here there are many friendly, wild rabbits that you can pet and feed vegetables! I spent a lot of time playing with the rabbits [10] and when I returned to Omishima I realised that it was already late in the afternoon and the cycle shop was closing at 17:30! I had to race the sun back to Onomichi and made it just in time to return my bike and see a local festival!

It was a really fun weekend and my first trip by myself in Japan, I would recommend everyone to try it! (although my legs hurt a lot in class on Monday...)

