



## A report from a cyclist

One morning before dawn, with the streetlights still on, I bicycled for Lake Miyajima-numa. My purpose was to see the famous Greater White-fronted Geese taking off from the marsh. When I arrived at the marsh, I saw a body of water with an island in the center. But when my eyes finally adjusted to the dim light, I soon realized it was no island but birds, all of them Greater White-fronted Geese. There were a lot

more than I expected! When I saw the first morning light in the eastern sky, I heard a splash of birds and saw several of them flying upwards. Then, I heard the earth shaking and saw all the birds, thousands of them, flying away at the same time. It was quite a sight! I was really amazed. Still excited, I started moving to the next point. As I cycled, I saw the birds feeding on worms in the fields. Oh! Greater White-Fronted Geese and Bean Geese! They need lots of food for their long journey ahead. Watching the birds all the way, I biked through the downtown of

Bibai, passing Tomei Park, a famous spot for cherry blossoms, which will soon be in bloom. I headed to the Garo District, once a prosperous area for coal mining. The remains of the mining facilities along the cycling road reminded me of the past glory of the area. My next stop was Arte Piazza. There, I enjoyed looking at many art works dotting the field before heading for the goal. I could experience a wide range of things on this cycling course: various wild birds, the remains of a coal mine, and the works of a world famous artist. What a luxurious time I had!

# Attractions!

### 1 Kairaku Park

- Address: Kairaku Koen Tsukigata-cho Kabato-gun
- Phone: 0126-53-2577
- Open: Late April ~ October 31
- There is a campground, bungalows, a BBQ square, a park golf course, and a boat rental service on this vast site covering 27 hectares. A 3 km cycling course encircles the park. You can come as you are and rent a bike.



### 2 Tsukigata Hot Spring Yurikago

- Address: Tsukigata 81-10 Tsukigata-cho Kabato-gun
- Phone: 0126-53-2001
- Hours: 10:00 ~ 22:00
- Closed: On the 3rd Tuesday of every month
- Fees: Adults 500 yen, Children 250 yen
- Located in Kairaku Park and connected to Tsukigata Hot Spring Hotel. Hot spring water is sold in a vending machine.



### 3 Lake Miyajima-numa Water Bird & marshland Center

- Address: Oomagari 3-ku Nishi Bibai-cho Bibai-shi
- Phone: 0126-66-5066
- Hours: 9:00 ~ 17:00
- Closed: On Monday, on weekdays that follow a national holiday, and from Dec. 31 to Jan. 5
- This is one of the world's biggest destinations of the migratory bird and Japanese natural monument the Greater White Fronted Goose. Bean Geese and Tundra Swans also make stopovers here. It has been designated as one of Japan's Wildlife Protection Areas. The birds can be seen around early April and then again in late September.



But the time differs slightly each year, so call before you go.

### 4 Juraku

- Address: Nishi 2-jo Minami 2-chome 2-1 Bibai-shi
- Phone: 0126-62-6671
- Hours: 11:00 ~ 21:00
- Closed: Monday
- They offer various dishes including Japanese and Italian cuisine. Their fresh pasta dishes and desserts are especially popular.



### 5 Ebina Square

- Address: Nishi 1-jo Minami 2-chome 1-2 Odori Bibai-shi
- Phone: 0126-63-3970
- Hours: 11:00 ~ 16:00
- Closed: Tuesday
- In this square, all the delicious local food in Bibai are available. Bibai skewered grilled chicken restaurant Tatsumi, local dishes and Japanese chicken pilaf shop Shirakaba Jaya, Bibai fried noodles Kadoya, and Hamburger shop Area Hope.



### 6 Tomei Park

- Address: Tomei 2-ku Bibai-shi
- Phone: 0126-62-3131
- Open: May 1 ~ October 31
- Famous for its cherry trees and azaleas, this park has some 5,000 cherry trees blooming in season. In May every year, the

Bibai Cherry Festival is held here. On a hill in the park, a Dutch-made "Space Carillon" with 24 bells rings out a beautiful melody every hour. From the adjacent Furusato no Mieru Oka Observatory, you can enjoy a panoramic view of Sorachi Plain.



### 7 Pipa Hot Spring Yurinkan

- Address: Tomei-cho 3-ku Bibai-shi
- Phone: 0126-64-3800
- Hours: 10:00 ~ 22:00
- Open all the year round
- Fees: Adults 600 yen, Children 300 yen
- At this place, relaxing hot spring and accommodation and delicious meals are offered here. The most popular attraction, an Italian style open-air bath, is lit up blue, recreating an image from Capri Island in Italy.



### 8 Bibai Former Tomei Railway Station

- Address: Tomei 5-jo 2-chome Bibai-shi
- Phone: 0126-62-3131
- Built in 1948, this station building was donated from Mitsubishi Company to Bibai City in 1972. The former Tomei Line, leading to the Garo district, is now used as a cycling road. Behind the building, there is a type 4110 ten-wheel tank steam engine, NO.2.



### 9 Arte Piazza Bibai

- Address: Sakaemachi Ochiai-cho Bibai-shi
- Phone: 0126-63-3137
- Hours: 9:00 ~ 17:00
- Closed: On Tuesday, on days following a national holiday (except Sunday), and from Dec. 31 to Jan. 5
- Admission: Free
- When you visit this nostalgic place and see the sculptures of Yasuda Kan, you may lose track of time. Once a residential area for miners, it was turned into this 70,000 square meter space for art and nature. The second floor of the former Sakae Elementary School is now used as an exhibition space, and the first floor houses Bibai Municipal Sakae Kindergarten.



### 10 Local Products Shop PiPa

- Address: Shintoku-cho 1-ku Bibai-shi
- Phone: 0126-62-4343
- Hours: 10:00 ~ 18:00
- Closed: New Year's holidays
- Bibai Tourism Association runs this shop, which sells various products made in Bibai. Their website features information on famous Bibai items, including Bibai skewered grilled chicken and Kadoya fried noodles, which you can also purchase right there on the website.
- URL: [www.pipaai.jp/antennashop](http://www.pipaai.jp/antennashop)



Footpath Tukigata <http://www.sorachi.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ts/tss/soracchi/shimachi/tukigata/tukigata.htm#q026>

Footpath Bibai <http://www.sorachi.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/ts/tss/soracchi/shimachi/bibai/bibai.htm#c026>