

# INDUSTRIAL CITY NIIHAMA



You may think that Niihama City has nothing to do with tourism, but there are a lot of attractive and special tourist sites related to the process by which Niihama has developed into the industrial city it is now.



新居浜



The Night View of the Manufacturing Plant

# Manufacturing City Niihama

Niihama city is located in the north central part of Shikoku Island. It stretches long from east to west , facing the Seto Island Sea , with the Shikoku Mountains to the south. Niihama is blessed with many scenic spots and a mild climate.

With the opening of Besshi Copper Mine in Edo period. It changed Niihama into a major industrial city in Setouchi area.

Today, Machinery, Chemical, Refining, and Electric power industries, which mainly originated from the copper mine, formed Niihama's major industry.



Tsugazakura



Mt. Nishi Akaishi

Mt.Higashi Akaishi



Oshima



# Besshi Copper Mine

Niihama

In the 4th year of the Genroku Era (1691) the Besshi Copper Mine started its operation in the mountains at a height of about 1,200m. The mine terminated its operations after 283 years in the 48th year of Showa Era (1973) when they had excavated down to about 1,000m below sea level with a total yield of 650,000 tons of copper which made the Besshi Mine one of the largest in Japan.



Chimney of former Yamane Refinery



The No.3 Main Tunnel



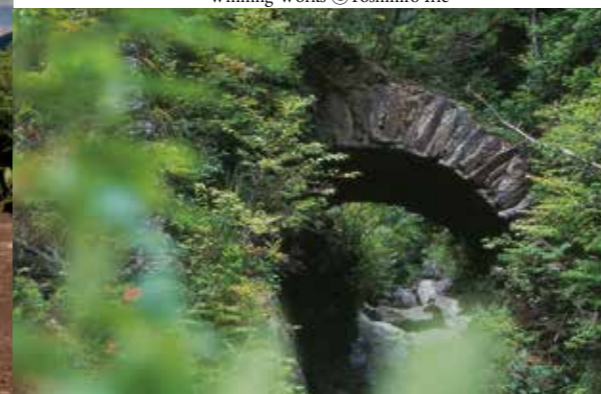
Old Hadeba Hydroelectric Power Plant



Old Besshi Area the first prize 2017 Akagane Photo Contest Winning Works ©Yoshihiro Irie



Minetopia Besshi Tonaru Zone



Old Besshi Area the 80th anniversary prize 2017 Akagane Photo Contest Winning Works ©Syouji Kaji



Hadeba Iron Bridge

During the Edo Era (1603-1868) copper produced in the mine circulated all over the world. Entering the Meiji Era (1868-1912) the mine company realized rapid modernization. It was also the first in the world to tackle environmental issues and continued the copper mine management even taking into account how to support local prosperity after the exhaustion of the mine. As time passed they moved down out of the mountains and continued to develop the industrial city of Niihama. Today we can see evidence of these developments throughout the city.

Minetopia Besshi Tonaru Zone



# Niihama



## Hirose Memorial Museum

You can see how Mr. Hirose succeeded in modernizing the mining and smelting of copper at Besshi Copper Mine. A miniature mine railroad, videos and historical materials are exhibited.

## Former Residence of Saihei Hirose (designated as a cultural asset of national importance in 2003)



Hirose had an open mind regarding advanced technology. A lightning rod, sheet glass, a mantelpiece, and a western style toilet were introduced in his traditional Japanese-style house.



Kokuryogawa-Ryokuchi Park (Spring)



Marine Park Niihama



Summer Fireworks Display (July)



Besshi Rhine River



Zuiouji Temple (Autumn)



Otoshihashi Bridge



Tou-do-okuri (January)

# Niihama Taiko Festival

The Niihama Taiko Festival held in October every year is considered as one of the top-three festivals in Shikoku, a traditional event that is nationally outstanding.

The "Taikodai" (Taiko drum and structure) is gorgeously ornamented in "Futonjime" and drapes embroidered in gold thread, the size is approximately 5.5 m high, 12 m long, 3.4 m wide and weighs 3 tons. About 150 men called "Kakifu" manually hand lift the drum.

The greatest highlight of the festival is the "Kakikurabe", where several of the immense taiko structures line up side-by-side, are hoisted higher than their competitors, compare their strength, whereas the audience become one, and altogether reach a climax.




Kakikurabe in the Yamane athletic field





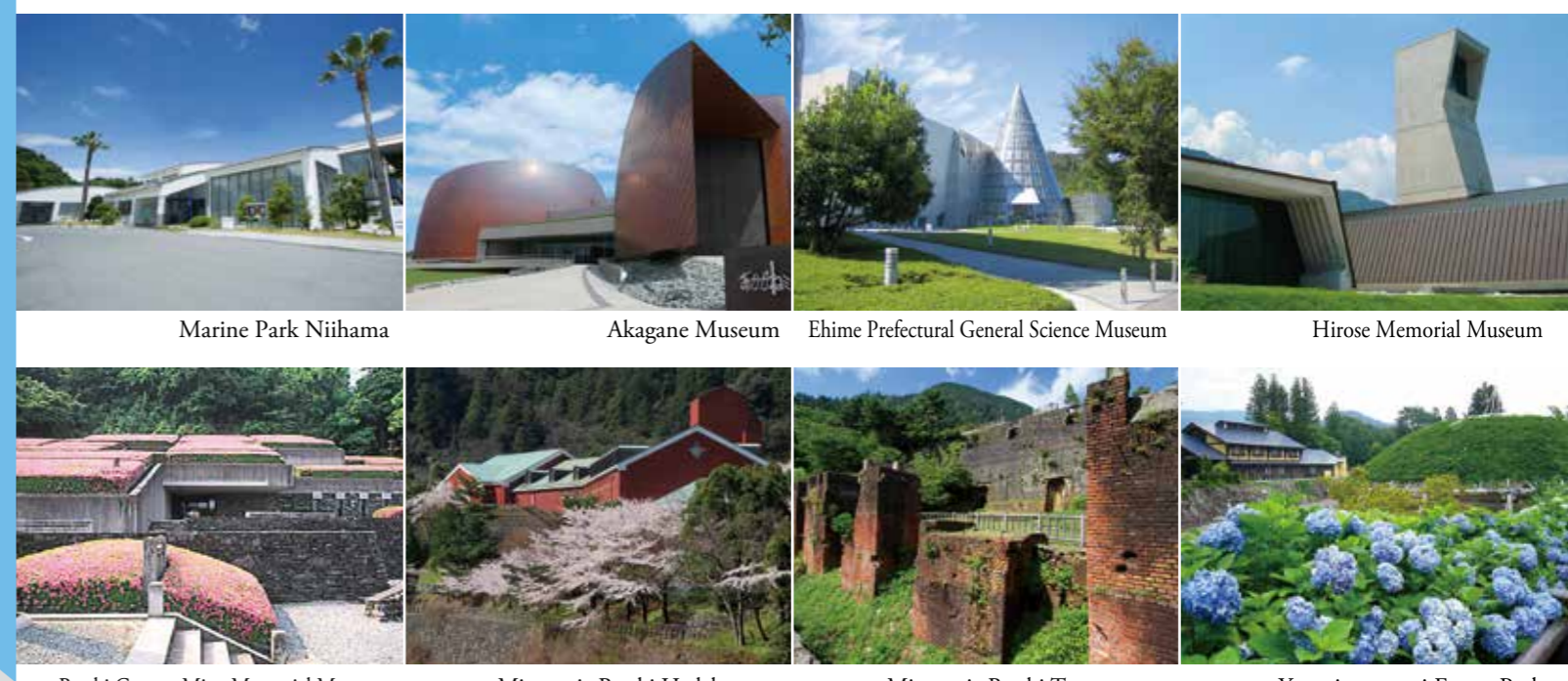
Niihama



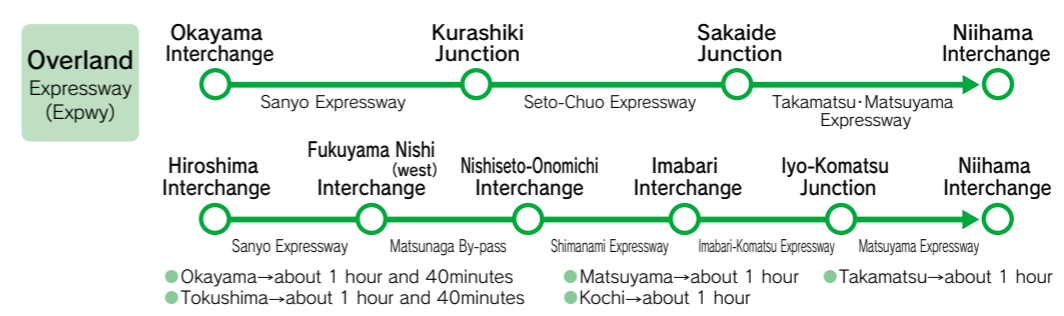
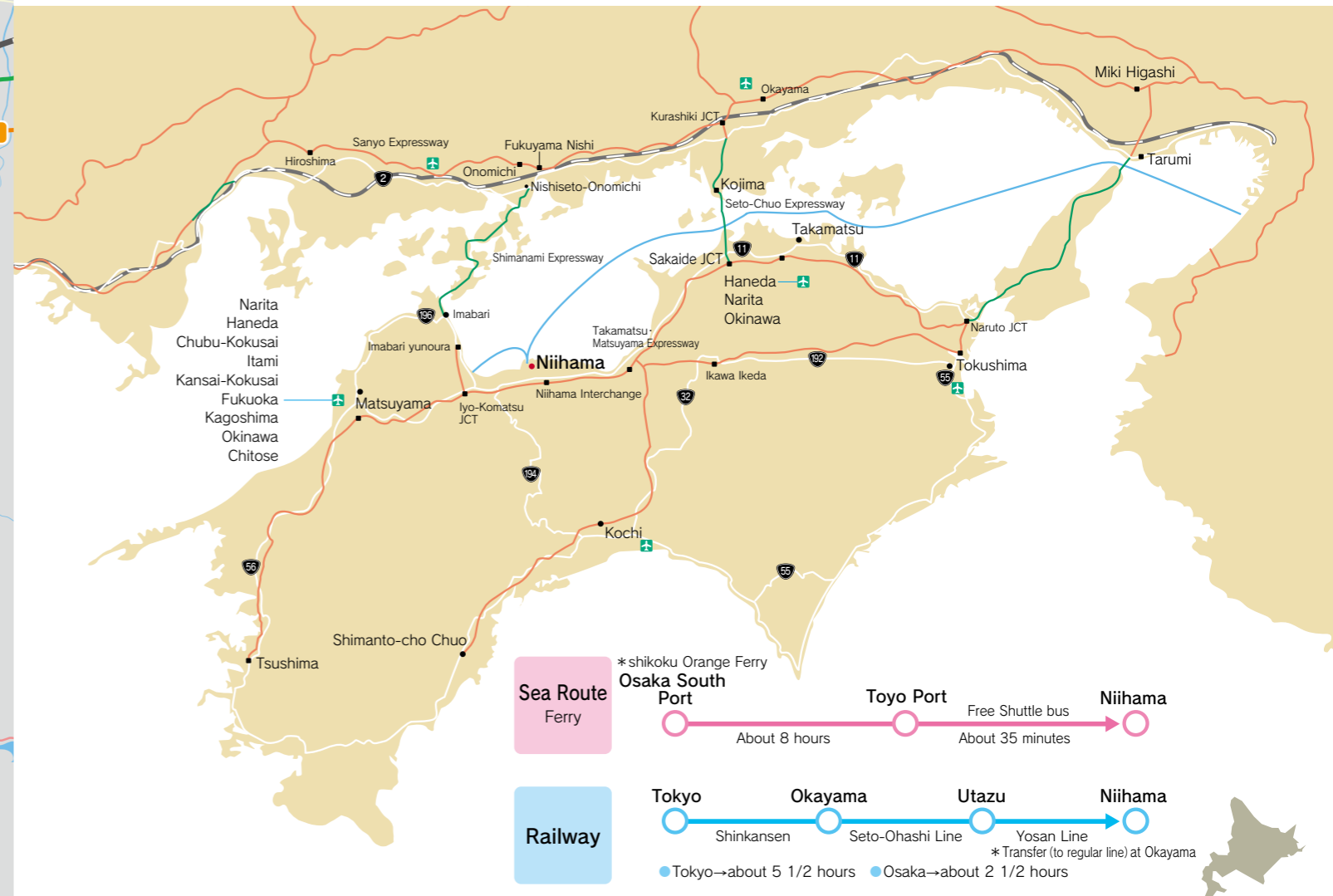
# Niihama City Access Information

**Translation**  **SCAN the QR code!**  
 If you read the QR code with your smartphone or tablet, you can obtain information translated into the language of the flag next to the QR code.

 **QR Translator.**  




Marine Park Niihama Akagane Museum Ehime Prefectural General Science Museum Hirose Memorial Museum  
 Besshi Copper Mine Memorial Museum Minetopia Besshi Hadeba zone Minetopia Besshi Tonaru zone Yuragi-no-mori Forest Park





For further information \_\_\_\_\_

**Niihama Tourist Association**

〒792-0812 2-3-17 Sakai-cho, Niihama City  
Tel:0897-32-4028 Fax:0897-32-7808  
<http://www.niihama.info/>

**Niihama Transport and Tourism Dept.**

〒792-8585 1-5-1 Ikku-cho, Niihama City  
Tel:0897-65-1261 Fax:0897-65-1305  
<http://www.city.niihama.lg.jp/>