

## IOC ACTIVITY RECORD

Please complete this Activity Record and return it to the Activity Coordinator along with copies of maps and other relevant information (preferentially in an electronic format). This form will be used for the Activity Files Data Base and will provide an invaluable source of information for other members who want to lead an activity in the same area.

<b>Leader(s) name(s):</b> Chris James	<b>Name of the event:</b> Miyama Cherry Blossom cycle				
<b>Participants names:</b>  Rie James Shinobu Yoshioka Koji Otani	<b>Location:</b> , Kyoto Sakyoku, Kutsukimura, Adogawacho, Lake Biwa				
	<b>Prefecture:</b> Kyoto and Shiga				
	<b>Map:</b> Touring Mapple Kansai 1:120,000, pp23&31				
<b>Date:</b> April 15/16 2006	<b>Type of event</b> (hiking, cycling, ...):				
<b>Weather conditions:</b> Saturday – cloudy, drizzle	cycling				
Sunday – sunshine, overcast, windy	<b>Level</b> (IOC star rate)**				
<b>Description of the event</b> (references): Two-day cycle through the mountains north of Kyoto to Lake Biwa, staying at a rural minshuku Saturday night. Total distance over two days about 90-100km					
<b>Transport details</b> (to the meeting point from Osaka Umeda or Kyoto if in Kansai / from meeting point to the destination if outside, cost per person)					
	<b>Transportation:</b>	<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>Travel time:</b>	<b>Cost:</b>
<b>Out:</b>	Keihan line	Kyobashi	Demachiyanagi	46 minutes	460
	Eizan line	Demachiyanagi	Kurama	30 minutes	410
<b>Back:</b>	JR Kosei line	Adogawa	Osaka	70 minutes	1620
<b>Total:</b>					2490
<b>Accommodation</b> (type, cost, reservation, references, website, contact): Rural minshuku, Hisanoya, 8000 yen per person, 075 748 2152					
<b>Comments and advice for the next time:</b> Coming from Kobe on JR there is no easy way to get on to the Eizan line. Go to JR Kyoto, take the subway to Kokusai Kaikan, the last stop, and start cycling from there. The cherry trees around Kurama and Lake Biwa were in full bloom, but had barely started in the mountains. Adjust timing accordingly.					

## Newsletter write-up

Miyama cherry blossom cycle.

The weather wasn't looking too good for the 15/16th, but still four of us jumped on our trusty bikes for a weekend of mountains, cherry blossom and great food. We left in two groups, Rie, Shinobu and Koji starting from Kurama at 10am, and me at about 3pm due to work(...).

On the train ride up to Kurama the cherry trees were in full bloom, adding a welcome touch of colour to an otherwise grey afternoon.

Weatherwise, it was drizzling when I got off the train and started cycling, but once under the trees I was protected and quickly became too hot in my rain gear. The temperature at the top was only 4 degrees, so I put on some extra clothes for the descent. The rain had stopped though, which was a bonus. The mountains were beautiful, all wreathed in mist, and there was a surprising amount of snow still on the ground. Funnily enough, all signs of cherry blossom had vanished!

The minshuku in Kuta was excellent. There are only two places to stay in the village, Danbayashi and Hisanoya. While Danbayashi looks nicer on the outside with its thatched roof and walled garden, Hisanoya has bigger rooms, newer and bigger toilets and bath, and the food was superb - grilled river fish, sansai (wild mountain plant) tempura, soba noodles and tororo (a kind of grated potato), shika (venison) sashimi and other sansai dishes followed by a huge jidori (free-range chicken) nabe, sukiyaki style. The chicken was cut up and served on a huge dish - if you've ever wondered how an egg develops inside a chicken, it was all laid out right there in front of you, and then you got to eat it! Not one for the vegetarians.... Breakfast was also excellent - a varied selection of food, all really tasty and fresh. Saturday night was very blustery - I went out for a walk after dinner, and the sound of the wind in the trees was amazing. We had some heavy rain during the night, but Sunday morning was sparkling with sunshine and we rode off to a frogs' chorus from the rice fields. We stopped in a log house in Kutsuki village at about 11 o'clock for some coffee and zenzai (rice cakes in a sweet bean sauce) which tasted great, sitting round a huge Canadian woodburning stove. From there we continued to Adogawa, following the rivers through the mountains and finishing with a great descent from a small ski resort towards Biwako. We rode all the way to the lake then north a little way along the shore to admire the cherry blossom, which had reappeared once we were out of the mountains. By about 3:30 the wind was getting very strong and the sky was looking dark, so we headed back to the station and caught the express back to Osaka. It turned out to be a good choice, as the wind got so powerful that the train actually had to stop and wait for it to die down. Luckily it did after ten minutes or so, so we weren't delayed long - a couple of years ago some IOC members coming back from an event got stuck like this for over two hours and eventually had to come back by bus!