

Hitchhike Adventure From Niigata City to Nagano and Tokyo



This is an article I wrote at the end of August 2005. It was only my old website which is no longer on-line and I am therefore reposting it.

I hitchhiked from Niigata City to Matsumoto City in Nagano, and then to Tokyo and then back to Niigata in 3 days, a distance of 700 kilometers (440 miles) in 16 vehicles. Among these were 3 trucks and at least one luxury car. Among the people who picked me up was one stock broker, one high school teacher, 4 foreigners, and 2 relatively wealthy men one of whom is a nation wide famous entertainer! Three of the cars had small children, two had women without a male companion, and two had large dogs, one a Labrador and the other a German Shepherd.



Jerry Fujio,
Japanese
entertainer

The highlight of this trip was being picked up by a famous entertainer: Jerry Fujio. You may not have heard of him in your country, but everybody in Japan over 35 years old seems to know him quite well! All my Japanese friends have seen him on TV or in a film. His peak of fame seems to be around 1960s. I asked him if people hound him for his autograph. "A long time ago" was his reply. Jerry's mother is English and his father is Japanese. His age seemed to be in his early 70s.

Another highlight was a retired 60 some year old man from the Meguro area of Tokyo driving an expensive car who appeared to be of upper class Japanese society. The reason I say this is because he looked like a company president but didn't act like one. He didn't accept my business card nor even give me his name. He probably didn't want to accept my card because in doing so, he would be obliged to give me his in keeping with Japanese custom. Nevertheless he was very friendly, talkative and laughed a lot! I asked him if he is a member of a secret society. He replied he's a member of a golf club. He

didn't tell me exactly what his profession was except that it was related to education and government but that he was not a politician. I asked him if he knows that the United States is a secret dictatorship run by the [CFR](#), and he replied in the affirmative. I told him that most Americans don't know that. He was surprised and dumbfounded that Americans are so **ignorant** of the fact. Though not a Christian nor a believer in God, he does acknowledge the possibility that the world could have been created by a Great Designer. He said he doesn't believe in Darwinism and claimed that it is not taught in schools in Japan. I thought it strange he would say that because nearly everyone in Japan believes in Darwinian evolution.

A Chinese couple with a baby took me as far as Kurohime (which means "Black Princess") in Nagano, a small mountain town close to the border of Niigata. I didn't know at first the man was Chinese because his Japanese was so good. He is from Harbin and his mother is Japanese. Harbin is part of Manchuria which the Japanese occupied till the end of WW2. He is very knowledgeable about the world and real motivations in politics. We talked about the [Tienanmen Square massacre of 1989](#). I told him I met a Chinese college student in Southern China back in 1998 who believes that nobody was killed in that tragedy. He replied that probably thousands of students died! How quickly the world is forgetting that it ever happened. He knows that there is no real democracy or freedom in China, and especially no freedom of religion.

To learn more about China, its history, and the murder of Chinese citizens by their own government on June 4th and 5th, 1989, please see: [The Tiananmen Square Massacre: From China's Authoritarian Roots to the Iconic "Tank Man"](#)

I never got off the expressway at Kurohime before and so it was an adventure pioneering how to get back on track. There were few cars and so it took me a while to get back on the main road. I did so 3 cars later.



A red Ferrari, \$300,000
of eventual junk

At Kamisato Service Area on the Kan'etsu expressway, a red Ferrari sports car parked right in front of where I stood hitchhiking with my sign. The driver got out and looked at the rear of the Ferrari. His friend from another car walked up and also looked. They looked and looked the longest time. I thought they were literally worshiping that car! They looked at it from all angles and took photographs. If I ever ended up with such a thing, I wouldn't really own it, it would own me! I probably would be thinking about the Ferrari half of the day. I'd get bummed out even if it got the tiniest scratch on its shiny red exterior. Thank God for deliverance from materialism!

I always carry with me Gospel literature and give a copy to every driver. I try to share some seeds of the Word of God in their hearts, as much as I feel they are ready to hear and receive. Most Japanese are very respectful of Jesus Christ. From my experience, the only ones who aren't belong to a radical sect of Buddhism called Sokkagakai from which sprang out of Nichiren

Shoshu which is also intolerant of other faiths. Most Buddhists do respect Jesus and His teachings.

Regaining My Humanity



US Army soldier Camilo Mejia's story of refusing to return to fight for American big business in Iraq for moral reasons.

The Rapid Growth of Bamboo



My old website at kt70.com~jamesjpn is no longer on line. I am therefore posting some of the articles from it to this website.

On May 16, 2008 I saw two young bamboo shoots about 3 feet high growing next to my house. I knew because of their thickness they would taller than me in

just a matter of days. And so I thought it would be a fun project to set up a tripod and take a photo of them daily for a few days.

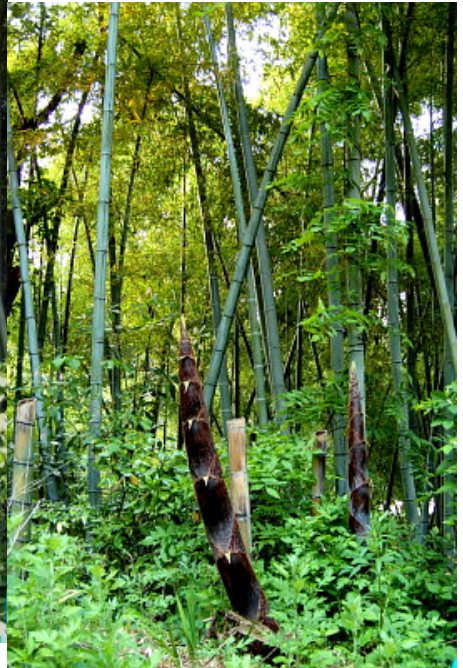
In the photos are two bamboo shoots and three sawed off bamboo stumps. Also notice the many other fully grown bamboo trees in the background. In the first photo taken on May 16, the bamboo shoot in the center is about 2.5 feet high and appears to be growing at an angle in relation to the bamboo stump directly behind it. On May 21, the bamboo in the center is now 256 centimeters or about 8.5 feet tall. It more than tripled its height in 5 days!



May 16, 1:45PM



May 17, 10:30AM



May 18, 5:50PM



May 19, 8:50AM



May 20, 8:30AM The center bamboo has now uprighted itself and is covering the stump behind it.

May 22, 1:10PM The center bamboo is now 3 meters or 9 feet 10 inches in height. I am 183 cm or about 6'1". Its height has nearly quadrupled in only 6 days!



May 28, 8:00AM



June 2, 9:00AM. The bamboo is now approximately 7.8



This bamboo shoot is not yet higher than

meters or 25.7 feet
in height and 4
times my own height.

In 17 days its
height has increased
10 fold! Notice that
there are still yet
no branches or
leaves and that the
bottom half has lost
its thin brown skin.

my knee but it's
already a bit too
big to harvest for
food.

Tips On How to Hitchhike in Japan



With another man also hitchhiking! His partner with him took the photo.

Due to popular request I have complied a list of tips and lessons I learned over the past several years hitchhiking in Japan. I think the basic tip is to use common sense and have the attitude of, "where there's a will, there's a way."

- Get to the a good intersection of the highway that has a **nice long red traffic light** which builds up a good row of vehicles in front of it when the light turns red. Sometimes I walk 3 or 4 kilometers to get to it, sometimes and sometimes I take train or a bus to get to it.
- I usually stand before the traffic light. The longer the light stays red, the better. I stand near the light when it first turns red and wait for the first car to come. When I think the driver is close enough to see the whites of my eyes, I either hold out my thumb or hold out a sign that shows my destination. If the driver either makes no eye contact with me, shows no interest, or waves his or her hand back and forth indicating "NO!", I proceed to walk up to the next car, and then the next, and then the next until either I get a positive response from the

driver or the traffic light turns green and the cars begin to move again. When the light turns green, I turn around and walk back to the light and wait till it turns red again.

- Sometimes I'll continue to hold out my sign after the light turns green in spite of the fact the traffic is flowing. Sometimes an interested driver who sees my sign though he passes me by and crosses the intersection will return back for me and offer me a ride. This has happened dozens of times.
- I try to present myself well groomed and dress reasonably well in dress pants and a dress shirt, never in jeans. Sometimes I've hitchhiked wearing a suit and tie but I found it really didn't help much.
- I try to make eye contact with the driver and smile. Once he or she makes eye contact, it usually means a ride.
- I made signs showing my destination with A4 size paper and a thick pointed magic marker. I use a clear plastic holder to keep the signs together with the sign of my destination on top. The sign is written in Japanese ideographs (Kanji).



An example sign written on A4 size paper in a plastic folder with other signs below the top sign.

Usually I'll carry the marker and several blank sheets of A4 paper in the plastic holder if I need to make a sign of a new destination. The driver is usually happy to write the Kanji down for me. I can copy Japanese characters if I look at them, but the Japanese will write them much nicer than I can. □ Since 2016 I started using larger binded sketchbooks to make signs. One advantage is the pages are bound and will not fly away in the wind as A4 pages can. I write one kanji on a page and hold the sketchbook open showing two pages. The names of most cities and prefectures in Japan consist of two kanjis. The sign is therefore larger and easier to see from a far distance.



A3 page in a binder can be used for signs.

- A sign should not show a destination that is too far away. On a regular road the destination should be not further than the next major city. The exception to this rule is if your destination is the largest city among all the cities you will be passing. Some examples: Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, and Niigata.
- At expressway entrances, try to stand at a safe place before the entrance where the cars can easily stop. There are good expressway entrances to hitchhike at, and poor ones. How do you know the difference? By experience!
- If after you catch a ride from a driver entering the expressway who is going toward the direction of your destination but considerably short of it, have him drop you off at the largest service area that is before his exit point. Service areas are better than expressway entrances because

the flow of traffic is always in the direction you want to go. I stand near the facilities on the side of the road where cars would pass when exiting. If you are too obvious or stand too close to the exit ramp, the traffic cops might tell you to leave when they see you.

Testimonial of Deliverance from Prescription Pain-killers



Dr. John Gideon Harnett's deliverance from pain killers which caused even more pain in the long run.

James Japan Moved to New Web Hosting Service



Moving jamesjpn.net from Bluehost hosting to Ipage hosting.

Chuck Baldwin: Some Things I Believe



A summary of Chuck Baldwin's worldview and beliefs.