

## My Wife's Birthday

A few days ago, the sunrise brought my wife's birthday.

As it turned out, it was a potential off day for us. We were in a beautiful hot spring resort in the remote Iya Valley for two nights, and on her birthday we had no big plans and nowhere we needed to ride to before night fell.

We could have alternated between soaking in the healing waters, eating and napping.

We could have stayed in bed all morning, had a late breakfast, a nap, and sipped sake all afternoon while listening to the waterfall outside our window.

We could have arranged for a long massage, followed by a hot soak, a cold shower, a nap and a late lunch.

We could have walked into the nearest village and looked for interesting handicrafts and artifacts in the small shops.

Instead, when I asked her what she wanted to do on her birthday, she poked her finger down on the twistiest road on the map and said, "let's ride."

My wife. I think I'll keep her.

