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01/ A flat paved road cuts through a forest lined with the colorful tents of campers. 02/ A beautiful view of the lake awaits those who enter this area, which is inaccessible by car. 03/ A tranquil road with pastoral scenes runs alongside the Hotokenuma Wetlands, listed on the Ramsar Convention. 04/ Certain parts of the lake are open to swimming, but only during summertime. This is a brackish lake connecting the Takase River and the Pacific Ocean, and rich in aquatic resources. 05/ A road for bicycles only, created from an older road that runs beside the lake. Currently it is only for one section of the lake, but we hope one day it will be extended to circle the entire lake. 06/ With comfortable grass for a picnic and a lot of stores inside, the Misawa Roadside Rest Area is a popular spot.

Course 7 LAKE OGAWARA

Distance: 56 km Duration: 4 hours

Lakeside Camp Ride

Circuit of Lake Ogawara and a glimpse of American culture

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A Ogawarakohan Camp Site
 Sabisirodaira116-2949, Misawa-shi
 TEL.0176-59-2830
 kite-misawa.com/camp

B Misawa Road Station
 4-298-652, Yachigashira, Misawa-shi
 TEL.0176-59-3009
 kite-misawa.com/tonamihan



Lake Ogawara is an enormous brackish lake located in eastern Aomori Prefecture close to the Pacific Ocean, with a single lap covering a distance of 60km. The floating fishing huts bobbing on the sparkling surface of the lake add a relaxing, romantic touch. Situated beside Lake Ogawara is a campsite, and the laughter of the children playing in the water in front of their tent is infectious.

We take a side-trip into Misawa City, located about 20 min by bicycle from the southern end of the lake. Passing down a street lined with western pubs and bars, part of the American culture that has

spread from the Misawa Air Base, you find yourself asking, "Is this really Aomori?" Nearby the base, we pass some people scooting across the water on jet skis.

Although there isn't an exclusive road for bicycles that loops the lake, there is very little traffic, which makes for an enjoyable ride. What appears at first sight to be a grassy meadow on the eastern side of the lake is Hotokenuma Wetlands, listed by the Ramsar Convention as an internationally important low wetland for the habitat of waterfowl.