



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

370th edition, August 2023



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<https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyoukai/p000024.html>



Hello Everyone!

August is the hottest month in Japan. Summer vacation at school begins on July 20 and ends on August 31. **O-bon**, also known as the **Bon** festival, is a summer holiday season in August when many families across Japan get together to honor the spirits of families and ancestors who have passed away.

The typhoon season starts to peak. The intensity of the weather is matched by the intensity of the summer event season. August is the peak for travel, festivals, **hanabi** and beach activities.

Events spring up all over the country. Almost every night, communities around Japan stage lively firework displays colorfully enlivening the night skies. Summer throughout Japan culminates with large scale festivals, many with folk dancing, as well as **Bon Odori** dance meetings for the recreation of local residents, friends and visitors. Enjoying fireworks or summer festivals with local people wearing **yukata** will definitely become an unforgettable memory in your life.

Mountain Day, known as Yama-no-Hi in Japanese, is a public holiday celebrated annually on August 11. The date was chosen because August is the eighth month in the calendar, and the kanji for the number 8 (八) looks like a mountain and the kanji for the number 11 (十一) looks like 2 trees.

The purpose of this holiday is to encourage people to recognize the blessings they receive from mountains and to make themselves more familiar with them.

Shibukawa Dashi Matsuri (しぶかわだし 山車まつり)

According to historic records, the Shibukawa Dashi Matsuri (Float Festival) started about 250 years ago in the late Edo Period, and is one of the most popular events on Shibukawa's summer calendar.

The Festival which usually takes place for three days in mid-August every other year, was postponed last year, and will take place this summer between Friday, August 11 and Sunday, August 13, every day from 3:30 pm. Elaborately decorated dashi floats from each of the neighborhoods, pulled in vigorously by locals lined up along strong, heavy ropes, parade through the streets in the center of the city, while the Ohayashi music is played aboard each float.

Nishiki-e Exhibition (にしき え てん かい さい 錦 絵 展 を 開 催)

The Tokutomi Roka Memorial Literature Museum in Ikaho Hot Spring Town will display its collection of Nishiki-e (brocade pictures) from the Meiji era.

When: Tuesday, August 1 - Monday, September 25, 2023, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Admission fee: Adults 350 yen, elementary, junior high school, and high school students 200 yen

TEL: 0279-72-2237 (Tokutomi Roka Memorial Literature Museum)

Ikaho Hawaiian Festival (い か ほ 伊香保ハワイアンフェスティバル)

Since Ikaho is home to the historic site of the Former Kingdom of Hawaii Minister's Villa, a special Hawaiian festival, the Merrie Monarch Festival is held every year. The Festival will take place from Tuesday, August 1 through Friday, August 4. During the Festival, you can enjoy various activities. The highlight of the festival is the Hula Show taking place every night from 8:15 pm to 9:30 pm (from 5:15 pm to 6:00 pm on August 4), where members of Halau Ka La Onohi Mai O Haehae, the overall winner of the 2023 Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo, Hawaii, will perform in both modern (hula auana) and traditional (hula kahiko) forms of hula.

The performances are free to the public, no tickets required. Don't miss this wonderful event!

Creative Kokeshi Art Exhibition - Original Kokeshi Painting Contest

(こけし美術展で展示する - 絵付けオリジナルこけし)

Create your own original kokeshi doll by freely painting onto a blank kokeshi doll.

The Contest is open to artists of all ages who live, work or attend school in Shibukawa. There are two divisions: student division (junior high school students and younger) and general division (high school students and older). All applicants must receive a blank kokeshi doll and then submit their artwork at the Lifelong Learning Division. Entries should be original designs. Feel free to paint your own original picture (except for already existing characters).

All submitted works will be exhibited at the Shibukawa Civic Center Small Hall during the 30th National Creative Kokeshi Art Exhibition in Shibukawa, from Wednesday, November 1, to Tuesday, November 7, 2023. A label with the artist's name, artwork title, artist school and grade or the city / town / village name, at the time of the exhibition should also be included. This information may be provided to the press and other media for the purpose of announcing the winning entries.

Limit: 100 blank kokeshi dolls will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis, until Monday, September 11, from 8:30 am to 5:15 pm, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. (Distribution ends when all items are handed out.)

Please be sure to check the application requirements in advance.(available at the Lifelong Learning Division or on the city website).

Prizes: Shibukawa Mayor Prize, Shibukawa Board of Education Director Prize, Shibukawa Kokeshi Doll Chairman Prize, Encouragement Prize

Ikaho Rink Festival - Summer Camp (い か ほ まつ なつ じん 伊香保リンク祭り「夏の陣」)

When: Saturday, August 5 and Sunday, August 6, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

You can participate in summer vacation nature observation class, making mud dumplings, woodworking experience and medaka scooping; exhibit of electric cart by Shibukawa Technical High School; enjoy various activities such as mini-Segway, electric kickboard and skateboard ride, body composition measurement and recreational sports experience; display of vehicles working at the Ikaho Rink and other playground equipment, kitchen car.

The first 100 people who come to the event will receive Tsumagoi Kogen cabbage (on both days).

Admission: Free (reservation is not required)

Tel: 0279-72-3144 (Ikaho Rink) / **Tel: 0279-22-2241** (Sport Dep.)

Numaogawa River Park (沼尾川親水公園)

Located on Numaogawa river, the park offers visitors a variety of camping amenities such as camp sites, BBQ sites and lodges. There is also a play area that includes a 80m slide of rollers. The park is currently open to the public through the end of October, every day in August, and only on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays in September and October.

Location: 2406-3 Tsukuda, Akagi-machi, Shibukawa, Gunma 379-1103.

Reservation: by phone to the Numaogawa River Park. (Reservations are required.)

Tel: 0279-56-3531



Extra Virgin Olive Oil Sale (イタリア・フォリーニョ産オリーブオイル販売)

We are selling Millenario extra virgin oil from Foligno, Shibukawa's sister city in Italy, imported as part of the Shibukawa International Association exchange program.

Price: 2000 yen (tax included, one 750ml bottle). 1500 yen (tax included, one 500ml bottle)

Sale date: Saturday, August 19 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Sale location: Dainichosha, the Second City Government Building, Ajisai Salon and at Shibusen, 1st Floor (Shibukawa Ekimae Plaza), starting at 1:00 pm on August 19.

Tel: 0279-22-2873 (Tourism Division)



Tips for Preventing Heat Stroke (熱中症の予防)

Heat stroke or necchusho is a condition caused by the body overheating and its temperature rising to 40 °C or higher. High temperature (25 °C and above), humidity (50% and higher) and a lack of water intake are two of the most common causes of heat stroke. A body temperature of 40 °C or higher is the main sign of heat stroke. Others are confusion, agitation, delirium, feeling sick to your stomach, etc.

- Avoid direct sunlight, especially between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm and dress lightly.
- Make sure you feel fine before starting your day's work.
- Drink water, sports drink, etc. frequently.
- Stay healthy (it is a good way to have a heat-resistant body).
- Find a cool, well-ventilated place to rest.

Heat stroke is a deadly condition. Get medical help as soon as you see the first signs.



SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (外国人無料法律相談)

When: Sunday, August 20, 2023.

Where: Gunma Kaikan, Meeting Room 3F (2-1-1 Ote-machi, Maebashi)

Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Same-day registration is available, but those with reservations have priority.)

Consultants: Attorneys, Gyoseishoshi Lawyer (Immigration Specialist) & Shakai Hoken Romushi (Labor issue & pension specialist)

Interpreting services are available in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Contact: One-Stop Consultation Center for Foreign Residents of Gunma

Tel: 027-289-8275 (9:00 am - 5:00 pm on weekdays) (Reservations are recommended.)

On-duty Clinics in August (8 月 の 休 日 当 番 医)

	Internal Medicine		Surgery	Dentistry
8/6 (Sun)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1881	Itamino-clinic -Hasegawa-iin (痛みのクリニック長谷川医院) Tel: 30-5055	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Seki-shika-iin (関歯科医院) Tel: 25-0530
8/11 (Fri)	Yuasa-naika-clinic (湯浅内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1311	Takeuchi-shonika (竹内小児科) Tel: 30-5151	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Ishida-shika-iin (石田歯科医院) Tel: 25-0411
8/13 (Sun)	Saito-naika-geka-clini (斎藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 54-2756	Adachi-seikei-geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170	Hokkitsu-shika -shinryojo (北橋歯科診療所) Tel: 52-3762
8/20 (Sun)	Iguchi-iin (井口医院) Tel: 25-1100	Oi-naika-clinic (大井内科クリニック) Tel: 30-5575	Ino-seikei-geka -rihabiri-naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Hirakata-shika-iin (平形歯科医院) Tel: 22-0953
8/27 (Sun)	Miyukida-naika-iin (みゆきだ内科医院) Tel: 60-6070	Komayose-kodomo -shinryojo (駒寄こども診療所) Tel: 55-5252	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Funaoka-shika-iin (船岡歯科医院) Tel: 23-8211

Night Emergency Clinic (夜 間 急 患 診 療 所)

The Night Emergency Clinic provides night-time medical services in cases of sudden illnesses or injuries during nighttime hours, for conditions and issues related to internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics, depending on the doctor in charge. The emergency clinic will introduce patients to another medical institution that is more suitable if specialized treatment is necessary.

Location: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa

Operation Hours: 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Tel: 0279-23-8899 (Please contact the clinic before going if you are not sure if you can be treated.)

Free Counselling Service (外 国 人 生 活 相 談 窓 口 の 案 内)

The Shibukawa International Association is providing a free counselling service for foreign residents at Shibukawa City Hall every Thursday from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

TEL: 0279-22-2396



Information (お 問 い 合 わ せ)

Shibukawa City Office DX & Administrative Management Division, 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City

Tel: 0279-22-2396 Fax: 0279-24-6541 Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

URL: <http://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyukai/p001414.html>