



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

382nd edition, August 2024



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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.

Ikaho Hawaiian Festival (いかほ (伊香保) ハワイアンフェスティバル)

The Ikaho Hawaiian Festival, which celebrates its 26th anniversary this year, is set to take place from Thursday, August 1 through Sunday, August 4. Hula dancers from all over Japan will gather to show off their hula dancing skills at several sites in Ikaho Hot Spring town. There will be many events during the festival such as Hula Show, Hula Competition, and also stalls selling Hawaiian and Hawaii-related products will be lined up. The highlight of the festival is the Hula Show that takes place every night from 8:45 pm to 9:30 pm (from 7:45 pm to 8:30 pm on August 4), where members of Lā 'Ōnohi Mai O Ha'ehe'e halau, the overall winner of the 2024 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 are required.

The Hula Competition takes place on the main stage on Sunday, August 3 and Monday, August 4.

Don't miss this wonderful event!

Please visit our website for more details:

URL: <https://www.ikaho-kankou.com/ikaho-hawaiian2024/>

Ikaho Rink Festival - Summer Camping (伊香保リンク祭り「夏の陣」)

The Festival offers family friendly activities such as woodworking classes, medaka scooping, and yo-yo scooping! Other activities include riding experience on electric kick scooters and mini Segways, driving test of electric karts made by local high school students, summer vacation nature observation class, display of vehicles working at the Ikaho Rink, recreational sports experience, and more.

(The first 100 people arriving will receive cabbages from Tsumagoi Kogen, on both days of the Festival.)

When: Saturday, August 3 and Sunday, August 4, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Admission: Free (reservation is not required)

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

Inquiries: Takasaki University of Health and Welfare, Ikaho Link

TEL: 0279-72-3144

Bamboo Craft Workshop (竹工芸教室のお知らせ)

If you enjoy Japanese culture, participate in this workshop and learn how to split or bend bamboo strips, and make your own bamboo item. It will be held at Hokkitsu Shiryokan on Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Limit: 7 people (randomly selected if more applicants)

Fee: 500yen for materials, collected on spot.

Things to bring: bamboo splitting nata, small knife, and your own lunch

Application: by phone or in person at Bunkazai Hogo Ka (Cultural Properties Protection Division), until Thursday, August 15



Learn About Other Countries While Making Sweets

(お菓子を作りながら外国を学ぼう！～中国編～)

Learn more about Chinese culture and cuisine during this sweet-making class. Ms. Kai Key will teach you how to make Daikon Mochi and also a little background behind this delicious treat. The class will be held in the Chuo Kominkan Cooking Room on Saturday, September 28, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. It's free!

Limit: 16 people (on a first come, first served basis)

Application: by phone from Monday, August 8 to Monday, August 19

Tel: 0279-22-2463

"Get Closer to Flowers" Workshop

(花に親しむ体験教室)

For people interested in growing flowers and plants, those who would like to start Yoseue and learn how to make their own mixed flower container.

When: Saturday, August 31, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Where: Dainichosha, East Side parking lot

Limit: 25 people (randomly selected if more applicants)

Fee: 2000 yen (material costs)

Application: by phone until Thursday, August 15

Tel: 0279-25-8307 (Toshi Seisaku Ka)

Shibuhoko Event (しぶほこイベント)

Bring your friends and family to Shibuhoko, the Shibukawa Hokosha Ekimae event, to enjoy eating, drinking, live performances, shopping, and just having a great day together on Sunday, August 31, from 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm.)

Local restaurants and farmers gather in front of Shibukawa Station, serving delicious food and drink, and local products. (In case of bad weather, the event will be canceled.)

Maple Village Komochi (メープルヴィレッジこもち^{えん}園)

Located almost in the center of Gunma Prefecture, this campsite is on a plateau at an altitude of 360m. Bungalows are scattered throughout the forest, allowing visitors to spend a relaxing time in a quiet space surrounded by nature. Guests staying at Maple Village Komochi can combine their stay with other activities in the area, such as playing sports at the adjacent Komochi Sports Ground, hiking on Mount Komochi, different countryside experiences including making Konnyaku from raw konjac potatoes grown in Shibukawa, the "home of konjac", Oyaki, Manju, or crafting bamboo dragonflies and towel holders.

Bungalows fees: 12570 yen for 6 people, 20950 yen for 10 people, 25140 yen for 12 people.

Barbecue usage time and fees: From 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, 1 table 1880 yen (there are 6 BBQ tables, each table seating up to 10 people). From 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm only for the staying guests, and it's free.

Admission fees: junior high school students and above 200 yen, elementary school students 100 yen, and it's free for preschoolers. Junior high school students and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Reservation: by phone to the Maple Village Komochi. (Reservations are required.)

Tel: 0279-53-2344 (from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, opened every day in August)

(Pets are not allowed at Maple Village Komochi. Campfires, fireworks, or firecrackers are prohibited.)

Extra Virgin Olive Oil Sale (イタリア・フォルイーニョ^{さん}産オリーブオイル^{はんばい}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)

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

Sale location: Dainichosha, the Second City Government Building, Shimin Hall

Tel: 0279-22-2873 (Tourism Division)



Tips for Preventing Heat Stroke (ねっちゅうしょう^ねの予防^{よぼう})

The risk of developing heatstroke increases as temperatures and humidity levels rise. 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. In hot weather, it's best to avoid going out during the hottest hours of the day, dress lightly and drink water, sports drink, etc. frequently. Find a cool, well-ventilated place to rest. Make sure you feel fine before starting your day's work. Stay healthy (it is a good way to have a heat-resistant body).

SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (がいこくじん^{がい}むりょうほうりつ^むそうだん^{りつ}法律相談)

When: Sunday, August 25, 2024.

Where: Bikini Kiryu City Bunka Kaikan Bldg. 4th Floor (2-5 Orihime-cho, Kiryu-shi)

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 (from 9:00 am to 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
8/4 (Sun)	Kawashima-naika-clinic (川島内科クリニック) Tel: 23-2001	Oi-naika-clinic (大井内科クリニック) Tel: 30-5575	Takano-gekaichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Miyashita-shika-iin (宮下歯科医院) Tel: 24-1939
8/11 (Sun)	Kamiyama-naika-iin (神山内科医院) Tel: 22-2181	Shinto-saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Fukuda-shika-iin (福田歯科医院) Tel: 23-6677
8/12 (Mon)	Honzawa-iin (本沢医院) Tel: 23-6411	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Seki-shika-iin (関歯科医院) Tel: 25-0530
8/18 (Sun)	Kosei-iin (厚成医院) Tel: 22-1060	Akagi-kaisei-clinic (赤城開成クリニック) Tel: 20-6500	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Ishida-shika-iin (石田歯科医院) Tel: 25-0411
8/25 (Sun)	Shibukawa-chuo-byoin (渋川中央病院) Tel: 25-1711	Harasawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Hokkitsu-shika-shinryojo (北橘歯科診療所) Tel: 52-3762
9/1 (Sun)	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003	Takeuchi-shonika (竹内小児科) Tel: 30-5151	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Hirakata-shika-iin (平形歯科医院) Tel: 22-0953

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

The clinic provides medical services daily, 7:00 am - 10:00 pm, in cases of sudden illnesses or injuries, for conditions and issues related to internal medicine, surgery and pediatrics, depending on the doctor in charge. Patients will introduced to another medical institution if specialized treatment is necessary.

Tel: 0279-23-8899

Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa

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 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
(TEL: 0279-22-2463)



Information (お 問 い 合 せ)

Shibukawa City Office Shimin Kyodo Suishin Ka, 80 Ishihara, Shibukawa City

Tel: 0279-22-2463 Fax: 0279-24-6541 Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

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