



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

390th Edition, April 2025



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Hello Everyone!

The cherry blossom season is currently at its peak in many cities across Japan. Sakura (cherry blossom) is the national flower of Japan and Hanami (cherry blossom viewing) is a Japanese traditional spring event. Japanese talk about cherry blossoms in their daily conversations at this time of year, and they go out to view and enjoy the cherry flowers. The blooming of cherry blossoms signifies not only the arrival of spring but the beginning of the new academic year as the Japanese school year starts in April. It also signifies the new fiscal year for business and it's a symbol of a bright future.

April 29 is Showa no Hi, or Showa Day, a national holiday in Japan to commemorate the birthday of Emperor Hirohito, known as Emperor Shōwa, the reigning emperor from 1926 to 1989.

When and Where to See Cherry Blossoms in Shibukawa

しぶかわ さくら み じき ばしよ
(渋川で桜が見られる時期と場所)



Shibukawa has many places to admire the cherry blossoms, and April is the month when these beautiful flowers bloom one after another, depending on their variety and location:

Early April: **Somei Yoshino** cherry blossoms at Saku Power Plant

Early to mid-April: **Shidare-zakura** (weeping cherry blossoms) at Shinkoji Temple and Konzoji Temple

Early to mid-April: **Somei Yoshino** cherry blossoms at Midori to Mizu Koen (Green Water Park), Fukuzoji Temple Garden, and Shinkoji Temple

Mid to late April: **Somei Yoshino** cherry blossoms at Onogami Onsen Park, Shibukawa Sogo Koen (City General Park), Komochi Kayo cherry tree-lined street, and Ikaho Green Bokujo Farm

Late April to early May: **Yaezakura** (double-flowered cherry blossoms) at Shirai-juku, Ikaho Green Bokujo Farm, Komochi Kayo cherry tree-lined street.

The 24th Shiroy-juku Yaezakura Festival (第24回白井宿八重ざくら祭り)

The Festival is held annually in late April, when Yaezakura cherry blossoms are in full bloom at Shiroy-juku, a historic post town in Shibukawa city. The main attraction is the Musha Gyoretsu procession, in which locals dressed as samurai warriors parade under the Yaezakura cherry trees that line along the town's waterways. There will also be a haiku competition and a market selling agricultural products and local specialties.

When: Sunday, April 20, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Rokusai Ichi: Rokusai market, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Yayoi no Kukai: Haiku (Japanese poetry) meeting to celebrate the spring, from 9:00 am to noon

Shiroy-juku Musha Gyoretsu: samurai procession, from 10:30 am to noon (canceled in case of rain)

Dashi display: Japanese festival float parade, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm



Yozakura - Night Viewing of Cherry Blossoms at Sogo Koen

(夜桜^{よざくら}ライトアップ「総合公園」^{そうごうこうえん})

The park is situated on the east side of Mount Haruna at an altitude of 600 m, with a view of Mount Tanigawa in the distance and the spectacular view of the nearby Mount Akagi. Athletic facilities including a track-and-field stadium and a baseball field, walking paths and sculptures are in place.

Sogo Koen is popular as a sports and recreation park. The 55.8-hectare park allows visitors to enjoy the blossoms of about 3,000 cherry trees. The cherry blossoms start blooming about ten days later compared to the city, because of the altitude difference, so is expected to be in full bloom from mid to late April. Shibukawa Cherry Blossom Festival will be held around Sogo Koen Jiyu Hiroba on Saturday, April 19, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, where a variety of events including stage performances, a stamp rally, festival food stalls, children booths, and a bazaar will take place.

During the peak season, the cherry trees will be illuminated between 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm.



The 37th Onogami Hot Spring Festival (第37回小野上温泉まつり^{だい かい お の がみおんせん})

Held every year in late April, at the Onogami Hot Spring Center parking area. The Onogami Onsen Matsuri is a festival to express a sincere gratitude for patronage and to pray for the continuous use and development of the hot spring. You can enjoy local entertainment performances, "proud of their voice" contest, floats parade, sale of products, distribution of flowers and trees, flea market, and others. Onogami Onsen Center will be opened for free to the public from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on the festival day.

When: Tuesday, April 29 (public holiday), from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Shoren-ji Peony Garden (正蓮寺のぼたん園^{しょうれん じ えん})



The garden of Shoren-ji Temple in Shibukawa is a popular place to see peonies. About 90 varieties of peony flowers in more than 1,500 bushes planted in the 170 square meter Japanese garden, are blooming in wonderful colors such as red, white, pink and purple. The view from the passageway is marvelous. Visitors can enjoy not only the gorgeous spring atmosphere, but also the special scents that these flowers can offer. Admission is free of charge, except for the peak viewing season (from late April to early May).

Admission fees: 300 yen for adults. It's free for students up to high school

Opening Hours: daily from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (from 8:00

Komochi-yama Official Opening

(子持山の山開き^{こもちやま やまひら})

Come to Komochi Shrine to enjoy the Mountain Opening Festival! Held annually on May 1, this event marks the opening of the mountain climbing season in Komochi-yama.

A ceremony praying for the safety of climbers will take place at the shrine and visitors can also watch Kagura, a Shinto theatrical dance and music dedicated to the deities. Food and drink stalls will be set up at the site.

Shimonamuro Daidai Kagura

(下南室太々神楽^{しもなむろだいだいかぐら})

Shimonamuro Daidai Kagura is a traditional performance of music and dance that has been handed down since the Meiji period in Shibukawa, in the Shimonamuro area. The repertoire consists of 7 Shinto ritual dances (Shikimai) and 20 humorous dances (Kyomai), and is performed every year at the Akagi Shrine on the first Sunday of April, this year on April 6.

Akagi Shizen-En - Climb through the Forest 「赤城自然園」 森までクライム)

Explore the city's landscape by cycling up to Akagi Shizen-En (Nature Park) and immerse yourself in the sights, scents, and sounds of nature! Located at an altitude of 600 meters, the park is known for its natural beauty, offering a spectacular scenery in every season. Invitation tickets are given away to those who rent an "Aji Cycle" e-bike and cycle up the hills to reach the park. It's available for free!

When: Tuesday, April 29 to Sunday, November 30, 2025

Reception: on the 1st Floor of the Shibukawa Ekimae Plaza, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

(Akagi Shizen-En open hours are between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm, entrance to the park is until 3:30 pm.)

Tel: 0279-22-2596

Komochi Maple Village Campground Opens for the Camping Season

(メープル ヴィレッジ子持の営業を開始しました)

Komochi Maple Village Campground opens for the season on Tuesday, April 1 and operates until Friday, October 31. The campground is closed on Mondays (if a national holiday falls on Monday, it is closed the next day). It will be open every day, from Tuesday, April 29 to Sunday, May 5 and from Tuesday, July 1 to Sunday, August 31. There are available bungalows (one night 12570 yen for 6 people, 20950 yen for 10 people, and 25140 yen for 12 people), and barbecue pits (1880 yen).

Reservations: by phone at Maple Village Campground (**Tel: 0279-53-2344**), or at Tourism Dep. (**Tel: 0279-22-2873**) (Reservations are required!)

Japanese Language Lessons (日本語教室)



Learn daily Japanese conversation, hiragana, katakana and essential Japanese kanji characters in a friendly, supportive learning environment. Whether you are a beginner or have studied before, volunteer teachers will help you improve your Japanese language skills. The class will be held at Shibukawa Kominkan on Thursdays, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am (morning class), or from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm (evening class).

Lesson dates: May 27, June 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, September 2, 9, 16, 30, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18, 25, December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025, and January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 2026

Limit: 10 people for each class (on a first come first served basis)

Registration Fee: 3000 yen / 1000 yen for each trimester (excluding materials)

Application: by phone or email (**Tel: 0279-22-2111 / Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp**)

Karate-do Course (空手道教室)



The course will be held at Shibukawa Shimin Taiikukan every Wednesday, starting April 16 through May 28, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, and it consists of two divisions: a junior division for junior high school students and younger children, and a senior division for high school students and older people.

Cost: 1000 yen

Limit: 25 people on each division (Young children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.)

Application: by phone (**Tel: 0279-22-2241 / Tel: 090-9107-3027 / Fax: 0279-25-8815**)

On-duty Clinics in April (4 月 の 休 日 当 番 医)

Internal Medicine			Surgery	Dentistry
4/6 (Sun)	Shibukawa-chuo-byoin (渋川中央病院) Tel: 25-1711	Harasawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503	Ino-seikei-geka -rihabiri-naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Onogami-shika -shinryojo (小野上歯科診療所) Tel: 59-2493
4/13 (Sun)	Ishikita-iin (石北医院) Tel: 22-1378	Okamoto-naika-clinic (岡本内科クリニック) Tel: 20-5353	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Hoshikawa-shika-iin (ほしかわ歯科医院) Tel: 24-8835
4/20 (Sun)	Kosei-iin (厚成医院) Tel: 22-1060	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 54-2756	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Takahashi-shika-clinic (高橋歯科クリニック) Tel: 24-8211
4/27 (Sun)	Aoitori-family-clinic (青鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Kawashima-naika -clinic (川島内科クリニック) Tel: 23-2001	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Yoshioka-shika-clinic (吉岡歯科クリニック) Tel: 24-8289
4/29 (Tue)	Iguchi-iin (井口医院) Tel: 25-1100	Yuasa-naika-clinic (湯浅内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1311	Adachi-seikei-geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170	K-shika-iin (K 歯科医院) Tel: 22-2331

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 be introduced to another medical institution if specialized treatment is necessary.

Please contact the clinic before going if you are not sure if you can be treated.

(Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa)

Tel: 0279-23-8899

To access the **SHIBUKAWA CURRENT** online, scan the code on the right with your smartphone or visit our website at:
<https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/community/kokusaikouryukyoukai/p000024.htm>



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 わ 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

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