



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

394th edition, August 2025



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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 25. **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 渋川山車まつり)

Held once every two years in August, the Shibukawa Dashi Matsuri has a long history tracing back more than 250 years ago, to the late Edo period, and it is one of the most popular summer events in the city. This year, the Dashi Matsuri (Float Festival) will take place from August 8 to August 10, including the evening festival or Yoiyama on Friday, August 8, the Hachiman Shrine float parade on Saturday, August 9, and the Yasuka Shrine float parade on Sunday, August 10.

The Festival, features nineteen gorgeously lavish Dashi floats, parading through the streets of Shibukawa, accompanied by traditional music called matsuri-bayashi. Each of the neighborhoods' floats are decorated differently with beautiful carvings and a mechanical doll representing mythical tales and historic events on the top, and even the festival chant played by flutes, taiko drums and bells are performed differently according to the Dashi. The floats are pulled vigorously by two long ropes at the discretion of the leader at the front, sometimes pulling left and right, up and down, sometimes in a snaking motion, as the pullers bump into each other and raise their spirits, creating a lively and energetic atmosphere. The highlight of the festival is the Hachiman-nobori, where all the floats, one after another charge up the Hachiman-zaka slope to the shrine. The Hachiman-kudari coming down is in the night, lit-up with lanterns, slowly descending the slope.

Peace Education Through Anime (平和アニメ上映会)

Peace education anime screenings will be held at Kanashima Fureai Center Hall (capacity 200 people) on Wednesday, August 6 and at Shibukawa Kominkan Main Hall (capacity 60 people) on Friday, August 8 (both days from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm, doors open at 1:30 pm). You can watch:

Chii-chan no Kageokuri (Chii-chan's Shadow Sending) An animated war film about Chii-chan, who becomes an orphan during an air raid and died alone while looking back on her memories with her family and playing the shadow sending game that she learned from her father. The little girl died alone, but she was happy to be able to meet her family in heaven.

Chikyu to no Yakusoku (A Promise to the Earth): is an educational anime that aims to raise awareness of global warming and to help both children and adults rethink the relationship between human and nature. Rina, her younger brother Kento, and their cat Maru find themselves in very serious situation at a theme park, then they learn about the causes of global warming, experience the importance of nature firsthand, and think about what people can do now to overcome this crisis with wisdom, courage, and kindness.

Hatoyo Hiroshima no Sora Wo (Hatoyo The Sky of Hiroshima): A touching war story of a boy who lived in Hiroshima and who kept and bred carrier pigeons. While he was out of the city training them, the bomb dropped. Both he and the pigeon desperately tried to find their families in the chaos.

Admission: Free of charge, but reservations in advance are required.

Tel: 0279-22-2463



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 13 and Sunday, September 14, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Limit: 7 people (randomly selected if more applicants)

Fee: 500 yen 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 Friday, August 15

Tel: 0279-52-2102



Mizoroki Suwa-jinja Shrine Taisai

(みぞろきすわじんじやたいさい
溝呂木諏訪神社大祭)

This special event is held annually on August 27th. The portable shrine (city designated important cultural property "Mizoroki Mikoshi") is carried out in the precincts of Suwa jinja, the sessha (auxiliary shrine) of Yasaka-jinja Shrine. Mizoroki mikoshi is an elaborate construction like a miniature shrine finished in black lacquer. A remaining sumi-e (Japanese black ink painting) indicates that it was made in 1753 by Goto, a Kitamoku Carpenter.

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 Saturday, August 23, 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)

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 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.)

Skyland Park Fireworks Festival (スカイランドパーク花火大会 はなびたいかい)

Skyland Park Fireworks, featuring a display of light, sound, and color, will be held at Shibukawa Skyland Amusement Park on Saturday, August 16, from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The elevated perspective from the Ferris wheel allows for a panoramic view of the fireworks, and the combination of the Ferris wheel gentle, rotating motion with the explosive bursts of light creates a memorable spectacle.

The entrance to the park is free of charge, starting from 5:00 pm

In the event of rain, the festival will be postponed to Sunday, August 17



Tips for Preventing Heat Stroke (熱中症の予防 ねっちゅうしょうのよぼう)

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.

SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (外国人無料法律相談 がいこくじんむりようほうりつそうだん)

Where: Annaka-shi Bunka Center (City Cultural Center) 3rd Floor (3-9-63 Annaka, Annaka City)

When: Sunday, August 24, 2025, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (doors close at 2:30 pm)

Advisors: Lawyer, Gyoseishoshi (immigration specialist) and Shakai-Hoken-Romushi (labor issue specialist)

Interpreters: English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese and Nepalese

(Those with reservations will be given priority. Doors close at 2:30 pm.)

Reservation & Inquiry: One-Stop Consultation for Foreign Residents of Gunma

Tel: 027-289-8275, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, weekdays excluding holidays

(Tel: 090-1215-6113, available only on the consultation day.)

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

	Internal Medicine		Surgery	Dentistry
8/3 (Sun)	Nakano-iin (中野医院) Tel: 22-1219	Harasawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Hirakata-naika-shika-iin (平形内科歯科医院) Tel: 22-2233
8/10 (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	Kato-seikeigeka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007	Shibukawa-Ekimae-SHUN-dental-clinic (渋川駅前 SHUN デンタルクリニック) Tel: 25-7961
8/11 (Mon)	Shibukawa-chuo-byoin (渋川中央病院) Tel: 25-1711	Shinto-Wakaba-clinic (榛東わかばクリニック) Tel: 20-5531	Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818	Miyashita-shika-kyosei-shika-iin (宮下歯科・矯正歯科医院) Tel: 24-1939
8/17 (Sun)	Aoitari-family-clinic (青い鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Fukuda-shika-iin (福田歯科医院) Tel: 23-6677
8/24 (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	Shibukawa-iryu-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Seki-shika-iin (関歯科医院) Tel: 25-0530
8/31 (Sun)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1881	Itamino-clinic-Hasegawa-iin (痛みクリニック長谷川医院) Tel: 30-5055	Takano-gekaichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Ishida-shika-iin (石田歯科医院) Tel: 25-0411

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 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

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