



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

396th Edition, October 2025



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Hi Everyone,

In Japan, the month of October is traditionally called **Kannazuki**, or the "Month Without Gods," as it is said that, all the deities from across the country left their shrines to gather at the Izumo Taisha Shrine for an annual meeting, while only in the Izumo region it is called **Kamiarizuki**, or the "Month With Gods," because all the gods are there! In October, the weather is generally mild and pleasant, and is ideal for travel and outdoor activities. Leaves begin changing color from beautiful green into yellow, orange, red, and brown. Beautiful scenery of buckwheat flowers blooming in delicate white and swaying in the early autumn breeze can be viewed in the Miyukida area from late September to early October. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy hiking and mountain courses along the Kanto Fureai Road. Bungalows and barbecue pits are available at Akagi camping sites and at Sogo Koen. Also, people who enjoy picking fruit can go apple picking in Shibukawa, Komochi and Akagi apple orchards.

Otsukimi is the tradition of viewing the moon to admire, especially the full moon of **Juugoya** (the 15th night of the 8th lunar month), known as **Chushu-no-Meigetsu** (Harvest Moon) and of the **Jusanya** (the 13th night of the 9th lunar month), known as **Nochi-no-tsuki** (Waxing Moon). This year, Jugo-ya falls on October 6, while Jusan-ya falls on November 2.

Sports no Hi (Sports Day), is a national holiday in Japan held every year on the second Monday of October, this year on October 13. It is aiming to promote sports and an active lifestyle.

Gunma Kenmin no Hi (Gunma Prefectural Citizens' Day) is celebrated every year on October 28th. On this special day children have a day off from school. Free admission to prefectural and municipal facilities will be offered, and various events will be held throughout the prefecture.

The 31 National Creative Kokeshi Doll Exhibition in Shibukawa

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(第 31 回 全国 創作 こけし 美術 展 in 渋川)

This exhibition is held annually with the purpose of increasing the artistic evaluation of the works of the kokeshi doll artisans from Shibukawa and its vicinity, while displaying Kokeshi dolls with elaborated designs and high artistic value by creators across Japan and other countries. It is scheduled to take place at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan Small Hall, from October 29 to November 4, daily from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm with the last entrance at 3:30 pm (on November 4, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, last entrance at 2:30 pm). During this period works submitted by the general public to the "Original Kokeshi Painting Contest" will be also on display. Entrance to the exhibition is free!

The World of Creative Kokeshi Painting Workshop: You can experience painting your own Kokeshi doll while visiting on Sunday, November 2, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am, and from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. The cost for the workshop is 500 yen per person, and is limited to 20 participants each time. Workshop registration will begin on October 1. If the capacity is not reached by the application deadline, you can still participate on the event day. Please bring a pencil, an eraser and a dust cloth.

For the applications: <https://logoform.jp/form/6c9p/1179366>

The 19th Tachibana Takenosato Festival (第19回竹の里フェスティバル)

The Festival will be held for two days, on Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26, featuring various events related to bamboo, which is a significant part of the local culture of the Hokkitsu area.

Bamboo crafts exhibition: held at Hokkitsu Gyosei Center Gallery on Saturday, October 25, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, October 26, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Bamboo and Light Pageant: take place at Hokkitsu Gyosei Center Courtyard Saturday on October 25, from 4:15 pm to 7:00 pm. The glowing bamboo lanterns create a magical autumn night. There will also be free limited distributions of light-up bracelets for junior high school students and young children, seedlings, grilled meat, pork soup and popcorn.

The world of bamboo music: Performances by Taiko drums and other musical instruments made of bamboo, and Yagibushi (popular folk songs and dance performed at matsuri) at Hokkitsu Kominkan Hall on Sunday, October 26, from 0:30 pm to 4:00 pm



Bamboo shoots food tasting: free limited distributions of local food made from bamboo shoots at Hokkitsu Gyosei Center and at Hokkitsu Kominkan on Sunday, October 26, from 0:50 pm

Citizen Culture Festival (市民総合文化祭)



You can enjoy free performances by performing arts groups operating at the community centers in Shibukawa City.

Instrumental recitals: Taishogoto, keyboard, harmonica, accordion, brass band, orchestra, and other performances at Hokkitsu Fureai Center on Sunday, October 5, from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Shako Dance recital: Social dance recital at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan (City Civic Center) on Sunday, October 19, from 1:20 pm to 5:00 pm

Kayōkyoku: Popular Japanese song live performances at Kanashima Fureai Center on Sunday, October 26, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Dance set to familiar songs performance: at Hokkitsu Fureai Center on Sunday, November 2, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Kenshibu performance: Japanese swords or folding fans dances accompanying Gin-ei recitation at Hokkitsu Fureai Center on Monday, November 3, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Shibukawa Environmental Festival (しぶかわ環境まつり)

Aiming to encourage and support residents in reducing, reusing, and recycling household waste, the festival features various corners, interactive exhibits and other activities, including small rechargeable batteries collection, Plastic-marked items exchange, (non-aluminum) milk cartons exchange, enjoyment corner, toy hospital, hard-to-dispose items collection, and reusable items collection.

Recyclables such as large-sized home appliances, the four types of home appliances, car tires, aging fire extinguishers, and car batteries can be disposed of for a specific fee at the special collection corner and can be brought by car to the collection, but are required to be unloaded by the carrier.

For the milk carton exchange, one kilogram of cartons can be exchanged for 3 rolls of toilet paper. The limit is 18 rolls of toilet paper, and the milk cartons cannot be brought in by car to the collection.

A stamp rally will be held at the exhibition and experience corners, giving visitors the chance to learn about resource recovery, reduction of food loss, or how to make Bokashi fertilizer, while collecting stamps to win eco-friendly giveaway items. Please use the parking lot around the venue.

The festival will still take place in light rain, but it will be canceled in the case of severe weather.

Time & Venue: Sunday, October 5, from 9:00 am to 0:00 pm at the Komochi Fureai Koen

The 22nd Jomon Festival (第22回縄文まつり)

The festival allows you to have fun, and learn about the Jomon period people's life through a variety of experiences, such as making bamboo dragonfly (bamboo-copter), starting fires by friction, Jomon pottery coloring, stone painting, bow hunting, magatama (comma shaped beads), and making pottery.

Venue: Tachibana Park and Hokkitsu Rekishi Shiryokan, which houses many artifacts and remains from the Jomon period, that have been found in the Hokkitsu area

Time: Saturday, October 11, from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm (cancelled in case of bad weather.)

Karakkaze Park (からっかぜパーク)

The Karakkaze Park - "Share! Taste! Enjoy!" is held with the aim of promoting a multicultural and inclusive society in Gunma prefecture. The event provides the opportunity for people of different nationalities to get together, for a day of fun, food, and learning more about other cultures.

You can enjoy various fun activities, such as:

Experience cultures from around the world: games quizzes, picture books, and more

World music and dance: Hula dance, Indian dance, Cheer, Japanese Taiko, and more

Kid's sports and games: soccer, relays, and Tamaire

Exciting kid's booths: E-sports, crafts, manicures, and police cars

World cuisine -go on eating adventure: pizza, kebabs, curry, hamburgers, yakisoba, and more

When: Saturday, October 25, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Venue: Gunma Prefectural Government Office, Citizen's Hall, North and Southwest Wings
(Parking is available at Gunma Prefectural Government Office Parking Area)

Citizens Cycling (市民サイクリング)

The event will take place on Saturday, October 18, and is open to all residents, workers, and students in Shibukawa city. To participate, you can just show up on your bike! Registration opens at 8:15 am, followed by the opening ceremony at 8:45 am, with the event officially starting at 9:00 am.

Starting and finishing in Nakamura Ryokuchi Park, and primarily using the cycling road, the race will take the cyclists to Shikishima Park Rose Garden, to Shin-Bando Bridge, and then back to the finish line.

Meeting location: Nakamura Ryokuchi Park (830-5 Nakamura, Shibukawa City)

Participation Fee: ¥500 (including insurance, souvenirs, etc.)

Applications and inquiries: please contact Mr.Ishikita at the Shibukawa Cycling Association (Tel: 090-4626-7599), or at the Sports Promotion Section (Tel: 0279-22-2241)



Shibukawa Ekimae-dori Pedestrian Mall (駅前通り歩行者天国)

The Shibuhoko Pedestrian Mall will be held at Shibukawa Ekimae-dori pedestrian precinct on Sunday, October 26 from 11:00 am to 8:00pm. It features diverse entertainment and activities, including food and drink options, performances by local entertainers, and handicraft vendors.

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

When: Sunday, October 19, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm with the last admission at 2:30pm

Where: Gunma Prefectural Government Building, 1F Showa Chosha Wing

Consultants: Attorneys, Gyoseishoshi Lawyer (Immigration Specialist) & Shakai Hoken Romushi (Labor issue & pension specialist). Free confidential interpreting service is available.

Contact: One-Stop Consultation Center for Foreign Residents of Gunma (Tel: 027-289-8275)

On-duty Clinics in October (10月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine			Surgery	Dentistry
10/5 (Sun)	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	Takano-gekaichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Sato-shika-iin (佐藤歯科医院) Tel: 54-8330
10/12 (Sun)	Nakano-iin (中野医院) Tel: 22-1219	Shinto-Saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Nagai-shika-iin (永井歯科医院) Tel: 56-8854
10/13 (Mon)	Aoitari-family-clinic (青い鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Itamino-clinic -Hasegawa-iin (痛みのクリニック長谷川医院) Tel: 30-5055	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Onogami-shika-shinryojo (小野上歯科診療所) Tel: 59-2493
10/19 (Sun)	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科医院) Tel: 25-1155	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 52-3003	Ino-seikei-geka-rihabiri- naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Hoshikawa-shika-iin (ほしかわ歯科医院) Tel: 24-8835
10/26 (Sun)	Honzawa-iin (本沢医院) Tel: 23-6411	Iguchi-iin (井口医院) Tel: 25-1100	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Takahashi-shika-clinic (高橋歯科クリニック) Tel: 24-8211
11/2 (Sun)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1881	Tsukagoshi-clinic (塚越クリニック) Tel: 60-7700	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Yoshioka-shika-clinic (吉岡歯科クリニック) Tel: 24-8289
11/3 (Mon)	Kamiyama-naika-iin (神山内科医院) Tel: 22-2181	Takeuchi-shonika (竹内小児科) Tel: 30-5151	Takano-gekaichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	K-shika-iin (K 歯科医院) Tel: 22-2331

Night Emergency Clinic (夜間急患診療所)

The Night Emergency Clinic provides medical services in cases of sudden illnesses or injuries daily between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm, for conditions and issues related to internal medicine, surgery, and pediatrics, depending on the doctor in charge. If specialized treatment is necessary, the clinic will introduce patients to another medical institution that is more suitable.

Tel: 0279-23-8899 (Address: 1760-1 Nagatsuka-cho, Shibukawa City)

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>