



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

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Hi Everyone!

According to the Japanese traditional calendar, November 7 is **Ritto**, the beginning of winter. Although the weather turns gradually colder, it is a wonderful time for viewing of fall colors, and Shibukawa City is blessed with beautiful mountains where entire slopes turn orange, yellow and red. If you pass the mountain road in Ikaho, Onogami, Komochi, Akagi or Hokkitsu area walking, cycling, driving a car, or riding on a motorcycle you'll be quite amazed by the autumn colors around you. November 3 is **Bunka no Hi** (Culture Day), a Japanese national holiday to celebrate arts and culture. **Shichi-Go-San** is a traditional event held annually around November 15 in which five year old boys and three and seven year old girls dressed in traditional kimonos are brought to the shrines or temples to show thanks to the gods for their growth and to pray for their continued health and safety. November 23 is **Kinro Kansha no Hi** (Labor Thanksgiving Day), a national holiday for honoring labor. It falls on a Sunday this year, so the holiday will be observed on Monday, November 24.

The 2025 Kami Miharada Kabuki Stage かみみはらだ かぶきぶたい (上三原田の歌舞伎舞台 2025)

The devices and stage settings of the Kami Miharada Kabuki Stage are prepared for the annual kabuki event on Saturday, November 8, from 9:30 am to 3:20 pm. It features popular plays performed by local kabuki troupes and also by Miharada Elementary School Kabuki children, It's free! In case of bad weather, the event will be postponed to Sunday, November 9. Free parking is available.

Ikaho Onsen Fall Foliage Light-up い か ほおんせんこうよう (伊香保温泉紅葉ライトアップ)

Yumoto Kajika-bashi, the red arched bridge over the Yuzawa River near the Kogane-no-yu (golden hot springs) source, is a very popular spot to see vibrant red maple leaves. During the colored leaves season, the maple trees around the bridge will be lit up after sunset, creating a magical atmosphere that's completely different from daytime. The light-up event will take place between Tuesday, October 28 and Sunday, November 16, from 4:30 pm to 10:00 pm. In addition, the Stone Steps Square and the trees surrounding the pond of the Former Kingdom of Hawaii Minister's Villa, on the right when ascending the Stone Steps, will be lit up after sunset, starting Saturday, November 1. Also, a geisha event will be held at Dan-dan Hiroba (Stone Steps Square) on Saturday, November 1, from 5:20 pm to 6:00 pm, and Sunday, November 2, from 5:20 pm to 6:00 pm. The Kajikabashi parking lot is extremely crowded every year, so if you are coming by car, please use paid parking lots such as those at the Tokutomi Roka Memorial Literature Museum. A free shuttle bus runs between Ishidan-gai to Kajika Bridge on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, from 3:00 pm to 8:30 pm, with the last bus at Ishidan-gai at 8:00 pm.

Citizens' Cultural Festival (市民総合文化祭)

The festival offers a variety of free cultural events, programs, and performances from community groups.

Go and Shogi tournament: Traditional Japanese board game Go (Igo) and Shogi (Japanese chess) tournament at Hokkitsu Kominkan on Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 am -3:00 pm.

Kabuki theater: Traditional kabuki, young performers' wakate-kabuki, and children's kabuki performances by local kabuki troupes at Kamimiharada Kabuki Stage on Saturday, November 8, from 11:40 am to 3:20 pm. In case of bad weather, it will be postponed to the next day.

Choral recital: Performances by people of all ages at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan on Saturday, November 8, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Japanese traditional performing arts: Nihonbuyo dance, Noh chanting and sankyoku (koto, shamisen, and shakuhachi) at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan on Sunday, November 9, from 0:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

General art exhibition: Exhibition of works created by the general public, including literary works, calligraphy, handicrafts, art objects, photography, flower arrangement, bonsai, and gardening, alongside with works created by local high school students and artists with disabilities from welfare facilities. There will also be various experience corners, including copperplate engraving, dyeing, haiku, tea ceremony, and kimono dressing. The exhibition will be held at Komochi Shakai Taikukan on Saturday, November 15, from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, November 16, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Dance Recital: modern and contemporary dance, classical ballet, and other magical dance performances at Hokkitsu Fureai Center on Sunday, November 16, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Local performing arts: Daidai Kagura, Taiko Japanese drums, Danbee dance, and other performances at Komochi Shakai Taikukan Sub-Arena on Sunday, November 16, from 0:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Local traditional folk songs and dances recital: Folk song and dance performances at Kanashima Fureai Center on Sunday, November 30, from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Murakami Daidaikagura

(村上太々神楽)



It is said that Murakami Daidaikagura was first performed at the celebration of the newly rebuilt Sakuma-jinja in 1719, and has been performed since then by villagers in its precincts. At present, its activities center around the City Preservation Association and is performed at the Sakuma-jinja Fall Festival every year on November 23.

Fall Colors in Mt. Iwaido-Do

(紅葉が見ごろ「岩井洞」)

Iwaido is a popular destination for hikers during the fall foliage season. The top of the mountain offers a superb view of Mt. Haruna to the south and of Mt. Asama, Mt. Shirane and Mt. Azuma to the west. The best time to see the fall colors is around mid-November.

Kamishibai Exhibition (紙芝居展を開催します)

Tracing the roots of Kamishibai, the traditional form of Japanese picture-storytelling, the traveling exhibition of the Gunma Prefectural Museum of Literature in Commemoration of Bunmei Tsuchiya introduces visitors to various Kamishibai and their history, including the earliest street Kamishibai and Kamishibai for foreigners.

When: Wednesday, November 5 - Thursday, December 25, 2025, 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)

Making Shimenawa Kazari Workshop (しめ縄飾りづくり教室)

You will learn how to make your own Shimenawakazari, a Japanese New Year's wreath decoration braided from kodaimai (ancient rice) straw. The workshop will be held at Yagihara Kita Kaikan on Sunday, December 7, from 9:00 am to noon. Please bring scissors and clothes that can get dirty.

Limit: 20 people (randomly selected if more than 20 people apply, but first-timers are given priority)

Application: until Friday, November 14, by phone or directly at the counter from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, every day excepting Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays. **Tel: 0279-52-2102**

Japanese New Year's Decorations Workshop (日本の正月飾りづくり教室)

Using inawara you will make decorations such as okaogakushi and nakashime shimenawa. The workshop will be held at Hokkitsu Shiryokan on Sunday, December 7, from 10:00 am to noon.

Please bring pruning scissors, cutter knife, a 30 cm ruler, and 2-3 pieces of paper.

Limit: 10 people (randomly selected if more than 10 people apply).

Application: until Wednesday, November 19 by phone or directly at the counter, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm everyday, excepting Mondays, Tuesdays, and holidays. **Tel: 0279-52-4094**

The 34th Kuroimine Iseki Marathon (第34回黒井峯遺跡マラソン)

The Kuroimine Iseki Marathon offers three race distances of 2km, 4km, and 10km, with separate age and gender categories, a 2km parent-child fun run, as well as a 5km walk, all starting and finishing at Komochi Junior High School's ground. It is scheduled for Sunday, December 14, with the check-in for pre-registered runners from 8:00 am to 9:30 am, and the opening ceremony from 9:30 am to 9:40 am.

Participants are advised to arrange their own transportation to and from the venue.

Capacity: 1,200 people of all ages.

Applications: by a postal money transfer form which can be found at Komochi Kominkan and from the RUNNET website. The deadline for payment is Friday, November 7. For specific marathon details (participation fees, and start times), please check the Kuroimine Iseki Marathon 2025 official website before registering. A pamphlet with a transfer form will be mailed to those who request it.

For details, please contact Komochi Kominkan (**Tel: 0279-22-7780**).

Award Ceremony: Medals and award certificates will be awarded to the top three finishers, and award certificates to the 4th through the 10th places, for each category, excluding the walking race. Also, participants will receive towels and konjac, a local specialty, as prizes.

Homemade konjac oden, cocoa, and miso soup will be available in the service corner.

Japanese Culture Class for Foreigners (外国人のため日本文化教室)

This class provides an introduction to the art of Japanese calligraphy, called Shodo, and includes hands-on practice with basic brush techniques and creating characters. It will be held at Shibukawa Chuo Kominkan on Saturday, November 29, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, and it's free.

Limit: 15 people on a first come first served basis

Application: November 7 - November 21 at Shimin Kyodo Suishin Dep. by phone or by email

Tel: 0279-22-2463 / Email: sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp

On-duty Clinics in November (1 1 月の 休 日 当 番 医)

Internal Medicine			Surgery	Dentistry
11/2 (Sun)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1881	Tsukagosi-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-geka-ichoka-iin (高野外科胃腸科医院) Tel: 24-2454	Kshika-iin (K 歯科医院) Tel: 22-2331
11/9 (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-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Shimamura-shika-iin (しまむら歯科医院) Tel: 20-1182
11/16 (Sun)	Saito-naikageka-clinic (斉藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Oi-naika-clinic (大井内科クリニック) Tel: 30-5575	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Komayose-shika-clinic (駒寄歯科クリニック) Tel: 30-5500
11/23 (Sun)	Harazawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Adachi-seikei-geka (あだち整形外科) Tel: 30-1170	Yamakawa-shika-iin (山川歯科医院) Tel: 22-0260
11/24 (Mon)	Ishikita-iin (石北医院) Tel: 22-1378	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818	Saito-shika-iin (さいとう歯科医院) Tel: 53-5454
11/30 (Sun)	Kawashima-naika-clinic (川島内科クリニック) Tel: 23-2001	Aoitōri-family-clinic (青鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Hoshino-shika-clinic (星野歯科クリニック) Tel: 22-0232

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

The Night Emergency Clinic provides medical services between 7:00 pm to 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. (Please contact the clinic before going if you are not sure if you can be treated.)

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

