



# SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association  
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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 Showa, 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 ばしょ  
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

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 Shiroi-juku, Ikaho Green Bokujo Farm, Komochi Kayo cherry tree-lined street.

## The 25th Shiroi-juku Yaezakura Festival (第25回しろいじゆくやえざくらまつり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 Shiroi-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 19, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Shiroi-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

**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



## Shibukawa Cherry Blossom Festival & Cherry Blossom Light Up at Sogo Koen

(しぶかわ <sup>さくら</sup>まつりと <sup>さくら</sup>ライトアップ「<sup>そうごうこうえん</sup>総合公園」)

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 18, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, where a variety of events including stage performances, a stamp rally, festival food stalls, children booths, rides, and also the Shibukawa Bazaar and MM-1 Festival will take place.

During the peak season, the cherry trees will be illuminated between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm.



## The 38th Onogami Onsen Matsuri (第38回 <sup>だいいかいおのみおんせん</sup>小野上温泉まつり)

Onogami Onsen hosts its annual festival to give thanks for the blessings of the hot spring, and praying for health and prosperity. Visitors can enjoy various events, including the "Yukake" (Hot Water Pouring) ceremony, traditional performing arts, float music performances, distribution of plant saplings, sales of local products, stage performances, a karaoke singing contest (registration starts at 8:30 am), a flea market, and the "Beauty Hot Spring" will be opened for free to the public on the festival day.

**Where:** Onogami Onsen Center Parking Lot

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

## Shoren-ji Peony Garden

(<sup>しょうれんじ</sup>正蓮寺の<sup>えん</sup>ぼたん園)



The garden of Shoren-ji Temple in Shibukawa is a popular place to see peonies. About 90 varieties of peony flowers in more than 1500 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 during peak viewing season:** 300 yen for adults. It's free for students up to high school

## Akagi Shizen-En - Climb through the Forest (「<sup>あかぎしぜんえん</sup>赤城自然園」<sup>もり</sup>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 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:** Saturday, April 25 to Sunday, November 29, 2026

**Akagi Shizen-En open hours:** 9:00 am - 4:30 pm (The entrance to the park is until 3:30 pm.)

**Reception:** Shibukawa Ekimae Plaza, 1st Floor, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Tel:** 0279-24-0022

## Komochi-yama Official Opening (こもちやま やまびら 子持山の山開き)

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. On the hiking trail to the summit, you can enjoy cherry blossoms and fresh greenery until around the beginning of May.

### 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 Wednesday, April 1 and operates until Saturday, October 31. Please see their website for more details (HPID:4718).

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 Course (にほんごきょうしつ 日本語教室)

Learn daily Japanese conversation, hiragana, katakana and essential Japanese kanji characters in a friendly, supportive learning environment. The course will be held at Shibukawa Kominkan on Thursdays, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am, or from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, starting on May 26.

**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: **0279-22-2463** / Email: [sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp](mailto:sia-shibukawa@city.shibukawa.gunma.jp))



## Health Guidelines (けんこう GUIDE)

Shibukawa City offers various vaccination programs that include free of charge, as well as partially subsidized vaccinations, depending on age and specific health requirements.

For specifics, including eligibility requirements, subsidy amounts, and application procedures, it is recommended to check the city's official website or contact the city's Health Center directly.

• **HPV (Human Papillomavirus Vaccine):** The 9-valent HPV is available for free for eligible girls and boys, from 6th grade to 1st grade high school. It's recommended for everyone through age 26, if not vaccinated earlier. (HPID:439/1223)

• **Shingles (Herpes Zoster) Vaccine:** Partial subsidies are available for voluntary shingles vaccination for residents aged 65 and older. (HPID:12065/9948)

• **Pneumococcal Vaccine:** Partial subsidies for voluntary pneumococcal vaccinations are available for residents aged 66 and older, and people at high risk of pneumococcal infection. (HPID:8138/440)

• **MR (Measles-Rubella Vaccine):** Partial subsidies for voluntary MR vaccinations are available for residents lacking sufficient immunity. (HPID:438)

• **RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) Vaccine:** RSV vaccination is available for free for pregnant women, and for other specific high-risk groups. (HPID:15298)

• **Endoscopic gastric cancer GC screening:** Residents aged 50 and older are eligible for city sponsored GC screening, with biennial screening recommended. (HPID: 5727)

## On-duty Clinics in April (4月の休日当番医)

Internal Medicine		Surgery		Dentistry
4/5 (Sun)	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科病院) Tel: 25-1155	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 54-2756	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Hoshikawa-shika-iin (ほしかわ歯科医院) Tel: 24-8835
4/12 (Sun)	Aoitori-family-clinic (青鳥ファミリークリニック) Tel: 26-2681	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Takahashi-shika-clinic (高橋歯科クリニック) Tel: 24-8211
4/19 (Sun)	Saito-naika-geka-clinic (斉藤内科外科クリニック) Tel: 22-1678	Akagi-kaisei-clinic (赤城開成クリニック) Tel: 20-6500	Shibukawa-iryō-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
4/26 (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	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	K-shika-iin (K 歯科医院) Tel: 22-2331
4/29 (Wed)	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	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Saito-shika-iin (さいとう歯科医院) Tel: 53-5454
5/3 (Sun)	Iguchi-iin (井口医院) Tel: 25-1100	Yuasa-naika-clinic (湯浅内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1311	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Shimamura-shika-iin (しまむら歯科医院) Tel: 20-1182
5/4 (Mon)	Shibukawa-chuo-byoin (渋川中央病院) Tel: 25-1711	Shinto-Saito-iin (榛東さいとう医院) Tel: 54-1055	Ino-seikei-geka-rihabiri-naika (井野整形外科リハビリ内科) Tel: 30-5255	Yamakawa-shika-iin (山川歯科医院) Tel: 22-0260

## 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.

**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/kokusaikouryukyoukai/p000024.htm>**

