



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association

406th edition, August 2026



To access the **SHIBUKAWA CURRENT** on **LINE**, open the QR code reader of your smartphone's LINE app to scan the QR code, and register as a member.



Hello Everyone!

August is the hottest month in Japan. School summer vacations begin in mid-to-late July, ending in late August. The typhoon season reaches its peak. The intensity of the weather is matched by the intensity of the summer events. August is the peak for travel, festivals, **hanabi** (fireworks) and beach activities.

Events spring up all over the country. Almost every night, communities around Japan stage lively fireworks displays that colorfully light up the night sky.

Obon, also known as the **Bon** festival, is a summer holiday season in August when families across Japan get together to honor the spirits of families and ancestors who have passed away.

The summer festival season also includes large-scale festivals, many with folk dancing, as well as **Bon Odori** dances for the recreation of local residents, friends and visitors, that coincide with or occur around the Obon holiday period. Enjoying fireworks or summer festivals with local people wearing **yukata** will definitely become an unforgettable memory in your life.

Yama-no-Hi, or Mountain Day, is a Japanese holiday celebrated annually on August 11. The date was chosen because August is the eighth month of the year, 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 day encourages people to recognize the blessings they receive from mountains and become more familiar with them.

The 43rd Shibukawa Heso Matsuri

(第 4 3 回 渋川へそ祭り)

Since 1984, Shibukawa has joyfully embraced its title as the geographic "belly button" of Japan, hosting the lively and colorful Shibukawa Heso Matsuri (Belly Button Festival). The Festival has been held every year since then, becoming one of the largest and most popular events in the city. During the festival, the area around Gosaro Intersection, close to the Heso Ishi (Belly Button Rock) and the Heso Jizo, becomes a pedestrian paradise, where visitors can enjoy various activities, including the kids' and adults' Belly Button Dance Parade, performances of groups of dancers, wind bands, and Japanese Taiko drums, sales of Shibukawa specialty products, a Belly Button-theme food stalls, fire safety activities, and many others.

The main attraction of the festival is the Heso Odori Parade, where participants, both children and adults, with comical faces painted on their bellies wear special costumes with arms hanging out from their waists, and large hats to cover their heads and arms, parade through the streets while dancing and encouraging spectators to join in by yelling with big excitement, "Heso dase yoiyoi!" (Show us your belly, yoi yoi!). Visitors can have their belly painted, learn the dance, and join in the Heso Odori with the locals!

When: Saturday, September 5, from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm (the Kid's Belly Button Dance Parade takes place from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and the Belly Button Dance Parade, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.)

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

Peace education anime screenings will be held at Kanashima Fureai Center Hall (capacity 200 people) on Thursday, August 6 and at Furumaki Kominkan Main Hall (capacity 200 people) on Thursday, August 13 (both days from 2:00 pm to 3:40 pm, doors open at 1:30 pm). You can watch:

Iwata-kun-chi no Obaachan (Iwata-kun's Grandmother) is a touching animated documentary that beautifully captures the inter generational transmission of peace. The story follows Chizuko-san, an atomic bomb survivor, whose heartbreaking memories are retold to elementary students by her daughter, and then passed on to readers through the eyes of her grandson's best friend (Iwata-kun).

Watashitachi no Mirai (Our Future) 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. a short animated film, which focuses on global warming and environmental issues.

Ageha ga Tonda (The Swallowtail Butterfly Takes Flight): The Great Tokyo Air Raid of March 10, 1945 is an animated educational film that conveys the horrors of war and the preciousness of life to children. The story is told through the eyes of an elementary school student who experienced wartime evacuation, with the horrors of the air raid.

Free of charge

Tel: 0279-22-2463 (Shimin Kyodo Suishin Ka)



Skyland Park Fireworks Festival (スカイランドパーク花火大会)

Skyland Park Fireworks, featuring a display of light, sound, and color, allows visitors to enjoy the attractions while watching the fireworks during nighttime hours.

Experiencing fireworks from the Ferris wheel offers a breathtaking, eye-level perspective where the gentle, continuous rotation perfectly syncs with the explosive bursts of light.

When: Saturday, August 15, from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm

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 16.)

Akagi Matsuri (赤城まつり)

Please feel free to join us on Saturday, August 22 from 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Kiguregumi Sports Park Akagi. You can enjoy food, drinks, shopping.



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, and different countryside experiences.

Bungalows fees: 12570 yen for 6 people, 20950 yen for 10 people, 25140 yen for 12 people.

Barbecue hours 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.

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.)

Extra Virgin Olive Oil Limited Sale (イタリア・フォルニーニョ^{さん}産オリーブオイル^{はんばい}販売)

Imported as part of the Shibukawa International Association exchange program, the Millenario Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil from Foligno, Shibukawa's sister city in Italy, will be on sale at Dainichosha, Ajisai Salon on Friday, August 7, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. It can also be purchased at The Shibukawa Area Specialty Products Center, known as Shibusan, located in front of JR Shibukawa Station, starting at 1:00 pm on the same day.

Price: 3000 yen (750ml bottle, tax included. For purchases made at the advance sale event, you will receive a wine bag and a 100 yen gift voucher to use at Shibusan, for each bottle.)

Tel: 0279-22-2873 (Tourism Division)

Tips for Preventing Heat Stroke (熱中症^{ねっちゅうしょう}の予防^{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 activities.

SOS Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents (外国人^{がいこくじん}無料^む法律相談^{りようほうりつそうだん})

Where: Full Heart Hall Tamamura (208-4 Shimoshinden, Tamamura, Sawa-gun)

When: Sunday, August 23, 2026, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (Reception closes at 2:30 pm.)

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

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

(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.)

Priority is given to those with appointments.)

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

	Internal Medicine		Surgery	Dentistry
8/2 (Sun)	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	Shinto-Wakaba-clinic (榛東わかばクリニック) Tel: 20-5531	Tomaru-clinic (とまるクリニック) Tel: 26-7711	Shibukawa-Ekimae -SHUN-dental-clinic (渋川駅前 SHUN デンタルクリニック) Tel: 25-7961
8/9 (Sun)	Shibukawa-chuo-byoin (渋川中央病院) Tel: 25-1711	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 54-2756	Otaki-clinic (大滝クリニック) Tel: 30-5800	Miyashita-shika-kyosei -shika-iin (宮下歯科・矯正歯科医院) Tel: 24-1939
8/11 (Tue)	Harasawa-iin (原沢医院) Tel: 72-2503	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 22-2378	Fukuda-shika-iin (福田歯科医院) Tel: 23-6677
8/16 (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	Shibukawa-iryo-center (渋川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	Seki-shika-iin (関歯科医院) Tel: 25-0530
8/23 (Sun)	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科医院) Tel: 25-1155	Komayose-kodomo -shinryojo (駒寄こども診療所) Tel: 55-5252	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Ishida-shika-iin (石田歯科医院) Tel: 25-0411
8/30 (Sun)	Akagi-kaisei-clinic (赤城開成クリニック) Tel: 20-6500	Oi-naika-clinic (大井内科クリニック) Tel: 30-5575	Shibukawa-iryo-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
9/6 (Sun)	Iguchi-iin (井口医院) Tel: 25-1100	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	Hirakata-shika-iin (平形歯科医院) Tel: 22-0953

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.

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/000011/000014/p001414.html>