



SHIBUKAWA CURRENT

Shibukawa International Association
408th Edition, October 2026



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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 to yellow, orange, red, and brown. Beautiful views of buckwheat flowers blooming in delicate white and swaying in the early autumn breeze can be seen 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.

This year, the traditional Japanese "thirteenth night" moon-viewing celebration, **Jūsanya**, takes place on Friday, October 23.

Sports no Hi (Sports Day), is a national holiday in Japan held every year on the second Monday of October, this year on October 12. It aims 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 32 National Creative Kokeshi Doll Exhibition in Shibukawa

(第32回全国創作こけし美術展 in 渋川)
だいさんじゅうにかい ぜんこく せんさく こけし びいゆつてん しぶかわ

This exhibition is held annually with the purpose of increasing appreciation for the artistic value of the works of the kokeshi doll artisans from Shibukawa and its vicinity, while displaying Kokeshi dolls with elaborate 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 30 to November 5, daily from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm with the last entrance at 3:30 pm (on November 5, 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 also be on display. Entrance to the exhibition is free!

The World of Creative Kokeshi Painting Workshop: You can experience painting your own Kokeshi doll when you visit on Sunday, November 1, 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 for each session.

Registration will begin on October 1. Please bring a pencil, an eraser and a dust cloth.

(For the applications: <https://logoform.jp/form/6c9p/1748250>)

The 20th Tachibana Takenosato Festival (第20回竹の里フェスティバル)

The Festival will be held for two days, on Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25, featuring various events related to bamboo, a significant part of the local culture of the Hokkitsu area.

Bamboo crafts exhibition: held at Hokkitsu Gyosei Center Gallery on Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, October 25, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Bamboo and Light Pageant: held at Hokkitsu Gyosei Center Courtyard on Saturday October 24, 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 on taiko drums and other musical instruments made of bamboo, and Yagibushi (popular folk songs and dances performed at matsuri) at Hokkitsu Kominkan Hall on Sunday, October 25, from 12:30 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 25, from 12:50 pm

Shibukawa Citizens' General Cultural Festival (渋川市民総合文化祭)

Held every autumn, the festival brings together diverse local cultural and arts groups that regularly practice at community centers across the city to share their achievements with the public.

Instrumental Music Presentation: Performances of instrumental music at Shibukawa Shimin Kaikan (City Civic Center) on Sunday, October 18, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Folk Dance Presentation: Hula dance performances at Komaki Fureai Center on Sunday, October 25, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Go and Shogi Tournament: Held concurrently with the Akagi Cultural Presentation at Akagi Kominkan on Sunday, October 31, from 9:00 am to 3:00 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 recycling corners, and other activities, including free collection of small rechargeable batteries, exchange of plastic-marked items, exchange of (non-aluminum) milk cartons, collection of clothes for reuse, free collection of car and motorcycle batteries, toy hospital, and enjoyment corners,

Also, Gunma's local hero team 'Chosoku Senshi G-FIVE' will visit for the first time to perform an educational action show focused on the 3 Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle (starting at 11:00 am)

Hard-to-dispose items such as large-sized home appliances, the four types of home appliances, car tires, aging fire extinguishers, can be disposed of for a fee at the special collection corner. The items can be brought by car to the collection, but must be unloaded by the person bringing them.

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 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 case of severe weather.

Time & Venue: Sunday, October 4, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Komochi Fureai Koen

Parking is permitted only on the east side of Komochi Fureai Park; Collection services at all stations are intended for private households only; commercial operators are asked to refrain from using them.

Tsukuda Puppet Theater - The 6th Community Presentation

(津久田の人形舞台で第6回地域鑑賞会を開催します)

The presentation will be held on Saturday, October 10 at the Shibukawa Tsukuda Puppet Stage, located within the precincts of Tsukuda Sakuramori Hachiman Shrine. This historic wooden stage, used for the traditional Tsukuda Puppet Show, has a history of over 300 years.

The event features traditional regional puppetry and local community acts and admission is free!

The Opening Ceremony, which takes place at 11:30 am, will be followed by stage performances of Tsukuda Puppet Theater "Sakuraza" (Sanbaso) at 11:45 am, Tsukuda Elementary School Puppet Club (Keisei Awa no Naruto) at 12:00pm, Handmade Puppet Troupe "Tsugumi" (Three Magic Talismans) at 1:00 pm, and Tsukuda Puppet Theater "Sakuraza" (Oshu Adachigahara: Act III.)

The 35th Kuroimine Iseki Marathon (第35回黒井峯遺跡マラソン)

The Marathon will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2026. There are four different courses to choose from: 2 km, 4 km and 10 km jogging courses, and a 5 km walking course, all starting at the Komochi Junior High School's grounds.

Capacity: 1200 people of all ages who live, work or study in Gunma Prefecture

Applications: October 1 - November 6 (on a first-come, first-served basis)

① by phone or in person at Komochi Kominkan (Tel: 0279-22-7780) and

② through the RUNNET website. The deadline for payment is Friday, November 6.

(For details, please check the official Kuroimine Iseki Marathon 2026 website before registering.).

Akagi Fureai Matsuri & Sangyo Sai (赤城ふれあいまつり・産業祭)

The Cultural Festival takes place at the Akagi Kominkan on Saturday October 31, and Sunday, November 1st, from 9:00 am to 4:50 pm. featuring stage performances and art, crafts, and hobby exhibitions

The Sangyo Sai (Industrial Fair) takes place in front of Akagi Kominkan and parking lot on Sunday, November 1, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Local organizations and businesses set up food stalls, agricultural produce markets, and regional goods booths, allowing attendees to sample and shop for fresh, locally grown vegetables and unique regional specialties.

Visitors coming by car can use the parking lots at Kyu Akagi Nousanbutsu Dai 2 Chokubaijo (the Former Akagi Agricultural Products 2nd Direct Sales Store) or at the Kokuho Akagi Shinryojo (Akagi National Health Insurance Clinic). (A free shuttle bus will operate every 10 minutes between Kokuho Akagi Shinryojo and Akagi Kominkan.)

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

When: Sunday, October 18, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm with the last admission at 2:30 pm

Where: Annaka City Cultural Center (3-9-63 Annaka, Annaka City)

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

Interpreters: English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese and 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: 090-5054-5215**

(Available only on the consultation day.) Priority is given to those with appointments.

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

Internal Medicine			Surgery	Dentistry
10/4 (Sun)	Otani-naika-clinic (大谷内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1881	Sato-iin (佐藤医院) Tel: 54-2756	Sekiguchi-byoin (関口病院) Tel: 22-2378	Hoshikawa-shika-iin (ほしかわ歯科医院) Tel: 24-8835
10/11 (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	Hokumo-byoin (北毛病院) Tel: 24-1234	Onogami-shika-shinryojo (小野上歯科診療所) Tel: 59-2493
10/12 (Mon)	Honzawa-iin (本沢医院) Tel: 23-6411	Yuasa-naika-clinic (湯浅内科クリニック) Tel: 20-1311	Arima-clinic (有馬クリニック) Tel: 24-8818	Yoshioka-shika-clinic (吉岡歯科クリニック) Tel: 24-8289
10/18 (Sun)	Nara-naika-iin (奈良内科病院) Tel: 25-1155	Sekiguchi-iin (関口医院) Tel: 55-5122	Shibukawa-iryō-center (渋谷川医療センター) Tel: 23-1010	K-shika-iin (K 歯科医院) Tel: 22-2331
10/25 (Sun)	Nakano-iin (中野医院) Tel: 22-1219	Itamino-clinic -Hasegawa-iin (痛みのクリニック長谷川医院) Tel: 30-5055	Kato-seikeigeka-iin (加藤整形外科医院) Tel: 20-1007	Miyashita-shika -kyōsei shika iin (宮下歯科・矯正歯科医院) Tel: 24-1939
11/1 (Sun)	Kosei-iin (厚成医院) Tel: 22--1060	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	Shimamura-shika-iin (しまむら歯科医院) Tel: 20-1182
11/3 (Tue)	Furumaki-naika-iin (ふるまき内科医院) Tel: 25-8881	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	Yamakawa-shika-iin (山川歯科医院) Tel: 22-0260

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: <https://www.city.shibukawa.lg.jp/kurashi/000011/000014/p001414.html>