

What's on in Sapporo?



VOL. 610

HOKKAIDO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2025



Sapporo White Illumination (JR Sapporo Sta. Ekimae Hiroba)

November Calendar

Culture Day falls on Nov. 3 (Mon./hol.). It is a day to celebrate our love of freedom and peace and to promote our culture. The Order of Culture is awarded on this day to individuals who have made significant cultural contributions to society.

Labor Thanksgiving Day falls on Nov. 23 (Sun.) and is observed on Nov. 24 (Mon./hol.). It originated from the ancient Niiname-sai festival, which celebrated the rice harvest. In this traditional festival, the Emperor offers new rice to the gods. It is also a day to honor the value of work and working people, and to express gratitude.

2025 Sapporo White Illumination



A world of vivid light is sure to fascinate you. **The 2025 Sapporo White Illumination** will start on Nov. 21 (Fri.) at five venues. **The German Christmas Market** will be held at Odori Nishi 2-chome during the same period from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

A corridor of white illuminations (5-chome) is the highlight of the Odori venue. The beauty of the lighting is breathtaking. Enjoy the combination of a symbolic object with wings (1-chome) and the Sapporo TV Tower. In front of the JR Sapporo Sta., street trees are decorated with numerous blue lights. Illuminated arches change color with the sounds. Prepare for cold weather and indulge in a twinkling night.

Lighting hours: 4:30–10 p.m. (until midnight during the Christmas period and at JR Sapporo Sta. Ekimae Hiroba). Date: Odori 1–6-chome; Nov. 21–Dec. 25. Ekimae-dori; Nov. 21–Feb. 11, 2026. Minami 1-jo-dori, Akapla, and JR Sapporo Sta. Ekimae Hiroba; Nov. 21–Mar. 14, 2026.

●Info: Sapporo White Illumination Jikko-iinkai, ☎281-6400
<<https://www.sapporo.travel/white-illumination/>>



Events

Hokudai Konyosai

Nov. 1-2

Celebrate the autumn at the **14th Hokkaido University Konyosai** (golden-leaf festival). Stroll through the university's Ginkgo Avenue, where 70 golden trees create a glowing tunnel of light. This student-organized event features lively performances, food stalls, and local crafts. Date: Nov. 1 (Sat.)–2 (Sun.). Lighting hours: 6–9 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Sun.). Address: Kita-ku, Kita 13, Nishi 5. ●Info: Hokudai Konyosai Jikko-iinkai, <<https://www.instagram.com/konyousai/>>



Kiku Matsuri

Nov. 1-3

The **63rd Chrysanthemum Festival** will be held at Chikaho (underground walkway), Aurora Square (underground shopping mall) and Lilac Gallery at Hokucho Sapporo Bldg. (Chuo-ku, Odori 2-chome). Over 800 chrysanthemum plants will be displayed. Date: Nov. 1 (Sat.)–3 (Mon./hol.). ●Info: Sapporo Kiku Matsuri Jikko-iinkai, ☎281-6400 <<https://www.sapporo.travel/chrysanthemum-festival/>>



Jumbo Christmas Tree

Nov. 1-Dec. 25

At the Sapporo Factory Atrium, a 15-meter-high Sakhalin fir Christmas tree from Hiroo-cho will be put up from Nov. 1 (Sat.) to Dec. 25 (Thu.), and will be lit from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Enjoy a tree decorated with gorgeous ornaments and 40,000 LED lights. There will be a 5-min. music and light

show every hour after 4 p.m. Venue: Sapporo Factory Atrium (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Higashi 4). ●Info: Sapporo Factory, ☎207-5000 <<https://sapporo-factory.jp/>>



Sapporo Art Stage

Nov. 1-30

The **Sapporo Art Stage** will be held under the concept of “a gateway to art.” Sapporo will see art programs such as the Music Showcase, Theater Go Round, School Music Festival, and School Art Live. Enjoy the Sapporo art scene. Date: Nov. 1 (Sat.)–30 (Sun.). Venues: Chikaho (underground walkway), Sapporo Community Plaza (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 1) and some theaters. ●Info: Sapporo Art Stage Jikko-iinkai, ☎281-7117 <<https://s-art-stage.com/2025/>>



Zine Festival

Nov. 9

“Zine,” an abbreviation of “magazine” refers to a small booklet that is produced and published independently by small groups. The **Zine Festival** will be held on Nov. 9 (Sun.) at Sapporo Convention Center (Shiroishi-ku, Higashi Sapporo 1-1). More than 100 groups will get together and sell book items. Hours: 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Adm.: ¥300. ●Info: Book Culture Club, <<https://note.com/bookcultureclub/n/n3dcceee0ff5>>



Animation Festival

Nov. 21-25

The **12th International Animation**

Festival will be held at the New Chitose Airport Terminal Bldg. Artists and creators from around the world will participate in this event. Enjoy creative contents, artists performances and unique animated films. Date: Nov. 21 (Fri.)–25 (Tue.), 10 a.m.–9:30 p.m. Adm.: free. ●Info: International Animation Festival Jimukyoku, ☎206-1286 <<https://airport-anifes.jp/>>



Nigiwai Market

Nov. 21-23

The **Nigiwai Market Sapporo** will be held at Axes Sapporo (Shiroishi-ku, Ryutsu Center 4-3) from Nov. 21 (Fri.) to 23 (Sun.), showcasing the best of Hokkaido products. Buy local products and talk with the vendors face to face. Hours: 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. (until 4 p.m. on Sun.). Adm.: free. Access: a 14-min. walk from Oyachi Subway Sta. (Tozai Line). ●Info: Sapporo Nigiwai Market, ☎865-5811 <<https://nigiwai-ichiba-sapporo.com/>>



Hiraoka Greenery

Until Nov. 16

The autumn colors at the Hiraoka Greenery Center (Hiraoka Jyugei Center) are at their best until early November. Enjoy the atmospheric scenery of maples and azaleas. The park has Japanese and Western gardens with more than 3,000 trees. Date: until Nov. 16 (Sun.), 8:45 a.m.–5:15 p.m. Closed on Mon. Adm.: free. ●Info: Hiraoka Greenery Center, ☎883-2891 <<https://www.sapporo-park.or.jp/jyu-gai/en/>>





Sapporo City Info

Mikaho Ice Skating Rink

Mikaho Gym provides an indoor ice-skating rink to the public from Nov. 1 (Sat.) to Apr. 10 (Fri.) 2026.

Skate rentals: figure skates, half-speed skates and ice hockey skates. Fee: ¥300/h, ¥400/2h. The overtime charge: ¥100/30-min. Gloves are required. Helmets are available for free. Adm.: ¥640 for adults, ¥310 for sr. high, ¥150 for age 65 and over, free for jr. high and under. Address: Higashi-ku, Kita 22, Higashi 5. Access: a 15-min. walk from Kita 24-jo Subway Sta. (Namboku Line). Hours: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

●Info: Mikaho Gym, ☎741-1972 <<https://www.sapporo-sport.jp/mikaho-gym/>>



SAPPORO

For questions about daily life, procedures, or municipal facilities, contact the Sapporo City Call Center (SCCC) any day in English, Chinese, or Korean.

Hours: 8 a.m.–9 p.m. ☎222-4894

<info4894@city.sapporo.jp>



Markets

- Flea Market at Yumeichiba Atsubetsu**
(Atsubetsu-ku, Atsubetsu Chuo 1-5)
Date: Nov. 2 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Cancelled in case of rain.
- Flea Market at Sun Plaza 1F Hall**
(Kita-ku, Kita 24, Nishi 5)
Date: Nov. 24 (Mon./hol.), 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Morning Market at Higashi Honganji Temple**
(Chuo-ku, Minami 7, Nishi 8)
Sales of freshly picked vegetables, baked sweets, miscellaneous goods, accessories, etc.
Date: Nov. 8 (Sat.), 23 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Cancelled in the event of a storm.
- Sapporo Mono Village 2025 at Daiwa House Premist Dome** (Toyohira-ku, Hitsujigaoka 1)
The biggest handmade goods festival in Hokkaido.
Date: Nov. 23 (Sun.), 24 (Mon./hol.), 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Adm.: ¥700 (advance ¥600) per day, free for elem. and under.
- Antiques at Toyohira Shrine**
(Toyohira-ku, Toyohira 4-13)
Date: Nov. 16 (Sun), 9 a.m.–3 p.m.



Plaza News

Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation (SICPF)

Online Seminar on Inheritance for Foreign Residents

Date: Dec. 13 (Sat.), 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. A lawyer and a tax accountant will provide an easy-to-understand explanation of inheritance for foreign residents in Japan. The seminar will be held online via Zoom (in Japanese with English translation). Reservations are required. The online application form will open on Nov. 13 (Thu).



Free Professional Consultation for Foreign Residents

Date: Dec. 13 (Sat.), 1:30–4:30 p.m. Lawyers, administrative procedure specialists and tax accountants advise on resident status, legal issues, and taxes and so on. Reservations are required. The online application form will open on Nov. 13 (Thu). English and Chinese interpretation is available. Telephone interpretation is also available in other languages. Online consultations via Zoom are also accepted.

Venue: SICPF



Nihongo de Hanaso! Perapera Wednesday

Date: every Wednesday, 2–3:30 p.m. Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26 (themed talk). SICPF hosts free chat sessions for foreign nationals who would like to practice speaking Japanese with volunteers. A themed talk is held on the last session every month. All levels of Japanese learners are welcome. No reservation needed. Adm.: free. Venue: SICPF



Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation (SICPF)

Facebook <<https://www.facebook.com/sicpf/>>

Multilingual Newsletter

<<https://www.sapporolife.info/newsletter/english/>>



SAPPORO HELP DESK for Foreign Residents

Hours: Mon–Fri. 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Extended hours: every Wed. 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Closed: Sat., Sun. and national holidays. Languages: simple Japanese, English, Chinese and Sinhara. Vietnamese is available on Fri. (10 a.m.–5 p.m.). Other languages are available via telephone interpretation. Fee: free. ●Info: ☎211-3678. Address: Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F
<<https://www.sapporolife.info/en/article/?id=31>>



November Events Calendar

Date		Events
1	Sat.	Hokudai Konyo-sai (until Nov. 2) Chrysanthemum Festival (until Nov. 3) Sapporo Art Stage (until Nov. 30)
2	Sun.	
3	Mon.	Culture Day
4	Tue.	
5	Wed.	
6	Thu.	Business Expo (until Nov. 7)
7	Fri.	
8	Sat.	
9	Sun.	Zine Festival
10	Mon.	
11	Tue.	
12	Wed.	
13	Thu.	
14	Fri.	
15	Sat.	

Not all of these events are described in the Nov. issue.

Date		Events
16	Sun.	
17	Mon.	Hiraoka Greenery Center closes
18	Tue.	
19	Wed.	Shochiku Dai Kabuki
20	Thu.	
21	Fri.	Sapporo White Illumination (until Mar. 14) Nigiwai Market Sapporo (until Nov. 23) Animation Festival (until Nov. 25) German Christmas Market (until Dec. 25)
22	Sat.	Nippon Ham Fighters Fun Festival
23	Sun.	Labor Thanksgiving Day
24	Mon.	Substitute Holiday
25	Tue.	
26	Wed.	
27	Thu.	
28	Fri.	HIWA International Regular Meeting
29	Sat.	
30	Sun.	

This Month's Special

Odoriba

On Oct. 9 (Thu.), a new gourmet area "Odoriba" (Odori Bar) opened in the basement of 4PLA. Eight shops, including a hamburger shop, a Korean restaurant, an ice cream shop, a craft beer stand and a sushi bar, are open. Smartphone orders can be made at four shops. Big sized gyoza plate (¥940/4 pieces) of Sapporo Gyoza Seizojo is recommended. Enjoy drinking here, daytime or nighttime.

Address: Chuo-ku, Minami 1, Nishi 4, 4PLA B1.
Connected to Pole Town underground shopping mall.

Hours: 11 a.m.–11 p.m. Open daily.

●Info: <<https://4pla-sapporo.com/odoriba/>>



HIWA News

International Regular Meeting

Date: Nov. 28 (Fri.), 1:30–3 p.m.

Speaker: Kazuko Otsu, Professor Emeritus of Hokkaido Educational University, Former Chairman of Hokkaido UNESCO Liaison Council

Theme: **From "Happiness" to "Peace," and then to "SDGs/ESD"**

Venue: Kaderu 2.7, 9F #920 (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Nishi 7)

Adm.: ¥300 for members and non-members

Application: call Otomo at ☎070-5065-2302 by Nov. 21 (Fri.)

●HIWA Info:

Sapporo L Plaza 2F Sapporo-shi Shimin
Katsudo Support Center, office booth No. 3
(Kita-ku, Kita 8, Nishi 3)

☎090-3848-8020 (Monday only, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.)

E-mail : <hiwa20230601@gmail.com>



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