

# What's on in Sapporo?



VOL. 602



HOKKAIDO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2025



## March Calendar

## International Women's Day

One of the things that remind us of the coming of spring is the Dolls Festival, called Hinamatsuri. It is held on Mar. 3 (Mon.) to celebrate the growth of girls. It is customary to display *hina* dolls at home and to eat clam soup and *chirashi-zushi*.

The Vernal Equinox (Shunbun-no-hi) falls on Mar. 20 (Thu./hol.) and the week that includes this day is *higan*. People visit the graves, because Buddhism believes that the souls of their ancestors return at this time.

The United Nations established the **International Women's Day** on March 8 in 1975 for the appreciation of women. Nowadays, men give a mimosa, a flower that is said to bring happiness, to women around them: mothers, lovers, friends, co-workers and so on. This is why the day is also called "Mimosa Day." Convey your grateful feelings to women and join the Mimosa Day events.

**Mimosa Day Marche:** bouquet of mimosa and other flowers are sold. Try some experiences of making scented oils and mimosa accessories (fee required). Sales of unique goods are enjoyable such as harps, naturally dyed goods and botanical candles. Bread and baked sweets made with natural ingredients will satisfy your appetite. Date: Mar. 7 (Fri.), 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Venue: Sapporo Community Plaza SCARTS 1F, Mall A, B (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 1) Adm.: free. •Info: La Main Bleue Music School, <<https://lamainbleue.com/>>



# Events

## Baseball Games

**Mar. 5-23**

Baseball season has returned. The Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters will host nine exhibition games at Es Con Field Hokkaido (Kitahiroshima-shi, F Village 1). Date: Mar. 5 (Wed.), 6 (Thu.), 8 (Sat.), 9 (Sun.), 18 (Tue.), 19 (Wed.), 21 (Fri.), 22 (Sat.), and 23 (Sun.). There will be many fun events including a welcoming ceremony for rookies. Enjoy new gourmet dishes. Access: shuttle bus from JR Kitahiroshima Sta. to the ballpark. ●Info: Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters, <<https://www.fighters.co.jp/>>



## Nature Beat Jam

**Mar. 15-16**

Experience the best of Hokkaido outdoor culture at **Nature Beat Jam**. Date: Mar. 15 (Sat.) and 16 (Sun.) at Sapporo Factory (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Higashi 4), Cross Hotel and other places. This event features outdoor brand exhibits, camp ground showcases, campfire, and live music. Enjoy projection mapping (5:30–9 p.m.) at the west gate of Sapporo Factory. ●Info: Nature Beat Jam, <<https://naturebeatjam.com/>>



## Doll's Festival

The Doll's Festival falls on Mar. 3 (Mon.). A variety of ancient and cute *hina* dolls will be displayed at the **Former Nagayama Residence** 2F (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Higashi 6) until Mar. 7 (Fri.), 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Adm.: free.

●Info: ☎232-0450

At **Hokkaido Historical Village**, (Atsubetsu-ku, Atsubetsu-cho, Konopporo 50-1), traditional *hina* dolls are displaying at eight houses in the village until Mar. 20 (Thu./hol.), 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Closed: Mon. Adm.: ¥1,000 for sr. high and over, free for jr. high and under. ●Info: Hokkaido Historical Village, ☎898-2692 <<https://www.kaitaku.or.jp/>>



## Rice-Bag Sledding

**Mar. 16**

**The Hokkaido Rice-Bag Sledding Race Championship** will be held at Sapporo Teine Ski Resort (Teine-ku, Teine Honcho) on Mar. 16 (Sun.). About 400 people will slide down the slope on their own rice bags. The winner will get a straw bag of rice (60 kg). They will compete not only in speed but also with the design of the sled. Hours: 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. ●Info: Sapporo Teine Ski Resort, <<https://www.sapporo-teine.com/snow/>>



## Kids' Planetarium

**Mar. 18**

**The Kids' Planetarium** will be held at Sapporo Science Center for families. Small kids and babies can chat or laugh with their families while watching video content. Enjoy the 40-minute astronomical show. Date: Mar.18 (Tue.) 10:15–10:55 a.m. Workshops on making toy air guns with balloons will be held every Sunday in March. Fee: ¥300. Adm.: ¥500 for adults, free for jr. high and under. Online reservations are available. Hours: 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Closed: Monday and Mar. 21 (Fri.) and 25 (Tue.). Address: Atsubetsu-ku, Atsubetsu Chuo 1-5. ●Info: Sapporo Science Center, ☎892-5001 <<https://www.ssc.slp.or.jp/>>



## STV Sunhoseki Fair

**Mar. 20-23**

There will be a fancy fair for girls at Sapporo Factory. The Sunhoseki company has a cute mascot character, **Hoppe-chan**, which is very popular among small kids. Sunhoseki is celebrating the 15th anniversary of Hoppe-chan. There will be accessories, stationaries and toys. Make three Hoppe-chans with silicon for ¥1,800. Date: Mar. 20 (Thu./hol.)–23 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (from 1 p.m. on Mar. 21 Fri.). Venue: Sapporo Factory Atrium (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Higashi 4) ●Info: STV, ☎272-8657 <<https://sapporofactory.jp/>>



## International Market

**Mar. 22**

**The 7th Sapporo International Market**

will be held at Sapporo Community Plaza 1F (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 1) on Mar. 22 (Sat.), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy shopping for handmade products and foods from around the world. Many vendors and visitors participate every year. Check the website to join as a vendor. ●Info: Sapporo International Market <<https://simsapporo.com/>>





# Sapporo City Info

## New Plastic Shopping Bags

Sapporo City has started selling new plastic shopping bags (10L and 20L) printed with Shimaenaga (bird) drawn by a student. You can use them as a plastic shopping bag or a trash bag. Each bag costs ¥20 (10L) and ¥40 (20L). The bags are available at Aeon, Coop, Tokou Store, and Ralse. ●Info: Sapporo City Kankyo Jigyo-bu, ☎211-2928

**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>

### City Government Website

Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean  
<<https://www.city.sapporo.jp/index.html>>



## Japanese Classes

- Manabu (HIWA)** (Kaderu 2.7, 8F Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Nishi 7). Wed. 10:30 a.m.–noon. 1–2:30 p.m. ¥1,000/m
- Welcome House** (Catholic Sapporo Diocesan Center 2F, Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Higashi 6). Tue. Fri. 10:30 a.m.–noon. ¥1,000/m once a week. ¥2,000/m twice a week.
- Mado** (Sapporo International Student Center 2F, Toyohira-ku Toyohira 6-6) Tue. Thu, Sat. 1–3 p.m. Free online lesson.
- SNC** (Sapporo L Plaza 4F, Kita-ku, Kita 8, Nishi 3) Wed. 10–11:30 a.m. ¥300/lesson
- J. Works** (Sapporo L Plaza 4F, Kita-ku, Kita 8, Nishi 3) Sat., 1:30–3 p.m. Once a month. Free
- Sora** (Kaderu 2.7 8F, Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Nishi 7) Tue, Thu. 10 a.m.–noon. ¥1,000/m
- Sakurano-kai**  
40-min. private lesson. ¥1,000 for 4 online lessons.
- Oshaberi Café Lila**  
2nd and 4th Sun. 11–11:40 a.m.  
Free online lesson

### ● List of Volunteers' Japanese Classes

<<https://www.sapporolife.info/en/article/?id=43#id186069e299738>>



# Plaza News

## Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation (SICPF)

### Nihongo de Hanaso! Perapera Wednesday

Date: every Wednesday, 2–3:30 p.m. Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26 (themed talk). SICPF is hosting free chat sessions for foreign nationals who would like to practice speaking Japanese with volunteers. All levels of Japanese learners are welcome. No reservation needed. Adm.: free. Venue: SICPF (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F)



### Elementary School Enrollment Guidebook

A guidebook for foreign parents living in Sapporo is available on the website of Sapporo International Communication Plaza. This guidebook includes information about the Japanese education system, enrollment procedures, things to prepare before entering and so on. It is very informative, especially for parents whose children are entering school for the first time in Japan. It is available in Japanese, English, Simplified Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Mongolian.

●Info: SICPF



### Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation (SICPF)

SICPF provides useful information for foreign residents such as city notices, health and welfare, medical services, events and disaster information through Facebook and the e-mail newsletter. Please follow us and subscribe.

**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. Closed: Sat., Sun. and hol. Extended hours: every Wed. 9:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Fee: free.

●Info: ☎211-3678. Address: Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F.

<<https://www.sapporolife.info/en/article/?id=31>>





# March Events Calendar

Date		Events
1	Sat.	Doll's Festival at Sapporo International Plaza Susukino Night Market
2	Sun.	
3	Mon.	Doll's Festival
4	Tue.	
5	Wed.	Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters Exhibition Games (until Mar. 23)
6	Thu.	
7	Fri.	Mimosa Day Marche
8	Sat.	International Women's Day
9	Sun.	
10	Mon.	
11	Tue.	
12	Wed.	
13	Thu.	
14	Fri.	Sapporo White Illumination Finishes White Day
15	Sat.	Nature Beat Jam (until Mar. 16)

Date		Events
16	Sun.	Rice-Bag Sledding Race
17	Mon.	Deadline of the Final Tax Return
18	Tue.	Kids Planetarium
19	Wed.	
20	Thu.	Vernal Equinox Day STV Sunhoseki Fair (until Mar. 23)
21	Fri.	
22	Sat.	Sapporo International Market
23	Sun.	
24	Mon.	
25	Tue.	
26	Wed.	
27	Thu.	
28	Fri.	
29	Sat.	Gundam Base Annex opens in Chitose
30	Sun.	
31	Mon.	

\*Not all of these events are described in the March issue.

## This Month's Special

### Kimono Rentals and Sales



**Hanaichi Miyakoya** kimono shop has formal and casual kimonos and many kimono accessories for women. Choose your favorite kimono, get dressed, and walk downtown. The kimono rental package includes everything you need. The rental fee is ¥11,000 for one day (10 a.m.–7 p.m.). Just taking pictures in a kimono costs ¥5,500. Size: L and M. Come directly to the shop to make a reservation.

Hours: 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Closed: Wednesday

Address: Chuo-ku, Minami 3, Nishi 1

Premier Tower 3F ☎231-0535

<<https://miyakoya.co.jp/kimono/>>



## HIWA News

### International Meeting for Members

**1st part:** a HIWA member will introduce Mr. Wagner's experience in his place. Mr. Wagner is on the Friendship Force International Board Executive Committee.

**Theme:** Japan as seen by Jon Wagner and his friends.  
First visit to Japan Fukushima, Oita and Sapporo.

**2nd part:** two members will talk about their overseas travel experiences.

**Date:** Mar. 26 (Wed.), 1:30–3 p.m.

**Venue:** Kaderu 2.7, 10F #1070 (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Nishi 7).

**Adm.:** ¥300. No application needed.

●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](mailto:hiwa20230601@gmail.com)>

<<https://kokusajosei.wixsite.com/hiwasince75>>



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