

What's on in Sapporo?



VOL. 591



HOKKAIDO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2024



April Calendar

In Japan, April is the beginning of the fiscal year. There are entrance and initiation ceremonies, and students entering elementary school carry a bag called a *randoseru* to school.

From the end of April, “the Golden Week” holiday period begins. It includes, Showa-no-hi on Apr. 29 (Mon./hol.), which was originally a national holiday to celebrate the birthday of Emperor Showa. Today, this day is considered a day to reflect on the turbulent times of the Showa period. Many people travel during Golden Week. Make plans early!

Sakura: A Symbol of Spring

In many places in Japan, cherry blossoms (sakura), have already been fallen by mid April. But, in Hokkaido, late April to mid May is the best time to see cherry blossoms. They are forecast to start blooming in Sapporo on Apr. 29 (Mon./hol.) and reach full bloom on May. 2 (Thu.), according to Japan Meteorological Corporation. In snowy Hokkaido, the gradations are so beautiful with the change from the snow white to cherry blossom pink and fresh green.

Historical sites often have cherry blossoms. In Sapporo, the former Hokkaido Government Office (Chuo-ku, Kita 3, Nishi 6), the Sapporo Beer Museum (Higashi-ku, Kita 7, Higashi 9), Odori Park (Chuo-ku, Odori Nishi 1 to 12-chome) and Maruyama Park (Chuo-ku, Miyagaoka 3) are famous for viewing cherry blossoms. Walk or cycle slowly while appreciating the cute pink petals. You'll feel the joy of freedom from the long severe winter.

●Info: sakura flowering forecast by Japan Meteorological Corporation
<<https://n-kishou.com/corp/news-contents/sakura/>>



Events

New Capsule Shop

A new capsule toy store has opened at Amuse Park on the 9th floor of Tokyu Department Store in March. The 1,140 capsule vending machines offer a large selection of items from ¥100 to ¥2,000 for a wide range of ages. Check out the Gashapon Capsule Recycling Box. Hours: 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Address: Chuo-ku, Kita 4, Nishi 2. ●Info: Tokyu Department Store <<https://www.tokyu-dept.co.jp/>>



Carp Streamers

Apr. 1- The 38th Jozankei Onsen Keiryu Koinobori will be held from Apr. 1 (Mon.) to May 12 (Sun.). About 400 carp streamers donated by people in Hokkaido “swim” in the sky over the Toyohira River at Jozankei Spa. Enjoy the colorful streamers and hot spring bathing. Access: a 50-min. drive or bus ride from downtown Sapporo. ●Info: Jozankei Kanko Kyokai ☎598-2012 <<https://www.jozankei.jp/>>



Spring Bazaar

Apr. 13 The Sapporo Campus of Hokkaido International School (HIS) will hold its annual spring fundraising bazaar on Apr. 13 (Sat.), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a flea market, musical entertainment, food for sale, games to play, and refreshments. Vendors can participate in the flea market to sell used or new good. To reserve a vendor space, e-mail <pta.sapporo@gmail.com> by Apr. 8 (Mon.). Venue: HIS Gym (4F) and Multi-purpose Room

(ground floor). Address: Toyohira-ku, Hiragishi, 5-jo 19-chome 1-55. Access: a 7-min. walk from Sumikawa Subway Sta. (Namboku Line). ●Info: HIS ☎816-5000 <<https://www.his.ac.jp/>>



Swedish Concert

Apr. 21 Swedish Gypsy band **Tibble Transsibiriska** will hold a live concert and talk event at Swedish Center Foundation in Tobetsu. They specialize in Swedish folk music and create new music by combining traditional Eastern Europe and Balkan music. Date: Apr. 21 (Sun.), 1-2 p.m. Adm.: free. Address: Ishikarigun, Tobetsu-cho Sweden Hills 2329-25. ●Info: Swedish Center Foundation ☎0133-26-2360 <<http://swedishcenter.or.jp/>>



Red Bull 400

May 18 Experience the ultimate test of endurance at the **Red Bull 400 Okurayama**. Race up the steep slope of the Sapporo Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium which has a maximum gradient of 37 degrees. It will be held on May 18 (Sat.). Enter by Apr. 20 (Sat.). Entry fee: ¥8,000 for individuals, ¥5,000 for students, ¥16,000 for 4×100m relay, 10,000 for students. Enjoy a nice view of Sapporo from the finish line. Capacity: 840 people and 205 teams. ●Info: Red Bull 400 <<https://www.redbull.com/jp-ja/events/red-bull-400/>>

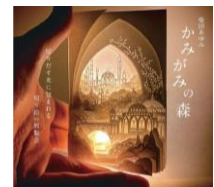


Kamigami-no-Mori

Apr. 27-May 26

Kamigami-no-Mori is a paper cutout exhibition created by Ayumi Shibata, who designs intricate landscapes using layers of white paper. Some of her sculptures are miniature, whereas others are large-scale art installations. All are brought to life with the play of light and shadow. Tickets: ¥1,200 for adults, ¥1,000 for sr. high and univ. students, free for jr. high and under. Date: Apr. 27 (Sat.)–May 26 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed: May 22 (Wed.). Venue: Sapporo Community Plaza SCARTS 1F, 2F (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 1). ●Info: SCARTS ☎271-1955 <<https://www.sapporo-community-plaza.jp/>>

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Hiraoka Ume Trees

Late Apr.-

Japanese apricot flowers will be in full bloom from late April to early May in Hiraoka Park. There are 1,200 apricot trees. The **Ume Festival** will be held in late April (the date hasn't been decided yet). Hundreds of thousands of people visit the park every year. Ume-flavored ice cream and sweets are very popular. Address: Kiyota-ku, Hiraoka-koen 1-1. Access: take JR or Chuo Bus #111 from Shin Sapporo Subway Sta. (Tozai Line) to Hiraoka 6-jo 4-chome. ●Info: Hiraoka Park ☎881-7924 <<https://hiraoka-park/>>





Sapporo City Info

Bicycle Parking Lots

With the redevelopment project around JR Sapporo Station, some bicycle parking lots will be newly established, and others will be relocated from Apr. 1 (Mon.). One of the new bicycle parking lots will be open temporarily in front of the south entrance of JR Sapporo Station. Parking fee: ¥100 for 1 time, ¥1,000 (¥700 for students) for 1 month, ¥6,000 (¥4,200) for the season: Apr. 1 (Mon.) to Nov. 30 (Sat.).

Hours: 6 a.m.–midnight for 1 time.

●Info: Sapporo City

Transportation website.



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 <www.city.sapporo.jp>

Flea Markets

Nakajima Park Jiyu Hiroba (Chuo-ku, Nakajima-koen 1) A 5-min. walk from Horohira-bashi Subway Sta. (Namboku Line)

Apr. 14 (Sun.), 28 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Apr. 21 (Sun.), 27 (Sat.), 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Canceled in case of rain.

Yumeichiba Atsubetsu (Atsubetsu-ku, Atsubetsu Chuo 1-5)

A 2-min. walk from Shin Sapporo Subway Sta. (Tozai Line)

Apr. 21 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Canceled in case of rain

Art Market at Sapporo Art Park, Art Hall (Minami-ku, Geijutsu-no-mori 2-75) A 15-min. bus ride from Makomanai Subway Sta. (Namboku Line)

Apr. 27 (Sat.), 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Antiques at Con Carino (Nishi-ku, Hachiken 1-jo Nishi 1-chome) Directly connected to JR Kotoni Sta. (Hakodate Line)

Adm.: free

Apr. 5 (Fri.), 5–9 p.m.

Apr. 6 (Sat.), 12 noon–9 p.m.

Apr. 7 (Sun.) 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Antiques at Toyohira Shrine (Toyohira-ku, Toyohira 4-13, on Route 36) A 10-min. walk from Toyohira-koen Subway Sta. (Toho Line)

Apr. 28 (Sun.), 9 a.m.–4 p.m.



Plaza News

Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation (SICPF)

Sapporo Life Orientation for Foreign Residents

Date: Apr. 13 (Sat.) 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

SICPF will hold an orientation to provide basic information about life in Sapporo an opportunity to meet people. After the orientation there will be a free tour of the Sapporo Clock Tower guided by SICPF Foreign Language Volunteers. It will be conducted in simple Japanese and English. Adm.: free. Venue: Sapporo International Communication Plaza (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F). Apply from the SICPF website. <<https://plaza.kjpro.ne.jp/?id=105>>



Free Professional Consultation for Foreign Residents

Date: Apr. 20 (Sat.) 1–4 p.m.

The Sapporo Help Desk for Foreign Residents offers free professional consultations for foreign residents. Lawyers, administrative procedure specialists and tax accountants give advice about resident status, legal issues, taxes, and so on. Reservations are required. English and Chinese interpretation available. Telephone interpretation services are also available to support other languages. Online consultations via Zoom are also accepted. Venue: Sapporo International Communication Plaza

<<https://www.sapporolife.info/en/article/?id=31#id8a973e9503c1>>



Sapporo International Communication Plaza

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.

Languages: Simple Japanese, English and Chinese.

Vietnamese is available on Wed. and Fri. (10 a.m.–5 p.m.).

Other languages are also available via telephone interpretation. Free of charge. ●Info: ☎211-3678.

Address: Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F.

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



April Events Calendar

Date	Events
1 Mon.	Jozankei Keiryu Koi Nobori (until May 12)
2 Tue.	
3 Wed.	
4 Thu.	
5 Fri.	Antiques at Con Carino (until Apr. 7)
6 Sat.	
7 Sun.	
8 Mon.	
9 Tue.	
10 Wed.	
11 Thu.	
12 Fri.	
13 Sat.	Life Orientation Detective Connan Exhibition (until May 12)
14 Sun.	
15 Mon.	

Date	Events
16 Tue.	
17 Wed.	
18 Thu.	
19 Fri.	Kimetsu no Yaiba Exhibition (until June 23)
20 Sat.	Free Professional Consultation
21 Sun.	Swedish Center Live Concert
22 Mon.	
23 Tue.	
24 Wed.	
25 Thu.	
26 Fri.	
27 Sat.	Kamigami no Mori Exhibition
28 Sun.	
29 Mon.	Showa no Hi
30 Tue.	

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

This Month's Special



HIWA News

Jyukei Syurou Chinese Restaurant

Don't miss this roomy Szechuan restaurant southwest across the street from Sapporo Factory. Lunch sets (weekdays and weekends) average ¥1,000 for a main dish with salad, soup, pickles, desert and tea/coffee bar. Known for twice-cooked pork and large portions.

Hours: 11 a.m.–3 p.m. 5–10 p.m. Closed: Tuesday
Address: Chuo-ku, Odori Higashi 4-chome. East 4 Sapporo Bldg. 2F. Access: 4-min. walk from Bus Center Mae Subway Sta. Exit 8 (Tozai Line). ●Info: Jukei Shurou, ☎600-6680 <<https://jyukei-syurou.com/>>



“Manabu” Japanese Lesson

Face-to-face Manabu Japanese lessons at Kaderu 2.7, 8F (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Nishi 7) are held every Wednesday.

Hours: 10:30 a.m.–noon, 1–2 :30 p.m.

Fee: ¥1,000/month

Newcomers are required to register beforehand by e-mail.

Contact: Ms. Kuramoto,

<448konzert-peter.mar@ezweb.ne.jp>

●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>

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

<<https://www.facebook.com/HokkaidoIWA/>>



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