

What's on in Sapporo?



VOL. 604



HOKKAIDO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MAY 2025



Odori Park

May Calendar

May has three national holidays. **Constitution Day** (May 3, Sat.) is the celebration of the enactment of the current constitution. **Greenery Day** (May 4, Sun.) is a day to commune with nature to appreciate its benefits and to foster spiritual richness. **Children's Day** (May 5, Mon.) traditionally was a festival for boys, but in 1948 it became a national holiday to celebrate the healthy growth of boys and girls. May 6 (Tue.) is a substitution holiday for Sunday.

On **Mother's Day** (May 11, Sun.), people give their mothers red carnations to show their appreciation.

2025 Sapporo Lilac Festival

The lilac has been popular among Sapporo residents as the city's official tree. At the **2025 Sapporo Lilac Festival**, which will be held at the Odori Site and Kawashimo Site, see the attractions of the lilac and take part in various events, surrounded by sweet-smelling white and purple flowers.

Odori Site (Odori Park 5-7-chome). Date: May 14 (Wed.) to 25 (Sun.). Enjoy music events and tea ceremony (5-chome). Hours: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Taste Hokkaido wine and local gourmet foods at stalls (6 and 7-chome). Hours: 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Kawashimo Site (Shiroishi-ku, Kawashimo 2651-3-gai). Date: May 24 (Sat.) and 25 (Sun.). Join a stamp rally and a quiz rally relating to lilacs. It's a good spot for picnics amidst some 200 varieties of lilacs. Access: take Chuo Bus #24 from Shiroishi Subway Sta. (Tozai Line) to the Kawashimo Koen-mae bus stop.

Adm.: free. ●Info: Sapporo Lilac Matsuri Jikko-iinkai,
☎281-6400 <<https://www.sapporo.travel/lilacfes/>>



Events

Sapporo Ramen Show

May 12-25

At the **Sapporo Ramen Show 2025**, sample ramen from various shops based in Sapporo and Hokkaido and through out Japan. Enjoy Japan's most beloved noodle dish. Date: May 12 (Mon.)–18 (Sun.) and May 20 (Tue.)–25 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–9 p.m. (last order 8:30 p.m.). Adm.: free. Ticket: ¥1,000 per bowl. Venue: Odori Park 8-chome. ●Info: Sapporo Ramen Show Jikko-iinkai, ☎090-3893-3924 <<https://www.ramen-kyokai.jp/sapporo>>



Tulip Festival

May 17-June 1

The Tulips and Lily of the Valley Festival will be held at Takino Suzuran Hillside Park (Minami-ku, Takino 247). Walk through a field of 230,000 colorful tulips and enjoy the scent of lilies of the valley. Date: May 17 (Sat.)–June 1 (Sun.). Adm.: ¥450 for age 15 and over, free for age 14 and under. Access: take Chuo Bus #160 from Makomanai Subway Sta. (Namboku Line) to the Suzuran-koen Higashi-guchi bus stop. ●Info: Takino Hillside Park, ☎592-3333 <<https://www.takinopark.com>>



Jingisukan Festival

May 16-18

The Hokkaido Jingisukan Festival will be held at Sapporo Factory from May 16 (Fri.) to 18 (Sun.). Jingisukan (cooked on a griddle) is soul food of Hokkaido. Enjoy the different tastes of grilled lamb from all over Hokkaido

such as Chitose, Takikawa and Obihiro. Hours: May 16 (Fri.) 11 a.m.–9 p.m. May 17 (Sat.) and 18 (Sun.) 10 a.m.–9 p.m. Venue: Sapporo Factory West Square (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Higashi 4). ●Info: Hokkaido Heritage Jingisukan Support Team, ☎640-7173 <<https://hokkaido-jingisukan.com/>>



Red Bull 400

May 17

The **Red Bull 400** will be held at Mt. Okura Ski Jump Stadium. More than 1,000 participants will race up the steep slope of the ski jump, which has a total length of about 400 meters and a maximum gradient of 37 degrees. The two main categories are full-distance solo for men and women and the co-ed relay (4x100m). Adm.: free. Date: May 17 (Sat.), starts at 9 a.m. Venue: Sapporo Okurayama Ski Jump Stadium (Chuo-ku, Miyanomori 1274). ●Info: Red Bull 400 <<https://www.redbull.com/jp-ja/events/red-bull-400>>



Wisteria Season

Late May

The best time to see wisteria is from late May to early-June. **Tenjinyama Park** has wisteria trees of many varieties. The trees include Hokkaido's oldest, which was planted 200 years ago. Address: Toyohira-ku, Hiragishi 1-jo 18-chome. Access: a 10-min. walk from Sumikawa Subway Sta. (Namboku Line).

Maeda Shinrin Park the observation lounge area has a 320m-long wisteria trellis. Address: Teine-ku, Teine Maeda 591-4. Access: take Chuo Bus #72 from Kita 24-jo Subway Sta.

(Namboku Line) to Shinrin-koen Iriguchi. ●Info: <<https://chihiro-life.style.com/odekake/flower/830/>>



Live Concert in Chitose

June 21

The Soraon 2025 music festival will be held at New Chitose Airport for the first time. Many popular Japanese artists will perform exciting live music. Enjoy live music and a market of Hokkaido food and drinks. Date: June 21 (Sat.), 9:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m. Tickets: ¥6,700 for adults, ¥11,000 for pairs, free for univ. and under. Venue: Japan Aviation College Hokkaido New Chitose Airport Campus (Chitose-shi, Izumisawa 1007-95). ●Info: Soraon 2025 <<https://soraon.jp/>>



Sumo Tournament

Aug. 17-18

The Grand Sumo Tournament will be held at the Sapporo Community Dome (Tsudome) on Aug. 17 (Sun.) and 18 (Mon.). Witness Japan's national sport, as elite *rikishi* (wrestlers) compete in thrilling matches. This is a rare chance to enjoy sumo live in Sapporo. Hours: 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Address: Higashi-ku, Sakae-machi, 885-1. Access: a 15-min. walk from Sakae-machi Subway Sta. (Toho Line). Tickets: ¥5,500–¥18,700 per person. ¥23,100–¥27,500 for pairs. Tickets are available from Doshin Play-guide. ☎0570-00-3871 <<https://doshin-playguide.jp/ticket/detail/223>>





Sapporo City Info

Find Lost Belongings

“find chat” is an app help you find things you left the subway, or streetcar, or at JR Sapporo Station.

How to use: 1. Scan the QR code and add “find chat.” 2. Open the application form on the chat page. 3. Fill in the application or send the photos of your lost items. 4. Receive an answer from the support center. 5. If your lost property is found, you will be notified of the date and time you can collect it. Hours: 8 a.m.–10 p.m. ●Info: Sapporo Transportation Bureau, ☎241-2938. <<https://www.city.sapporo.jp/st/faq/refer.html/>>

Line ID: @st_find



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>>



Markets

- Flea Market at Nakajima Park Jiyu Hiroba**
(Chuo-ku, Nakajima-koen 1)
Date: May 17 (Sat.), 18 (Sun.), 24 (Sat.), 25 (Sun.), 31 (Sat.), 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (until 1 p.m. on 18 and 25)
Cancelled in case of rain.
- Flea Market at Yumeichiba Atsubetsu**
(Atsubetsu-ku, Atsubetsu Chuo 1-5)
Date: May 10 (Sat.), 18 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Cancelled in case of rain.
- Mono Village 2025 at Daiwa House Premist Dome**
(Toyohira-ku, Hitsujigaoka 1)
Date: May 3 (Sat./hol.), 4 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Adm.: ¥700 (advance ¥600), free for elem. and under.
- Sapporo Handmade Marche at Tsudome**
(Higashi-ku, Sakaemachi 885-1) Adm.: free.
Date: May 24 (Sat.), 25 (Sun.), 11 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Antiques at Toyohira Shrine**
(Toyohira-ku, Toyohira 4-13)
Date: May 25 (Sun.), 9 a.m.–4 p.m.



Plaza News

Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation (SICPF)

SICPF Japanese Classes for Beginners Spring Course

Date: May 14 (Wed.)–June 18 (Wed.), every Wednesday. Six sessions.

Hours: 6:30–8:30 p.m. SICPF will hold basic Japanese Classes for Beginners Spring Course. Participants will learn basic Japanese, such as greeting words and hiragana. Application is required. Apply from the SICPF website. Adm.: free. Venue: SICPF (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F)



Nihongo de Hanaso! Perapera Wednesday

Date: every Wednesday, 2–3:30 p.m. May 7, 14, 21, 28 (themed talk). SICPF hosts free sessions for foreign nationals who would like to practice speaking Japanese with volunteers. A themed talk is held during the last session every month. Japanese learners of all levels are welcome.

No reservation needed. Adm.: free.

Venue: SICPF (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F)



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. 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>>



May Events Calendar

| Date | Events |
|---------|---|
| 1 Thu. | |
| 2 Fri. | |
| 3 Sat. | Constitution Day |
| 4 Sun. | Greenery Day |
| 5 Mon. | Children's Day |
| 6 Tue. | Substitute Holiday |
| 7 Wed. | |
| 8 Thu. | |
| 9 Fri. | |
| 10 Sat. | |
| 11 Sun. | Mother's Day |
| 12 Mon. | Sapporo Ramen Show (until May 25) |
| 13 Tue. | |
| 14 Wed. | Sapporo Lilac Festival at Odori Park (until May 25) |
| 15 Thu. | |

| Date | Events |
|---------|---|
| 16 Fri. | Jingisukan Festival (until May 18) |
| 17 Sat. | Red Bull 400 Ikebana Exhibition (until May 18) |
| 18 Sun. | |
| 19 Mon. | |
| 20 Tue. | |
| 21 Wed. | |
| 22 Thu. | |
| 23 Fri. | |
| 24 Sat. | Lilac Festival at Kawashimo Park (until May 25) |
| 25 Sun. | |
| 26 Mon. | |
| 27 Tue. | |
| 28 Wed. | |
| 29 Thu. | |
| 30 Fri. | Sapporo Kimono Asobi (until June 1) |
| 31 Sat. | Mt. Moiwa Day |

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

This Month's Specials

Sapporo 4-chome Place

The 4-chome Plaza (4-pla) has been replaced by Sapporo 4-chome Place (4 PLA). On Apr. 25 (Fri.), three tenants had pre-openings: (1) Tudor Boutique Bolte (watches), (2) Arc'teryx (outdoor gear), and (3) Gong cha (tea café). Other shops and restaurants from B1 to 3F will open this summer. Art by young artists is displayed on each floor.

Hours: 7:30 a.m.–11:30 p.m. Open daily.

Address: Chuo-ku, Minami 1, Nishi 4.

●Info: <<https://4pla-sapporo.com/>>



Ikebana Exhibition

The Ikebana International Sapporo Chapter will hold the 60th Charity Ikebana Exhibition. The charity recipient will be a nonprofit project for children.

Date: May 17 (Sat), 1:30–6 p.m. 18 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Venue: Sapporo Grand Hotel B1, Crystal Hall (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 4). Adm.: free

●Info: Ikebana International Sapporo Chapter

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