

What's on in Sapporo?



VOL. 607

HOKKAIDO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2025



August Calendar

The Yama no hi, (Mountain Day), falls on Aug. 11 (Mon./hol.). It was established in 2016 as a day for residents to familiarize themselves with the mountains and to express gratitude for their bounty.

Obon is a Buddhist event during which the souls of ancestors are said to return. It runs from Aug. 13 (Wed.) to Aug. 16 (Sat.). Many people visit the graves of their ancestors. People also enjoy Bon odori dances during the Obon period. The “o” in Obon is polite way of saying bon.

At the end of this month, students will return to school after their summer break.

Lighting Up the Summer Night

Many fireworks displays can be seen nationwide in summer. Experience the breathtaking night shows and soak up the summer vibes.

The 16th Bankei Summer Festival and Fireworks Festival: 10,000 fireworks are launched. Enjoy musical performances at Bankei Music Festival and local foods at stalls. Date: Aug. 2 (Sat.), 1–9 p.m. Fireworks at 7:45 p.m. Advance tickets: ¥5,000 (adult). Venue: Sapporo Bankei Ski Area (Chuo-ku, Bankei 410). •Info: Sapporo Bankei Ski Area <<https://www.bankei.co.jp/>>

Otaru Takashima Hanabi: 4,000 fireworks are launched, including *yomiage* fireworks, which announce thoughts for the deceased and a hopes for bountiful catches. Don't miss this event, which resumes after a five-year hiatus! Date: Aug. 9 (Sat.), 8 p.m. Tickets: ¥3,000 (adult). A free area is also available. Venue: Otaru City Wholesale Fish Market (Otaru-shi, Takashima 1-chome 2-5). •Info: Otaru Takashima Hanabi jikko-iinkai <<https://takashima-hanabi.com/>>

The 10th Tobetsu Fireworks Festival: 4,000 fireworks are set off. It's the biggest summer event in Tobetsu. Date: Aug. 13 (Wed.), 7:30 p.m. Free. Venue: Aso Park (Ishikari-gun, Tobetsu-cho, Motomachi). Access: a 10-min. walk from JR Tobetsu Sta. •Info: Tobetsu Community Design <<https://tobetsu-jc.com/>>

Events

Summer Festival

Aug. 7-9 The Susukino Festival

will be held from Aug. 7 (Thu.) to 9 (Sat.) at Minami 4-jo to Minami 7-jo 4-chome. Enjoy Oiran-dochu (Processions of Courtesans) at 8 p.m. on Aug. 7 (Thu.).

Aug. 13-16 The Hokkai Bon Dance

is a traditional Japanese dance that has been loved by the locals. Take part in the dancing at Odori 2-chome. Date: Aug. 13 (Wed.)–16 (Sat.), 7–9 p.m. Adm.: free. ●Info: Sapporo Summer Festival Jikko-iinkai, ☎281-6400 <<https://www.sapporo.travel/summerfes/>>



Bundankyo Festival

Aug. 8-10

Enjoy Japanese culture exhibition of ikebana, art, calligraphy and tea ceremony. There will be workshops for ikebana, handcrafts, and calligraphy. Date: Aug. 8 (Fri.)–10 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Venue: SCARTS 1F and 2F at Sapporo Community Plaza (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 1). Adm.: free for the exhibition. ¥600 for the tea ceremony (2F). ●Info: Sapporo Cultural Organization, ☎211-8633 <<https://sap.bundankyo.com/>>



Sweets Garden

Aug. 14-17 The Sweets Garden Sapporo 2025

is a confectionery event where you can enjoy sweets from confectioners based in and around Sapporo. Also on offer: special sweets, gourmet food, drinks and more. It will be held from Aug. 14

(Thu.) to 17 (Sun.) at Akapla (Chuo-ku, Kita 3, Nishi 4) and at the garden in front of the Former Hokkaido Office Building (Chuo-ku, Kita 3, Nishi 6). Hours: 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Adm.: free. ●Info: Sweets Garden Sapporo Jikko-iinkai, ☎213-1720, <https://www.instagram.com/sweets_garden_sapporo/>



Otaru Wine Carnival

Aug. 30-31

After 38 years at SL Square, the Otaru Harvest Festival has been reborn as the Otaru Wine Carnival and will now be held on the lively Miyako-dori Shopping Street (Otaru-shi, Inaho 2-chome). Enjoy local wines and delicious food from shops and food trucks. Date: Aug. 30 (Sat.), 1–8 p.m. and 31 (Sun.), 1–6 p.m. ●Info: Otaru Wine Carnival Jikko-iinkai, ☎0134-34-2181 <<https://www.hokkaidowine.com/otaru-winecarnival/>>



Doshin Yama Hanabi

Aug. 30 Doshin Yama Hanabi

(Sky Art Night Sapporo) will be held at Bankei Ski Area. (Chuo-ku, Bankei 410). Enjoy the combination of drones and about 7,000 fireworks from the mountainside. Date: Aug. 30 (Sat.), 7:30–8:30 p.m. Open: 4 p.m. Tickets: ¥3,850–11,000/person. ¥1,100 for round-trip shuttle bus. ●Info: Doshin Yama Hanabi Jimukyoku, ☎232-1823 <https://moula.jp/LP/doshin_yama_hanabi/>



Hokkaido Marathon

Aug. 31 The Hokkaido Marathon 2025

will be held on Aug. 31 (Sun.). About 20,000 runners will start at Odori 4-chome, pass through Hokkaido University campus at the 40km point and return to Odori Park. Traffic along the course will be restricted from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Make a note if you expect to be driving. ●Info: Hokkaido Marathon-jimu-kyoku, ☎232-0840 <<https://hokkaido-marathon.com/>>



Dinosaur Adventure

Until Nov. 3 Great Dinosaur Park in Satoland

(Higashi-ku, Okadama 582-2) is being held until Nov. 3 (Mon./hol.). The 17 types of moving dinosaurs are set in three areas, each focusing on a different era. Enjoy exploring the 250m walk and experience the facility. Adm.: ¥900 for age 3 and over, ¥700 for Sapporo residents, free for age 2 and under. ●Info: Sapporo Satoland, ☎787-0223, <<https://www.satoland.com/>>



Electric Scooter Rentals

LUUP has launched an electric scooter rental service that they call “electric micromobility sharing.” They started it in Sapporo on July 31 (Thu.). Use a smartphone app to rent and return an electric scooter at “ports” installed downtown. Fee: ¥50 (basic fee), ¥15/min. The fee is free for the first 30 min. until Aug. 9 (Sat.). ●Info: <<https://luup.sc/news/2025-07-07-sapporo/>>





Sapporo City Info

Cooling Shelters



In Sapporo City, certain public facilities such as community centers and libraries are designated as "Cooling Shelters," where people can take refuge from the summer heat for free. These shelters are indicated by the blue and orange sign above. Date: until Sep. 30 (Tue.). •Info: Sapporo City Hall, ☎211-2877.



Akarenga Bldg. Reopening



The Former Hokkaido Government Bldg. (Chuo-ku, Kita 3, Nishi 6) constructed in 1888 has reopened on July 25 after five years of renovations. Visitors can go inside the octagonal tower and step outside onto the balcony to enjoy the view. There is a souvenir shop and a restaurant on the first floor. Adm.: ¥300 for adults, ¥200 for univ. and sr. high, free for jr. high and under. •Info: Akarenga Miraikiko, ☎206-8390 <<https://www.hokkaido-redbrick.jp/>>

**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 Nakajima Park Jiyu Hiroba**
(Chuo-ku, Nakajima-koen 1)
Date: Aug. 3 (Sun.), 9 (Sat.) 16 (Sat.), 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
(until 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 9). Cancelled in case of rain.
- Flea Market at Yumeichiba Atsubetsu**
(Atsubetsu-ku, Atsubetsu Chuo 1-5)
Date: Aug. 24 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Cancelled in case of rain.
- Smile Bouquet at Chi-ka-ho** (underground walkway)
Sales of kimono, handmade accessories, etc.
Date: Aug. 3 (Sun.), 7 (Thu.), 8 (Fri.), 10 (Sun.), 11 (Mon./hol.), 27 (Wed.), 30 (Sat.), 31 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
- Sapporo International Market at Chi-ka-ho**
North Odori Intersection Plaza (East)
A flea market community event
Date: Aug. 9 (Sat.), 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Antiques at Toyohira Shrine**
(Toyohira-ku, Toyohira 4-13)
Date: Aug. 24 (Sun.), 9 a.m.–4 p.m.



Plaza News

Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation (SICPF)

Free Professional Consultation for Foreign Residents

Date: Aug. 9 (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 advise on resident status, legal issues, taxes, and so on. Reservations are required. English and Chinese interpretation available. Telephone interpretation is also available in other languages. Online consultations via Zoom are also accepted. Venue: Sapporo International Communication Plaza (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F)



Nihongo de Hanaso! Perapera Wednesday

Date: every Wednesday, 2–3:30 p.m. Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 (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 Sinhala. 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>>



August Events Calendar

Date		Events
1	Fri.	Satsukita 8.1 Grand Open
2	Sat.	Bankei Summer Festival
3	Sun.	
4	Mon.	
5	Tue.	
6	Wed.	
7	Thu.	Susukino Festival (until Aug. 9)
8	Fri.	Bundankyo Festival (until Aug. 10)
9	Sat.	Otaru Takashima Fireworks
10	Sun.	
11	Mon.	Mountain Day
12	Tue.	
13	Wed.	Tobetsu Fireworks Bon Dance Festival (until Aug. 16)
14	Thu.	Sweets Garden Sapporo (until Aug. 17)
15	Fri.	Rising Sun Rock Festival (until Aug. 16)
Not all of these events are described in the Aug. issue		

Date		Events
16	Sat.	
17	Sun.	Grand Sumo Tournament (until Aug. 18)
18	Mon.	
19	Tue.	
20	Wed.	
21	Thu.	
22	Fri.	
23	Sat.	China Festival (until Aug. 24) Dai Hokkaido Festival (until Aug. 24)
24	Sun.	
25	Mon.	
26	Tue.	
27	Wed.	
28	Thu.	
29	Fri.	
30	Sat.	Otaru Wine Carnival (until Aug. 31) Doshin Yama Hanabi
31	Sun.	Hokkaido Marathon

This Month's Specials

Da Vinci Mall Tsuruha Drug

Da Vinci Mall opened to the east of JR Sapporo Station in March. It has a **Tsuruha Drug** with a counter for cosmetics and nursing care products and a prescription pharmacy on the first floor. Tsuruha N6 Pharmacy is on the second floor and some clinics are on the third floor. Visit the biggest Tsuruha in Hokkaido.

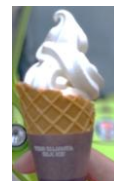
Address: Higashi-ku, Kita 6, Higashi 3. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (drug store). Access: a 10-min. walk from JR Sapporo Sta. ●Info: Tsuruha Drug ☎788-9632 <<https://www.tsuruha.co.jp/davincimall/>>



Seven-Eleven Minami 7-jo Ten

Seven-Eleven has launched a new project to better respond to the needs of the local community. The Minami 7-jo store reopened on July 11 (Fri.) at Minami 7-jo Nishi 11-chome. It stocks 5,300 products including fruit, vegetables, frozen food, camping gears, baby items, toys, and Hokkaido souvenirs. Buy bread, tea, and soft-serve ice cream, all made at the store.

Address: Chuo-ku, Minami 7, Nishi 11. Access: a 10-min. walk from Nishi 11-chome Subway Sta. (Tozai Line). Open 24 hours. ●Info: ☎551-9474 <<https://www.sej.co.jp/var/rev0/0008/8413/125710057.pdf>>



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