

What's on in Sapporo?



VOL. 603



HOKKAIDO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2025



Nakajima Park

April Calendar

A new fiscal year is about to begin. It is a time of changes: entering a school, joining a company, transferring departments, and so on. In Japan, elementary school students start to carry special bags (*randoseru*), when they enter school.

April 29th was the birthday of Emperor Showa. Since his death, it's been a national holiday named Showa-no-Hi (Showa Day). Many people in Japan start their long Golden Week on that day. The number of people traveling both in Japan and abroad increases.

Sakura, a Symbol of Spring

Cherry blossoms refresh us after the long winter. They're forecast to appear around April 24 (Thu.) in Sapporo. Here are recommended viewing spots in Sapporo.

Sapporo Gokoku Shrine (Chuo-ku, Minami 15, Nishi 5): the combination of cherry blossoms and a shrine with about 150 years history is photogenic. •Info: Sapporo Gokoku Shrine, ☎511-5421 <<https://sapporo-gokoku.jp/>>

Tenjinyama Ryokuchi (Toyohira-ku, Hiragishi 1-18): more than 300 cherry trees as well as Japanese apricot and wisteria can be seen blooming here although at different times. •Info: Toyohira-ku Doboku Center, ☎851-1681 <<https://www.sapporo.travel/spot/facility/tenjinyama-park/>>

Asahiyama Memorial Park (Chuo-ku, Sakaigawa 4-chome): about 3,500 cherry trees of Ezoyama-zakura variety stand in this park amidst natural splendor. Enjoy a sweeping view of the city from the observatory. •Info: Rest House, ☎561-6922 <<https://www.sapporo-park.or.jp/asahiyama/>>



Sapporo Cherry Blossoms

Events

Camping Car Festival

Apr. 5-6

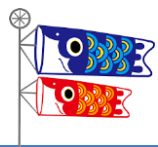
Hokkaido Camping Car Festival will be held on Apr. 5 (Sat.) and 6 (Sun.) at Axes Sapporo (Shiroishi-ku, Ryutsu Center 4-chome, 3-55). Major camper van dealers in Hokkaido will participate in this event. Experience the full range of attractive camper vans. Hours: 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Adm.: ¥1,200 for sr. high and over, free for jr. high and under. ●Info: Hokkaido Camping Car Festival Jikko-iinkai, ☎080-2871-9972 <<https://www.h-camfes.com/>>



Flying Carp Streamers

Apr. 10-May 11

The 39th Jozankei Onsen Keiryu Koinobori (carp streamer) event will be held from Apr. 10 (Thu.) to May 11 (Sun.). About 400 carp streamers swimming in the sky over the Toyohira River at Jozankei spa are very photogenic. Tsukimi Bridge at the heart of the Spa is a great spot to view and take photos of the streamers. Access: a 50-min. drive from downtown Sapporo. ●Info: Jozankei Kanko Kyokai, ☎598-2012 <<https://jozankei.jp/event/koinobori/>>



Spring Festival

Apr. 26

Benizakura Distillery is famous for its craft gin. They will hold a **Spring Festival** to celebrate the 7th anniversary of the Benizakura Distillery on Apr. 26 (Sat.), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Food trucks will sell beer, sake, beef, kebabs and crepes at Benizakura Park. Adm.: ¥500.

Address: (Minami-ku, Sumikawa 389-6). Access: shuttle bus from Makomanai Subway Sta. (Namboku Line) to the park (¥300 one way). ●Info: The 7th Anniversary Festival Jikko-iinkai, ☎211-8215 <<https://www.hlwhisky.co.jp/>>



Dinosaur Lab

Apr. 29-30

Explore the world of dinosaurs at the **Dinosaur Lab – King of Hunters** show. The dynamic performances and the detailed presentation will be fantastic entertainment for both children and adults. Enjoy the Dinosaur Dance together with other audience members. Date: Apr. 29 (Tue./hol.), 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Apr. 30 (Wed.), 10:30 a.m. Venue: Sapporo Cultural Arts Theater, hitaru (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 1). Tickets: ¥5,500 for S seats, ¥4,000 for A seats. ●Info: Sapporo Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd. <<https://kyoryu-labo.com/>>



Plum Festival

Late Apr.

Hiraoka Park (Kiyotaku, Hiraoka-koen, 1-1) is famous for as a plum blossom viewing spot in Sapporo. The plum grove has about 1,200 white and red trees. At the **Plum Festival** from late April to early May, the plum blossoms are in full bloom. Some food stalls will be open. The soft-serve plum ice cream is very popular. Access: take bus from Shin Sapporo Subway Sta. (Tozai Line) to Hiraoka 6-jo 4-chome. ●Info: Hiraoka Kanri-jimusho, ☎881-7924,

<<https://hiraoka-park.jp/>>



Invitation To A Concert

May 11

The 70th Regular Concert of the Sapporo Philharmonic Orchestra will be held at the Sapporo Concert Hall Kitara (Chuo-ku, Nakajima-koen 1-15). Program: **Festival Overture** (D. Shostakovich), **Coppelia** (L. Delibes) and **Symphony No. 1** (Brahms). Conductor: Akira Takai. Fifty pairs of 100 non-Japanese living in Sapporo will be invited to the concert. Scan the QR code below to apply. Date: May 11 (Sun.), 1:30-3:20 p.m. ●Info: Sapporo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Ito ☎080-3237-2595, <<https://sapporo-phil.net/>>



Shiroi Koibito Park

Until May 31

Enjoy spring with many kinds of cherry blossom flavored desserts at the **Shiroi Koibito Ohanami Festival**. Try a parfait, *mochi* (rice cakes), ice cream, drinks, and cakes with chocolate. Cherry blossom afternoon tea set (¥3,500) and dessert plate (¥1,800) are recommended. Date: until May 31 (Sat.), 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Adm.: ¥800 for sr. high and over, ¥400 for age 4-15, free for age 3 and under. Venue: Shiroi Koibito Park (Nishi-ku, Miyanosawa 2-2) ●Info: Shiroi Koibito Park, ☎661-1481 <<https://www.shiroikoibitopark.jp/>>





Sapporo City Info

Sapporo Kosodate Salon

The Kosodate (childcare) Salon is a place where pregnant women and parents with preschool children can gather. Interact with other families and consult the staff about child rearing. The volunteer group SKY of Sapporo International Communication Plaza supports for foreign residents and accompanies them to the salon. The salons are at each ward. Check the details on the website. ●Info: Sapporo-shi Kodomo Mirai-kyoku, <<https://kosodate.city.sapporo.jp/>>



SKY application form →



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: Apr. 19 (Sat.), 27 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Apr. 20 (Sun.), 26 (Sat.), 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Cancelled in case of rain.
- Flea Market at Yumeichiba Atsubetsu**
(Atsubetsu-ku, Atsubetsu Chuo 1-5)
Date: Apr. 20 (Sun.), 29 (Tue./hol.), 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Cancelled in case of rain.
- Spring Bazaar at HIS (Hokkaido International School)**
(Toyohira-ku, Hiragishi 5-19)
Date: Apr. 26 (Sat.), 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Antiques at Con Carino**
(Nishi-ku, Hachiken 1-jo Nishi 1-chome, The Tower Place 1F) Adm.: free.
Date: Apr. 4 (Fri.), 5–9 p.m. Apr. 5 (Sat.), noon–9 p.m.
Apr. 6 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Antiques at Toyohira Shrine**
(Toyohira-ku, Toyohira 4-13)
Date: Apr. 27 (Sun.), 9 a.m.–4 p.m.



Plaza News

Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation (SICPF)

Sapporo Life Orientation for New Residents from Overseas

Date: Apr.12 (Sat.), 11 a.m.–1 p.m. SICPF will hold an orientation to provide basic information about life in Sapporo and opportunity to meet people. After the orientation, there will be time for one-on-one consultation and free talk. It will be conducted both in simple Japanese and English. **Venue:** SICPF (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F)
Adm.: free. Apply from the SICPF website.



Free Professional Consultation for Foreign Residents

Date: Apr. 19 (Sat.) 1–4 p.m. Lawyers, administrative procedure specialist and tax accountants give advice about residence status, legal issues, taxes and so on. Reservations are required. English and Chinese interpretation available. Telephone interpretation services are available to support other languages. **Venue:** SICPF.
Online consultation is possible.



Nihongo de Hanaso! Perapera Wednesday

Date: every Wednesday, 2–3:30 p.m. Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (themed talk). SICPF is hosting 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



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>>



April Events Calendar

Date		Events	Date		Events
1	Tue.		16	Wed.	
2	Wed.		17	Thu.	
3	Thu.		18	Fri.	
4	Fri.		19	Sat.	Demon Slayer Exhibition (until May 11)
5	Sat.	Hokkaido Camping Car Festival (until May 6)	20	Sun.	
6	Sun.		21	Mon.	
7	Mon.		22	Tue.	
8	Tue.		23	Wed.	
9	Wed.		24	Thu.	
10	Thu.	Jozankei Flying Carp Streamers (until May 11)	25	Fri.	
11	Fri.		26	Sat.	Sapporo Collection 2025 Benizakura Distillery Spring Festival
12	Sat.	New, Nizo Yamamoto Exhibition (until June 15)	27	Sun.	
13	Sun.		28	Mon.	
14	Mon.		29	Tue.	Showa Day Dinosaur Lab (until Apr. 30)
15	Tue.		30	Wed.	

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

This Month's Specials

Hokudai Wine Tasting Lab



This facility at Hokkaido University offers a paid tasting experience with Hokkaido wines. Purchase three coins for ¥1,500 with cashless payment only. Select and enjoy 30ml samples from a choice of twelve wines (red and white) and cider. Food service not available.

Address: Kita-ku, Kita 9, Nishi 8, Hokkaido University (next to the Faculty of Agriculture).

Hours: Mon. 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Fri. noon–7 p.m. Sat. and Sun. 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Closed: Tue.–Thu.

●Info: <https://www.instagram.com/wine_center_hokkaido_u/>



New, Nizo Yamamoto Exhibition

Nizo Yamamoto was the art director for many renowned Studio Ghibli animated films, such as **Castle in the Sky**, **Grave of the Fireflies** and **Princess Mononoke**. 220 of his art will be exhibited at Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum until mid-June.

Date: Apr. 12 (Sat.)–June 15 (Sun.) 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Closed: Monday and May 7 (Wed.)

Adm.: ¥1,300 (advance ¥1,100) for adults, ¥800 (¥600) for univ. and sr. high, ¥500 (¥400) for jr. high, free for elem. and under.

Venue: Hokkaido Asahikawa Museum of Modern Art (Asahikawa-shi, Tokiwa-koen).

Access: a 20-min. walk from JR Asahikawa Sta.

●Info: ☎0166-25-2577

<<https://event.hokkaido-np.co.jp/nizo-asahikawa/>>



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