



Obihiro Pioneer

Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section Newsletter

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Animals of Hokkaido

北海道の動物たち

Whether you spend your free time in the town or in the mountains, you most likely have seen all the animals emerging for the summer. The animals of Hokkaido were well understood by the Ainu and had their purposes in their culture. Here are some interesting facts about animals that live in Tokachi!

Ezo Red Fox キタキツネ:【チロンノブ Cironnop】 - Animal that we kill often



As you can guess by the meaning of their Ainu name, these foxes were often hunted, mainly for their fur and bones which were used as protection charms and tools. It was believed that when foxes turned their heads, they sensed humans, so the Ainu hunters had to change their positioning. It was believed that if you saw a fox with something in its mouth, you had to catch it and take that thing. If you didn't, it would take your soul. They live in holes in the ground. They eat small animals, such as mice, while also often eating garbage left by people. They walk in straight lines, as you can tell by their tracks in the winter. They shake their heads to measure distance.

Yezo Sika Deer エゾシカ:【ユク Yuk】 - Deer



The deer were to the Ainu as fish are to people. They were their main source of food. Their fur was used in clothing and traded often. Their horns were used in tool making and their innards as strings for bows. The Ainu were able to preserve their meat through drying.

They live in forests throughout the year and come out especially in the summer. They were almost extinct at one point due to famine, so the government made it illegal to hunt them and they have since returned in number.

Brown Bear ヒグマ:【キムンカムイ Kimunkamuy】 - God of the mountain



Bears were mainly hunted during their hibernation period before spring arrived. Their meat was used for food and their fur in a variety

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of foods and goods, as well as trading. They were revered extremely highly as gods. Baby bears were captured and raised well for 1-2 years, and then sacrificed in a ceremony called "iomante" where their spirit was sent back to the realm of the gods.

Brown bears eat different foods depending on the season. They eat everything from meat to plants, berries, ants, bees, and fish. Since they eat so many types of foods, they sometimes appear in towns and search the trash of local residents, causing safety issues.

Ural Owl エゾフクロウ : 【クンネレカムイ Kunnerekkamuy】 - God who cries at night



In Tokachi, it was revered as a God, although a majority of owls were seen as bad. The Ainu believed that the cries of this bird signaled local bears, and often followed their hoots to find bears to hunt. It is also said that their hoots warned people of bears in the area for protection.

These nocturnal creatures hunt mice at night. They live in Hokkaido throughout the year, but come closer to residential areas in the winter. It's thought that forests in which these owls reside are healthy and safe forests.

Red-Crowned Crane タンチョウ : 【サロルンカムイ Sarorunkamuy】 - God who lives among reeds



Although it was a large bird, it was never hunted or eaten, as it was highly revered by the Ainu. A number of dances were created based on it. It is said that it didn't get along with brown bears.

Their wingspan can reach 2.4 meters and are the largest bird in Japan. They were thought to be extinct until 1894 when only 33 were found to be left in Japan. Since then, they have been protected and now number in the thousands. They were often found in the areas of Honbetsu and upper Obihiro, and can now be found mainly in the swamps of Kushiro, however they have been returning to Tokachi for many years now.

Hokkaido Squirrel エゾリス : 【ニウエオ Niweo】 - Squirrel



They did not have a positive image by the Ainu people. When going out to hunt, they would stop hunting if they saw a squirrel. They were hunted for their meat and their fur was used for trading. It is said that if there is a squirrel near your house that suddenly runs off to the mountain, your house will be destroyed.

These squirrels sometimes appear in Midorigaoka Park in Obihiro. Their numbers increased from 1990, where there were only 5-9 of them. They often eat walnuts and pine nuts, along with local fauna in the park and can also be found in Obihiro Zoo.

Spring Tea Ceremony 2022

森の茶会・春2022

This is for all foreign and Japanese residents of Tokachi to come together and experience one of the oldest parts of Japanese culture. There will be a skilled instructor to serve you and interpreters as well, so you don't need to worry, even if you don't know anything about tea ceremony. Sessions 1-4 are tea ceremony sessions. Sessions 5-6 are special workshops about tea serving etiquette. Don't miss this chance to learn more about Japanese culture at the Tokachi International Relations Center!

Date/Time: June 18, 2022 (Sat), 10:00-14:30



Session	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
Time	10:00-10:20	10:30-10:50	11:00-11:20	11:30-11:50	13:00-13:40	13:50-14:30

Location: TIRC Winter Garden

Participants: Tokachi Foreign Residents (30 people), Obihiro Citizens (6 people, JHS students or older)

Fee: Foreign Residents (Free)

Citizens (¥300/Sessions 1-4, ¥500/Sessions 5-6)

Registration: May 27, 2022—June 17, 2022

Contact: TEL 0155—34—0122

※This event may be changed or cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns



Movies @ Cinema Taiyo, Obihiro

Not all movies are listed. Times and movies are subject to change. To confirm, call or check online at: www.taiyogroup.jp/movie/obihiro			
Title	Genre	Lang	Dates
Detective Conan: The Bride of Halloween <i>Meitantei Konan Harowin no Hanayome</i>	anime/ crime	JP	All month
Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness <i>Dokutā Sutorenji: Maruchibāsu obu Maddonesu</i>	Action	EN	Until 16 th
Top Gun: Maverick <i>Toppu Gan Māverikku</i>	action/ drama	EN	All month
Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero <i>Doragonbōru Sūpā Sūpāhīrō</i>	anime/ action	JP	From 11 th
Fullmetal Alchemist: Final Transmutation <i>Hagane no Renkinjutsushi Kanketsuhen Saigo no Rensei</i>	anime/ action	JP	From 24 th
Broker <i>Beibī Burōkā</i>	drama	KR	From 24 th

Obihiro Nishi 3 Minami 11
Tel: (0155) 20-1525

Dragon Ball Super:
Super Hero

KEY: JP = Japanese voice EN = English voice with Japanese subtitles KR = Korean Voice

Events in Tokachi

Please be aware that these and other events may be affected by COVID-19. To find out if these events are still running, please contact the respective organizers or check out their webpages online.

When	What	Where/Contact
6/11 6/25 (Sat) 16:00-17:30	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table 森の日本語レッスン Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. Fee: Free of charge	
6/18 (Sat) 10:00-14:30	Spring Tea Ceremony 2022 森の茶会・春2022 An event for foreign and Japanese residents of Tokachi to come together and experience one of the oldest parts of Japanese culture. There will be a skilled instructor to serve and teach you, even if you don't know anything about tea ceremony. Sessions 1-4 are tea ceremony only sessions. Sessions 5-6 contain tea serving etiquette lessons. Session 1: 10:00-10:20 Session 2: 10:30-10:50 Session 3: 11:00-11:20 Session 4: 11:30-11:50 Session 5: 13:00-13:40 Session 6: 13:50-14:30 Fee: Foreign residents free, Japanese residents 300 yen/sessions 1-4, 500 yen/sessions 5-6 Participants: Foreign residents (30 people), Local residents (6 people) Registration: 5/27-6/17 by phone Note: This event may be changed or cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns	Tokachi International Relations Center @ Obihiro 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
6/19 (Sun) 11:00-14:00	WESTERN PICNIC IN SAHORO ウェスタン・ピクニック・イン・サホロ Come enjoy an American-style picnic! The atmosphere has been designed to make to recreate the feel of Western America. You can enjoy BBQ and a picnic there. Some events include a country music concert, a line dance experience, Western games including horseshoe toss, shooting and lassoing, a raffle, a food truck, and a flea market. Fee: Free Note: Will happen rain or shine	Karikachi Kogen Park @ Shintoku ウェスタンピクニック実行委員会 090-1645-3424
6/19 (Sun) 16:00-17:00	Kyoto Heian Jingu Shrine Devotion Yoga 2022 SHANTI 京都平安神宮奉納ヨガ 2022 SHANTI 全国LIVE配信in幕別 Give thanks to your body and mind through "devotion yoga", a healthy and holistic yoga approach that relaxes the body and prays for peace. This event helps bring together Tokachi and Makubetsu through a live stream. There will also be a chair yoga event that will take place before the stream. Details can be found at the registration site. Fee: 500 yen/person Participants: Max 15 people Registration: https://forms.gle/Ekbsxj2B3Q5TjqQ9	Kenshōji Temple @ Makubetsu NPO法人VYS YOGI terayoga- hokkaido@vysyogi.com 080-2833-9208

Obihiro Pioneer can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Obihiro University International Center, Obihiro Tourism and Convention Center inside the Obihiro JR Station, Obihiro Public Library, Tokachi Plaza, Cinema Taiyo, Joy English Academy and online at www.city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp (search for "Obihiro Pioneer").

Obihiro Pioneer is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro City Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section for residents of the Tokachi District and related parties. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views or opinions of the Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Contact the Editing Team at:
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