

Safe Driving (安全運転)

If facebook status updates are any indication of the realities of Obihiro/Tokachi, then more than a few people have probably noticed the police cracking down on speeders this summer. No one enjoys getting a ticket. It's expensive, and might result in the loss of driving privileges or worse. This compounded with language differences can make for a very stressful situation.

Here is an overview of the penalties for speeding in Japan.

On Highways:

- 1-15km over—¥9,000 (1 point)
- 16-20km over—¥12,000 (1 point)
- 20-25km over—¥15,000 (2 points)
- 25-30km over—¥18,000 (3 points)
- 30-35km over—¥25,000 (3 points)
- 35-40km over—¥35,000 (3 points)
- Over 40km*—Court assessed fine (usually ¥70,000+) (6 points)
- Over 50km*—Same as above but 12 points!

On Normal Roads:

- 1-15km over—¥9,000 (1 point)
- 16-20km over—¥12,000 (1 point)
- 20-25km over—¥15,000 (2 points)
- 25-30km over—¥18,000 (3 points)
- 30-50km over*—Court assessed fine (usually ¥70,000+) (6 points)
- Over 50km*—Same as above but 12 points!

*Note that you will probably go to jail if you have to go to court for your fine assessment.

6 points results in a loss of your license for 30 days for first offenders, 12 points results in a loss for 90 days for first offenders, and the time periods go up for repeat offenders.

We are also sure that everyone is aware of it, however here in Japan there is a strict anti-drunk driving policy in place, and drinking and driving will result in a 25 point penalty, 2 year loss of license, and severe fines and jail time. Please remember that a taxi cab is cheaper than risking it even after a little bit to drink.

So keep that in mind next time you are driving. It is better to leave a few minutes early and go the speed limit (no matter how frustrating it can be to drive here) and avoid the risk of getting pulled over.

We are also fast approaching the winter season here in Hokkaido. Please remember that you need to have studless winter tires on your car if you are driving around in the winter. Failure to do so could result in your insurance company refusing to cover you if you should happen to get into an accident (regardless of who is at fault). Also remember to lower your speed, you never know where there is black ice. And let's face it the roads here are not exactly cleaned off well in the winter, making for hazardous driving conditions.

So please be safe out on the roads!

皆様、安全運転を心がけましょう。

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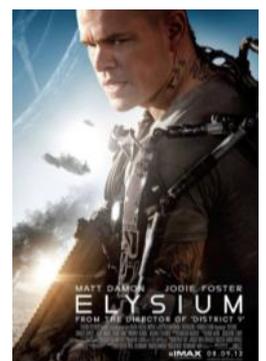
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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro



When	What	Where/Contact
9/7 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	39th International Talk (第39回インターナショナル・トーク): This month's talk will be about Bolivia. Please register by phone or email.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
9/11 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volley Night (国際ミニバレーナイト): Held the 2nd Wednesday of every month. A fun and easy to play sport.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
9/14 (Sat) 10:00-11:30	Kids Playground キッズ・プレイグラウンド Come with your children and learn more about the world while meeting local families. This time, you can learn about Vietnam. You can also join as a volunteer.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
9/22 (Sun) 10:00/10:30/11:00 11:30/13:00/13:50	Autumn Tea Ceremony (森の茶会～秋～): Come and experience the traditional Japanese way of serving tea. Sessions 1-4 is for tea ceremony, and sessions 5-6 is for tea-serving etiquette. Please register by phone or email.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
8/31-9/1 (Sat-Sun)	Honbetsu Kirameki Town Festival 2013 (本別きらめきタウンフェスティバル2013): The biggest event in Honbetsu Town. Features the last fireworks show of the year in Tokachi, character shows, folk performances, and more.	Toshibetsu Riverside Special Event Ground 利別川河川敷特設会場 0156-22-2141
8/31 (Sat) 10:00-21:00 9/1 (Sun) 10:00-16:00	Tokachi Marche (とかちマルシェ): Enjoy local Tokachi cuisine, fresh local produce, and processed foods.	Obihiro Station North Exit Ground 帯広駅北口広場 0155-25-7121
9/1 (Sun) 7:30-	2nd Hokkaido Nature Walking Rally (第2回北海道自然歩道): Enjoy the nature of the Taisetsu National Park in this 2-way 16 km walking rally.	Kamishiro Town Nukabira Gensenkyo 上士幌町ぬかびら源泉郷 01564-2-2111 www.kamishihoro.jp/sp/walking
9/4 (Wed) 10:00-15:00	Shintoku Station Marche (駅前まるしえ): Shintoku local produce and crafts will be sold in front of the Shintoku Station.	JR Shintoku Station JR新得駅前 090-9419-8266
9/8 (Sun)	10th All-Japan Park Golf in Sarabetsu (第10回全日本パークゴルフinさらべつ): Compete with players from all over Japan in this internationally-recognized 54-hole park golf course.	Sarabetsu Village Donguri Park Plum Country Park Golf Course 更別村どんぐり公園 プラムカントリーパークゴルフ場 0155-52-2010
9/14 (Sat) 10:00-15:00	Yotsuba Milk Festa (よつ葉ミルクフェスタ): There will be stage events, games, milk factory tours, food corners, and free milk.	Yotsuba Milk Factory (Otofuke) よつ葉乳業十勝主管工場(音更町) 0155-42-2121
9/14 (Sat)	33rd Yoru Dekake Naito (第33回夜でかけナイト): The Honbetsu Town shopping arcade will be open in the night. There will also be a flea market and prize raffle.	Honbetsu Kita 1 to 4-chome 本別町北1～4丁目商店街 TEL 0156-22-2529
9/14-9/16 (Sat-Mon)	3rd Otofuke Music Festa (第3回おとふけ音楽フェスタ): See artists and bands from all over Hokkaido. There will also be a street food stalls.	Otofuke Town Prospa 6 音更町プロスパ6前 0155-42-2246
9/14 (Sat) 9/21 (Sat) 10:00-	hey@gen.Jam (ヘイゲンジャム): A music festival with musicians from Tokachi and beyond. 1-day ticket 1,500 yen/2-day ticket 2,500 yen.	Kita no Renga, MegaStone, etc. 北のれんが古柏堂、カーストンほか 0155-67-8232
9/15 (Sun) 9:00-14:50	Toyokoro Industry Festival (とよころ産業まつり): Local produce and salmon will be on sale. There will also be shows, games, and salmon-catching.	JA Toyokoro Event Ground JAとよころ多目的広場 01557-4-2216
9/15 (Sun) 10:30-17:00	Excavate the Charm of Tokachi (とかち魅力発掘まつり): There will be a Tokachi quiz, calligraphy performance, character shows, and other fun events for all ages.	Obihiro Horse Race Track 帯広競馬場 0155-65-4169
9/21-9/28 (Sat-Sat)	Sky Café at Memuro Arashiyama (天空カフェ@芽室嵐山): A limited-time café will open at the Arashiyama Observation Deck. Enjoy your teatime with views of Tokachi.	Memuro Arashiyama Observation Deck 嵐山展望台 0155-62-9736

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Chef Hector's Cuisine Corner (ヘクター調理人の料理コーナー)



September is here again to herald the start of the fall school semester and the end of the short Hokkaido summer. The month of September was called Nagatsuki (長月) or "long month" in the traditional Japanese calendar. This is said to be an abbreviation of Yonagatsuki or "long night month", since it is in September that the nights start to get longer than the days. The arrival of autumn also means that it is harvest season, and there will be plenty of fresh local produce to enjoy, with food and harvest festivals happening all over the region. This month, we'll tell you about some of these food events in Tokachi that will surely delight your appetite.

First up is the Tokachi Marché, to be held on the August 31st to September 1st weekend at the north side of JR Obihiro Station. Marché is the French word for "market", and this event is like an open-air market featuring plenty of local Tokachi gourmet and food products. There will also be stage events to enjoy while you savor the local flavors. It will run from 10 AM to 9 PM on Saturday, and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday.

There's also the Downtown Street Festival or



"Hokoten" held every Sunday (until September 15th) at Hirokouji and the street in front of Fujimaru department store. There's a different event lineup every week, with various food, activities, and performances for everyone to enjoy. Don't miss the Hokoten on September 8th, as Obihiro University international students from Afghanistan, Iran, and the Philippines will be there to sell their country's food.

On the September 23rd holiday, there will be the 37th May Queen Festival at Taisho, Obihiro. May Queen is a type of potato that originated in England and is common all over Japan. At this festival, you can enjoy various potato dishes, and a free sample of boiled and buttered May Queen potatoes. For an 800 yen fee, you can also pack a large plastic bag with as much potatoes as you can.

From September 27 to 29, there will be the Tokachi Hokkaido Manpuku Festival, to be held at the Kita Aikoku Community Square in Obihiro. This event is held in conjunction with the Rally Hokkaido round of the Asia Pacific Rally Championship, so you can taste the



various local gourmets of Tokachi and Hokkaido while enjoying the thrill of rally driving.

Finally, there will be the 12th Shintoku Shin-soba Festival on Sunday, September 29th. Shin-soba is soba noodles made from freshly-harvested buckwheat, and is said to be more flavorful than regular soba. In this event, you can enjoy various recipes of soba, try your hand at making soba noodles, and even join a wanko soba eating contest. It will be held at the Nagomi welfare center parking lot from 10 AM to 2:30 PM.

These are just some of the food events you can enjoy in Tokachi this month. There are plenty of other festivals happening around the region, so be sure to check out our list of events.

今月も十勝各地で様々な食イベントやお祭りが開催されます。8月31日～9月1日、帯広駅北口広場で開催される「とかちマルシェ」で、ご当地グルメや十勝の物産が楽しめます。9月8日のオビヒロホコテンでは、外国人留学生が出店しますので、なかなか味わえない世界の料理が楽しめます。9月23日の「帯広大正メークインまつり」では、メークインの詰め放題や試食、ステージイベント等があります。ラリー北海道と同時に開催される「とかち北海道満腹フェスティバル」では、十勝管内・道内のご当地グルメが味わえます。9月29日に新得町で「しんとく新そば祭り」が開催されます。ここで、そば屋台やそば打ち体験、わんこそば大会等が楽しめます。



Movies At Cinema Taiyo, in Obihiro

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

Times and movies are subject to change! (for space reasons not all movies are listed)

To confirm, call or check online at: http://www.taiyogroup.jp/cinema/theater/_obihiro/movie.shtml

Title	Language	Dates
Lone Ranger	English	Ends 20th
World War Z	Japanese 3D English 2D	Ends 20th
Star Trek: Into Darkness	Japanese 3D English 2D	Ends 27th
Man of Steel	English	All Month
White House Down	English	Starts 7th
Elysium	English	Starts 20th

Events (Continued)



When	What	Where/Contact
9/22 (Sun)	38th Hakurin Park Festival (第38回柏林公園まつり): Beef, local produce, and crafts will be on sale. There will also be folk song shows and salmon-catching.	Taiki Town Hakurin Park 大樹町柏林公園 01558-6-2114
9/22 (Sun)	38th Urahoro Hometown Festival (第38回うらほろふるさとのみのりまつり): Local produce will be on sale. There will be the famous rice cake-throwing, salmon-catching, and character shows.	Urahoro Shinrin Park うらほろ森林公園 01557-6-2181
9/23 (Mon) 9:00-14:00	37th Obihiro Taisho May Queen Festival (第37回帯広大正メークインまつり): There will be pack-all-you-can potatoes, free potato tasting, and stage shows.	Taisho Community Square 大正ふれあい広場 0155-64-4591
9/27-9/29 (Fri-Sun)	AP Rally Championship Rally Hokkaido (アジア・パシフィックラリー選手権ラリー北海道): The only international rally event in the country. Rally show starts at 15:45, ceremonial start at 16:45 on the 27th.	Kita Aikoku Community Square, etc. 北愛国交流広場ほか 0155-22-8600
9/27-9/29 (Fri-Sun)	3rd Tokachi Hokkaido Manpuku Festival (第3回とかち北海道満腹フェスティバル): A food festival to accompany the Rally Hokkaido event, featuring local gourmet from Tokachi and Hokkaido.	Kita Aikoku Community Square 北愛国交流広場 0155-22-1370
9/29 (Sun) 10:00-14:30	32nd Shikaoui Hometown Festival (第32回ふるさと産業まつり): Fresh vegetables and Shikaoui beef will be on sale. There will also be a bingo game, character shows, and more.	Michi no Eki Shikaoui 道の駅しかおい特設会場 0156-66-2131
9/29 (Sun)	12th Shintoku Shin-Soba Festival (第12回しんとく新そば祭り): Enjoy shin-soba from freshly harvested ingredients. There will be many food stalls and a soba-eating contest.	Shintoku Nagomi Welfare Center 保健福祉センター「なごみ」 0156-64-0522
9/29 (Sun)	14th Onneto Monogatari (第14回2013オンネトー物語): There will be nature lectures, an amateur concert, and local produce on sale.	Ashoro Onneto Kokusetsu Yaeijo オンネトー国設野営場 0156-25-6131



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.obihiro.hokkaido.jp (click on "Information for Foreigners")

"Obihiro Pioneer" is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro International and Domestic Relations 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 International and Domestic Relations Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Tel (0155) 65-4133 or send e-mail to the Editing Team at international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp.