

Park Golf Tournament (国際親善パークゴルフ大会)



Every year the Obihiro Committee for International Friendship holds a park golf tournament for the foreign residents of the Obihiro and Tokachi area. This year's tournament will be held on 8/23. The event is free for international students and JICA participants, but advanced sign-up is required. If you are interested in joining the event, please contact the Tokachi International Relations Center at 0155-

34-0122, or tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp

We hope that you will be able to join and look forward to seeing you!

「第12回国際親善パークゴルフ大会」を8月23日(土)に帯広の森運動公園パークゴルフ場で開催します。例年同様、帯広畜産大学留学生、JICA研修員のみみなさんにも参加していただきます。このイベントに参加したい方は帯広市国際親善交流市民の会事務局(0155-34-0122 担当:田中)までご連絡下さい。

Bon Odori (盆踊り)

Come join the “Friends of the World” team at this year's Bon Odori, part of the Heigen Festival, in Obihiro on 8/15. We will have a large number of foreign residents on our team, but we can always use more, so if you have questions or are interested in joining, and taking part in Japanese tradition, then please contact the International and Domestic Relations Section at Obihiro City Hall at 0155-65-4133, or the Tokachi International Relations Center at 0155-34-0122. You can also email us at international@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp or tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp. Advanced sign-ups required, so please contact us before 8/8 if you want to join us.



We look forward to seeing everyone at the festival!

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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
8/6 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volley Night (国際ミニバレーナイト): Meet friends from all over the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport!	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
8/16 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	International Potluck Night (ポットラック・ナイト): Bring a dish or drink to share and enjoy food from all over the world. This time, you can try making Ugandan street food called "Rolex".	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
8/23 (Sat) 9:00-14:00	International Park Golf Tournament (国際親善パークゴルフ大会): Come and join local and international residents for a friendly round of park golf. There will also be a barbecue party after the tournament. To register, please contact TIRC.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
8/27 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	Tenipon Meetup (テニポン交流会): Let's play tenipon, a hybrid sport between tennis and pingpong that originated in Hokkaido. Organized by Dandelion.	森の交流館・十勝 Tokachi International Relations Center 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
8/2 (Sat) 15:00-20:30	32nd Otofuke Summer Festival (第32回音更夏まつり): Enjoy food stands, stage shows, a beer garden, and a 1000-shot fireworks show in the evening.	音更町新通会館特設会場 Otofuke Shindoori Kaikan 0155-42-2246
8/2-8/7 (Sat-Thu)	60th Obihiro Hirokoji Tanabata Festival (第60回おびひろ広小路七夕まつり): Enjoy Tanabata decorations, various summer festival stalls and attractions.	帯広広小路アーケード Obihiro Hirokoji Arcade 0155-23-5675
8/3 (Sun)	25th Rekifune River Festival (第25回歴舟川清流まつり): Enjoy games and fun events, and a 30 m pillar of flames and a fireworks show in the evening.	国道236号沿い大樹橋上流河川敷 Taiki Bridge (along Route 236) 0155-86-2114
8/8-8/10 (Fri-Sun)	41st Hokkaido Balloon Festival (第41回北海道ハルーンフェスティバル): Watch hot air balloons race across the blue skies of Tokachi. There will also be food stands and other attractions.	上士幌航空公園 Kamishihoro Aviation Park 0156-42-2111 www.kamishihoro.jp/sp/balloonfestival
8/9-8/16 (Sat-Sun)	9th 3,000-Sunflower Maze (第9回ひまわり3千坪迷路): Enjoy a maze inside a 1.5ha sunflower field. There will also be food stands, pony and tractor riding, and more.	本別町美里別東中 Honbetsu Town Biribetsu Higashinaka 090-3891-4633
8/10 (Sun)	Pyoutan Waterfall Play Day (ピョウタンの滝で遊んDay!): Enjoy river rafting and other activities in this water-themed event.	中札内村札内川園地 Nakasatsunai Satsunai River Park 0155-67-2495 nakasatsunai.blog.fc2.com
8/12 (Tue)	Shikaoi 7,000 Person Bon Dance (しかおい7000人盆踊り): A Bon dance competition with various categories. There will also be food stands.	鹿追中央公園 Shikaoi Central Park 0156-66-3780
8/13 (Wed) 19:30-21:00	64th Kachimai Fireworks (第64回勝毎花火大会): See one of the biggest fireworks shows in Japan, with a fusion of music, light, and 20,000 shots of fireworks.	十勝川河川敷特設会場 Tokachi Riverside Special Event Ground 0155-22-7555
8/14-8/16 (Thu-Sat)	67th Obihiro Heigen Festival (第67回帯広平原まつり): One of the biggest summer events in Tokachi, with a Yumufuruya omikoshi event, a Bon dance competition, Japanese drums, street performances, and more.	帯広市西2条南7丁目～11丁目・広小路 Obihiro West 2 South 7 to 11 and Hirokoji 0155-22-8600
8/24 (Sun) 10:00-14:30	"Bakkan" Straw Bale Festival (麦感祭): Enjoy wheat-based foods, straw bale rolling, tractor riding, and more.	音更町大友農場 Otofuke Town Otomo Farm 0155-67-6305
8/30 (Sat)	25th Doshin Fireworks (第25回道新十勝川花火大会): See various kinds of fireworks in this fireworks show that marks the beginning of the end of the Obihiro summer.	十勝川河川敷特設会場 Tokachi Riverside Special Event Ground 0155-24-2154
8/30-8/31 (Sat-Sun)	27th All-Japan Gateball Tournament (第27回全国ゲートボール大会): An open tournament held in Memuro, the birthplace of gateball. Around 100 teams from all over the country will be joining.	芽室南公園運動広場 Memuro South Park Exercise Plaza 0155-62-9736

Culture & Cuisine Corner (カルチャー&キューイジーヌコーナー)

If you're a fan of travelling, you've probably heard of books or TV programs giving lists of "places to see before you die" or something similar. Do a Google search and you'll surely find countless such lists from all over the world, with places in Japan appearing quite often. With Japan's recent push to open its doors wider to foreign tourists, we thought we should share what Tokachi has to offer. So without further ado, we give you our list of "10 Places to See in Tokachi Before You Die".

<p>1. Ban'ei Horse Racing (ばんえい競馬) - A tour of Obihiro wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Ban'ei Horse Race Track to see the huge and powerful horses pulling heavy sleds across a 200m track with slopes, in an intense horse race unique to Tokachi. Races are held Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays almost all year-round.</p>	
<p>2. Kachimai Fireworks (勝毎花火大会) - One of the biggest fireworks show in Japan, with over 20,000 shots exploded in a spectacular show of lights and music. Held every year on the 13th of August near the Tokachi Ohashi bridge, around 200,000 visitors come from all over Japan. If you're driving to the venue, expect a very slow drive home.</p>	
<p>3. Hokkaido Balloon Festival (北海道バルーンフェスティバル) - This hot air balloon race in Kamishihoro Town is held during the summer and winter. The early morning liftoff of around 30 colorful balloons is an awesome sight to behold from either ground or air. There is also a "balloon glow" event where the balloons are lighted up against the backdrop of night.</p>	
<p>4. Lake Onnetō (オンネトー) - Part of the Akan National Park and located at the east end of Ashoro, this lake is famous for its changing colors depending on the season and weather. On clear days, you can also see the twin peaks of Mt. Oakan and Mt. Meakan reflected on its surface. We recommend a visit in mid-October for its autumn scenery.</p>	
<p>5. Lake Shinonome (東雲湖) - This small lake is located near Lake Shikaribetsu, and has been named as one of Hokkaido's three great mysterious lakes. Inaccessible by road, you can get there by walking 90 minutes through rough terrain or rowing a boat across Shikaribetsu. If you're lucky, you may find rabbit-like animals called pika near its shores.</p>	
<p>6. Fukuhara Sanso (福原山荘) - A famous spot for autumn leaves in the outskirts of Shikaoi Town, this 8.5 hectare garden opens to the public from mid-September to mid-October every year. With around 1,000 maple trees, the place turns a fiery yellow, orange, and scarlet above your head and beneath your feet at the season's peak.</p>	
<p>7. Taushubetsu Bridge (タウシュベツ橋梁) - This concrete bridge in Nukabira Lake used to be part of the now-defunct Shihoro railway. It's been called a phantom bridge because the lake's water level changes with the seasons, and it sometimes goes under completely. The best way to view it is up close during the winter, when the lake freezes over.</p>	
<p>8. Tokachigawa Swan Festival "Sairinka" (彩凜華) - For about a month every year from late January, the Tokachigaoka Park in Otofuke Town becomes the stage for a surreal show of light and sound. Here you can see countless lighted cones of varying sizes change their color to the rhythm of the soothing music and narration in the background.</p>	
<p>9. Sarabetsu Seo Hard Rime (更別村勢雄の霧氷) - Sarabetsu Village is famous for its rare sceneries of rime-covered trees during the winter. In the Seo district of Sarabetsu, at dawn on days when the temperature drops below -20°C, and the wind and humidity is right, you can see magnificent scenes of trees and branches covered in fine white needles.</p>	
<p>10. Lake Shikaribetsu Ice Village (然別湖コタン) - This village made of ice and snow opens every year from late January to the end of March at the frozen Lake Shikaribetsu. There's an open-air onsen, a drink bar, a concert stage, a chapel, and many small igloos of various shapes and sizes. You can also enjoy snowmobiling or ice glass making for a fee.</p>	

Got your own list of must-see sights in Tokachi? We'd love to hear from you. Send your comments to the Obihiro Pioneer team at international@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp, and we'll gladly put your ideas in print.



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
Transcendence	English/Japanese	Ends 7th
Edge of Tomorrow (All You Need is Kill)	2D English	Ends 15th
Maleficent	2D English / 3D Japanese	Ends 29th
Godzilla	2D English / 3D Japanese	All Month
Transformers: Age of Extinction	Undecided	Starts 8th
Ruroni Kenshin: Kyoto Taika-hen	Japanese	All Month

Chinese Corner (中国語コーナー)

7月份大家有没有去富良野看薰衣草呢，我身边的很多中国朋友，在道内的更是不用说，即使是在日本其他地方专门赶来北海道富良野看薰衣草的也有好几位呢。进入8月份大家又安排了什么活动呢？烤肉？露营？钓鱼？这次我想为大家推荐一个好地方，带广市附近的中札内村的PYOUTAN瀑布，距离带广市中心大约开车一小时左右。该瀑布原先是小型水力发电站的水库，因被洪水带来的泥土沙石掩埋而变成了今天的瀑布。名字“PYOUTAN”是根据北海道原住民阿伊努族人的语言“小石子很多的地方”而来。据说瀑布周围的负离子值非常高，大约是我们日常生活环境的200倍。站在瀑布旁边的桥上呼吸着清新的空气，听着来自瀑布的巨大的水声，日常的疲惫也似乎可以得到很大的缓解。瀑布周边是札内川园地和札内川，园地内有网球、公园高尔夫场地，烤肉用的地方，也有为露营准备的场地，此外还可以在河边垂钓。对忙碌于日常生活工作的大家算是个可以放松身心的好去处。

Have you been to Furano to see the lavender fields in July? As far as I know my Chinese friends, not just those living in Hokkaido, but also the people living in other places of Japan, came to Hokkaido to see the lavender fields of Furano. Do you have any plans for August? Barbecue? Camping? Fishing? Then, I will introduce a great place for you—the Pyoutan waterfall, located near Nakasatsunai, a little town near Obihiro. It takes about 1 hour from Obihiro to get there. Originally it was a power dam, but due to a flood it was destroyed and is now a waterfall. The name of the waterfall “Pyoutan” comes from the Ainu language and means “a place with many small pebbles”. The waterfall is high in negative ions, about 200 times the average environment. When you are standing on the bridge near by the waterfall, breathing the fresh air, and hearing the sound of the water, it is very easy to relax. In addition, you can also visit the Satsunai river park and Satsunai river. There you will find tennis courts, a park golf course, a barbecue area, and a place for camping. You can also enjoy fishing. It is a good place to relax and have fun.

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.