

2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympic Games

The summer Olympic Games will be held for the first time in Brazil! This month we have the pleasure of learning a little about Brazil from our very own Brazilian Coordinator for International Relations, Karen Narita!

Olá pessoal!(Hello people/ folks!). It is mid-summer in Obihiro and the Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympic Games is coming up on August 5th! Actually, August is end of “winter” in Brazil but, Rio is a very WARM city so I think people are glad to have the Olympic Games during this season.



Rio de Janeiro is the former capital of Brazil. It is commonly called “Marvelous City” which comes from its historical architecture, botanical gardens and beautiful beaches. It is also the birthplace of many Brazilian personalities such as Tom Jobim (songwriter, singer), Bruno Galiasso (actor), Juliana Paes (actress), Oscar Niemeyer (architect), Machado de Assis (novel author), and many more.



Captain of the Brazilian female rugby team, Paula Ishibashi

Although most Brazilians have never seen snow, it snows in just a few areas in the southern part of the country, but not enough to have a ski resort. While not commonly shown in the media, Brazil also participates in the Winter Olympics! Only 14 Brazilians went to the Sochi, Russia Winter Olympics (alpine skiing, biathlon, bobsleigh, cross country skiing, figure skating, freestyle skiing, snowboarding). Brazil focuses on the Summer Olympics in sailing, judo, volleyball, swimming, and soccer.

The largest Japanese community outside of Japan is found in Brazil! Here are



some of the Japanese Brazilians who will compete in the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games:

- Judo: Felipe Kitadai, Charles Chibana
- Rugby: Paula Ishibashi
- Table tennis: Bruna Takahashi, Caroline Kumahara, Cazu Matsumoto, Gustavo Tsuboi,
- Marathon swimming: Poliana Okimoto

If perhaps you intend to visit the Marvelous City, here are some interesting facts and advice:

#1: Don't expect to receive change from after purchases. Change less than 5 cents, is normally not returned. In fact, if you make a purchase at a restaurant or bakery, they will probably offer you candy/gum instead of your 4 cents change.



2012 Olympic bronze medalist, Felipe Kitadai (Judo)

#2: Buses will not stop for you unless you raise your arm out to the side to signal the bus at the bus stop.

3: If you are discussing something with your friends while out in public (maybe because you got lost or are trying to figure out the time the museum closes), random people on the street will normally just join in your conversation. This is because they are trying to help you out!

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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
8/10 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volleyball Night Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport.	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihoro.hokkaido.jp
8/20 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	International Potluck Night Meet local and international residents while enjoying a dish from another country. This time you can try a dish that the Korean Royal Court dish, called "GungJung Tteokbokki".	
8/27 (Sat) 16:00-19:00	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. Japanese volunteers will be there to help you.	
8/4-7 (Thu-Sun)	62nd Obihiro Hirokoji Tanabata Festival 第62回おびひろ広小路七夕まつり Enjoy Tanabata decorations, various summer festival stalls, Karaoke and attractions.	Obihiro Hirokoji Arcade 帯広広小路アーケード 0155-23-5675
8/5-7 (Fri-Sun)	43rd Hokkaido Balloon Festival 第43回北海道バ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.	Kamishihoro Aviation Park 上士幌航空公園 01564-2-2111 www.kamishihoro.jp/spballoonfestival
8/6 (Sat) 15:00-20:30	Otofuke Society of Commerce and Industry Summer Festival 音更町商工会夏まつり納涼花火大会 Enjoy stage shows, a beer garden, and a 1,000-shot fireworks show in the evening.	Otofuke Town Shindori Kaikan 音更町新通会館特設会場 0155-42-2246
8/6 (Sat) 9:30-20:30	61st Tokachi Harbor Festival «28th Tokachi Harbor Marine Fireworks» 第61回十勝港まつり「第28回十勝港海上花火大会」 Watch the only seaside fireworks show in Tokachi. There will also	Hiroo Town Tokachi Harbor 広尾町十勝港第4埠頭 01558-2-0177 01558-2-2111
8/6 (Sat) 14:00~	Toyokoro Summer Festival 201 2016とよころ夏まつり Enjoy a ranger show, andon lamps, games, and a fireworks show in the evening.	Toyokoro Town Erumukan 豊頃町える夢館駐車場 015-574-2206
8/7 (Sun)	27th Rekifune River Festival 第27回歴舟川清流まつり Enjoy games and fun events, and a 20 m flame tower and a fireworks show in the evening. .	Taiki Bridge (along Route 236) 国道236号沿い大樹橋上流河川敷 01558-6-2114
8/7 (Sun)	Doshin Off-road Race in Rikubetsu All Japan Championship 道新オフロードレースin陸別全日本選手権 Watch custom buggies and ATVs compete in an intense off-road race. Entrance is 1,200 yen for adults.	Rikubetsu Circuit リクベツサーキット 0156-27-2141
8/10-16 (Wed-Tue)	11th 3,000-Sunflower Maze 第11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.	Honbetsu Town Biribetsu Higashinaka 本別町美里別東中 090-3891-4633
8/13 (Sat) 19:30-21:00	66th Kachimai Fireworks 第66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.	Tokachi Riverside Special Event Ground十勝川河川敷特設会場 0155-22-7555

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#4: Avoid using your phone (especially smartphones!) out in public spaces. In Japan it might be considered a good manner, but in Brazil it is in order to prevent any pickpocketing.



#5: Brazilians probably will try to have a conversation with you if they realize you are “gringo” (slang for “foreigner” in Brazil). But also be careful: some – not all - people have malicious intent behind their smile and may try to, for example, get some money from you - as “gringo” is synonymous with being “rich.”

#6: Even without asking, restaurant staff may ask if you would like to have coffee after finishing

your meal. Brazilians usually drink a small cup of coffee (with a lot of sugar in it) after meals, including dinner.

#7: Finally, my personal advice: try the wide range of 100% natural juices in Brazil! Orange, pineapple, cashew, passion fruit, acerola, and cupuaçu make up just some of the juices available. Brazil's natural juice is cheap and makes your day better!



“Cupuaçu” fruits!

The Rio de Janeiro Olympic games are bound to be a hot one! Win or lose, Brazil is worth a visit!

Trivia: Celebrating Spirits Around the World

Although it probably isn't written on your calendar, お盆 *obon* is held for about 3 days, usually around August 15th. This is when Japanese families return to their hometowns to pay respect to those who have passed. There are usually 盆踊り *bon odori* or bon-dancing at summer festivals. Participants dance around in a circle, usually around a shrine or a scaffold in celebration to welcome back the spirits of the passed.

There are many other similar holidays around the world to celebrate the dead. Mexico's “Day of the Dead”



is very famous with their grandiose day of dancing, singing and feasting, all covered in colorful skeletons and masks. The most...unnerving might be the Malagasy people of Madagascar's winter “Famadihana” tradition. Although not a holiday, every 7 years the body is removed from its tomb, wrapped in silk, then carried around the tomb to live music!



At least we all can look forward to dancing in the afterlife!

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
8/14-16 (Sun-Tue) 11:00-22:00	69th Obihiro Heigen Festival 第69回帯広平原まつり One of the biggest summer festivals in Tokachi, with a Yumefuruya omikoshi event, a Bon dance competition, Japanese drums, street performances, and more.	Obihiro West 2 South 7 to 11 and Hirokoji 帯広市西2条南7丁目～11丁目 ・広小路 0155-22-8600
8/14 (Sun) 12:00~	61st Tokachi Harbor Festival 「Furusato Summer Festival」 第61回十勝港まつり「ふるさと夏まつり」 Enjoy many stage events, food stands, and Bon dance competition.	Hiroo Town Hall 広尾町役場前特設会場 (広尾町西3条7丁目) 01558-2-0177, 01558-2-2111
8/14 (Sun)	Churui Furusato Bon Dance 忠類ふるさと盆踊り大会 A Bon dance for everyone with food stands, prize raffle, and mochi throwing.	Churui Fureai Center ふれあいセンター福寿前駐車場 01558-8-2111
8/14 (Sun)	Honbetsu Summer Festival ほんべつ夏まつり「仮装盆踊り大会」 Enjoy a kids Bon dance competition with costumes.	Honbetsu Town Hall Parking Lot 本別町役場前駐車場 0156-22-2529

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
Alice Looking Through the Looking Glass	Subbed/ Dubbed	Until 26th
Independence Day: Resurgence	2D Subbed/3D Dubbed Eng	Until 18th
Finding Dory	Subbed Eng	All month
The Legend of Tarzan	Subbed Eng	Until 26th
Jungle Book	Dubbed	From 11th
The Secret Life of Pets	Dubbed	From 11th

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
8/14 (Sun)	57th Shintoku Summer Festival 第57回ふるさとサマーフェスティバル Enjoy Japanese drums, a Bon dance, mochi throwing, and trout catching.	Shintoku Town Nagomi Welfare Center 保健福祉センターなごみ前駐車場 0156-64-5324
8/15 (Mon)	37th Ikeda Summer Festival 第37回いけだ夏まつり Enjoy Bon dancing with costumes, fireworks, and many attractions.	Ikeda Town, Odori Shopping Street 池田町大通商店街 015-572-2135 Www.tokachi-ikeda.or.jp
8/15 (Mon) 19:15-20:00	37th Ashoro Bon Dance and Fireworks 第37回足寄ふるさと盆踊り両国花火大会 Enjoy a Bon dance with prizes, a prize raffle, and a fireworks show.	Ashoro Chomin Center 足寄町民センター前 0156-25-2141
8/20-8/21 (Sat-Sun)	Shihoro 7,000 Person Festival しほろ7000人のまつり Enjoy Japanese drums, dance performances, a vegetable market, and more.	Shihoro Town Community Square 士幌町コミュニティ広場周辺 01564-5-5212 www.shihoro.jp/tourism/
8/17 (Wed)	Makubetsu Town Bon Dance 幕別町盆踊り大会 Enjoy a Bon dance competition, food stands, and a prize raffle.	Makubetsu Town Hall 幕別町役場前通り 0155-54-2703
8/21 (Sun) 10:00-14:00	"Bakkan" Straw Bale Festival 2016 麦感祭(ばっかんさい)2016 Enjoy wheat-based foods, straw bale rolling, tractor riding, and more.	Otofuke Town Asano Farm 音更町浅野農場の小麦畑 (音更町西中音更地区) 0155-67-6305
8/21 (Sun) 10:00-15:00	Honbetsu Meat Festival 2016 ほんべつ肉まつり2016 Enjoy a barbecue of locally produced beef, stage shows and a prize raffle.	Yoshitsune no Sato Honbetsu Park 義経の里本別公園 090-8271-0262

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")

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