

What's on in Sapporo?



VOL. 600



HOKKAIDO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2025



Yukitoro

January Calendar

New Year's Day is a special day for Japanese. Many people go to shrines for *Hatsumode* to pray for good health in the year ahead. Drawing fortunes is one of the pleasures of *Hatsumode*. There is also a special New Year's Day meal called *osechi*. These meals are packed in special stacked boxes, and each ingredient has its own meaning.

The Coming-of-Age Day holiday falls on Jan. 13 (Mon./hol.). Although the law was amended in 2022 to lower the age of legal adulthood from 20 to 18, celebrations are often held at age 20 as before. You will see women wearing beautiful kimonos for their coming-of-age ceremonies.

Fantasy of Lights

Happy New Year! In Sapporo, after the start of a new year, many snow candle events are held from late January to February. Protect yourself against the cold and feel the fantasy of candlelight.

Yukitoro 2025: snow candles give the shrine a solemn mood.
Date: Jan. 25 (Sat.)–Feb. 1 (Sat.), 6–9 p.m. Adm.: ¥500. Venue: Jozankei Shrine (Minami-ku, Jozankei Onsen Higashi 3). •Info: Jozankei Tourist Association, ☎598-2012 <<https://jozankei.jp/event/yukitouro2025/>>



Sosei River Park Machi no Akari: volunteers will make snow candles and will light up candles. Anyone can join without applying. Snow candle-making: 1 p.m. Lighting: 4:30 p.m. Date: Jan. 25 (Sat.). Adm.: free. Venue: Sosei River Park Tanuki 2-jo Square (Chuo-ku, Minami 3, Higashi 1) •Info: Soseigawa-koen Kanri-jimusho, ☎221-4100 <<https://www.sapporo-park.or.jp/sousei/>>



Yukiakari in Nakajima Park: the park is bathed in the mellow light of snow candles. Hot drinks are available from food trucks. Date: Feb. 8 (Sat.)–9 (Sun.), 4:30–8 p.m. Adm.: free. Venue: Nakajima Park (Chuo-ku, Nakajima-koen 1). •Info: Nakajima-koen Kanri-jimusho, ☎511-3924 <<https://www.sapporo-park.or.jp/nakajima/>>



Events

The First Sunrise

Jan. 1

Watch the first sunrise around 7 a.m. at the top of Mt. Moiwa. The Mt. Moiwa Ropeway (Chuo-ku, Fushimi 5-3-7) will operate from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. (last lift at 9:30 a.m.) on New Year's Day, Jan. 1 (Wed./hol.). Fee: Ropeway round trip ¥1,400 for jr. high and over, ¥700 for elem. and under; Ropeway and Mini Cable Car round trip: ¥2,100 (¥1,050). Closed: Dec. 31 (Tue.). ●Info: Moiwa Sanroku Station, ☎561-8177 <<https://mt-moiwa.jp/>>



Firefighters Events

Jan. 7

A traditional New Year's ceremony called **Dezome Shiki** will be held by the Sapporo Fire Department at Kanamoto Hall (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 1). The ceremony will be held from 10:30 to 11 a.m. The firefighters will perform acrobatics on ladders and the brass band will give a concert from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Date: Jan. 7 (Tue.). Adm.: free. ●Info: Sapporo Fire Department, ☎215-2010, <<https://www.city.sapporo.jp/shobo/event/top1.html>>



Challenge! Sports Park

Jan. 7-8

The **Challenge! Sports Park** event will be held on Jan. 7 (Tue.) and 8 (Wed.) at Daiwa House Premist Dome (Toyohira-ku, Hitsujigaoka 1). There will be a school physical education area, general sports area for baseball and soccer games, a skateboard park, a para-sports area, and

a gourmet area. Special guests will demonstrate skate boarding and BMX riding. Hours: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Adm: free. Bring sports clothes and shoes. ●Info: Challenge! Sports Park Jikko-iinkai, ☎211-3044 <<https://sdome-event.jp/sportspark/>>



Smelt Fishing

Try smelt fishing (wakasagi-tsure) at Barato in Sapporo from January to March. A popular plan with buffet lunch is available on weekends for ¥7,680. Weekday-plan with ¥1,000 dessert voucher for Chaterase Gateaux Kingdom is available for ¥6,480. All packages include round-trip transportation by bus. All fishing equipment is provided. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Date: Jan. 7 (Tue.)–Mar. 23 (Sun.). Hours: 11 a.m.–5:45 p.m. Gathering place and time: JR Sapporo Sta. North Exit at 10:50 a.m. ●Info: Blue Tourism Hokkaido, ☎252-2333 <<http://www.blue-tourism-hokkaido.com/>>



Smile Rink Sapporo

Feb. 1-11

The skating rink **Smile Rink Sapporo** will be open from Feb. 1 (Sat.) to 11 (Tue./hol.) in Odori Park 3-chome. This year the event has been moved from Akapla to Odori Park and will be held in collaboration with the Sapporo Snow Festival. Enjoy skating in the heart of Sapporo. Hours: 10 a.m.–9 p.m. Adm.: ¥3,000 for adults, ¥1,000 for sr. high and under. Sapporo citizens: ¥1,500 for adults, ¥500 for sr. high and under. The

price includes shoe rentals. ●Info: UHB, ☎214-5486 <<https://www.uhb.jp/smilerinksapporo2025/>>



Ski Area Information

Bankei Ski Area, Mt. Teine, and Kokusai Ski Resort have already opened in December. The price of one-day lift passes for this season for each resort has been raised by between ¥600 to ¥1,600. **One-day ticket:** (1) Bankei Ski Area: ¥6,300, or ¥5,100 for Hokkaido residents. (2) Mt. Teine: ¥8,200. (3) Mt. Moiwa: ¥4,100 for 7 hours. (4) Kokusai Ski Resort: ¥5,800. Mt. Moiwa allows snow-boarding only from Mar. 1 (Sat.) to 23 (Sun.). Check the **Surf & Snow** website for details. <https://surfsnow.jp/search/list/spl_area01.php?areacdm=3>



Otaru Snow Light Path

Feb. 8-15

About 200 floating ball candles illuminate the surface of Otaru Canal. The main venues are Otaru Canal (a 10-min. walk from JR Otaru Sta.), the former JR Temiya Line and Otaru Art Base (Otaru-shi, Ironai 1-chome). Stage performances will be held at the Art Base. Access: take train from JR Sapporo Sta. to JR Otaru Sta. on the Hakodate Line (50 min.). Date: Feb. 8 (Sat.)–15 (Sat.), 5–9 p.m. ●Info: Otaru Snow Light Path Jikko-iinkai, ☎0134-32-4111 <<http://yukiakarinomichi.org/>>





Calendar Recycling Market

The 36th Calendar Recycling Market will be held at two places. Proceeds will be donated to Sapporo UNESCO Association and similar organizations.



Venue 1: Kaderu 2.7 (Chuo-ku, Kita 2 Nishi 7). Date: Jan. 11 (Sat.) and 12 (Sun.), 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Venue 2: Sapporo Ekimae-dori Underground Walkway. Date: Jan. 14 (Tue.)–16 (Thu.), noon–8 p.m., 17 (Fri.) noon–5 p.m. Donate any 2025 calendars or planners that you don't need.

Venue: Kaderu 2.7, 1F (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Nishi 7). Date: Jan. 9 (Thu.) and 10 (Fri.) 10 a.m.–4 p.m. ●Info: Sapporo UNESCO Association, ☎251-6670

<<https://unesco-sapporo.com.calendar/>>



Year-end and New Year's Holiday Schedule 2024–2025

Public offices: most city offices are closed for nine days from Dec. 28 (Sat.) to Jan. 5 (Sun.).

Subways: from Dec. 29 (Sun.) to Jan. 3 (Fri.), subways run from 6 a.m. to midnight on a weekend/holiday schedule.

Banks: closed from Dec. 31 (Tue.) to Jan. 5 (Sun.). ATMs at convenience stores are open 24 hrs.

Post Offices: closed from Dec. 31 (Tue.) to Jan. 5 (Sun.). The central post office (Higashi-ku, Kita 6, Higashi 1) is open every day.

Garbage collection: this is suspended from Jan. 1 (Wed./hol.) to Jan. 3 (Fri.). See the garbage collection calendar that is distributed by the city.

Year-end and New Year's Holiday Schedule 2024-2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Dec. 23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Jan. 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

→ Year-end and New Year's holidays



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

<<https://www.city.sapporo.jp>>



Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation (SICPF)

SICPF “Japanese Classes for Beginners” Winter Course

Date: Jan. 11 (Sat.)–Feb. 22 (Sat.), 2–4 p.m., in six sessions on Saturdays. Closed: Feb. 15 (Sat.). SICPF will hold six basic Japanese classes for beginners in winter. Participants will learn basic Japanese, such as greeting words and hiragana characters. Childcare service is available. Application is required. Adm.: free. Venue: Sapporo International Communication Plaza (Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F). Visit the website for details.



Nihongo de Hanaso! Perapera Wednesday

Date: every Wednesday, 2–3:30 p.m. Jan. 8, 15, and 22. Themed talk: Jan. 29 (Wed.). *Closed: Jan. 1 (Wed./hol.). SICPF is hosting free chat sessions for foreign nationals who'd like to practice speaking Japanese with volunteers. No reservation is required. Adm.: free. Venue: Sapporo International Communication Plaza.



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 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., Wed. until 7 p.m. Closed: Sat., Sun., hol., and Dec. 28 (Sat.) to Jan. 5 (Sun.). Languages: Simple Japanese, English, Chinese and Sinhala. Vietnamese is available on Wed. and Fri. (10 a.m.–5 p.m.). Other languages are available via telephone interpretation. Adm.: free. ●Info: ☎211-3678 Address: Chuo-ku, Kita 1, Nishi 3, MN Bldg. 3F.

<<https://www.sapporolife.info/en/article/?id=31>>



2025 January Events Calendar

Date	Event
1 Wed.	New Year's Day
2 Thu.	Tomica Exhibition (until Jan. 5)
3 Fri.	
4 Sat.	
5 Sun.	
6 Mon.	
7 Tue.	Firefighters Performances Challenge! Sports Park (until Jan. 8)
8 Wed.	
9 Thu.	
10 Fri.	
11 Sat.	Fuwa Fuwa Adventure (until Jan. 13) Calendar Recycling Market (until Jan. 16)
12 Sun.	
13 Mon.	Coming-of-Age Day
14 Tue.	
15 Wed.	

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

Date	Event
16 Thu.	
17 Fri.	
18 Sat.	
19 Sun.	
20 Mon.	
21 Tue.	
22 Wed.	
23 Thu.	
24 Fri.	
25 Sat.	Sosei River Park Machi no Akari Yukitoro 2025 (until Feb. 1)
26 Sun.	
27 Mon.	
28 Tue.	
29 Wed.	HIWA International Regular Meeting
30 Thu.	
31 Fri.	



From the Editor

600th Issue



With all our thanks!

We'd like to thank the many readers and the roughly 8,000 followers of our Facebook page. A special thank you to the Sapporo International Communication Plaza Foundation, which has supported our work since 1987. We'd like to give a "sincere thank you" to the native speakers who have helped us correct our English.

We are so happy to see this **600th issue**. The first issue which had hand-drawn illustrations was published in 1975. This monthly newsletter has been published for 50 years without any breaks. We hope we can continue to provide useful information to foreign residents and tourists.



WOIS Facebook



WOIS Instagram



HIWA News

International Regular Meeting

There will be an international regular meeting for members and non-members.

Date: Jan. 29 (Wed.), 1:30-3 p.m.

Speaker: Michiro Kitamura (SICP Foreign Language Volunteer Network)

Theme: "Thai Smile Tourism Nation with Light and Shadow" (in Japanese)

Venue: Kaderu 2.7, 10F #1040 (Chuo-ku, Kita 2, Nishi 7)

Adm: ¥300

Application: e-mail <fwkc9772@nifty.com> by Jan. 23 (Thu.)

●Hokkaido International Women's Association Info:

Sapporo L Plaza 2F Sapporo-shi Shimin Katsudo Support Center, office booth No. 3 (Kita-ku Kita 8, Nishi 3)

☎090-3848-8020 (Monday only, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.)

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<<https://kokusajosei.wixsite.com/hiwasince75>>



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