

Mori no Halloween 2019 森のハロウィーン 2019

The leaves are changing, the sun is setting earlier. It's time for the annual 「Mori no Halloween」 event at the Tokachi International Relations Center!

This year's event will feature the annual costume contest, stamp rally, trick or treating, as well as a haunted house. All activities are free of charge and do not require reservation. As this event is aimed at children 15 and under, we do ask for children aged 10 and under to come with a parent/guardian.

The event will be split into a morning session **10:00-12:30** and an afternoon session **13:30-15:30** to provide volunteer and staff time to prepare and have a



break. Both sessions will have the same activities available.

As one of the center's largest events, it takes many helpers to put on a successful Halloween. We are looking for volunteers to help with preparations as well as for the day of the event. Please contact the Tokachi International Relations Center for more information or if you would like to **volunteer!**

Mori no Halloween 2019

When: October 27th, Sunday 10:00-12:30, 13:30-15:30

Where: Tokachi International Relations Center (TIRC) West 20, South 6, 1-2

Who: For children 15 and under (10 and under must come with a parent/guardian)

Featured Activities: Trick or treating, costume contest, haunted house (for 3 year and older), stamp rally, arts & crafts, and more!

Fee: Free!

Contact: 0155-34-0122 (TIRC Office)



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Events at TIRC and in Tokachi and Obihiro

When	What	Where/Contact
10/9 (Wed) 19:00-21:00	International Mini-Volleyball Night 国際ミニバレー・ナイト Meet new friends from around the world while enjoying a fun and easy sport. TIRC Multi-purpose Hall Fee: Free of charge Organized by the Tokachi International Association	Tokachi International Relations Center 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiko.hokkaido.jp
10/12 (Sat) 16:00-18:00	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table 日本語講座 Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. TIRC Winter Garden Fee: Free of charge Organized by the Tokachi International Association	
10/19 (Sat) 10:00-14:30	Tea Ceremony ~Autumn~ 森の茶会～秋～ Experience traditional Japanese tea ceremony. Eligibility of participants: Foreign citizens residing in Tokachi (first 50 participants for free) Obihiro residents above the age of 13 (limited to 10 participants) 300 yen — Tea ceremony (TC) 500 yen — Tea ceremony with tea-making session (TCM) The time slots for the Autumn Tea Ceremony are as below: 1st session 10:00-10:20 (TC) 2nd session 10:30-10:50 (TC) 3rd session 11:00-11:20 (TC) 4th session 11:30-11:50 (TC) 5th session 13:00-13:40 (TCM) 6th session 13:50-14:30 (TCM)	
10/19 (Sat) 19:00-21:00	International Potluck Night (Ireland) インターナショナルポットラックナイト(アイルランド) Bring a dish or drink (you can make it yourself or buy from a store) to share with everyone and come join us at the International Potluck Night! Enjoy an evening of delicious food and fun conversation while making new friends from all over the world! This time Gavin, a CIR of Obihiro City from Ireland will introduce to us an Irish potato pancake called “Boxty.” Fee: Free of charge (no registration required) Organized by the Committee for Improvement of the City	
10/27 (Sun) 10:00-12:30 13:30-15:30	Mori no Halloween 2019 森のハロウィーン2019 Have fun at our Halloween event with a trick or treat stamp rally, costume contest, coloring, crafts, storytelling, a haunted house and much more! TIRC / Free of charge (no registration required) Children under age of 10 should be accompanied by their guardians. ※ Traffic will be regulated from 8:30 to 12:00 due to the Food Valley Tokachi Marathon happening on the same day. Please check Obihiro City’s homepage for more details. Organized by the City of Obihiro	

New Consumption Tax 10月からの増税・軽減率制度

Starting from October 1st, the consumption tax in Japan will increase from 8% to 10%. In this month's Obihiro Pioneer, we will briefly introduce this new tax increase as well as some of the changes that will go into effect along with it.

In general, most items purchased will be taxed at the increased 10% rate. To help offset the burden of the higher tax rate there will be reduced tax rate system in place for food and drink (pet food not included). Foods and drinks, excluding alcohol and dining out, will be taxed at a reduced 8%. The thought process behind this is that low income individuals will still be able to purchase necessary food/drinks at the same cost as before the 10/1 increase.

Dining out 外食

Sitting and eating in a restaurant will cost you an extra 2%, while if you brought the same food home to eat, it would be taxed



at 8%. A common example used to explain this is if you were to buy a bento at a convenience store. Depending on where you decide to eat the bento, technically, your tax rate would change.

- You plan to bring the bento back to your office to eat → 8%
- You eat the bento in the “eat-in area” of the convenience store → 10%

If you are concerned about being charged the wrong rate, be sure to clearly tell the register staff about where you will be eating your meal.

Non-Alcohol Drinks and Cooking Alcohol

ノンアルコール飲み物 と料理酒



Drinks such as “non-alcoholic beer” and *amazake* 甘酒 contain less than 1% alcohol, so they are not technically considered alcoholic beverages and therefore qualify for the 8% tax rate.

However wines or rice wines used for cooking usually contain around 10% alcohol. No matter the intended use of the alcohol, alcohol will be taxed at the new 10% rate.

Supplements and Energy Drinks

サプリメントと栄養ドリンク

To supplement their diet, many individuals look to powder or drink alternatives, such as protein shakes or vitamin drinks. In these cases, taking a look at the label will tell you which tax rate it will be. For example, a protein shake may be labeled 栄養補助食品. 「食品」 *shokuhin* means “food item,” so this protein shake is charged at 8%. Another example would be a vitamin drink you might drink when you're feeling tired or about to catch a cold. If it is labeled 医薬品 or 医薬部外品 it will be at the higher 10% rate. 「薬」 *kusuri* means “medicine,” meaning that these items are not considered drinks.

While we could not cover all of the tax changes for this October, we hope that this helps you be more aware of your shopping! Please refer to the Japanese Ministry of Finance homepage for more information.

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
Weathering with You	Jpn	Until 24th
Lion King	Jpn Sub/Dub	Until 10th
Ad Astra	TBD	All Month
Joker	Jpn Sub	From 4th
Maleficent 2	Jpn Sub/Dub	From 18th
Gemini Man	Jpn Sub	From 25th

Events Continued

When	What	Where/Contact
10/13 (Sun) 10:00-14:15	64th Iwanai Ravine Maple (<i>momiji</i>) Festival 第64回岩内仙峡もみじまつり Enjoy the harvest of the season under the fall leaves! There will be performances as well as booths selling seasonal goods.	Near Iwanai Ravine 岩内仙峡付近 岩内仙峡まつり実行委員会 0155-22-8600
10/14 (Mon) 10:00-15:00	Hagukumu Fall Festival はぐくむ秋まつり Learn and enjoy Obihiro's forest this autumn. There will be events such as wood chopping and fall theme activities for various ages.	Obihiro Forest Hagukumu 帯広の森はぐくむ 0155-66-6200
10/20 (Sun) 10:00-14:00	Sarabetsu Harvest Festival さらべつ大収穫祭 Let's give thanks for the harvest at this once a year event! Come and taste the locally grown goods. Enjoy a variety of performances and food this fall!	Furusato Hall ふるさと館 さらべつ大収穫祭実行委員会 0155-52-2211
10/31-11/4 (Thu-Mon)	50th Annual Obihiro Chrysanthemum Festival 第50回おびひろ菊まつり Surround yourself in Japan's fall flower, the chrysanthemum. Meticulously grown award-winning chrysanthemum will be on display. Enjoy the fall festivities, including performances, food and more.	Tokachi Plaza とかちプラザ 帯広のまつり推進委員会 0155-22-8600

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.