



Obihiro Pioneer

Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section Newsletter

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Cherry Blossoms in Tokachi

十勝の桜

Happy Spring, pioneers! Hokkaido is notorious for its very sudden change in seasons from winter to spring. Spring is also pretty short, so summer is already around the corner! Spring in Japan is of course symbolized by sakura, the Japanese cherry blossom. It's a symbol of Japan recognized around the world and carries a deep meaning of ephemeralism (check out last year's April Obihiro Pioneer!). Spend the spring days under the cherry blossoms and enjoy the weather!

Tokachi Cherry Blossoms

If you look up cherry blossoms in Hokkaido, most search results will point you to Sapporo and South Hokkaido. The reason for this is that West Hokkaido is where the closest part to mainland Japan is (Hakodate) and was "developed" before the rest of East and North Hokkaido. The first shrines and temples were built in this area, and cherry blossoms were brought over to Hokkaido, since that species of cherry blossom does not exist natively in Hokkaido. Thus, those places have more of a cherry blossom presence even to this day. Over time, Hokkaido became what it is today and cherry blossoms were brought to many parts of Hokkaido. In Tokachi, the cherry blossoms are in full bloom in late April, just in time for Golden Week.



Here is a list of only a few places in Tokachi for you to enjoy the cherry blossoms. The Japanese name is provided for you to help you look it up online. Each place will have a different bloom period due to elevation and climate. Spend your holidays enjoying the beautiful cherry blossoms found in Tokachi



Projected Full Bloom Day in Obihiro: April 26 (tenki.co.jp)

Place	Town	Description	Extra Info
Midorigaoka Park 緑ヶ丘公園	Obihiro 帯広市	Contains about 780 cherry blossom trees, including the variety native to Hokkaido. What was once the world's largest bench is located nearby.	Free entry. Parking is free. Next to a zoo and park golf course
Honbetsu Park 本別公園	Honbetsu 本別町	The park contains over 2000 cherry blossom trees native to Hokkaido! Also contains 16,000 purple tsutsuji trees, showing a beautiful comparison of spring flowers.	Free entry. Open all day long..

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Place	Town	Description	Extra Info
Sakura Rokka Park 桜六花公園	Nakasatsunai 中札内村	2000 cherry trees donated by sweets maker Rokkatei. Features a hill and road covered in trees. There is a festival with food carts when the flowers are in full bloom.	Free entry. Parking is free.
Karikachi Kogen Garden 狩勝高原園地	Shintoku 新得町	Located near Karikachi Pass. There is an old, preserved trainline where you can ride a re-modeled old train. Contains 400 cherry blossom trees and about 1000 plum trees.	Free entry. Parking is free. Train may not be operational.
Otofuke Shrine 音更神社	Otofuke 音更町	Located about 20 minutes drive from Obihiro Station. During cherry blossom season, they sell <i>sakura omamori</i> , charms in the shape of cherry blossoms. You can see flying squirrels.	Free entry. Parking is free.
Hakurin Park 柏林公園	Taiki 大樹町	Located near Taiki Shrine, which also has many cherry blossoms. Taiki shrine sells a rocket-shaped <i>omamori</i> .	Free entry. Parking may be free (unconfirmed).
Tokachi Millennium Forest 十勝千年の森	Shimizu 清水町	You can enjoy a beautiful contrast of snow and pink flowers from here. The garden is divided into different sections where you can enjoy multiple types of plant life.	Entry fee is 1000 yen for high school age and over, and 500 for younger. Open all year. Free parking.
Daimaruyama Forest Park 大丸山森林公園	Hiro'o 広尾町	Same location is Santaland in Hiro'o. During the spring, you can drive up to the top of the mountain, which you can't normally do during the winter Christmas illuminations.	Free entry. Parking may be free (unconfirmed).
Shimizu Park 清水公園	Shimizu 清水町	Located near the IC entrance in Shimizu and the entrance to Nissho Pass. Home to about 300 trees that cover an entire hill.	Free entry. Parking is free.

Word Play: Shiritori

言葉遊び: しりとり

Previously, we learned about the *babibu* language game that is played in Japan. This time, I will introduce what is probably the most well known Japanese language game: *shiritori*. You may have heard of or even played this game if you ever took a Japanese language class, or heard Japanese students playing with each other to kill time, make decisions, and so on! The base rules are simple, however, the finer rules change depending on the individual player's personal rules, so here I will introduce a number of custom rule options to help you come up with your ideal ruleset!



Base Rules

- 1) Players take turns saying a Japanese word. You must say a word that starts with the final Japanese sound that the previous player's word ended with.

Example Chain: しりとり → りす → すがた → たこ → こども → もり
 shi-ri-to-ri ri-su su-ga-ta ta-ko ko-do-mo mo-ri

- 2) If you say a word that ends with the ん n sound, you lose. (Ex. みかん mi-ka-n)
- 3) If you say a word that has already been said, you lose.
- 4) If you can't think of a word, you lose.

Word Play: Shiritori

言葉遊び:しりとり

Specific Rule Ideas—Player Discretion

- 1) Only nouns vs. allowing verbs and adjectives

Many verbs end with る and adjectives with い, so tricky players may bombard the opponent with る verbs and い adjectives to make them run out of words quickly, so limiting the words to nouns is a fair option.

- 2) Words that end with a long sound **a)** have the last letter be the next starting sound, **b)** have the elongated sound ignored, or **c)** the next word must begin with the entire elongated sound

a)

れんしゅう	→	うさぎ
re-n-shu-u		u-sa-gi

b)

がくせい	→	せんせい
ga-ku-se-i		se-n-se-i

c)

ハッピー	→	ピーナツ
ha-p-pi-i		pi-i-na-tsu

- 3) Words that end with a palatalized sound (small ya yu yo) either **a)** use the last letter or **b)** use the entire sound

a)

かいしゃ	→	やきとり
ka-i-shi+ya		ya-ki-ni-ku

b)

ポンチョ	→	チョイス
po-n-cho		cho-i-su

- 4) Words that end with voiced sounds **a)** can drop the voicing or **b)** must maintain the voicing

a)

パンダ	→	たまご
pa-n-da		ta-ma-go

b)

へんじ	→	じんこう
he-n-ji		ji-n-ko-u

Movies @ Cinema Taiyo, Obihiro

Not all movies are listed. Times and movies are subject to change. To confirm, call or check online at: www.taiyogroup.jp/movie/obihiro			
Title	Genre	Lang	Dates
Sing 2 <i>SING/Shingu Nekusuto •Sutēji</i>	anime/ comedy	EN	Until 28 th
Osomatsu San: The Movie <i>Eiga Osomatsu San</i>	anime/ comedy	JP	All month
Morbius <i>Mōbiusu</i>	action	EN	All month
Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore <i>Fantasutikku Bīsuto to Danburudoa no Himitsu</i>	fantasy	EN	From 8 th
Detective Conan: The Bride of Halloween <i>Meitantei Konan Harowin no Hanayome</i>	anime/ mystery	JP	From 15 th
Crayon Shin-chan: Mononoke Ninja Chinpūden <i>Kureyon Shinchan Mononoke Ninja Chinpūden</i>	anime/ comedy	JP	From 23 rd

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Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore

KEY: JP = Japanese voice EN = English voice with Japanese subtitles

Events in Tokachi

Please be aware that these and other events may be affected by COVID-19. To find out if these events are still running, please contact the respective organizers or check out their webpages online.

When	What	Where/Contact
4/9 4/23 (Sat) 16:00-17:30	Japanese Conversation and Learning Table 森の日本語レッスン Improve your Japanese language skills in a friendly environment. Fee: Free of charge	Tokachi International Relations Center @ Obihiro 森の交流館・十勝 0155-34-0122 tirc@city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp
4/17 (Sun) 10:00	Makubetsu Shakuhachi Troupe Performance 幕別尺八の会発表会～尺八に親しもう！～ Listen to and enjoy the sounds of the traditional and iconic Japanese wind instrument, the shakuhachi. Members of the Makubetsu Shakuhachi Troupe will play a number of famous songs, including Tsuki no Sabaku and Sakura Gensokyoku. Fee: Free of Charge Note: COVID-19 countermeasures will be enforced, including masks	Makubetsu Centennial Hall @ Makubetsu 幕別町百年記念ホール 0155-56-8600
4/22 (Fri) 19:30-20:30	Adult Puppet Theater—Neko Yo Banashi おとなのための人形劇 くわえ・ぱぺっとステージ「猫夜囃」 Take part in an evening full of cute and lively, yet creepy and scary stories in this puppet theater performance full of adult humor. In this performance, a cat spends the evening telling riveting stories to a cat he catches. Don't miss out on this unique experience! Fee: 2000 yen/adult, 1000 yen/students, additional 500 yen at the door Participants: Max 60 people	Play On Tokachi @ Obihiro 子どもと文化の広場 ぷれ いおん・とかち 0155-36-0560 info@play-on-tokachi.net
4/24 (Sun) 11:00-12:00 14:00-12:00	Spring Puppet Theater—The Ugly Duckling ぷれいおん春のお楽しみシアター『みにくいあひるのこ』 Enjoy a children's puppet show performed using puppets by Play-On Puppet Stage from Kyoto. This time, the performance will tell various plays from Andersen's Fables, including the Ugly Duckling. Tickets can be bought in advance from Fujimaru, 7th floor in Obihiro. Fee: 1500 yen/adult, 1000 yen/students and below, 500 yen at the door Participants: Max 90 per showing	(Same as above row)

Obihiro Pioneer can be found online at www.city.obihiro.hokkaido.jp (search for "Obihiro Pioneer"). Physical copies of Obihiro Pioneer can be found at the following locations: Obihiro City Hall, Tokachi International Relations Center, Joy English Academy and

Obihiro Pioneer is a newsletter published monthly by the Obihiro City Tourism and Goodwill Exchange 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 Tourism and Goodwill Exchange Section or the City of Obihiro. Questions? Contact the Editing Team at:

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