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## Go see the cherry blossoms in full bloom



Winter is over and spring is coming. It was a very warm winter.

It's getting warmer and I want to do something for a change.











March is the season when cherry blossoms begin to bloom. I want to take along a lunch and go see the cherry blossoms.



I know famous cherry blossom areas in Utsunomiya. I'll tell you about them, and you can choose where you would like to go.

### ■ ■ ■ Famous Cherry Blossom Areas in Utsunomiya ■ ■ ■

You can find information on famous cherry blossom areas (where you can see beautiful cherry blossoms) on the city's website. 7 of the 17 areas are mentioned below.

Cherry blossoms along the Tagawa River	Weeping cherry trees are lined up along the Tagawa River starting from the Miyano-hash bridge in front of JR Utsunomiya Station.	
Row of cherry trees on the Shinkawa River	Cherry blossom trees are lined up along the Shinkawa River from Nishihara to Shinmachi for about 600m. Many people take a walk while looking up at light pink cherry blossoms.	
Equinox cherry trees at Jikoji-temple  Lights up at night	This is a natural monument of the city and is famous for having the cherry tree that blooms first in Utsunomiya. It is called "Akamon Sakura." It is about 200m north of Utsunomiya International Association.	
Equinox cherry tree at Shounji Temple	This is a weeping cherry tree about 300 years old, which was planted at the beginning of the Edo period, and is a natural monument of the prefecture. It blooms in full every year at the temple east of the Central Police Station.	
Koshi-zakura at Shiroyama West Elementary School  Koshi-zakura Festival: First Sat & Sun in April	This is a 400-year-old weeping cherry tree, and a natural monument of the city. In the past, before a sick father died, he said, "I want to see cherry blossoms." His son prayed with great vigor to god out of respect for his father, and the tale says that cherry blossoms bloomed, thus it is called "Koshi-zakura."	
Cherry Blossoms at Hachiman-yama Park	About 830 cherry trees are planted in the park in the center of the city. In early April, many people come to see cherry blossoms.	
Cherry blossom trees on Nikko Kaido	Cherry trees are planted for about 16km to Nikko City. This has been selected as one of the "Top 100 Cherry Blossom Spots in Japan." About 1,500 cherry blossoms bloom at the same time, forming a cherry blossom tunnel.	



## Owner name changing for motorcycles & light vehicles

When the owner or user of a motorcycle or light vehicle, etc. changes, it is necessary to conduct procedures to change the owner's name (change of owner and user's name).

### If you do not change the name, the following could occur:

- ▽ The previous owner is taxed.
- ▽ You cannot get a Vehicle Inspection Certificate
- ▽ When a motorcycle or light vehicle is stolen, the previous owner is contacted.



### —Procedures and deadlines:

If you become the owner, please change the name within 15 days from that day.

If you are no longer the owner, change the name within 30 days from that date.

If the owner dies, change the name as soon as possible.



Car model	What to bring	Contact Information
<b>Motor bicycle</b> Motorcycles and mini cars under 125cc  <b>Small special vehicles</b> Tractors, combine harvesters, etc.	<b>Registration:</b> Stamp of registrant, sale/transfer/waste vehicle certificate, etc. <b>Scraping of car:</b> Number plate (300 yen if you don't have it)	Tax Division (City Hall 2F, C7 window) ☎ 028-632-2205 Of a district citizen's center or branch office
<b>Light vehicle</b> Light vehicle with four or three wheels	Please contact the organization on the right	Tochigi Office at Light Motor Vehicle Inspection Association (1 Nishikawada-honcho) ☎050-3816-3107
<b>Two-wheeled light vehicle</b> 125cc - 250cc motorcycles <b>Two-wheeled mini car</b> Motorcycles 250cc and more	Please contact the organization on the right	Tochigi Transportation Branch at Kanto District Transport Bureau (1 Yachiyo) ☎050-5540-2019

## Try using a rental bicycle

You can rent a bicycle (rental bicycle) at the following eight bicycle parking lots (where bicycles can be parked). The charge for using a bicycle with electric assist is 100 yen as well. Please try one.

▽Time to rent: 8:00AM - 9:00PM

Return on the day you borrowed

▽Where to rent or return a bicycle:

- ① JR Utsunomiya Station West Gate, bicycle parking lot
- ② JR Utsunomiya Station East Gate, bicycle parking lot No.1
- ③ JR Utsunomiya Station East Gate, bicycle parking lot No.2
- ④ Chuo 1 chome bicycle parking lot
- ⑤ Chuo Elementary School north bicycle parking lot

⑥ JR Tsuruta Station bicycle parking lot

⑦ JR Suzumenomiya East Gate, bicycle parking lot

⑧ JR Okamoto West Gate, bicycle parking lot  
 ※You can return to any of the eight bicycle parking lots.

▽Persons who can use: Junior high school students and older

▽Usage fee: 100 yen per time a day

▽Please look at the city website for more information.

<https://www.city.utsunomiya.tochigi.jp/kurashi/kotsu/jitensha/1006123.html>



## UCIA Bus Tour 🎵



- 🕒 March 29 (Sun) 8:00AM - 6:00PM
- 😊
  - Enjoy spring at Ashikaga Gakko and Ashikaga Flower Park 🎵
  - Enjoy shopping at Sano Premium Outlet!
- ✂️ Please come with comfortable shoes
- ¥ General: 3,500 yen UCIA members: 3,000 yen  
 Exchange students, trainees, elementary school students: 2,500 yen  
 \*Travel insurance, bus fee, Ashikaga Gakko and Flower Park admission, lunch fee included
- Sign up Please bring the participation fee with you to the UCIA Office
- Limit First 35 people to sign up
- ☎ Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA) 028-616-1870



## African Music Concert 🎵

- 🕒 May 2 (Sat) (it has been postponed from 24<sup>th</sup> March)  
1:30PM - 3:15PM (Opens at 1:00PM)
- 😊 Get to know Africa through African music 🎵
- ¥ Free
- Limit 300 people
- Sign up Please call, FAX, or send an email to the UCIA with the following information:  
 Event title, name, telephone number, number of people
- @ Parti Tochigi Danjo Kyodo Sankaku Center Hall (4-1 Nozawa-machi)
- ☎ Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA) TEL: 028-616-1870  
FAX: 028-616-1871
- ✉ ucia@ucia.or.jp



In order to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus infection, we will not hold an international exchange salon in March. Other events may change in the future. Please check with Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA) 028-616-1870 when you participate.

## Starting April 2020

## 日本語教室 Japanese Classes

Learn Japanese together with other people.

Venue	Day	Time	Level & target	Cost
Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP) (5F Utsunomiya Omotesando Square, 4-1-1 Baba-dori)	Sunday	10:00AM-12:00PM ※Must sign up	N1 - N4 (JLPT Japanese class)	1 month 2,000 yen
		10:00AM-12:00PM	JHS & HS students	1 month 1,000 yen
	Monday	1:30PM - 3:30PM	Beginner - advanced	
	Tuesday	1:30PM - 3:30PM ※Must sign up	Advanced	
	Wednesday	10:00AM-12:00PM	Beginner - Intermediate	
		1:30PM-3:30PM		
	Saturday	1:30PM-3:30PM		
Sugatagawa Chiku Shimin Center (805-1 Nishikawata-machi)	Tuesday	10:00AM-12:00PM		
		6:30PM-8:30PM		
Sogo Fukushi Center (1-1-5 Chuo)	Thursday	6:00PM-8:00PM		
Kita Shogai Gakushu Center (3-12-25 Wakakusa)	Saturday	6:30PM-8:30PM		

Sign up/inquiries: Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA) ☎ 028-616-1870 ✉ [ucia@ucia.or.jp](mailto:ucia@ucia.or.jp)

## Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP)

## Consultation for Foreign Residents

※This info is valid until 31 March 2020 and will change from April

		Spanish Portuguese	Chinese	Thai	English
UIP ☎028-616-1564	3:00PM - 6:00PM	Mon	Tues	Wed	Fri
		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (appointment needed)			
City Hall ☎028-632-2834 (during office hours)	9:00AM - 12:00PM	Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	—	—
	2:00PM - 5:00PM	Thurs	—	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs
Administrative Scrivener ☎028-616-1564	3:00PM - 5:00PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month (appointment needed)			

## Interpreter Volunteer Service

Volunteer goes with someone needing language assistance to such places as national and prefectural facilities and the city hall, and interpret for them

- ▶ Monday – Sunday 8:30AM – 7:00PM
- ▶ 1 time (2 hours) 2,000 yen
- ▶ Please fill our application form at UIP, pay the fee, and submit the application.

“Oh-i!” is published in easy Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Thai, and Vietnamese is also available on the UCIA website.

<http://www.ucia.or.jp>

There, you can enjoy reading past issues of the “Oh-i!” too.