Oh-i!

英語

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Cool Places in Utsunomiya

Utsunomiya has many cool places where you can enjoy the hot summer. Here are some recommended spots listed on the Utsunomiya Convention & Visitors Bureau’s website.

Oya History Museum

There are the remains of the Oya stone quarry, which covered an area of approximately 20,000 square meters and reached a depth of 30 meters. With an average annual temperature of 8°C, and even in summer it’s only 13°C, it’s a good idea to bring a light jacket. Film shoots, plays, and concerts are held inside the quarry, which is reminiscent of an ancient Roman temple.

Oya History Museum’s official website ⇒

Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts

In addition to modern and contemporary artworks from Japan, primarily from Tochigi Prefecture, and Western Europe, approximately 9,000 items, including prints, illustrated books, photographs, and crafts, are displayed.

Utsunomiya Tourism Navi Tochigi Prefectural Museum of Fine Arts’ website ⇒

Utsunomiya Museum of Art

It is in the Utsunomiya Cultural Forest Park *(Utsunomiya Bunka no Mori Koen)*. Art and design works from Japan and abroad are on display there, and events such as nature observation sessions and forest concerts are also held.

Utsunomiya Museum of Art’s official website ⇒

Panasonic Utsunomiya Factory

You can tour and experience “manufacturing.” You can also observe the repair and refurbishment processes for household appliances such as televisions and washing machines. Initiatives aimed at promoting resource-efficient manufacturing are also showcased.

Panasonic Utsunomiya Factory tour website ⇒

Roadside Station Utsunomiya Romantic Village

Spanning a vast 46-hectare site, it features a natural hot spring, a heated pool, and lodging accommodations. Visitors can also try farming and enjoy playing in the forest.

Roadside Station Utsunomiya Romantic Village’s official website ⇒

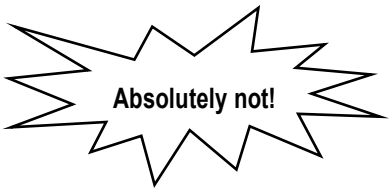
Utsunomiya Zoo

The pool opened in July 2026. Visitors can enjoy not only the zoo but also the pool and amusement park. You can get up close to the animals, and feeding large animals such as giraffes and elephants is a popular activity.

Utsunomiya Zoo’s official website ⇒

Life Information

Drug Abuse is “Absolutely Forbidden!”



▼What Is Drug Abuse?

It refers to the use of dangerous drugs that are not permitted by law (such as illegal drugs like stimulants, cocaine, and marijuana, as well as dangerous drugs like marijuana gummies).

▼The number of young people using marijuana is increasing.

Among illegal drugs, the number of people arrested for marijuana (those subjected to police investigation) exceeded 6,800 nationwide last year domestically. Of these, 70 percent or more were young people in their 20s or younger, and the number of junior high and high school students in particular is rising, posing a major problem.

▼What symptoms occur when you use marijuana?

- Dizziness, unsteadiness, a heightened mood
- Irritability and anxiety
- Loss of concentration
- Symptoms such as hallucinations and delusions
- Inability to think clearly
- Lack of motivation to do anything, etc.

▼If someone offers you marijuana or gives it to you...

① Say clearly, “I don’t want it!” *(“Iranai”)*
② Walk or run away from there!
③ Contact a counseling service or the police.
※Be careful, as there are also foods containing marijuana, such as marijuana gummies.

▼Contact a counseling service.

If you’ve been offered drugs or have seen someone abusing drugs, please seek counseling.

- General Affairs Division, Public Health Center *(Hokenjo Soumu-ka)* ☎028-626-1104
- Tochigi Prefectural Drug Abuse Counseling Service (Prefectural Pharmaceutical & Public Health Division) *(Tochigi-ken Yakubutsu Ranyo Soudan (Ken Iyaku & Seikatsu Eisei-ka))* ☎028-623-3779
- Tochigi Prefectural Police Headquarters *(Tochigi-ken Keisatsu Honbu)* ☎028-621-0110

【Inquiries】General Affairs Division, Public Health Center *(Hokenjo Soumu-ka)* ☎028-626-1104

◆Daily Life Orientation Videos Information◆

The Immigration Services Agency has created “Life Orientation Videos” which provide essential information on how to live and work with peace of mind in Japan, as well as important details about the rules of daily life here.
Click on a language to watch the videos for free in 17 different languages.
Please be sure to check them out!

Watch video here →

Fun events ♫♪

International Exchange Salon ♪

🕘 August 22 (Sat) 4:00PM - 6:00PM

Every 4th Saturday

☺ An opportunity to enjoy interacting with people from various countries.

Cost Free

@ Utsunomiya International Plaza (4-1-1 Baba-dori)

☎ 028-616-1563

Animation Film Showing

🕘 August 23 (Sun) ①10:30AM ②2:00PM

☺ *"Ojarumaru the Movie: The Promised Sumr - Ojaru and Semira"*

Cost Free

Limit First 50 people

Sign up N/A

@ Admission ticket distribution starts 30 minutes before the film
East Library *(Higashi Toshokan)*
Audio Visual Library *(Shichokaku Library)*
(3-5-1 Nakaimaizumi)

☎ 028-638-5704

Summer Vacation Homework Support "Learn About Global Warming & Eco-Friendly Practices"

🕘 August 19 (Wed) 10:00AM - 3:00PM

☺ Learn about global warming and eco-friendly practices while having fun

Cost Free

Sign up N/A

@ South Library *(Minami Toshokan)*
(56-1 Suzumenomiya-cho)

☎ 028-653-7609

Downtown Hanging Basket Event

🕘 September 5 (Sat) 9:30AM - 12:00PM

☺ Make hanging baskets and display them in the downtown area

For Persons residing in or commuting to Utsunomiya City

Limit First 50 people

Sign up By August 21 by phone

@ Orion Square (On Orion-dori Street)
Landscape and Greenery Division

☎ *(Keikan Midori-ka)* 028-632-2885

Miya Sunset Jazz ♪

🕘 August 22 (Sat) 4:20PM - 6:50PM

☺ A live jazz concert will be held to fill this town with music♪

Cost Free

Sign up N/A

@ Orion Square (On Orian-dori Street)
Utsunomiya Jazz Town Committee
(Utsunomiya Jazz no Machi Iinkai)

☎ 028-632-2456

Exciting Cross-Cultural Understanding Seminar Nepal Edition

🕘 August 29 (Sat) 1:30PM - 3:30PM

☺ Discover the "real Nepal" through the cross-cultural understanding game "Learning Renuka!"

Cost Free

Limit 30 people

Sign up By phone or sign-up form ⇒

@ Tochigi International Association
(Tochigi-ken Kokusai Kouryou Kyoukai)
(9-14 Honcho)

☎ 028-621-0777

Interview

Wei of Taiwan

We asked Wei of Taiwan about why he came to Japan, his hometown of Taichung, Taiwanese semiconductors, similarities with Japan, his job, and what he likes about Japan.

Nihao! (“Hello” in Taiwanese Mandarin)

UCIA: Wei, when did you come to Japan?
Wei: I came in 2019. I had been studying Japanese while I was a university student, and since I wanted to study it further, I did some research and found that a professor in the Faculty of Agriculture at Kyoto University would accept me as a master’s student. I conducted research on hydroponic cultivation.

UCIA: What kind of place is Taichung, your hometown?
Wei: It is the third-largest city in Taiwan. It is famous as the birthplace of bubble milk tea. It was created at Chun Shui Tang Café and became popular overseas around the year 2000. It’s a city with plenty of all-you-can-eat barbecue and pizza restaurants.

UCIA: Why do you think Taiwan has become a major player in the semiconductor industry?
Wei: I believe this is because Morris Chang, founder of TSMC (a semiconductor manufacturing company), foresaw the potential of the semiconductor industry and, through Taiwan’s strategic initiatives, established research institutes and other facilities, thereby growing the company into an international enterprise. In recent years, the company has established a subsidiary in Kumamoto Prefecture.

UCIA: Are there any similarities between Japan and Taiwan?
Wei: They’re similar in that people often eat rice and noodle. They’re also similar in that there are many convenience stores. In Taiwan, Seven-Eleven is called “Xiao 7.”

UCIA: How is working in Japan going for you?
Wei: I work in product development at a snack food company. Since we’re one of the top companies in this industry, we’re very particular about quality. It makes me happy when I see a product I’ve worked on in stores.

UCIA: What do you like about Japan?
Wei: When I’m given a warning, it is done so indirectly, so I appreciate that kind of consideration. I really love Japan’s nature and scenery. The autumn leaves turned red on Mt. Nantai and the night view from Mt. Rokkō in Kobe are magnificent. In the future I’d like to travel to the prefectures I haven’t visited yet.

UCIA: Wei, xièxie! (Thank you!)

Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP) Services

General consultation in various languages

		Spanish	Portuguese	Vietnamese	Chinese	Thai	English
UIP ☎028-616-1564	3:00PM – 6:00PM	Mon	1st & 3rd Mon		Tues	Wed	Fri
		4th Sun (by appointment only)					
City Hall ☎028-632-2834 (Business hours only)	9:00AM - 12:00PM	Thurs		—	—	—	Thurs
	2:00PM - 5:00PM	Thurs		2nd Thurs	3rd Thurs	1st Thurs	—

Clipart provision: Saya Kaneko, Yurika Usui, Natsuki Nemoto

UCIA’s official LINE account

We send out information on fun exchange events and everyday life information. Please register as a “Friend” to use it as an information gathering tool.

“Oh-i!” is available in easy Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Thai, and Vietnamese. You can also read it on the Utsunomiya International Exchange Association’s (UCIA’s) website at https://www.ucia.or.jp