



Culture Pot MITO

By our newsletter "Culture Pot MITO,"
we provide useful Information for foreign residents living in Mito.
It is our goal to build a happy and safe community for every citizen
with a different nationality, culture and language.

Contents

- **Events**
- **Information**
 - **Vehicle Tax / Light Vehicle Tax**
 - **Residence Card**
 - **Garbage Collection Rules**
 - **Japanese Language Classes**
- **Places to go in Mito**
- **Taste of Japanese lunch-box**



▼ Photo:
Japanese Cultural Workshop
-Ume Dyeing-

Petit Japanese



Japanese with ^{sakura}桜 (Cherry Blossoms)



● Spring is the season for ^{sakura}桜 (cherry blossoms). Here are some Japanese words that are written with "^{sakura}桜 (cherry blossoms)".

- ^{sakurasaku}桜咲く = Successful completion of an examination, etc.
- ^{sakurachiru}桜散る = Failure to pass an examination, etc.



● Here are some foods with "^{sakura}桜 (cherry blossoms)" on them.

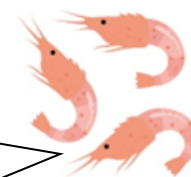
sakuramochi
桜もち



sakuracha
桜茶
sakurayu
(桜湯)



sakuraebi
桜えび
(pink shrimp)



You can view Culture Pot MITO on your smartphone or tablet.

【Online version】 <https://mitoic.or.jp/en/archive/culture.html>



Events



Flower festivities are blooming everywhere this spring in Mito!

● Mito Ume Festival *Ume : Plum Blossom By Mar 17th (Sun)

There are 3,000 plum trees in Kairakuen. During the Ume Festival, you can see beautiful plum blossoms. Various events are also held.

Event Information: <https://mitokoumon.com/festival/ume.html>

Cafe 「raku樂」 is located in Kairakuen's Kobun-tei. They serve sweets in Masu bowls, green tea, coffee, etc. Lake Senba can be seen clearly from here.

Cafe 「raku樂」: <https://r.goope.jp/caferaku/>



● Mito Cherry Blossom Festival Early to middle of April

Where Senba koen Mito-shi Senba-cho Gokoku jinja Mito-shi Migawa 千波公園(水戸市 千波町), 護国神社(水戸市 見川),
Ibarakiprefecturaloffice Mito-shi Kasahara-cho Rokujizouji Mito-shi Rokutanda-cho 茨城県庁(水戸市 笠原町)、六地藏寺(水戸市 六反田町) etc...

Inquiry : <https://mitokoumon.com/festival/sakura.html>



● 国営ひたち海浜公園 Kokuei Hitachi Kaihin Koen Hitachinaka-shi Mawatari Aza Onuma (ひたちなか市 馬渡字大沼 605-4)

You can enjoy seasonal flowers at the National Hitachi Seaside Park.

Daffodils: Early March to mid-April, Tulips: mid-April to the end of April,

Nemophila: mid-April to early May

Inquiry : <https://hitachikaihin.jp/>



● Kasama Azalea Festival Kasama-shi Kasama (笠間市 笠間 616-7)

Many kinds of azaleas can be seen from mid-April to early May.

Various events are also held.

Inquiry : <https://www.kasama-kankou.jp/page/dir000126.html>



● Kasama Pottery Festival Hi-Matsuri “陶炎祭” April 29th (Mon)- May 5th (sun) (tentative)

Where Kasama geijyutsu no morikouen Kasama-shi Kasama 笠間 芸術の森公園(笠間市 笠間 2345)

You can see and buy the works of various potters.

Inquiry : <https://www.himatsuri.net/>



Residence Card

This card is issued to foreign nationals residing in Japan who have been granted resident status. Foreign nationals who plan to stay more than three months are referred to as “**mid-to long-term residents.**”

Any **mid- to long-term resident** who holds a Residence Card will need to notify the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau (入管^{Nyukan}) Mito Branch Office (in the case of issues numbered 1-5) or City Hall (in the case of 6) if any of the life changes listed below occur:

1. Change of name, date of birth, gender, nationality or region

- **When:** Within **14 days** of the change
- **What to bring:** Your passport, photo and residence card



2. Your Residence Card is about to expire or has expired.

- **Who:** **a)** Permanent resident or **b)** Anyone turning 16 years old. At age 16, residence cards expire on ones birth date (1day before birth date from Nov.2023).
- **When:** **a)** Apply two months before the expiration date.
b) Apply six months before the expiration date.
- **What to bring:** Your passport, photo and residence card

You can also apply online: <https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/guide/onlineshinsei.html>

3. Your residence card is lost, stolen, severely damaged.

- **When:** Within **14 days** from the incident
- **What to bring:** Your passport, photo, and damaged residence card.

If the card was lost or stolen, obtain and bring a certificate of Lost Property issued by the Police.

4. In the event of your employer/organization (employer or educational institution) has changed its name/location, or has gone bankrupt, you quit such organization (termination of contract), or have transferred to a different organization (new contract).

- **Who:** Residents with employment status titles, such as “Engineer,” “Specialist in Humanities/International Services,” “Skilled Labor,” “Researcher,” “Instructor,” or those with learning status, “Student” or “Trainee”
- **When:** Within **14 days** from the change
- **What to bring:** The official notification form, and your residence card

5. You are no longer with your spouse because of divorce or death.

- **Who:** Resident status, such as “Dependent”, “Designated Activities”, “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, or “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident”
- **When:** Within **14 days** from the change of circumstance
- **What to bring:** The official notification form, and your residence card

※ If situation 4 or 5 applies to you, you may notify authorities of the incident or change by sending mail or an email of the notification form and a photocopy of your residence card to the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau.

For details, please visit: https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/newimmiact_4_point.html

Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau

Mito Branch Office

Address Mito-shi kitami cho 水戸市 北見町1-1 Mitohomusogochosha kai 水戸法務総合庁舎 1階 TEL 029-300-3601

Monday to Friday (except holidays), Business hours 9am - 4pm.

6. You moved to Mito City ⇒ Mito City Hall Citizens Division

- **When:** Within **14 days** from the change of address
- **What to bring:** Your residence card



Vehicle Tax / Light Vehicle Tax

In Japan, the vehicle / light vehicle tax is imposed on all persons who own a car or a motorbike as of April 1st. “Persons who own a car or a motorbike” here refers to either the OWNER (shoyu-sha 所有者) or the USER (shiyu-sha 使用者) of the vehicle that he/she actually drives. If you have received a tax notice (nozei-tsuchisho 納税通知書), usually issued early May, it means you are registered as an owner /user of the vehicle and are liable to pay the tax. Please pay the tax, using this notice, at a nearby financial institution, convenience store, etc. **Payment is due by May 31 every year.**

NOTE Missing the deadline will result in paying overdue charges!



The tax notice contains both a bill and a receipt. The certificate (receipt), issued in return for tax payment, is required at the time of car inspection. It should be kept for another year. As for the vehicle tax, if you have made a full payment for the whole year but dispose of your car in the middle of the year, the tax paid to cover the remaining months will be reimbursed.



Make sure to submit a car disposal notification*.

*Notification can be made for either temporary deregistration or permanent deregistration.

You can do it yourself, but we recommend to ask a dealer.

Vehicle tax (jidousha-zei 自動車税)

Applies to cars with white license plate, trucks.

TEL 029-221-6768 / Prefectural Tax office kenzei-jimusho 県税事務所 (in Japanese only)

Light vehicle tax (keijidosha-zei 軽自動車税)

Applies to cars with yellow license plate, motorbike.

TEL 029-232-9138 / City hall shiminzei-ka 市民税課 (in Japanese only)



Garbage Collection Rules



Garbage trucks collect your household garbage regularly. The pick-up day and place are fixed depending on where you live. Please make sure from the city office or your neighbor to find the correct pick-up day and place.

Please take out the garbage by 8:00am.

Please sort and discard your garbage as below.

Category	Classification	How to discard	How often	Where	
Combustible	Combustible waste	Designated yellow bag or sticker	Twice/week	Pick-up spot	
Non-burnable	Non-burnable waste	Designated light blue bag or sticker	Twice/month		
Recyclable A	Paper	Newspaper			Bundle with string
		Cardboard			
		Other kinds of paper			
		Cartons			
	Fabrics				
	Bottles/Cans				
Recyclable B	PET bottles	Transparent/ Semitransparent bag	Four times/ Month		
	White styroform trays				
Plastic	Plastic containers and packaging, including those with colors				
Small electric appliances	Mobile phone, Camera, etc.	Recycling box		Base spot※	
Hazardous	Batteries	Transparent/ Semitransparent bag	Twice/ month	Pick-up spot	
	Fluorescent tubes, Bulbs, Clinical thermometers				
	Spray cans, Gas lighters, Gas cartridges				
Bulk	Bulky wastes	Make an appointment for pick-up			

※ Located at City Hall, supermarkets, Civic Centers, etc. in the city

Mito City is promoting recycling waste to produce more resources!!



er.

Garbage to be additionally sorted out for recycling

White flat styrofoam trays: White colored trays on which meat, fish or vegetables are placed for sale. Colored food trays or those with color patterns are excluded.

Plastic containers/packaging: Containers or packaging,

identifiable with the plastic marking on the right.

<Plastic marking>



For example, bowls/cups for instant noodle, grocery bags containing candies, etc., colored trays or those with patterns, containers for tofu or mushrooms, Natto, bottles or refill bags for detergent or shampoo, wrapping films, Styrofoam, and more.

Garbage sorted => Take to a designated spot

Recyclable garbage:

- 1 Paper: ①Newspaper, ②Cardboard, ③Other kinds of paper, ④Cartons
 - Sort into the four groups as above, and tie each crosswise with a string.
 - 2 Fabric: Cloth / Clothes made of cotton, silk, hemp or chemical fiber
 - Tie all together crosswise with a string.
 - 3 Glass bottles / Cans:
 - 4 PET bottles:
 - 5 White plastic trays:
 - 6 Plastic containers and packaging:
 - 7 Small electric appliances: Cellphone, digital / video camera, IC recorder, etc.
 - Put only those that can go through an opening (15×30 cm) in Recycling Box.
- } • Place wastes, rinsed and dried, in a transparent or semitransparent bag.

Burnable garbage:

Food scraps, paper trash, futon mats
leather items, etc.

- Put in Yellow Bag or
- Affix Yellow Ticket



Non-burnable garbage:

China, cutlery, umbrella, broken glass,
cosmetic bottles, etc.

- Put in Light Blue Bag or
- Affix Light Blue Ticket



- ※ Garbage collection bags and garbage disposal tickets designated by Mito City can be purchased at supermarkets or convenience stores within the city.
- ※ Garbage that is too large to fit in the designated trash bag must bear the disposal ticket.

Hazardous garbage

- 1 Batteries including button cells,
 - 2 Florescent tubes, thermometer containing mercury, etc.,
 - 3 Spray cans, gas lighters, gas cartridges, etc.,
- Sort garbage into three groups as above and place each in a transparent or semitransparent bag.



Bulk garbage → Make an appointment for curbside pick-up

Bulk garbage: Large or heavy wastes such as furniture, tatami mats, ovens, etc.

- ① Call (☎029-350-8101) to fix the pick-up date and obtain your request number.
- ② Purchase “Bulk Waste Disposal Ticket.” (¥500/ticket)
- ③ Affix the ticket on a readily visible surface, with the number and your name.
- ④ Place out at the curb by 8:00am on the appointed day.



Disposal charges vary depending on weight.

※ You may take your bulk waste to the incineration plant “Ecomit.”

Address: Shimoirino-cho 2100, Mito City

☎029-297-6760

Hours open: 8:30am-12:00pm, 1:00pm-5:00pm, Fee: ¥130/10kg

Garbage not collected by City → Make a special arrangement

- 1 Four items of household appliances: ① Air conditioners, ② TVs, ③ Refrigerators / Freezers, ④ Washing machines / Clothes dryers
- 2 Personal computers
 - When discarding the five specified items listed above, contact electric shops that handle these items or the manufacturer of your used appliance. Special steps must be taken in accordance with Home Appliance Recycling Law.
- 3 Waste items in bulk, generated from house removal, etc.
 - When discarding items in quantity, carry them by yourself to the incineration plant, or ask private refuse disposal service or your moving company in case of relocation.

For details, please see “Separation and Disposal of Garbage”

available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Tagalog, and Vietnamese at:

<https://www.city.mito.lg.jp/site/gomi/1774.html>

Inquiry: Garbage Reduction Section ☎029-232-9114 (in Japanese only)

Japanese Language Classes

At the Mito International Center, various Japanese language classes for foreigners are held by different volunteer groups.

Day	Name of Group	Class Levels
Tue	Orbis	Beginners, Intermediate, Conversation, Hiragana, Kanji
Wed	Friendly Neighbor	Beginners, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate
	MESA Friendship	Kanji, Hiragana, Katakana, Simple Daily Conversation
Thu	Sophia	Beginners, Beginners' Intermediate
	Nihongo no Heya*(Night Class)	Conversation, Supplementary Study for School
Fri	MESA Friendship	Beginners, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate
Sat	L'avenir	Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced

Time: 10am – 12pm (2 hours) Fee per class: ¥100–¥300

***Night Class(Thu): 4pm~5:30pm(for elementary, junior high and high school students), 6:30-8pm(for adults)**

- No reservation is necessary, but please inform us of your first visit in advance.
- Classes are held in Japanese based on a nationally accredited teaching method.
- There are several volunteer teachers in each class (1 to 3 students per teacher).
- You can join the class whenever you wish, and as many classes as you wish—on a particular day or even every day!



• Spring Schedule •

3月 MAR.

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					①	②
3	4	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨
10	11	⑫	⑬	⑭	⑮	⑯
17	18	⑰	⑳	㉑	㉒	㉓
24	25	26	27	㉘	29	30
31						

4月 APR.

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	④	⑤	⑥
7	8	⑨	⑩	⑪	⑫	⑬
14	15	⑯	⑰	⑱	⑲	⑳
21	22	㉓	㉔	㉕	㉖	㉗
28	29	30				

5月 MAY

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	⑦	⑧	⑨	⑩	⑪
12	13	⑭	⑮	⑯	⑰	⑱
19	20	㉑	㉒	㉓	㉔	㉕
26	27	㉘	㉙	㉚	㉛	

Class open (Mar 21,28: Night class only)

The yearly holiday schedule is found on the Mito International Association website.

Recommended Famous or Rare Spots in

There are many interesting places or facilities in Mito. Some are famous, some are not but very attractive.

<Parks where families can enjoy>

Mito City Botanical Park ^{Kobuki-cho} (小吹町504)

There are greenhouses and gardens where you can observe various types of plants.

Nanatsudo Park ^{Shimo-Kunii-cho} (下国井町2243)

British Garden in rich nature. You can take a walk on the promenade around the pond enjoying the seasonal scenery.



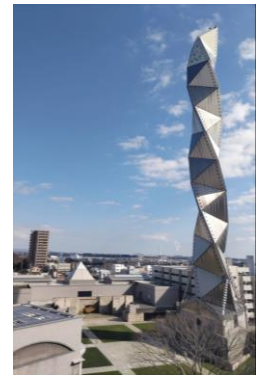
Shinrin Koen(Forest Park) ^{Abokke-cho} (木葉下町588-1)

There are park with huge dinosaur models and playground equipment like slides, a farm where you can interact with goats and rabbits and a cheese shop called "Chevre-Kan".

<You can discover Art!>

Art Tower Mito ^{Gokencho} (五軒町1-6-8)

A facility consisting of a concert hall, theater, and contemporary art gallery. You can also go up to the tower and look out over the city from the top.



Statues of Legendary Lion ^{Daiku-machi} (①大工町 Crossing ^{San-no-maru} ②三の丸3-15)

Works by Cai Guo-Qiang, famous Chinese artist.

They were placed in two locations in the city according to "Feng Shui*" principles.

① Located on the premises of a gas station.

② Located next to the Suigun Line railway, near the Naka River.



*Traditional Chinese thought in which considers the flow of "Qi(cosmic current)" and direction building the city.

<Great Persons from Mito>

Komon-san Oshaberi Park ^{Minami-machi} (南町3)

There is a talking statue of "Mito-Komon(the nickname of Tokugawa Mitsukuni(1628-1701), second Mito feudal lord)".

When you press the button on the box besides, the statue will speak.
(Only in Japanese.)



Statue of 常陸山 ^{Hitachi-Yama Joto} (城東1-5)

Hitachi-yama(常陸山) was a Sumo Wrestler. He was born 150 years ago in Mito. He was so strong that he was promoted to be the 19th "Yokozuna", the highest rank in Sumo at his time. By the way, current newest Yokozuna is the 73rd. There is a statue at his birth place.



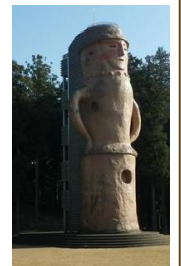
<Let's Know the History of Mito!>

Okushi Kaizuka(Shell Midden) Fureai Park ^{Shiogasaki-cho} (塩崎町1064-1)


Shell Middens are ruins made of waste remains of ancient people, such as shells. In shell middens, earthenwares, stone tools and fish bones are buried, and we can know ancient life styles from them. Okushi Midden is a 5000 year old ruin. The park includes an archaeological museum, recreated ancient houses and a statue of legendary giant "Daidarabo".

Kurefushi no Sato Kofun Park ^{Ushibushi-cho} (牛伏町201-2)

"Kofun (Ancient Tomb)" are huge mounds made of earth and stone. Many of them were made in 3-7th century. In the park, there are 16 Kofun mounds of various shapes like keyhole types, round types and square types. There is also a tower named "Hani-Maru Tower", designed after "Haniwa". You can look out over from the top.



Atago-yama Kofun ^{Atago-cho} (愛宕町2132)

A keyhole-shaped  "Kofun". This type of Kofun is called "Zenpo Koen Fun (Kofun with a square front and a round back)".

Now, there is a Shinto shrine named "Atago Jinja" on the top of the mound.

Ninomaru Exhibition Pavilion (三の丸 2)

The pavilion is a faithful reconstruction of a building of Mito Castle. Inside the pavilion, there are exhibitions about Mito Castle. There is reconstructed Main Gate of Mito Castle (大手門) nearby.



Kodokan (弘道館) (三の丸 1-6-29)

It was the public school for Samurai of Mito where like modern universities, varieties of academic subjects including medicine were taught.



Mito City Museum (大町 3-3-20)

There are exhibits about history, nature, and art.

“Bento” Culture in Japan



The Japanese Lunch Box known as “Bento” is very famous and has been becoming popular in overseas as well. Here are some tips to deepen your understanding of Japanese Bento Culture.



■ A History of Bento

While there are various views about the origin of bento, many believe the saying that bento were made for warriors or people who were building a castle.

■ When do you eat a bento?

Japanese enjoy a bento in various situations. Many people will go to work or school with a bento for their lunch. A bento is also enjoyed on special occasions, such as a field day, a school trip, or a picnic. Even in a business meeting, a bento is provided for lunch.



■ What goes into a bento?

A typical Japanese bento includes rice, some main and side dishes which taste nice even when gotten cold. For main and side dishes, there are various ingredients such as meat, fish, vegetables, and eggs. A bento contains a balanced nutrition so it is very popular among the people who take good care of their health.

■ **Various types of Bento**



There are various types of Bento, and the names differ depending on where you eat and for what purposes.



 **Koraku-bento: A Picnic Lunch Box**

Koraku-bento is indispensable to a trip for pleasure, such as for Hanami (cherry blossom viewing), picnic, or hiking.



 **Eki-ben: A Train Station Boxed Lunch**

Ekiben is boxed lunch to be enjoyed on trains and is most commonly available either at train stations or on trains. You can find out local specialty foods if buying it at their local stations.



 **Bento Art: The *Kyara-ben***

Kyara-ben is a bento with ingredients shaped or arranged in a way to create an image of a popular character or scene that children love. Kyara-ben is becoming increasingly popular for children nowadays.



Take a look of containers, there are various kinds of Bento boxes such as made from woods (^{mage wappa}曲げわっぱ), plastics, stainless and aluminum. Recently, “thermal Bento Boxes” that allow you to eat hot meals have become popular.



A Bento brings you fun to eat and cook as well, please enjoy your own BENTO Culture!



Mito City International Association (MCIA)

Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-9pm
(Closed: Mondays, **National Holidays**)

Add 〒310-0024 水戸市 備前町6-59
Mito International Center

Tel 029-221-1800
Fax 029-221-5793
Email mcia@mito.ne.jp
HP <https://mitoic.or.jp>

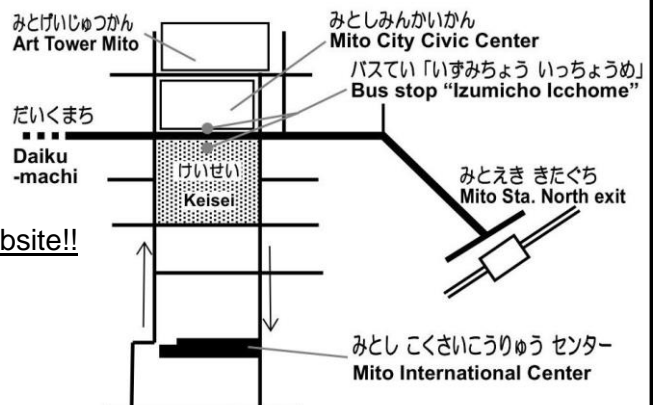
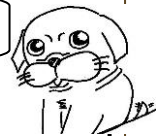



Our website!!

Please forward us any opinions or suggestions you may have!



Feel free to drop by!



Take a bus from Mito station North exit, bus terminal #4~7 ⇒ 5mins ⇒  Izumicho Icchome 泉町一丁目