



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.

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- **Events**
- **Summer Festivals · Fireworks**
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▼ Photo:
Kids space in Mito International Library

Petit Japanese



Funny Words



Here are some funny words in Katakana.

chinsuru
・チンする…Heating food in a microwave.



Obentogasamechatta
お弁当が冷めちゃった
My lunch got cold.



chinshiyo
チンしよう!

Let's use a microwave!



saboru
・サボる…Ditching school or work.



Kyowagakkowosaboroyo
今日は学校をサボろうよ

Let's ditch school today.

Sorewachotto
それはちょっと…

I'd rather not...



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

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



Events

■ Mito Hydrangeas Festival

100 different types of hydrangeas bloom beautifully.

The event will be going on during the festival.

【Where】 Howa-en (Address: Matsumoto-cho 13-19)

【When】 June 8th (Sat) – June 30th (Sun) ※free admission

【Inquiry】 Commerce and Industry Section, Mito City Hall ☎090-232-9181



■ Mito Botanical Park (Address: Kobuki-cho 504)

Please visit Mito Botanical Park! You can enjoy seeing many kinds of summer flowers. There are many events there.

• Concert < Hawaiian Band >

There will be Hawaiian music and hula dancing.

【When】 June 9th (Sun) 11:00-11:40 a.m. & 1:00-1:40 p.m.



• Craft Marché

You can purchase crafts using plants. If you dress up as "Alice in Wonderland," you will receive a small gift.

【When】 June 29th (Sat) & 30th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

• Summer Festival

Soap bubbles and water play are available.

【When】 July 7th (Sun) 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

• Concert < Wind of Andes with You >

You can enjoy the music of the Andes.

【When】 August 31st (Sun) 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 2:00-3:00 p.m.

【Inquiry】 ☎ 029-243-9311



■ Art Tower Mito (Address: Goken-cho 1-6-8)

• Pipe Organ ~ Promenade Concert

You can listen to a pipe organ performance in the entrance hall.

【When】 June 15th (Sat) & 23rd (Sun)

12:00-12:30 p.m. & 1:30-2:00 p.m.

※free admission



• Art Tower Market

A flea market will be held for recycled items such as clothing and crafts.

【When】 June 22nd (Sat) 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

【Inquiry】 ☎ 029-227-8111

<Enjoy some night events, too!>

Don't miss out! Here are some events at night.

■ NIGHT AQUAWORLD

It's exciting to visit the aquarium anytime, but it feels like a completely different place at night.

【Where】 Aqua World Oarai

(Oaraimachi Isohama-cho 8252-3)

【When】 Every Saturday 6:00-8:00 p.m.

【Inquiry】 ☎ 029-267-5920



■ Night Safari ~ Zoo at Night~

You can see animals that cannot be seen in the daytime.

【Where】 Hitachi Kamine Zoo (Hitachi-shi Miyata-cho 5-2-22)

【When】 Mid August* until 9:00 p.m.

【Inquiry】 ☎0294-22-5586

*Please check the dates beforehand on the website.

(<https://www.city.hitachi.lg.jp/zoo/>)



Summer Festivals around Mito 2024



●Mito Komon Matsuri

Mito Parade of lanterns, decorated floats, portable shrines & much more to enjoy!

Date: August 3 (Sat) - August 4 (Sun)

Place: North Exit Avenue of JR Mito Station

Contact: Mito Tourism & Convention Association

Tel: 029-224-0441

●Tokai Matsuri

Tokai

Date: July 28 (Sun)

Time: 2-8 p.m.

Place: East Exit Avenue of JR Tokai Station

Contact: Tokai Matsuri Executive Committee

Tel: 029-287-0855



●Oarai Hassaku Matsuri

Oarai Shinto rituals, portable shrines, decorated floats, and many other events

Date: August (TBD) – Shinto rituals
August (TBD) – festival

Place: Oarai Isosaki Shrine, Oarai Shopping Street

Contact: Oarai Tourism Association

Tel: 029-266-0788



●Matsuri Tsukuba

Tsukuba “Nebuta” parade, traditional performances, etc.

Date: August 24 (Sat) – 25 (Sun)

Place: Around the TX Tsukuba Station

Contact: Tsukuba City Tourism Division

Tel: 029-883-1111

Site: <https://www.matsuri-tsukuba.com/>

● Naka Sunflower Festival

Naka Stage events, fireworks, etc.

See 250,000 sunflowers in bloom!

Date: August (TBD)

Place: Naka Sogo Park

Contact: Naka Sunflower Festival
Executive Committee

Tel: 029-298-0234



Other Festivals:

●Uchihara Shoko Summer Festival

Mito August

●Hitachinaka Matsuri

Hitachinaka August 17 - 18

●Ishioka's O-matsuri

Ishioka mid-September



※Festivals may be canceled or schedules may be changed. Please check beforehand.



Firework Festivals around Mito 2024

●Mito Komon Matsuri Firework Festival

Mito

Date: July 27 (Sat)

Time: 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Place: Senba Lake

Contact: Mito Tourism & Convention Association

Tel: 029-224-0441



●Tokai Matsuri Firework Festival

Tokai

Date: August 11 (Sun)

Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Place: Akogi-ga-ura Park

Contact: Tokai Matsuri Executive Committee

Tel: 029-287-0855



●Hitachinaka Matsuri Firework Festival

Hitachinaka

Date: August 17 (Sat) 7:30-8:30pm

Place: JGSDF Camp Katsuta

Contact: Hitachinaka Matsuri Executive Committee

Tel:029-272-0540

HP: <https://hitachinaka-fes.com/>



Other Firework Festivals:

●Hitachi Kawarago Firework Festival

Hitachi August

●Oarai Firework Festival

Oarai September

●Nakaminato Kaijo Firework Festival

Hitachinaka September



※Festivals may be canceled or schedules may be changed. Please check beforehand.

Coastal Swimming Areas

○ Oarai Sun Beach **Oarai**

Place: 10 minutes from Oarai Station by bus

Contact: Oarai-machi Commerce and Tourism Division

Tel: 029-267-5111

○ Ajigaura Beach **Hitachinaka**

Place: 5 minutes from Ajigaura Station on foot

Contact: Hitachinaka City Tourism Association

Tel: 029-273-0116

○ Hiraiso Beach **Hitachinaka**

Place: 10 minutes from Hiraiso Station on foot.

Contact: Hitachinaka City Tourism Association

Tel: 029-273-0116



Shoki Barai
What is “暑気 払い”?

■ Meanings

Shoki “暑気”・・・Hotness Barai “払い”・・・Remove



It means to keep fit by avoiding summer heat and removing heat from your body. Let's get rid of the summer heat and the accumulated heat in your body and get healthy!

■ Then

In the season of *Shoki-Barai*, people used to take Chinese herbal medicine, drink various kinds of tea, or eat cold food to cool down the body.

■ Now

Gradually the traditional part has been changed, and now people enjoy *Shoki-Barai* by drinking cold beer at a “beer garden” with friends or co-workers. A beer garden is a place where cold drinks and tasty food are served outside.

■ What kinds of food and drinks are beneficial for *Shoki-Barai* ?

Hiyashi Chuka
•冷やし中華 [Chilled Chinese Noodles]



Hiyashi-Chuka is a popular Japanese summer dish consisting of chilled Chinese noodles which are boiled and then chilled, served with colorful toppings, such as cucumber, roasted pork fillet, egg (thin and sliced), etc. The dish is typically garnished with a sauce made from vinegar and soy sauce. It is very refreshing, so it is especially easy to eat Hiyashi-Chuka on hot summer days.

Soumen
•そうめん [Thin Wheat Noodles]

Somen noodles are very thin noodles made of wheat flour, salt, and water. After boiling the somen noodles, put them in a bowl with cold water and ice. Somen is eaten by dipping the noodles in a special soup.

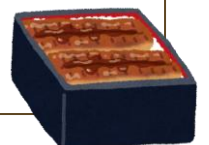


Unagi
•うなぎ [Eel]

Unagi is a river fish eaten as "Kabayaki (glaze-grilled eel)," "Una-don (an eel bowl)" or "Una-ju" (an eel box). In Japan, it has long been said that eating eel will make you feel energetic and help you beat the summer heat. Therefore, people habitually eat eel during hot summers.



Stay healthy this summer by eating foods that beat the heat!



Health Insurance

Every resident of Japan needs to join a health insurance program.

Foreign nationals residing in Japan for more than three months (as listed below) are also required to do so.

◇Medium to Long Term Residents

(Basically, those with visas that are for three months or longer, such as students from overseas, company employees, technical intern trainees, spouses of a Japanese national, Japanese descendants, permanent residents, etc.)

◇Special Permanent Residents

◇Persons granted permission for temporary refuge or provisional stay

◇Persons within 60 days of having lost Japanese nationality (= persons entitled to stay in Japan transitionally)

◇Babies within 60 days of birth

Newly born babies should also join a health insurance program. Please apply soon after birth.

Having health insurance means...

- You will need to pay premiums.
- The insurance will cover a large portion (70 to 90%) of your medical fees in case of illness and injury.

Types

(1) National Health Insurance (NHI)

(2) Health insurance of the company that you or your spouse works for.

If you are not enrolled in your company's health insurance program (2), sign up for NHI (1).

Application for National Health Insurance

Mito City Hall “Kokuho nenkin-ka 国保年金課, Kokuh o ze i-gakari 国保税係” TEL: 029-232-9526

WHERE: Mito City Hall 1F (Address: Mitoshi chuo 水戸市 中央 1-4-1)

【Payment procedure】

When you receive this year's tax notice (Nozei-Tsuchisho 納税通知書) in July, you need to take this tax notice to a bank counter or convenience store and pay your tax.

【Payment deadlines】

The yearly amount of tax is separated into eight payments, each with a deadline as follows.

- ① July 31 ② Sept. 2 ③ Sept. 30 ④ Oct. 31 ⑤ Dec. 2
⑥ Dec. 25 ⑦ Jan. 31, 2025 ⑧ Feb. 28, 2025

 There will be overdue charges if you miss the deadlines.

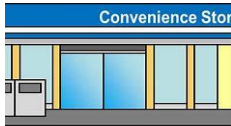
Automatic Deduction Service

If you wish to have the tax deducted automatically from your bank account, follow the directions written on the reverse page (Municipal and Prefectural Tax).

Municipal and Prefectural Tax

If the address shown on your residence card is **Mito City** as of January 1 this year, you are required to pay the **Municipal and Prefectural Tax** (often called ^{Jumin-zei} 住民税 = resident tax) for the year.

The amount of payment depends on your net income (^{Shotoku Kingaku} 所得金額) of last year.



【Payment Procedure】

In June, you will receive this year's tax notice called ^{Nozei Tsuchisho} "納税通知書". You need to take this tax notice to a bank or convenience store and pay your tax.



【Payment Deadlines】

Payments are to be made four times in total, each with a deadline as follows.

- ① July 1 ② Sept. 2 ③ Oct. 31 ④ Jan. 31, 2025



There will be overdue charges if you miss the deadlines.

Automatic deduction service: You can choose to have the tax deducted automatically from your bank account. Take the tax notice, your bank information, and your personal seal (^{Inkan} 印鑑) (the one that you used upon creating the account) to the bank counter, and fill out necessary documents.

Leaving Japan? If you are planning to leave Japan, consult Mito City's tax office ^{Shiminzei-ka} "市民税課" as you will need to decide how to complete the payments. (See below for the contact number.)

※Those who are currently employed

Have a look at your pay slip; if there is any deduction in the name of "^{Jumin-zei} 住民税" or "^{Shimin-zei} 市民税", it means that the company is collecting 1/12 of your annual resident tax every month starting from this June and ending next May. In such cases, your resident tax is paid to the government via your company, so you do not need to make any payments by yourself.

Department in charge: Mito City Hall ^{Shiminzei-ka} "市民税課" (TEL: 029-232-9138)

WHERE: Mito City Hall 2F (Address: ^{Mito-shi} 水戸市 ^{Chuo} 中央1-4-1)

※ Please note the contact numbers shown here are available only in Japanese, as are the office procedures.

Japanese Language Classes

When: Tuesday–Saturday Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (2hours)

Fee per class: ¥100 - ¥500

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



- No reservation is necessary, but please inform us of your first visit in advance. (TEL: 029-221-1800, E-mail: mcia@mito.ne.jp)
- Classes are held in Japanese.
- 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!



●Summer Schedule●

6月 JUNE						
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	㉔	㉕	㉖	㉗	㉘
30						

7月 JULY						
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			
30	31					

8月 AUG.						
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

○ ⇒ classes are held (Aug. 1, 22, 29 : Night class only)

Japanese Language Program for Beginners

This program is for true beginners and is taught by professional Japanese language instructors.

*An application is required. Please contact us. (TEL: 029-221-1800)

[Daytime Class]

When: July 24-August 3 (12 classes)

Every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (no classes on August 14-16)

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[Night Class]

When: August 28-September 20 (12 classes)

Every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

Time: 6:30–8:30 p.m.



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

Check out the sea or mountains!



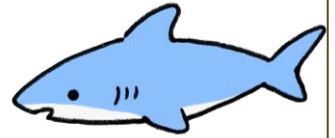
July 15th* is Marine Day and August 11th is Mountain Day. These are holidays to enjoy the sea and mountains. Ibaraki Prefecture has many tourist destinations for both, and summer is a good season to enjoy the sea and mountains. Why don't you pay a visit to one of the amazing places below?

*3rd Monday of July.

The date changes every year.

○ Oarai (Oarai Town)

There is a famous beach called "Sun Beach" in Oarai. There are also many attractions such as Aqua World (the aquarium with the most sharks in Japan), SEASIDE STATION (where you can enjoy shopping), and Isosaki Shrine (famous for its beautiful landscape with a torii gate).



○ Nakaminato (Hitachinaka City)

You can buy fresh seafood at the "Nakaminato O-sakana Ichiba" fish market. There are also restaurants where you can eat sushi and sashimi. And before or after you eat, be sure to check out the nearby beach.

○ Izura Coast (Kitaibaraki City)

It is a beautiful coastal area with countless large rocks. There is a unique hexagonal building called "Rokkakudo" where many artists worked in the past, as well as the Izura Art Museum.



○ Mt. Tsukuba (Tsukuba City)

Make your way to the top of the most famous mountain in Ibaraki Prefecture. It is a mountain with twin peaks. You can go halfway up the mountain via cable car, so it's a mountain that even beginners can enjoy.



○ Mt. Gozen-yama (Shirosato Town)

This is a mountain in Shirosato next to Mito. You can go hiking here, and you can also buy local products and vegetables at the nearby roadside station. Additionally, many people enjoy camping and doing barbecues along the Naka River that flows by the mountain.

○ Mt. Wagakuni and Mt. Atago

These are two mountains in Kasama with hiking trails that connect them. Mt. Atago is famous for the legend of monsters or spirits called "Tengu."



Underground Japanese



Words and phrases
derived from baseball



Baseball is a sport of American origin and is very popular in Japan. Japanese people often use phrases that come from baseball.

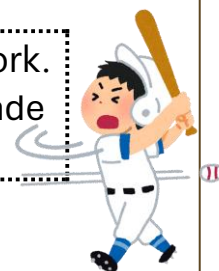
☆Have you heard any of these before?



① Karaburi (whiff / miss)

In baseball, the pitcher throws and the batter hits. When a batter swings but fails to hit a pitch, it is called "karaburi" (a whiff).

☆It is also called "karaburi" when there is no harvest despite hard work. (Ex.) When I went to buy some cheap cabbage, it was sold out and I made a kara-buri.



② Pinch Hitter

This is a batter who comes in as a substitute and hits when his team has a chance to win a game. Many pinch hitters are good at batting even if they are not good at defense.

☆A person who works in place of someone who is incapacitated is also called a pinch hitter.

(Ex.) Because the MC was sick, I acted as a pinch hitter.



③ Take the Mound / Stay on the Mound / Leave the Mound

Going up to the mound as a pitcher is called "taking the mound."

When a pitcher is replaced and leaves the game, it is called "leaving the mound." Continuing to pitch is called "staying on the mound."

☆Taking on an important role is called "taking the mound," quitting is called "leaving the mound," and continuing for two or more times is called "staying on the mound."

(Ex.) Suga left the mound as Prime Minister and Kishida took the mound. Despite his recent struggles, Kishida is staying on the mound for now.

④ Outfielders

The players on the defensive side divide and protect the entire field in order to catch the ball hit by the batter. Infield players protect the areas near the batter and runners, and outfield players protect the areas outside of them.

☆People who are not involved in the matter are called "outfielders."

(Ex.) Shut up you noisy outfielders. This is our business, not yours!



Summer Sounds

Summer is here! Here are some of the sounds of summer in Japan.

Hanabi

花火(Fireworks): Fireworks are one of Japan's best summer features.



The sound of large aerial fireworks is big sound as "boom!"

These sparklers make crackling sound.



Furin

風鈴(Wind chime): "Furin" is a small hanging bell that rings in the wind. The sound differs depending on the material they are made of.



A glass wind chime's sound is *tinkle- tinkle*.

An iron wind chime's sound is *ding-ding*.



semi

セミ(Cicada): There are many kinds of cicadas in Japan.

The buzzing of each cicada is a unique characteristic. The sound of cicadas differs depending on the type of cicada.

◆Robust Cicada

Meen min
「ミン ミン
min min meen
ミン ミン ミーン」

◆Large Brown Cicada

jiri jiri
「ジリ ジリ
jiri jiri
ジリ ジリ」

◆Evening Cicada

Kana kana
「カナ カナ
kana kana
カナ カナ」



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

TeI 029-221-1800

Fax 029-221-5793

Email mcia@mito.ne.jp

H P <https://mitoic.or.jp>

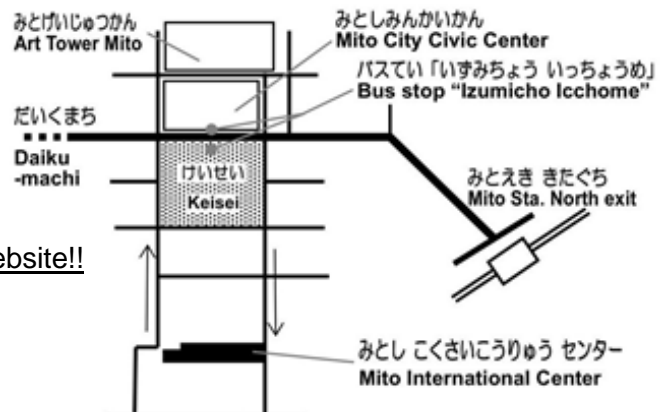


our website!!



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 ⇒ ♀ “泉町一丁目”