

Events in April

1	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
2	SA	
3	SU	Closed
4	MO	Closed
5	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
6	WE	
7	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
8	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
9	SA	
10	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba 10:30 Tsuruga Castle Scavenger Hunt
11	MO	Closed
12	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
13	WE	
14	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
15	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
16	SA	
17	SU	Closed
18	MO	Closed
19	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
20	WE	
21	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
22	FR	10:00 Japanese Conversation Class (AM)
23	SA	14:00 FIND English Conversation Club
24	SU	10:00 Children's Nihongo Hiroba
25	MO	Closed
26	TU	13:30 Nihongo Salon
27	WE	
28	TH	18:30 Japanese Conversation Class (PM)
29	FR	Closed
30	SA	13:30 Newsletter Release Preparation

Other Information

Aizu's "Shoku no Jin" Spring Theme

Aizu's "Shoku no Jin" is a year-round food festival that challenges restaurants and businesses to highlight local products by setting a menu "theme" for each season. The theme for spring is "Asparagus."

Starting April 1st and running through the end of June, 74 local restaurants, shops, and hotels will be offering limited-time menu items that feature locally-grown asparagus.



Aizu Asparagus

会津アスパラ

2022.4/1~6/30

Visit the Shoku no Jin homepage (Japanese) for details about participating shops and menu offerings:
<https://aizu-shokuno-jin.jp/>

Try Some of Aizu's Traditional Martial Arts!



Did you know that Aizu has martial arts clubs for adults? Even absolute beginners can join Kendo, Kyudo, and Naginata clubs at the Butokuden dojo on the Tsuruga castle grounds! Take part in this fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill and feel like a part of Aizu's traditional culture.



Casual martial arts "experiences" are available for first-timers through the Aizu Higashiyama Onsen Tourism Association. If you fall in love and wish to practice more seriously, you can consult with the instructor about joining the club for the sport you are interested in. More information:
<https://www.aizu-higashiyama.com/experience/en/budou.html>



AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MONTHLY ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

SynthesAizu

April 2022
Volume 2 Issue 4

Association News

CIR Farewell Message

Hi all! Nola here. As many of you know, I came to Aizu and joined the AWIA as a CIR in the summer of 2020. I quickly fell in love with the mountain landscape and the easygoing pace of life in our little basin town. It's only been about a year and a half since then, but I have learned so much and had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people in that time. This month, I'll be leaving Japan to start a new job in my hometown in the United States. Ever since I first came to Japan as a student, it has been my dream to someday work at the Japanese Consulate's office in the United States. Last month, that dream finally came true when I was offered a position at my local consulate as a Cultural Programs Coordinator. This would have never been possible without the amazing experiences I had here in Aizu, and the incredible support from the AWIA community. Thank you all so much for a fantastic year and a half! Ittekimasu!



AWIA Membership Fee Notice

New Fiscal Year Membership Cycle

April 1st marks the start of the Japanese fiscal year and the beginning of a new membership cycle at the AWIA. The current membership cycle will last from April 1st, 2022 to March 31st, 2023.



About Membership Payments

Our one-time annual membership payments help support many of the international exchange activities here at the AWIA. If you would like to continue supporting the AWIA as a member, we are now accepting payments for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Membership payments made during the current fiscal year will be valid until the end of March 2023.

Cherry Blossom Scavenger Hunt at Tsuruga Castle!

Make friends!

Win Prizes!

April 10th (Sun) 10:30 - 12:00

Aizu Tsuruga Castle Grounds
(Meet at the sitting area near the visitor's center)

No registration needed!

FREE!

Search the Tsuruga castle grounds with your team to locate 9 hidden spots in this competitive scavenger hunt game. The first 3 teams to take photos of all 9 scavenger hunt locations will win a prize! Enjoy cherry blossom viewing with other AWIA members at this fun, outdoor event! *In the case of heavy rain, the event will be cancelled. Updates will be posted on the AWIA Facebook page.



We're on Instagram!

Follow us for photos and news about our upcoming events!



AWIA_PHOTO

<http://facebook.com/awiajp>



Visit our Facebook page for the latest updates in multiple languages!

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会津若松市国際交流協会

TEL (0242) 27-3703

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AIZU WAKAMATSU INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Tsuruga Castle Cherry Blossom Festival 2022

It's almost cherry blossom season in Aizu! From mid-April to early May, the Aizu Sakura Festival will take place at Tsuruga Castle. In addition to nightly illuminations, the castle will host a variety of cultural events throughout the months of April and May. Don't miss this spectacular annual event!

Evening Cherry Blossom Illumination	Apr. 4 th - May 8 th
Flower Viewing and Local Sake at Tsurugajo	Apr. 15 th & 16 th
"Aizu Jyuraku": Aizu Edo Culture Fair	Apr. 9 th - 17 th , 23 rd , 24 th , Apr. 29 th - May 8 th

*Event schedule is subject to change depending on the Covid-19 situation. For the most recent schedule information, please see the festival homepage: <https://www.aizukanko.com/kk/festival/sakura-matsuri>



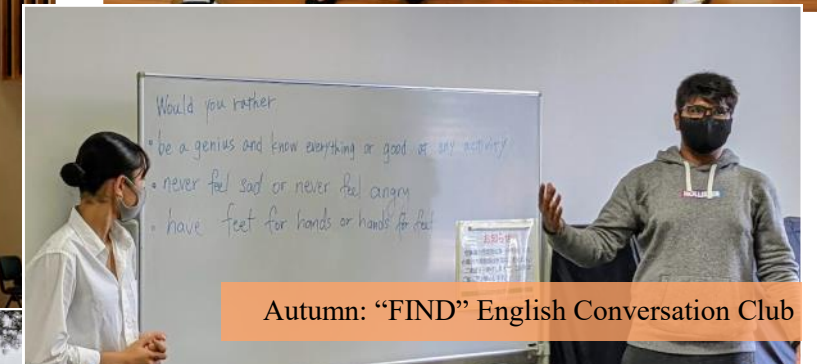
Spring: Cherry Blossoms and Qigong



Autumn: Halloween Festival



Summer: Thai Olympic Host Town Event



Autumn: "FIND" English Conversation Club



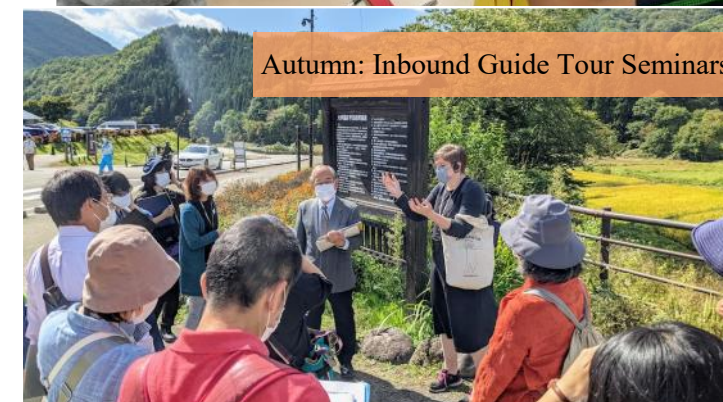
Summer: Group Hike at Hakuhozan



Winter: Annual Bowling Tournament



Autumn: Hello World Club



Autumn: Inbound Guide Tour Seminars



Winter: "Yummy French Kitchen" Crepe Workshop

Hanami Around Aizu

If the cherry blossoms at Tsuruga castle can't satiate your hunger for hanami, check out some of our staff's favorite sakura locations around the Aizu area! From Kitakata's 2km trail of weeping sakura to the riverside path in Inawashiro, the Aizu region has plenty of beautiful locations for springtime photo ops! Don't forget to check the annual "sakura forecast" at weathernews.jp!

1) Nicchu Line Weeping Cherry Trees

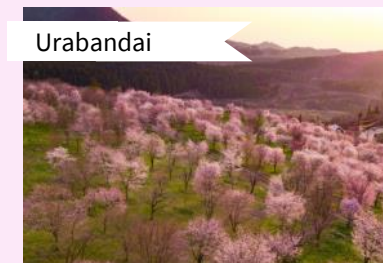


<http://www.kitakata-kanko.jp/>

Peak Viewing:
Mid- to Late April

This popular cherry blossom viewing site once was part of the old Nicchu railway line. Now, it is home to more than 1,000 weeping cherry trees.

2) Sakura-Touge Pass



https://www.urabandai-inf.com/?page_id=24982

Peak Viewing:
Late April to Early May

This incredible Sakura grove located atop a mountain ridge is home to over 3,000 cherry trees!

3) Kannoji River Sakura



<https://fukushima.travel/destination/kannonji-gawa-river-cherry-trees/3>

Peak Viewing:
Late April

This beautiful 1km walking path along the river is known as one of the best places to see cherry blossoms in Tohoku!

Vaccine Tickets for Covid-19 Booster are Being Distributed

Aizu Wakamatsu City began distributing vaccine tickets by mail in March. **Please note that you can make a reservation for your vaccine as soon as you receive your voucher in the mail.** You do not have to wait until a specific date to make a reservation.

Reservations can be made by phone or via the online reservation system. When making a reservation, you will be given the option to choose between the Pfizer, Moderna, or AstraZeneca brands. You will then be given the option to choose your preferred location from a list of medical institutions offering your chosen brand.

"FIND" English Conversation Club



AWIA member-led English conversation club, FIND, is meeting this month! FIND was designed by high school students, for high school students, with the aim of creating a space for English learners to practice casual conversation skills. Although the club is mainly for students, adults with high English proficiency may also apply to join FIND as a language volunteer. Contact the AWIA today to join!

Date/Time	Saturday, April 23 rd 10:00~
Place	Aizu Wakamatsu City Learning Center, 3F, Lecture Room 1
Sign Up	Contact mail@awia.jp by <u>Friday, April 22nd</u>