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How people spend the new year in various countries



This year is just about to end. A year sure seems to go by quickly. How do you spend New Year's Day (the start of the new year)?

The way people spend the new year really differs by country. Let's ask people from various countries what they do.



The Vietnamese new year's greeting is "Chuc mung nam moi." Festivals are held, and everyone has fun participating. The new year's food is "Chung" cake. Adults give children envelopes with money in it, and children also give their grandfather and grandmother envelopes with money in it. (Nguyen Xuan)
Pine decorations are put up, and people go to temples. (Bui Thi)
People go to see fireworks. (Nguyen Van)



The Brazilian new year's greeting is "Feliz Ano Novo!" When it becomes the new year, fireworks are set off and people celebrate. People wear white clothes, drink champagne, and eat lentils. Many people go to the sea, jump over the waves 7 times, and give thanks to the sea goddess. (Anna)



The Malaysian new year's greeting is "Selamat tahun baru." There are many ethnic groups in Malaysia, so people celebrate the new year at different times. My family celebrates in February. We greet family members and meet friends. (Tan Xin Ee)



The Indonesian new year's greeting is "Selamat tahun baru." To celebrate the new year, families gather and go on trips or eat meals together. (Fakhri)



The Thai new year's greeting is "Sawadipimai." Thailand's new year's day is January 1. People go to temples, and parents and children are given presents and new year's cards. Parties are also held with relatives and friends. (Manop)



The Indian new year's greeting is "Iniya Puthandu Nalvazhthukkal." In the middle of the night before the new year, people go to the sea nearby. Many people gather at the sea to celebrate. At 12:00 midnight they cut cake and eat it. (Harish)



The Filipino new year's greeting is "Maligayne Bagone Taon." At night people go to church and pray at mass. When they finish praying they go back home, and late at night they eat a meal of chicken or pasta with their family. (Digman)

Next year's zodiac sign is the rat!



Do not walk and smoke at the same time



If you walk and smoke at the same time, your cigarette may get bumped into people's bodies, clothing, or bags, which is very dangerous. There are regulations (city rules) about places where it is prohibited to smoke or have lit cigarettes.



▼ Roads with this design

It is prohibited (not acceptable) to smoke or have lit cigarettes. If you smoke or have a lit cigarette in these place, you will be **fined 2,000 yen**.

▼ Throughout the city

Do not walk and smoke at the same time. Smoke only where there are ashtrays, or carry a portable ashtray with you when you smoke.

It is possible to smoke on the JR Utsunomiya train station west exit pedestrian deck.



For detailed information, please contact the "Seikatsu Anshin-ka" (Comfortable Lifestyle Division) ☎ 028-632-2866



Sick child care facility information

When you are unable to take care of your child at home or take your child to preschool, etc. because your child is sick or injured, there is a system to temporarily take care of your child and assist the balance of those raising children as well as working.

- ▽ Facilities: See chart on right
- ▽ Target: Infants – elementary school children (age 0-11yrs)
- ▽ Cost: 2,500 yen per day. Free for households receiving welfare and or are exempt from paying the citizen's tax. Free also in some cases for parents who have never been married and are raising children on their own.
- ▽ Sign up: Contact the facilities directly.
- ▽ Other: You must register with the Byoji Hoiku Shisetsu (Sick Child Care Facility) in order to be eligible for child pick up and drop off.
- ▽ Inquiries: Hoikuka (Childcare Division) ☎ 028-632-2392

Facility	Address & sign up	Pick up & drop off
Saiseikai Utsunomiya Byoin Byoji Hoiku Shisetsu Ohana Hoikuen	941-3 Takebayashi-machi ☎ 028-678-9600	○
Fukuda Kodomo Clinic	1545-20 Shimotokami-cho ☎ 028-659-8850	×
Hibari Hoikuen	550-2 Takebayashi-machi ☎ 028-627-1316	○
Utsunomiya Higashi Byoin Donguri Byoji Hoikushitsu	435 Hiraide-machi ☎ 028-678-6788	○
Hibari Clinic Byoji Hoiku Kaitsuburi	365-1 Tokujiro-machi ☎ 028-665-8897	○
Interpark Kuramochi Kokyuki Pain Clinic Naika Chibikko no Hoikuen Byojishitsu	765-1 Nakajima-cho ☎ 028-653-5969	×

International Exchange Salon 🎵

- 🕒 Every 4th Saturday 4:00PM – 6:00PM
- Dec. 21 Christmas Special
(3rd Saturday for December only)
- Jan. 25 Chinese New Year
- 😊 An event at which you can talk with people from various countries 🎵

Cost Free

- @ Utsunomiya International Plaza 028-616-1563



Rice Cake Pounding Event

- 🕒 Jan. 7 (Tues) 11:30AM – 1:00PM
- 😊 Try pounding rice. 100 servings, first come first serve.
- For People living, working, or going to school in Utsunomiya City

Cost 100 yen (materials fee)

- @ Seishonen Katsudo Center (Try Higashi) (Youth Activity Center) (Try East)
- ☎ 028-663-3155



Winter Festival & Spring Festival

- 🕒 Winter festival: Dec. 15 (Sat) 9:00AM - 7:00PM
Spring festival: Jan. 15 (Wed) 9:00AM - 7:00PM
- 😊 In December, there is a ritual to burn lucky charms, such as old amulets and daruma, etc., and in January there is a ritual to burn new year's decorations. It is said that if one comes in contact with this smoke, that it will lead to their desires for their family's happiness and health, and prevention of fires.

- @ Utsunomiya Futaarayama Shrine (Baba-dori 1-1-1)
- ☎ Utsunomiya Futaarayama Shrine 028-622-5271

Utsunomiya New Year Market

- 🕒 Jan. 11 (Sat) 10:00AM-10:00PM
- 😊 A new year's event in Utsunomiya at which one can purchase lucky charms, such as daruma, bean drums, "kibuna" yellow fish decorations, etc.

- @ Kamigawara-dori (1-chome, Odori, etc.)
- ☎ Tochigi-ken Gaisho Kyodo Kumiai (Tochigi Prefectural Cooperative) 028-627-5011



Watch the first sun rise of the new year from Utsunomiya Tower!

- 🕒 Jan. 1 (Wed/national holiday) 6:00AM - 7:15AM
- 😊 Watch the first sun rise of the new year from Utsunomiya Tower
- Sign up
 - Please write the names, ages, postal codes, addresses, phone numbers, and number of people wanting to participate, alone with the group representative's name, address, and postal code on a reply-paid postcard clearly stating the event name (Watch the first sun rise of the new year from Utsunomiya Tower".
 - Send to: Hachimanyama Koen Kanrijimusho, 5-1-1 Hanawada, Utsunomiya City, 320-0027
 - Send in by Dec. 13
 - Up to 5 people can sign up on 1 postcard. The same person is not to submit multiple postcards.
- For People living in Utsunomiya City
- Max 80 people by lottery
- @ Hachimanyama Park
- ☎ Hachimanyama Koen Kanri Jimusho (Hachimanyama Park Management Office) 028-624-0642



Utsunomiya Castle Park



This park has a portion of the Utsunomiya Castle that was built in the 11th century restored. There is a multipurpose space in the “Seimeikan” building in the park where people can learn about culture through the historical display room and Japanese-style rooms.



Time	9:00AM - 7:00PM (The use of Japanese style rooms costs money until 9:30PM.)
Closed	Year-end/year start
Inquiries	Joshi Koen (Castle Park) Koen Kanrika (Park Management Division) ☎ 028-632-2529
	Seimeikan 1-15 Honmaru-cho (east side of city hall) ☎ 028-638-9390

You can enjoy walking and jogging in the park as well.
Please be mindful of the park rules when using it!



Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP) Service

Consultation for Foreign Residents



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

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