



# Oh-i!



あいこ  
英語

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## It's festival season!



In the past few years, due to the impact of COVID-19, various events have not been possible, but are there any summer events this year?

Well, what about festivals?



This year, for the first time in four years, Utsunomiya will hold the "Miya Matsuri" festival for two days on August 5<sup>th</sup> (Sat) and 6<sup>th</sup> (Sun).

What is there to do at the festival?



At the Miya Matsuri, people carry omikoshi, or portable shrines, around the main streets of Utsunomiya. It is said that the omikoshi absorbs and purifies disasters and bad things and listens to people's requests.

There are many booths on the street and it is very lively.



Oh, really?

It's my first summer in Japan, so I'm looking forward to it!  
Let's go to the festival together!



In addition to the festival, there is other event information, such as about a fireworks show on page 3, so invite your friends and enjoy going together!



In June, the city sent a tax notice (a piece of paper that tells the amount of tax and when to pay) to those who need to pay taxes. The first payment is due by June 30. If you haven't paid yet, please do so.

After that, some people will receive a tax notice other than municipal tax and prefectural tax.

There are 4 ways to pay:

- ① Cashless payment
- ② Bank window
- ③ City office window
- ④ Convenience store

When you receive the payment slip, pay by the payment deadline (the deadline for paying taxes) using one of the methods 1 - 4 above.

Inquiries: City Tax Division ☎028-632-2233

### You can pay taxes by cashless payment!

Cashless payments, such as a bank account transfer (automatic payment from a bank account) and credit card payment (payment with a credit card) make it convenient to pay taxes.

#### ▼Bank account transfer



Please submit the “fund transfer request form” to the bank or Utsunomiya City (Tax Payment Division, Insurance & Pension Division, or a district civic center/branch office). Payment will be made automatically on the due date.

#### ▼Smartphone payment by barcode reading



Prepare a “payment slip” and read the barcode of the payment slip using one of nine compatible apps, such as PayPay.

#### ▼Pay-easy payment by Internet banking



After registering for use at the bank, follow the procedures on the bank's website.

※For more information, please refer to the city's website using the QR code.

Starting April 2023, you can also pay with the QR code on the payment slip.

#### ▼Smartphone payment



Prepare a “payment slip” and read the QR code on the payment slip with a common tax payment app.

#### ▼Payment at the local tax payment website



Access the local tax payment website and follow the procedure. You can pay by credit card or Pay-easy.

Inquiries: Tax Payment Division ☎028-632-2189

## Furusato Miya Festival

- 🕒 Aug 5 (Sat) & 6 (Sun)  
4:30PM - 9:00PM
- 😊 This is the biggest summer festival in Utsunomiya City.  
You can enjoy parades and dancing by various groups, *omikoshi* (portable shrines), floats, and food booths.
- @ Main Street, Orion Square, Bamba Square, etc.
- ☎ Furusato Miya Festival Committee  
028-643-8331

## Utsunomiya Fireworks Festival

- 🕒 Aug 12 (Sat) 6:30PM - 8:30PM  
\* If there is strong wind and rain, it will be postponed to August 13.
- 😊 Approximately 30,000 fireworks will be launched into the summer night sky.  
All areas are fully ticketed.  
Ticket sales info. ⇒
- @ Dojo-zyuku Green Area (Kinugawa Riverbed)
- ☎ NPO Utsunomiya Hyakunen  
Hanabi Secretariat 028-600-3980



## Summer Vacation Interactive Intense Japanese Classes

- 🕒 July 24 (Mon) - Aug. 4 (Fri) 10:00AM - 12:00PM  
(Total of 10 times, excluding Saturday and Sunday)
- 😊 Children of a foreign nationality attending elementary and junior high School in Utsunomiya City study Japanese together.
- Cost** Free
- Sign up** Please sign up by calling or sending a FAX or e-mail to UCIA with the following information: student's name, address, guardian's telephone no., school name, year in school, nationality, period of residence in Japan.
- @ Utsunomiya-shi Chuo Shogai Gakusyu Center (Central Lifelong Learning Center) (1-1-13 Chuo) Learning room 205 & 206
- ☎ Utsunomiya City International Association (UCIA) 028-616-1870 FAX: 028-616-1871  
✉ [ucia@ucia.or.jp](mailto:ucia@ucia.or.jp)



## International Exchange Salon

- 🕒 Every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 4:00PM - 6:00PM  
July 22 Tanabata (the Star Festival)  
Strip Making
- 😊 A place where you can talk with people from various countries 
- Cost** Free
- @ Utsunomiya International Plaza (4-1-1 Baba-dori)
- ☎ 028-616-1563



## Concert at the Library

- 🕒 July 23 (Sun) 1:30PM - 2:30PM  
Doors open at 1:00PM
- 😊 Performance by the Tochigi Prefectural Police Band and the Color Guard Band
- Sign up** Sign up by calling the East Library
- Limit** First 240 persons
- Cost** Free
- @ Higashi Citizen Activity Center 2F Hall (3-5-1 Nakaimaizumi)
- ☎ 028-638-5614



## Interview

## Ms. Bao from China



We asked Ms. Bao about her hometown of Hangzhou, a tourist destination, school life, and the differences between China and Japan.

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你好！"Hello" in Chinese.

Ms. Bao is from Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China. She is a high school student in Utsunomiya City.

### UCIA: What kind of place is Hangzhou?

**Bao:** Hangzhou is one of the six ancient capitals of China. It is a sightseeing spot with a history where the capital (Miyako) was located. Hangzhou is synonymous with West Lake. The scenery of the lake is very beautiful.

### UCIA: China is also famous for tea, isn't it?

**Bao:** Hangzhou also has a very large tea plantation, and is the production area of Longjing tea (Longines tea). You can observe how tea leaves are roasted in a large kiln, and smell the aroma of the tea, which is great.

### UCIA: How was your junior high school life in China?

**Bao:** It is a three-year system, the same as in Japan. I went to junior high school while living in a dormitory. I went to school at 7:15AM and returned to the dormitory at 8:30PM. I meals eat at school, and the food was delicious!

The school and dormitory rules are very strict, but I could put my heart into my studies.

### UCIA: How is your high school life in Japan?

**Bao:** I am trying my best to study Japanese while making friends. I'm in the English club, and I really enjoy English debates and games.

### UCIA In what ways do you feel differences between Japan and China?

**Bao:** Chinese people are passionate, and if you get along, you will be able to talk to them in a friendly manner even when you meet them for the first time. There are many people like this.

### UCIA: What do you want to do in the future?

**Bao:** After graduating from high school, I would like to go on to a liberal arts university.

**UCIA:** Bao-san、che che谢谢！(Thank you)

## Utsunomiya International Plaza (UIP) Service

### Consultation for Foreign Residents

※Communication in other languages is also possible using a tablet capable of multilingual interpretation and translation.



		Spanish Portuguese	Vietnamese	Chinese	Thai	English
UIP ☎028-616-1564	3:00PM - 6:00PM	Mon	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	Tues	Wed	Fri
		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (Appointment needed)				
City Hall ☎028-632-2834 (During office hours)	9:00AM - 12:00PM	Thurs	—	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	—	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs
	2:00PM - 5:00PM	Thurs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs	—	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs

### UCIA's official LINE

We send fun exchange events and life information. "Please register as a friend and use it as an information gathering tool."



"Oh-i!" is published in easy Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Thai, and Vietnamese. You can also read it on the UCIA website.  
<https://www.ucia.or.jp/>



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