

Yakisoba & Curry Rice

March 17, 10:00 am - noon, Tuesdays
 Fee ¥400, Childcare ¥100, Sign up is required.



Yakisoba and Curry Rice are super popular dish in Japan. You can eat at most restaurants, purchase at convenience store and it's known as "Mom's dishes". Come and learn how to cook and share with your friends when you go back to the states!!

Sign Up NOW

ABC Circle

Every Wednesday,
 10:30 am - 11:30 am

¥500/circle
 for MIA member

¥800/circle
 for Non-MIA member
 Join our cross-cultural
 exchange circle.

Make new friends as you learn
 some Japanese as well as teach
 some English.

Hachinohe Senbei Jiru & Onigiri

March 30, 10:00 am - noon, Monday
 Fee ¥500

Childcare is not available for this class.



Senbei Jiru means cracker in soup and it originally from Hachinohe city. Senbei is usually crunchy texture but it get a chewy texture when boiled in a broth along with meat, fish and plenty of vegetable. It is good with Onigiri is the Rice ball!

Survival Japanese

Mar 3, 10, 17 Tuesdays
 10:00 am - noon
 Fee: Please ask!

Childcare available ¥900
 for all classes!
Sign up is required

Japanese Beginners' Class

Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Mondays
 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
 Fee: Please ask!

Sign up is required

Japanese Intermediate Class

Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Mondays
 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Fee: Please ask!

Sign up is required

All the classes and events will be held at Misawa International Center.
 For more information, please contact Misawa International Association.
 Phone: 080-6022-1349 Email: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

3.11 Earthquake Remembrance Moment on Mar 11, Wed at 2:46 pm

Four years ago, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, affecting the northeastern seaboard of Japan, from Miyagi prefecture to Misawa City. The Tohoku (northern) region has slowly recovered due to the outpouring of support from not only within Jpana but also by the international community. However, as much as lift has returned to "normal" for most, there are still some communities which are rebuilding. Please join Misawa City in a moment of silence to remember the victims and survivors as well as pray for better future.

A community siren will go off at 2:46 pm. At that time, please respectfully cease your activity for a brief moment in remembrance.

The 15th Misawa Hokki Festival on Mar 15, Sun from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm at Misawa Fishing Port

GPS coordinate: N40.680879, E141.434963

Misawa is known for its Japanese surf clams, locally know as hokki-gai (pronounced, "hoe-key guy"). There will be many events such as a taiko drum show performed by local elementary students, a clam shucking contest, specialty dishes for sale and much more!

Direction from POL gate: Go straight and turn left at the 2nd light in front of Lawson. Drive until you hit Route 338 and turn right at the light. Go straight until you see the blue sign, "Miss Veedol Beach", and turn left. You will be at Misawa Fishing Port!

Visiting Hina Dolls Now until Sunday, Mar 22 at Hacchi and several locations

Portal museum Hacchi: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
 GPS coordinate: N40.509997, E141.490578

Kojokaku: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, Fee ¥300
 GPS coordinate: N40.509800, E141.485411

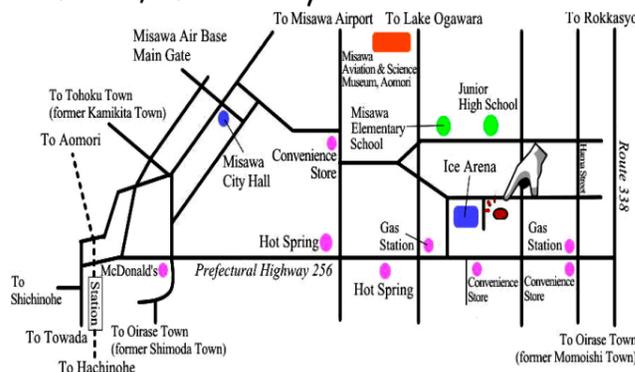
March 3rd is Girls Day (or Doll's day), and it's a special event for young girls. Their parents celebrate girl's health and happiness and display hina dolls. At the Hacchi, Portal Museum and Kojokaku show you will see beautiful hina dolls display.

On Saturday, March 21, Sunday, March 22, between 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, there will be a craft festival at the Hacchi. It will features craft works by local artists.



Misawa International Center

TEL:0176-51-1255 FAX:0176-51-1211 Email:kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp
 Address: 230-1 Aza-Sonosawa, Oaza-Misawa, Misawa City 033-0022



Thank you for reading!!

Misawa City International Relations publishes the monthly free paper, "Misawa City News". We keep you informed of what is happening in Misawa.

Subscribe Now!!

Want to stay up to date with what's going on in Misawa City? Get a FREE email subscription to Misawa City News! Please send your name and email address to: kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp



Intercultural Exchange Message Board

Come and see our message board! Located in Misawa International Center Hall, near the International Exchange Lounge (if you're standing in the entrance way, the board is off to the left). This message board is for you!

Please post courteous messages or announcements for an intercultural exchange purpose such as English lessons, play dates for kids, advice in Japanese life and more. We look forward to your messages!

Subscribe Now!!!



Want to stay up to date with what's going on in Misawa City? Get a FREE email subscription to the Misawa City News! Please send your name and email address to:

kokusai@city.misawa.lg.jp

The 16th Annual Misawa International Children's Ice Festival

On March 7, Saturday
 at the Misawa Ice Arena

PROGRAM

- 8:30 - 9:10 Sign-in and Reception
- 9:15 - 9:25 Opening Remarks
- 9:30 - 9:35 Warm-up Exercises
- 9:40 - 10:10 Ice Bowling
- 10:15 - 10:50 Dribble & Shot Drills
- 10:55 - 11:20 Sled Races
- 11:25 - 11:45 Tug-of-War
- 11:50 - 12:20 Closing Remarks

This free event is open to all children, aged 4 - 12 years old and their parents. There will be many activities for the entire family, including: Tug-of-War, Ice Bowling and more!

Please bring your own gloves, winter boots, warm clothes, and some cash (yen) for the food and drink vending machines.



MARCH TIMELINE

3月 弥生 Sangatsu

Sangatsu is March in Japanese and is also called "Yayoi". Yayoi means the month of to begin to sprout plants.

大相撲三月場所 O-zumou Sangatsu Basho: March Grand Sumo Tournament

About 10 Grand Sumo Tournaments will be held in a year. Spring tournament will be held at Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium (Bodymaker Colosseum) in Osaka prefecture between March 8 and 22. <http://www.sumo.or.jp/en/index>



March 3

雛祭り Hina Matsuri: Girls Day

March 3rd is known as the Doll Festival or Girl's Day. It is a day to celebrate girls. Families who have a young daughter display a set of beautiful Hina dolls and eat traditional foods such as "Chirashi sushi" and Clam Soup, to ensure their daughter's good health and happiness. This custom is believed to have started during the Heian period (about 1,000 years ago). Let's celebrate the Doll Festival with sing a Hinamatsuri song, eat sushi and cake that was decollated for special day!



March 8

ホワイトデー: White Day

March 14th is White Day, which is one month after Valentine's Day. Japanese Valentine's Day is celebrated differently for only women give chocolate and gifts to men. In 1978 (a new celebration, of course created by a confectionary company) men began giving gifts on White Day. These gifts include cookies, flowers, marshmallows, or even jewelry.

According to the *Sanbai-Gaeshi Rule* 三倍返し, which means, "triple return", men must give a gift that is 3 times the value of the received Valentin's gift. Don't forget to give your Valentine a White Day present!



March 14

お彼岸 Ohigan: Equinoctial Week

Higan means "the other side of the river crossed by the dead" in Buddhism. It occurs twice a year which is the week of Vernal Equinox Days and Autumn Equinox Days. People visit their ancestors' graves during the week.



March 18-24

春分の日 Shunbun no hi: Vernal Equinox Day

The day, the sun reaches the vernal equinox and the length of day and night is equal. It is designated as a national holiday.



March 21

卒業式 Sotsugyo-shiki:

Graduation Ceremonies

Most of Japanese school hold graduation ceremonies in March. Students will wear formal suit or their school uniforms and receive their diplomas. The ceremony highlight is where current students and graduating students sing a song and recite party words. To make the ceremony special, students and teachers spend a lot of time practicing.

This is why many student and attendees burst into tears. Some of them can't help but cry because they remember the practice and wonderful memories they had in the school.



March 31

年度末 Nendo-matsu: End of Year

March is the end of the fiscal and academic years in Japan. For both businesses and schools, the year is from 1 April to 31 March of the following year. Many graduation ceremonies and farewell parties are held at schools or companies during this time. Also, most companies become extremely busy getting their accounts and affairs in order. One result is that construction companies become busy with roadwork projects, so that they spend all the money in their budgets.

Another effect is that many companies will move employees to new locations. On the positive side, expect to find good deals on furniture and toys at your local thrift shop (リサイクルショップ) in April.



Let's Speak in Nanbu! Part 15

Believe it or not, even though Japan is a small country, it has a variety of colorful accents and dialects. Not far from Misawa-- the area from southern Aomori to northern Iwate Prefectures--one of the main dialects is Nanbu-ben (ben 弁 means "dialect; speech-type"). Here are some useful expressions!

だすけ へったべな Dasuke Hetta bena
I told you so.

だすけ Da su ke: That's why / because
へったべな Hettabena: I told you



ほっき貝

The Pacific coast near Misawa is home to the clam beds of "Hokki-gai" (pronounce "hoke-key guy") --- which translates as "Outback Northern Clam", but it is better known in English as the Japanese Surf Clam and as the king of the king of the winter clams in Japan, since it is one of the bigger clams and has a lifespan of over 30 years. Japanese Surf Clams can be harvested all year round but the preferred clamming season in Misawa is from December to March. This is because many connoisseurs believe that the hokki-gai meat is at its peak---plump and tasty---having been conditioned by the cold winter ocean. And also, because the sand of the Pacific Coast is fine, Japanese Surf Clams are less sandy than many other clams. Japanese Surf Clams have a slightly sweet taste and mild aroma. They can be eaten raw, steamed, stir-fried with butter!

"Hokki don" is one of Misawa's winter specialties. Don is a Japanese dish of toppings atop a layer of rice. Hokki-don is a big bowl of hot rice topped with clams. (raw or cooked) This season 30 restaurants in Misawa are offering Hokki-don on their winter menus - but each restaurant has their own unique, secret recipe. Take a Hokki-don adventure and try them all!

Frequently Asked Questions

How are Hokki-gai caught?

Surf Clams are harvested offshore by mechanical dredging, to ensure that the clam shells are not scratched nor broken.

What is Misawa's annual haul of Hokki-gai?

The overall annual haul is about 375 tons. Per day, each boat is allowed a maximum harvest of 200kg. The harvest season is only 4 months long. The boats leave port 6:00 am and return between 8:00 - 10:00 am. The daily harvest is brought into the port market building for bidding by wholesale buyers. And then the purchased clams are usually delivered by 12 noon, the same day.

How much does a Hokki-gai grow, in a year?

The clam growth rate is 1cm (between 3/8 - 7/16 inches) per year. Clams, which you see in the stores, are about 9 - 10 yrs old.

Where is most of Misawa's Hokki-gai catch sold to?

About 80 % of the Hokki-gai caught off the shores of Misawa are sold outside Aomori Prefecture and includes the Kanto area (includes Tokyo). Hokki-gai is rarely sold to the Kansai area, since it is not very popular there.

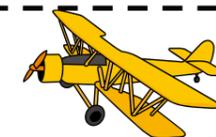
How to keep in fresh?

Misawa's Japanese Surf Clam are best kept at a temperature of 32 -35 F, which is your average refrigerator temperature. Put the hokki-gai in an open container such as bowl and cover with a moist cloth or paper towels. Place the bowl in a cool, dark area of the refrigerator. Do not store the hokki-gai on ice, submerged in fresh water, or in an air-tight container---all such methods will kill the hokki-gai. Under ideal conditions, the hokki-gai will stay alive for up to a week. In general, clams should not be de-gritted until about 1 - 4 hrs before cooking.



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Misawa Aviation & Science Museum Event Schedule



Science Show - Floating & Sinking Science Projects

Why things float? Come and find out at Museum Lab. The show is free but participants still need to pay for the museum entrance fee. No advanced sign up is required, just show up at the lab at the schedule time:
Weekdays: (1) 11:00 am (2) 12:30 pm (3) 3:30 pm Weekends, Holiday: (1) 12:30 pm (2) 3:30 pm

Work Shop - Make a Pinhole Camera: March 1 - 31 (Sat, Sun and Spring break) at Museum Lab

Making a pinhole camera that you see the object upside down! This special holiday weekend event is for first-come, first-served people, and it is limited to 20. Fee is only ¥100 per person including materials. Children must be accompanied by an adult all the time. Please sign up at least 30 minutes prior to the schedules below.
(1) 11:00 - 11:40 am (2) 2:30 - 3:10 pm.

Toy Hospital in Museum: March 22, Sunday, 10 am - noon at the hallway area of 2nd floor

Do you have toys that need to be repaired? Bring them to Toy Hospital to be fixed. We will ask you to pay for repair parts and hospitalization fee. Please bring the power cable, instruction manuals and all accessories comes with electronic toys. Dangerous toys such as "Toy Guns" are not acceptable due to safety reasons.

Ki-54 and Zero Fighter Replica Exhibit: Now until March 31, Tuesday, in the hangar of the Museum

On September 5, 2012, A Ki-54 was found on the bottom in 57meters of Lake Towada. Ki-54 is a twin-engine advanced trainer aircraft that produced by Tachikawa Aircraft Company Ltd for an imperial Japanese Army crew. Admission is ¥920 for Adult, ¥710 for High school student, ¥100 for elementary school student and free for preschooler. (Prices included entrance admission to museum)

General Information: Misawa Aviation & Science Museum is open 9:00 am -5:00 pm, every day except Mondays.
If a Japanese holiday falls on a Monday, then the museum will be open on that Monday but will be closed the following day. Admission: Adult ¥510; High School Student ¥300; Free for 15 years old and under. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.kokukagaku.jp/english.html>