

# TSUKUBA Seasonal Newsletter

Winter 2023

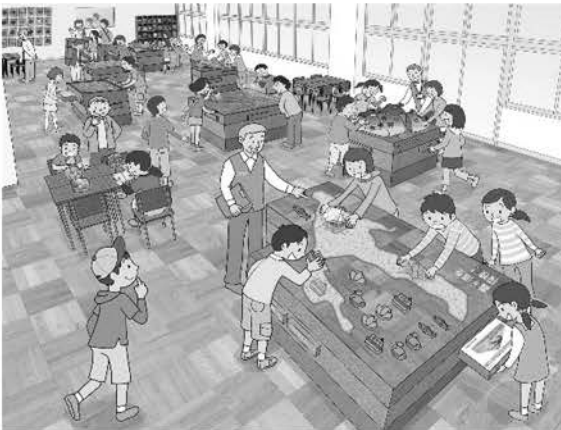
English

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## Mt. Tsukuba Gate Park has opened on November 3

Mt. Tsukuba Gate Park (4160 Hojo, Tsukuba) is a facility complex consisting of Tsukuba Geo Museum and Cycle Park Tsukuba. It was named with the hope that the park would serve as a gateway to discover the beauty of Mt. Tsukuba and its surroundings, and to enjoy it by Bike. We anticipate that it will become a beloved destination for visitors of all ages, offering them the opportunity to relish the natural beauty of Mt. Tsukuba. There is a free parking lot. If you are coming by bus from Tsukuba Center, you can take the Hokubu Shuttle or Oda Shuttle of Tsuku Bus.

### Tsukuba Geo Museum



A Geopark is a designated area that is recognized and managed for its geological heritage and significance. It is a place where natural resources are protected, conserved, and made use of for education, tourism, and sustainable development. Mt. Tsukuba and its surrounding area have been certified as Mt. Tsukuba Area Geopark. The main facility of Geo Museum has a hands-on display where you can learn about the nature of Mt. Tsukuba Area Geopark and local culture.

- Visiting Hours: 9:00 - 16:30
- Closed: Every Tuesday (if Tuesday is a holiday, it will be closed the following day), New Year holidays (December 29 - January 3)
- Entrance Fee: Free

### Cycle Park Tsukuba

A bicycle facility featuring one of the largest BMX racing courses in Japan is now open. It is equipped with shower rooms, rest area and bicycle maintenance area. You can bring your own BMX or rent one along with cycling equipment for your first experience. Rental bicycles other than BMX are also available, allowing you to cycle the neighboring Tsukuba-Kasumigaura Ring-Ring Road and around the beautiful rural landscape at the foot of Mt. Tsukuba. Services such as BMX rental, and the use of racing course and shower are subject to fees.

- Open hours: 9:00 – 16:30
- Closed: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (If a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday is a national holiday, it will be open as a general rule and holiday will be rescheduled) New Year holidays (December 29 - January 3)
- Entrance Fee: Free



※ To find information about events in Tsukuba Center Square, please search “*domannaka Tsukuba* ドまんなかつくば” on Facebook and Instagram. <https://www.facebook.com/tsukumachi.info/>



**On December 1, the Tsukuba Station Citizen Services Office opened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of BiVi Tsukuba**

Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, BiVi Tsukuba (Address: 1-8-10 Azuma, Tsukuba City)

Car parking: Only paid parking lot is available at BiVi Tsukuba.

Bicycle parking: 3 bicycle parking areas are available at BiVi. (First 2 hours free)

Operating hours:

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Closed on: Sundays, public holidays, and New Year holidays (12/29-1/3)
<b>【New】</b> Tsukuba Station Citizen Services Office	Closed	Reception hours 10:00 - 18:30 Some services are not available after 16:30 and on Saturdays					

Available Services	Division
Issuance of Residence Certificates	Citizen Services Division
Issuance of Personal Seal Registration / Certificate	
Temporary Driving Permit Application (Temporary Number Plate)	
Procedures regarding My Number Card (Individual Number Card)	
Issuance of Family Register Certificates (Partial Family Register / Partial Removed Family Register / Copy of the Family Register etc.)	
Change of Address Notification for Japanese nationals (Moving In / Moving Out / Change of Address / Change of Household etc.)	
Issuance of Tax Certificates	Municipal Tax Division
Payment of Municipal Tax / Property Tax / National Health Insurance Tax / Nursing Care Insurance Fee	
National Health Insurance Application / Notification	National Health Insurance Division
Medical Insurance System for the Elderly Application / Notification	Senior Services Division
Medical Welfare System (Marufuku) Application / Notification	Medical Welfare and Pension Division
National Pension Application / Notification	
Disability Welfare Application / Notification	Disability Services Division
Nursing Care Insurance Application / Notification	Nursing Care Insurance Division
Issuance of Mother and Child Health Handbook in Japanese	Health Promotion Division

With the opening of the service office close to Tsukuba Station, many procedures can be completed here without having to visit the City Hall in Kenkyugakuen. However, depending on the type of the application / notification some services might not be available. Please confirm the details with the division in charge.

※Notice: **Change of Address is not available for Foreign Residents (who have residence card) at this service office.**

This is due to the fact that the system connected to the Immigration Services Agency is equipped only in Tsukuba City Hall. Interpretation support is available inside the city hall, at the Global City Promotion Division. You are welcome to use it during your procedures.



## 2023-2024: New Year Period Service Schedule

	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Dec. 30	Dec. 31	Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4
	Thu.	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
Tsukuba City Hall / Community Center / Citizen Service Office	8:45-16:30	Closed						8:45-16:30
Citizen Service Division of City Hall	8:45-19:30							
<b>[New]</b> Tsukuba Station Citizen Service Office	10:00-19:30	Closed						10:00-19:30
Central Library	9:30-17:00	Closed						9:30-17:00
Garbage Collection	As usual	Burnable collection in all areas	Closed				Burnable collection in all areas	As usual
Bringing in garbage to "Sustaina-Square"	Until 16:30	Closed						From 8:30

※ Check the official website of Tsukuba City for hospital information during New Year. Available in English, Chinese, Korean and Plain Japanese.

### Please file final tax return for the total income of 2023

Final tax return is the process of declaring your income for the previous year and the amount to be taxed out of it to the tax office. People who have income and have not undergone year-end tax adjustments at their workplace, or those with multiple sources of income, may be required to file a final tax return. By filing a final tax return, overpaid income tax is adjusted, and any unsettled payments are calculated. In case of failing to do so, health insurance and municipal and prefectural tax of the following year can become higher. The declaration can be submitted online (e-Tax), at Tsuchiura Tax Office or at Tsukuba City Hall.

Tsukuba City Hall reception period is as follow. Prior appointment by internet or phone is required. Further details will be posted on the official website of Tsukuba City.

Period: Friday, February 16, 2024 - Friday, March 15, 2024

※Not available on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. However, the service will be available on Sunday, February 25.

Location: Conference Room 201, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Tsukuba City Hall.

### Notice from Tsukuba International Association

Inquiries: Tsukuba International Association Tel. 029-869-7675 email: info@inter.or.jp

#### ●Do you have any concerns after arriving in Tsukuba ?

We now have a service matching foreign residents with volunteers to help resolve their issues and concerns. Please do not hesitate to reach us when you need help. It is free of charge.

Check the official website for details: <https://www.inter.or.jp/supporter-user.html>

#### ●Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Nationals

Date and Time: 14:00 on Sunday, March 3, 2024

Location: Tsukuba Civic Center *corridoio* : 1-10-1 Azuma, Tsukuba City (Inside Tsukuba Center Building)

We are now looking for participants (foreign national residing, studying or working in the city). Application deadline is Tuesday, December 26, 2023. Participation is free.

Check the HP for details: <https://www.inter.or.jp/speechcontest.html>



## Notice from the Animal Quarantine Service and Plant Protection Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

**To prevent animal diseases entering Japan,** please do not bring meat such as chicken, beef, pork from abroad. Japan's livestock industry could suffer significant damage if a livestock disease enters the country. Not only raw meat, but also cooked meat or even meat bought at an airport outside Japan are prohibited and cannot be sent by mail, either. Illegally importing meat can result in fines or arrest. Please inform your relatives and friends not to send meat to Japan.

For more details check the official website of the Animal Quarantine Service.

It is available in multiple languages.

Animal Quarantine Service:

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/languages/info.html>



**To prevent plant disease and pests entering Japan,** certain fruits and vegetables are not allowed to bring in. Some countries and regions have particularly harmful pests that have not yet been introduced to Japan. These pests could cause significant damage to Japan's agriculture. Illegally importing plants will result in punishment. For more details check the official website of the Plant Protection Service. It is available in multiple languages.

Plant Protection Service: [https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/information/language\\_top.html](https://www.maff.go.jp/pps/j/information/language_top.html)



### Enjoy International Exchange Event with Your Children

Have you heard about "Cherry Club" childcare support center? It is a facility affiliated with Sakuragakuen daycare center for families with preschool children. Here, you can play with your kids, consult the staff about parenting concerns and use it as a space to interact and exchange information with other families. This time we will be holding *kakizome* and *mamemaki* events. *Kakizome* is drawing letters and pictures with a calligraphy brush at the beginning of a new year. And in February there is *setsubun* festival. Let's experience together Japan's cultural tradition of *mamemaki*, to bring good fortune to the house and drive away the bad one. Bilingual city hall staff members will also join the event. Details will be posted on the official website of Tsukuba City in mid-December.

<https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/english/index.html> (only in English)

Date and Time: Weekday at the end of January (TBA) Fee: Free

Location: Cherry Club, Sakuragakuen Hoikuen Shinkan 3F (Address: 1302 Ueno, Tsukuba City)

Language: The event will be held in Japanese with English and Chinese interpretation if required.

### Foreign Student CIR's Column

This is the signature column of our foreign student CIRs translating this newsletter. In our previous edition, we asked about their favorite things in autumn. For winter, they explored how New Year is celebrated in Japan.

*"In Japan, New Year is about the first sunrise. Albeit the early hour, there is something very peaceful and magical in waiting with your friends and loved ones for the first rays of sun to rise. After that, people pay their first visit to a shrine or temple ("Hatsumode"). Now the most famous places get very crowded. If you want to experience the real Japanese tradition, I recommend visiting a small local temple or shrine where you can fully immerse in the atmosphere. Do not forget to get "omikuji (fortune slip)" to tell your fortune for the new year."*



◇ [Tsukuba City Multilingual website](https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/english/index.html) is available in English, Plain Japanese, Chinese, and Korean

<https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/english/index.html>

◇ [Foreign language newsletters](https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/english/1015289) are published in English, Chinese, Korean, Thai, Portuguese, Spanish, Indonesian, and Vietnamese. <https://www.city.tsukuba.lg.jp/english/1015289>

