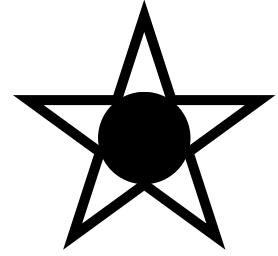


# ASAHIKAWA INFO



January 2024, Volume 326

## Hokkaido News Top 5

*December 2023 compiled by the AIC*

### **Support Trials for Traveling on A Wheelchair (12/1)**

On 11/29 & 11/30, All Nippon Airways (ANA) tested their Universal MaaS (Mobility as a Service) system for traveling in the Asahikawa City and the surrounding area. The Universal Maas is an online service that enables wheelchair riders to arrange welfare-funded taxis and buses, providing them easier access for travel. For the trial run, ANA worked with Dohoku Bus, Asahikawa Denkikido Bus, and the taxi services of central Asahikawa in order to test out their service for the city center, Asahiyama Zoo, and Biei's Shirogane Blue Pond.

### **Students from Sister City Suwon, Korea Visit Asahikawa (12/1)**

On November 30th, 9 high school students from Suwon came to Asahikawa for a youth international exchange. The high school students were warmly welcomed where they've enjoyed the many wonderful experiences that Asahikawa had to offer. During the students from Suwon showcased Taekwondo and a K-pop dance performance while local Asahikawa high school students welcomed the visiting students with a K-pop dance performance. Earlier this year in August, high school students in Asahikawa were able to participate a similar exchange to Suwon.

### **Nishi-Kagura, Asahikawa Gets New Stores (12/12)**

In the last 5 years, there have been 14 restaurants and guest houses that have opened in the area. Many are speculating that the reason for the recent openings may have been caused by the area's proximity to the Asahikawa airport or local tourist attractions. 30 years ago, the area was facing 80% closures of local businesses, however recently many business owners are seeing potential in the area for especially those looking to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. NPO Groundwork Nishi-Kagura hopes to use the area's location and its rural landscape to attract outsiders and local businesses.

### **Cost-Effective Jetstar Begins Flight Service Between Asahikawa Airport And Narita Airport (12/16)**

The LCC (low cost carrier) flight service Jetstar has begun offering service between Asahikawa and Narita airports as of December 15th. This will be the second airport in Hokkaido where Jetstar flights are offered. Flights between the cities will start at 5,990 yen for a one-way ticket. Many are excited for this service as it will be an opportunity for many residents and visitors to visit both Asahikawa and Tokyo at a cost-effective price. Jetstar's fleet will include two planes : Airbus A320 (180 seats) and the newer model Airbus A321L (238 seats).

### **2023 Reflections : The Opening of "Kamui no Uta" (12/18)**

On November 2023, the historical Ainu film "Kamui no Uta" had its exclusive premier in Hokkaido where its story was set. The 2 hour and 5 minute film recounts the life of Chiri Yukie, a renown Ainu transcriber and translator, and stories of historical Ainu discrimination, persecution, as well as depiction of Hokkaido's majestic nature. The director Sugawara Hiroshi hopes to use the movie as a message to young people, to show the voice of the Ainu people, eradicate discrimination, and promote a society where Ainu can coexist. The movie will be premiered nationwide theaters on January 26, 2024. Through the film, many hope that it will raise awareness of discrimination as well as develop appreciation of Ainu culture.



For further information or to register  
for events, contact:

Asahikawa International Committee (AIC)(SUGANO Ayumi, SAITO  
Emmy, or MABILANGAN John)

**Location:**

International/City Affairs Division, Tourism, Sports and  
International/City Affairs Dept.

**Address:**

Asahikawa International Center Feeeal  
Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome,  
Asahikawa 070-0031

**Tel:** (0166) 25-7491

**Fax:** (0166) 23-4924

**Email:** cir\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.lg.jp

### **Inside this issue...**

- Hokkaido News Top 5.....1
- Upcoming Events.....2
- Asahikawa Eats.....4
- Movies.....6
- Bulletin Board.....8



# Upcoming Events

Upcoming events and activities in Asahikawa and the rest of Hokkaido



## Asahikawa Illumination : Machiakari

旭川市イルミネーション：街あかり

*Twinkling lights shining the winter. 210,000 bulbs will be lit all around the city—1.5x bigger than last year!*

### Event Details

Date: ~3/3/2024 (Sunday)

Time: 16:30~23:00

Location: From Miyamae-Dori to 8-jo-dori 8 & 9-chome

For more information: <https://machiakari.atca.jp/>

## Midori Center Exhibition: Kaguraoka Park Nature Photography

Exhibit by Akutsu Hiroaki

緑のセンター展示会：森の写真家・阿久津弘明さんによる神楽岡公園の自然写真展

*Check out the nature photography exhibition of Kaguraoka Park!*

### Event Details

Date: 1/6/2024(Saturday)~2/25/2024 (Sunday)

Time: 9:00~17:00

Location: Midori Center, Kaguraoka Park, Asahikawa

For more information: <http://www.asahikawa-park.or.jp/facilities/park/soudan.html>



## RAV Vast SAYO 2024 New Year Concert

*Listen to SAYO play the RAV Vast as she performs songs from her 3rd album "Daichi Kodou" (Beating Earth)*

### Event Details

Date: 1/8/2024(Monday, holiday)

Location: Civic Culture Hall (Small) (7-jo-dori 9-chome, Asahikawa)

Admission: ¥3,000 (General Admission), ¥5,000 (For Two Tickets) \* Free seating selection\*

Purchase Online: <https://ticket.tsuku2.jp/events-detail/09130234331029>

## Ainu Cooking Class

アイヌ料理体験教室

*Learn the flavors of Ainu cuisine by joining this Ainu Cooking Course experience!*

### Event Details:

Date: 1/20/2024 (Saturday)

Time: 9:00-15:00

Location: Dohoku Arcs Taisetsu Arena (Kagura 4-jo 7-chome 1-52, Asahikawa)

Admission: FREE



# Upcoming Events



## Let's Decorate Snowmen

雪だるまに飾りをつけよう！

*Bring on some winter cheer and decorate some snowmen this season with the community!*

### Event Details

**Date:** 1/14/2024 (Sunday)

**Time:** 10:00~11:30

**Location:** Garden Center (Miyamae 2-1, Asahikawa)

**Contact:** 74-5966

## Youth E-Sports Competition

青少年e-スポーツ大会

*Enter the digital battlefield with players from both Asahikawa and abroad. Compete in a series of online games for some prizes!*

### Event Details

**Requirements:** Must be a high school student 15~18 years old attending a school in Asahikawa.

**Date:** 1/27/2024 (Saturday)

**Time:** 14:00~16:00

**Location:** ICT Park Training Room

**Registration Deadline:** 1/12/2024 (Friday)

**Contact for Registration or Queries :** [toshikoryu@city.asahikawa.lg.jp](mailto:toshikoryu@city.asahikawa.lg.jp)



## Sapporo Snow Festival

札幌雪まつり

*Coming this February is Sapporo's world renown winter festival! Come check out the hundreds of snow sculptures and ice statues throughout Odori Park and Susukino!*

**Date:** 2/4/2024 (Sunday) ~2/11/2024 (Sunday)

**Location:** Odori Park & Susukino areas

**For questions, email :** [708goshitsu@gmail.com](mailto:708goshitsu@gmail.com)

## Asahikawa Winter Festival

旭川雪まつり

*Checkout the second largest winter festival in Hokkaido! This year comes with the ice sculpture competition as well as a collaboration with Dragon Quest and the city!*

**Date:** 2/7/2024 (Wednesday) ~ 2/12 (Monday, holiday)

**Location:** Asahibashi & Heiwa dori

**Registration Site:** <https://h-daiundoukai.jp/>

**For queries:** 0166-25-7168



# Asahikawa Eats

旭川グルメ

A series of local restaurants and cafes to try in Asahikawa\*\*

By John Daniel Mabilangan

## Nepal Kitchen Himal

ネパールキッチンヒマール

**Location:** 070-8335 Hokkaido, Asahikawa, Minami 5-jo-dori 22-chome

**Price:** ¥ ¥ ¥

**Genre:** Nepalese, Indian, curry

**Notes:** Nepal Kitchen Himal is about a 20 minute walk from Asahikawa Station. The restaurant offers a wide variety of sets, lunch specials, curries, as well as an assortment of Nepalese appetizers to enjoy. During my trip, I enjoyed the Dali Set which gave me a choice of 2 curries, 1 rice, 1 cheese nan, tandoori chicken, soup, and salad. For about ¥ 1,700, this was a very filling set for 1 person. It was so good, I actually went back on a separate occasion to try it again.



## Sanpei

三平

**Location:** 070-0031 Hokkaido, Asahikawa, 1-jo-dori 7-chome hiddari 1

**Endless 17 1F**

**Price:** ¥ ¥

**Genre:** Ramen

**Notes:** Out of all the ramen restaurants I have eaten so far, Sanpei offers the spiciest out of all of them. This restaurant had 5 different levels of spicy and level 4 was a challenge even for an avid spicy-food eater like me. I really enjoyed the kick of the spicy broth which woke me up better than a cup of coffee. The delightful surprise was that the ramen had mochi as a topping which was a first for me. The chewiness of the mochi was a nice addition to the texture and complimented with the broth. I would highly recommend this spot to everyone, especially those who needs some spice in their life.



## Diamond Burger

ダイヤモンドバーガー

**Location:** 070-08245 Hokkaido, Asahikawa, Toyooka 15-jo 7-chome 4-1

**Atagokopo**

**Price:** ¥ ¥ ¥

**Genre:** Hamburgers

**Notes:** If someone wanted to taste America in Asahikawa, I would tell them to go to Diamond Burger. Diamond Burger is a local burger joint that screams American the moment you look at the menu. Their burgers are colossal by both Japanese and American standards. The burger was not just compelling in size but also in flavor. The patties were made from scratch and quite juicy with the eggs and bacon stacked to add more flavor to the burger. This place is for those looking to taste a bit of America but also for those with American-sized appetite. I would definitely come again given the chance.

# Asahikawa Eats

A series of local restaurants and cafes to try in Asahikawa\*\*

By John Daniel Mabilangan

## Yamazaki Ramen

山崎ラーメン

**Location:** 070-0823 Hokkaido Asahikawa, Midorimachi 12-chome

**3860-38**

**Price:** ¥

**Genre:** Ramen

**Notes:** Yamazaki Ramen, located right near Nishi Aeon mall is a quaint ramen shop is surely full of surprise. This ramen specializes in miso ramen, specifically white miso and red miso. The red miso ramen I ordered was full of fresh veggies which complimented the richness of the broth. The meal was quite filling because of the heaviness of the broth, so I highly recommend coming to eat here with an empty stomach during a snowy day.



## Pepper Lunch

ペッパーランチ

**Location:** 〒070-0030 Hokkaido, Asahikawa, Miyamae Dori 7 Chome-2

**Price:** ¥ ¥

**Genre:** Steak

**Notes:** This fast food chain can be found all over Japan and Asia with one store right here in Asahikawa's ekimae Aeon mall. Eating this for the first time, it was interesting to grill the meat prior to cooking which reminded me of how yakiniku would be. The service was kind and my food got to me really quick. I really enjoyed how there were various sauce options I can add to the steak as well as the overall juiciness of the steak itself.



## Santouka (Asahikawa Airport) 山頭火（旭川空港店舗）

**Location:** Asahikawa Airport

**Price:** ¥

**Genre:** Ramen

**Notes:** Inside the airport, you would find another store of Santouka located at the airport food court. Santouka has two main locations located inside the city which frequently has a queue from both tourists and locals alike. Fortunately, this location is all the flavor and deliciousness without the wait as their spicy miso ramen is just as good as their main store. I highly recommend enjoying this meal with a side of soda since the soda is a nice cool down from the spicy richness of the broth.



## Ichikyuu Daifukudo

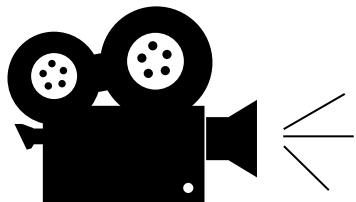
一久大福堂

**Location:** Asahikawa Airport

**Price:** ¥

**Genre:** Dessert

**Notes:** Located right inside Asahikawa Airport food court, this daifuku store offers a wide variety of traditional desserts like mochi that you can take with you before your flight. Personally, the dessert that stood out was the selection of soft serve ice cream. With a between milk, melon, and mix flavors, this ice cream truly screams "Hokkaido". This kind of ice cream is definitely a must try whenever you are at the airport.



# MOVIES IN JANUARY

\*The 1st day of every month is Movie Day in Asahikawa. Admission (tax included) is ¥1,100 for Adults, ¥800 for High School Students and Under at all theaters.

**Aeon Cinema Only:** Every Monday is Happy Monday! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for all.

**Cineplex 7 Asahikawa Cinemas Only:** Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

**CinePlex 7 Asahikawa:** Nagayama 12-jo 3-chome Western Powers Nagayama

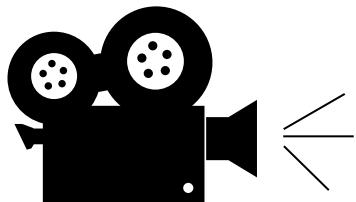
**URL:** <http://www.unitedcinemas.jp/asahikawa/index.html> (Japanese)

## Now Showing

- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (English, Japanese 4DX/Anime)
- Kitaro Tanjo: Gegege no Nazo (Japanese/Anime)
- Kamen Rider the Winter Movie: Gotchard & Geats (Japanese)
- Spy x Family Code: White (Japanese/Anime)
- Wish (English 4DX/Anime)
- The Imaginary (Japanese/Anime)
- Wonka (English 4DX)
- I Wish I Could Meet You Again on the Hill Between That Flower Blooms (Japanese)
- Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window (Japanese/Anime)
- Napoleon (English/PG12)
- Rascal Does Not Dream of a Knapsack Kid (Japanese/Anime)
- Tonde Saitama: Biwako yori Ai wo Komete (Japanese)
- Kubi (Japanese/R15+)
- Kamui no Uta (Japanese/PG12)
- Godzilla Minus One (Japanese 4DX)
- How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)

## Coming Soon

- Expend4bles (English/R15+) 1/5
- Concrete Utopia (Korean) 1/5
- Aru Tozasareta Yuki no Sanso de (Japanese) 1/12
- Kizumotogatari: Koyomi Vamp (Japanese/Anime) 1/12
- Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (English 4DX) 1/12
- Godzilla Minus One/C (Japanese)
- Golden Kamuy (Japanese/PG12) 1/19
- Millennium Actress (Japanese/Anime) 1/19
- Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Freedom (Japanese/Anime) 1/26
- Love You as the World Ends: Final (Japanese/PG12) 1/26
- Poor Things (English/R18+) 1/26
- Silent Love (Japanese) 1/26
- Damon Slayer: To the Hashira Training (Japanese/PG12/Anime) 2/2
- The Color Purple (English) 2/9
- Haikyu the Movie: The Battle at the Garbage Dump (Japanese/Anime) 2/16
- Beau is Afraid (English/R15+) 2/16
- Matched (Japanese) 2/23
- Doraemon: Nobita's Earth Symphony (Japanese/Anime) 3/1



# MOVIES IN JANUARY

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**Cineplex 7 Asahikawa Cinemas Only:** Every Wednesday is Ladies' Day! Admission is ¥1,100 (tax included) for women at all theaters.

**Aeon Cinema:** Miyashita-dori 7-chome / 0166-74-6411

**URL:** [cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa](http://cinema.aeoncinema.com/wm/asahikawa) (Japanese)

## Now Showing

- ⌚ Kyokaishaku Momotaro (Japanese)
- ⌚ Spy x Family Code: White (Japanese/Anime)
- ⌚ Kamen Rider the Winter Movie: Gotchard & Geats (Japanese)
- ⌚ The Imaginary (Japanese/Anime)
- ⌚ Wish (English, Japanese/Anime)
- ⌚ PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie (Japanese/Anime)
- ⌚ Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window (Japanese/Anime)
- ⌚ I Wish I Could Meet You Again on the Hill Between That Flower Blooms (Japanese)
- ⌚ My Next Life as a Villainess: All Routes Lead to Doom! (Japanese/Anime)
- ⌚ Wonka (English, Japanese)
- ⌚ Lumberjack the Monster (Japanese/PG12)
- ⌚ Kamui no Uta (Japanese/PG12)
- ⌚ Tonde Saitama: Biwako yori Ai wo Komete (Japanese)
- ⌚ Kubi (Japanese/R15+)
- ⌚ Kitaro Tanjo: Gegege no Nazo (Japanese/Anime)
- ⌚ Sumikko Gurashi: Tsugihagi Kojo no Fushigi na Ko (Japanese/Anime)
- ⌚ Godzilla Minus One (Japanese 4DX)
- ⌚ How Do You Live? (Japanese/Anime)

## Coming Soon

- ⌚ Bloody Escape (Japanese/PG12/Anime) 1/5
- ⌚ Expend4bles (English/R15+) 1/5
- ⌚ Concrete Utopia (Korean) 1/5
- ⌚ Detective Conan vs. Kaito Kid (Japanese/Anime) 1/5
- ⌚ Aru Tozasareta Yuki no Sanso de (Japanese) 1/12
- ⌚ Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (English, Japanese) 1/12
- ⌚ Golden Kamuy (Japanese/PG12) 1/19
- ⌚ Poor Things (English/R18+) 1/26
- ⌚ Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Freedom (Japanese/Anime) 1/26
- ⌚ Love You as the World Ends: Final (Japanese) 1/26
- ⌚ Silent Love (Japanese) 1/26
- ⌚ Damon Slayer: To the Hashira Training (Japanese/PG12/Anime) 2/2
- ⌚ Haikyu the Movie: The Battle at the Garbage Dump (Japanese/Anime) 2/16

# AIC BULLETIN BOARD

## Need Assistance?



If you ever find yourself in need of assistance, know that the Hokkaido Foreign Resident Support Center is there for you! They are able to provide you with consultation services in various languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Russian, Indonesian, Thai, Nepalese, Burmese) on residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, childcare, education, and more for FREE! Call them at **011-200-9595** or go to: [www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan](http://www.hiecc.or.jp/soudan)

## FUN Friday

Interesting activities such as quizzes, discussions, songs, games, handicrafts and much more, all in English! Come meet new people, relax and relate on Fun Fridays!

**Dates:** January 12th & 26th, February 9th & 22nd (Due to 23rd being a Holiday), March 8th & 22nd

**Times:** 1:00pm-2:00pm ~Afternoon~ 2nd and 4th Friday of the month

6:30-8:30pm ~Night~ 2nd Friday of the month

**Location:** Asahikawa International Center, Common Meeting Room (1)

(Feeeaal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome)

**Charge:** ¥1,500 for 3 months (Free for volunteer leaders)

The AIC offers many services to make your life in Asahikawa more enjoyable. Here are just a few:

**Volunteer Guide:** Volunteers are registered to help translate and interpret.

**Event Volunteer:** The AIC plans many exciting events throughout the year, such as Friendship Parties.

Why not become a volunteer and help plan these events?

**Homestay:** Families are registered to welcome you into their homes for an overnight stay or just an afternoon visit.



The Asahikawa International Center (Feeeaal Asahikawa 7F 1-jo-dori 8-chome has free Wi-Fi available for public use. If you reside in Asahikawa, registration for a user card is required. Please feel free to come by anytime, as well as check out some of the other services and activities available at the Asahikawa International Center!

## Spread the Word...

Contribute to the AIC newsletter and share any interesting information you may have with other readers. You may write on any topic including: items to buy/shell, offers for culture/language exchange, or write an essay about your life in Asahikawa or your hometown. The article should not be profit-related! Please send your submissions to us at the AIC.



Asahikawa International Committee

Asahikawa International Center Feeeaal Asahikawa 7F, 1-jo-dori 8-chome,

Asahikawa 070-0031

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E-mail: [cir\\_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp](mailto:cir_kokusai@city.asahikawa.hokkaido.jp)

**\*\*The opinions expressed in the essays are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the AIC or the City of Asahikawa.\*\***