

SHINJUKU NEWS



Foreign Language Website <http://www.city.shinjuku.tokyo.jp/foreign/english/>
Please make your inquiries in Japanese when calling the coordinating division.

No. 11

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See All of Shinjuku from High-rise Buildings in Nishi-Shinjuku

On a clear day in winter when the air is brisk and pure, the view from high-rise buildings in Nishi-Shinjuku is very beautiful, and you can clearly see such Japanese landmarks as Tokyo Tower and Mt. Fuji. In this issue, we will describe the Nishi-Shinjuku area, spotlighting high-rise buildings that have free observation decks. Why not view Tokyo from the top of a high-rise building in Nishi-Shinjuku instead of looking up at towering buildings from the street?

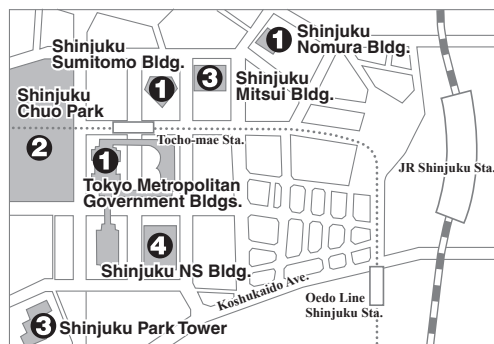


① Looking at Shinjuku

Tokyo Metropolitan Building No. 1 (243 m), Shinjuku Nomura Building (203 m), and Shinjuku Sumitomo Building (200 m) have free observation decks. The night view from these buildings is especially beautiful and provides a different image of Shinjuku from what you see during the day. There are observation decks in both the north and south sides of Tokyo Metropolitan Building No. 1, and many foreign tourists visit this site.



▲ Group of Nishi-Shinjuku high-rise buildings



Building	Hours	Closed
Tokyo Metropolitan Building No. 1	9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.	December 29 through 31, January 2 and 3, and Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building inspection days
Shinjuku Sumitomo Building	10 a.m. to 10 p.m.	3 rd Sunday in February, 4 th Sunday in August, and December 31 through January 1
Shinjuku Nomura Building	8 a.m. to 11 p.m.	Facility inspection days in February and August and on December 31 through January 1

Note: Observation decks may be closed on other days as well.

② Oasis in the City

Shinjuku Chuo Park, located in the middle of a cluster of high-rise buildings, is the largest municipal park in Shinjuku City. Because it faces the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Buildings, it is a good idea to take a leisurely stroll through the park after looking at Tokyo from the observation deck. The park has attractive amenities, such as lawns, a water plaza, and a playground with recreational equipment. If you would like to go for a nice run or walk, there is also a jogging course. Flea markets are sometimes held on weekends, and the park is crowded with visitors.

③ Exhibitions

★ The Epson Imaging Gallery epSITE, located on the first floor of the Shinjuku Mitsui Building, has free exhibitions of works created using state-of-the-art ink-jet printing technology. You can easily lose track of time just looking at the exhibits, the result of various creative collaborative efforts with photographers.

Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed: Open seven days a week except during the summer and year-end/New Year holidays

★ At the Living Design Center Ozone in Shinjuku Park Tower, there are exhibitions related to living space. These exhibitions are actually quite diverse, with genres ranging from architecture to interior design and space design. The exhibits are created by richly unique artists, and all the works are very stimulating. Admission is free of charge.

Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Closed: Wednesdays (except on holidays)



▲ Shinjuku Park Tower (235 m)

④ Grand Pendulum Clock

The plaza on the first floor of the Shinjuku NS Building has a marble floor and an atrium that goes up 30 stories. With sunshine pouring through the glass roof, the spacious area is very refreshing. Here, the most awesome sight is the world's largest pendulum clock, which is listed in Guinness World Records. The clock is 29-meters tall, and the 12 zodiac signs are used on the face of the clock instead of numbers.



The next issue of Shinjuku News will be published in March 2008. Shinjuku News is available at various public facilities such as Shinjuku City Office, Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, Branch Offices and public libraries.

International Exchange Residents' Gathering: Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival)

Why not experience traditional Japanese culture?

Every year, nearly 200 foreign residents come and enjoy



The traditional *hina matsuri* is held to celebrate the healthy growth of girls by setting up a *hina* doll display. It is celebrated on March 3.

trying on kimonos and experiencing India ink painting, flower arrangement, and tea ceremony at the annual *hina matsuri*. There will be a rare seven-tier *hina* doll display as well. Simply come to the venue on the day of the event.



Be happy with flowers you arrange yourself.



Try your hand at calligraphy!

Date and Time: February 23 (Sat.), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Okubo Community Center (2-12-7 Okubo)
Fee: ¥500 (free for elementary school age children and younger)
Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza
 Tel: 03-5291-5171

Let's Join Oyako (Family) Japanese-Language Class!

Enjoy learning Japanese together as a family. Families with infants are especially welcomed! Participation is free of charge. (However, there is a ¥500 insurance fee.) You can join in at any time.



January 12 (Sat.) – Introduction of My Home Country
January 26 (Sat.) – Setsubun (Bean-Throwing Festival)
February 9 (Sat.) – Valentine's Day
February 23 (Sat.) – Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival)
March 8 (Sat.) – Let's Talk in Japanese
March 22 (Sat.) – Going Out

All classes are from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Location: Okubo Elementary School (1-1-21 Okubo)
Inquiries/Application: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza
 Tel: 03-5291-5171

Shinjuku Children's Japanese-Language Class

Let's have fun studying Japanese! Someone who speaks your native language will teach you. The class is free of charge.

Date and Time: Weekdays, March 5 through 26, 2 to 4 p.m.
Location: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza
Eligibility: As a rule, students in Shinjuku preparing to transfer into or enter an elementary or junior high school or who have recently done so.
Application: Send your application by fax or e-mail to the address below, giving (1) the child's name (with furigana above or next to the kanji or other characters used), age, and native language; (2) parent's name; (3) address; (4) telephone/fax number; and (5) name of the class.
 ★ Details will be mailed to applicants.

Professional Consultation Services for Foreign Residents

Professional consultants and volunteer interpreters are available for legal consultation on such matters as visa status and international marriage/divorce; labor consultation on such matters as wages and dismissals; consultation on education and higher education; and consultation on various issues, such as problems with shopping, contracts, and housing. Come to the site on the day of the event. All matters will be kept strictly confidential.

Date and Time: March 16 (Sun.), 2 to 4 p.m.
Location: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza (Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho)
Fee: Free of charge
Languages: English, Chinese, and Korean
Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza
 Tel: 03-5291-5171

Seeking Students!

Application/Inquiries: Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza
 Tel: 03-5291-5171
 Fax: 03-5291-5172
 E-mail: kokusai@shinjukubunka.or.jp
 Hygeia 11F, 2-44-1 Kabukicho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0021
 ★ Note: Parents should accompany their children to and from class to prevent traffic accidents and injuries.



Announcement from Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza

Please note that since the entire Hygeia building will be closed on March 9 (Sun.), Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza will also be closed.

File Your Income Tax Report (Kakutei Shinkoku) during the Filing Period

The deadline for reporting and paying income and donation taxes for 2007 is March 17 (Mon.). The deadline for reporting and paying consumption and local consumption taxes (for sole proprietors) is March 31 (Mon.).

☞ Salaried income earners must file a report in the following cases:

- ① Those whose income exceeds ¥20,000,000
- ② Those who have an income other than salaried income and retirement benefits that exceeds a total of ¥200,000 (after deducting necessary expenses from revenues)
- ③ Those who have a salaried income from two or more sources and have not received a year-end adjustment

④ Those who have not paid withholding tax in Japan when receiving their salary because of such reasons as being paid overseas

★ To pay your income tax, consumption tax, and/or local consumption tax, please take advantage of the convenient account transfer payment.

★ For more information, please visit the National Tax Agency Web site (in Japanese and English) at <http://www.nta.go.jp>.

Inquiries: Yotsuya Tax Office (24 Sanei-cho,
Tel: 03-3359-4451)
Shinjuku Tax Office (1-19-3 Kita-Shinjuku,
Tel: 03-3362-7151)

To All 20-Year-Olds Participate in the Coming-of-Age Day: A Gathering of 20-Year-Olds

In Japan, young people join the ranks of adulthood, becoming of legal age for voting and drinking alcohol at 20 years of age. The objective of this ceremony is to encourage young adults to open their way to the future and take responsibility for themselves. Shinjuku City also holds an event to celebrate the adulthood of new 20-year-olds.



Let's celebrate with all the 20-year-olds in Shinjuku!

Date and Time: January 14 (Mon., a national holiday), 1 to 3 p.m. (Reception will be open from 12 noon.)

Location: Keio Plaza Hotel (2-2-1 Nishi-Shinjuku)

Eligibility: Those born between April 2, 1987, and April 1, 1988, and who are registered as foreign residents of Shinjuku

Program: Ceremony and buffet party

Inquiries: Gender Equality and Peace Promotion Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 3F), Tel: 03-5273-4088

Users of Bicycle Control Areas **Wanted**

Illegally parked bicycles obstruct pedestrian traffic and cause traffic jams. Moreover, in times of disaster, illegally parked bicycles block evacuation routes and interfere with rescue activities.

Shinjuku City has established bicycle parking lots and bicycle control areas near train stations. If you would like to use these facilities, please apply for registration.

Period of Use: April 1 (Tue.), 2008, to March 31 (Tue.), 2009

Eligible Vehicles: Bicycles and motorcycles (engine size of 50 cc or less)

Application: Fill in an application form at your local bicycle parking lot or branch office between February 1 (Fri.) and February 29 (Fri.). Applications may also be submitted via Shinjuku City's Web site. If the number of applicants exceeds capacity, a lottery will be held.

Note: If you would like to use a bicycle parking lot, please apply directly with the particular parking lot you would like to use.

Inquiries: Bicycle Countermeasures Section, Roads and Greenery Affairs Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 7F), Tel: 03-5273-3896

Are You Enrolled in National Health Insurance?

Under the National Health Insurance system, members pay premiums into a financial pool that covers medical expenses when treated for illnesses or injuries.

Please be sure to enroll and remember to pay the premiums so that you can receive medical treatment for illnesses or injuries without worrying about expenses.

● **Eligibility:** All Japanese residents and registered foreign residents who plan to stay in Japan for a year or longer in Shinjuku City must enroll in the health insurance system. If you are not enrolled in a health insurance plan at your place of employment, you must enroll in National Health Insurance. The following, however, are not qualified for enrollment:

- ① Those whose visa period of stay has expired
- ② Those on a temporary visitor's visa
- ③ Those on a diplomatic visa
- ④ Those who definitely will not be staying in Japan for one year or longer

⑤ Those who are eligible for health insurance at their place of employment and their families (nonworking dependents)

● **Enrollment:** Please complete enrollment procedures within 14 days in the following cases.

- ① If you have moved into Shinjuku City
- ② If you have withdrawn from the health insurance plan at your place of employment
- ③ If your visa status has changed from *temporary visitor to college student or dependent*
- ④ If a child is born in your family
- ⑤ If you are no longer eligible for public financial assistance for everyday living

Inquiries: National Health Insurance Eligibility Section, National Health Insurance and Pension Division (Shinjuku City Office Main Bldg. 4F), Tel: 03-5273-4146

Living Together

“Multicultural living” refers to people of different nationalities and ethnic races living together, and accepting and understanding the differences between their cultures.

In this issue, we will report from the front lines of multicultural living.

Latin Culture in Shinjuku was held at Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza from September through November. Members of NPO Latin Culture Center IMPACTO LATINO (hereinafter referred to as IMPACTO LATINO), who actively work toward cultural exchange on a regular basis, introduced the enchanting cultures of Latin countries, such as Peru, Cuba, Spain, and Brazil. For this issue, we spoke with director Johnny Alvarado.

IMPACTO LATINO Brings Together the Cultures of 21 Latin Countries

Tell us about the activities of IMPACTO LATINO.

IMPACTO LATINO offers classes and events that introduce the cultures of 21 Latin countries. The programs are very diverse and include language; music; dancing, such as flamenco and tango; Latin cooking, as typified by paella; and sports, such as soccer. We wanted to create a place where people feel they can experience all aspects of Latin culture from IMPACTO LATINO.

We held an event that introduced the cultures of six Latin countries at Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza, and now we have instructors whose countries were not introduced saying, “I want to introduce my country, too!” Because all of our instructors are enthusiastic and quite well-known in their fields, I hope people can discover hints that would lead to a happy everyday life from the Latin culture that the instructors introduce.

What were the classes at Shinjuku Multicultural Plaza like?



▲ Conga (Cuban musical instruments) performance

Although we had initially set the per-class capacity at 40 people, the classes proved to be so popular that we raised the capacity to 60, and even then there was a waiting list. We learned that there are many people who are very interested in Latin culture. There were a lot of people particularly interested in the music and dance performances, and we were moved to see participants excitedly asking questions after the class was over and going home with smiles on their faces. I think until now, people hardly had the chance to experience Latin culture firsthand, and I hope this recent event encourages people to visit IMPACTO LATINO.

So, there are 21 countries that have a Latin culture. Is that right?

These 21 countries have their own blend of different ethnic groups and cultures, but throughout their long history we can see that they shared a common Latin culture. However, although we say “Latin culture” collectively, each country actually has a lot of its own unique characteristics.



▲ Dancing by Peruvian children

Additionally, some of these countries were in control or under the control of other Latin countries in the past. Through such relationships, each country became familiar with the cultures of the others, and I think it is because they were able to recognize and respect cultural differences that a common culture was able to grow.

What do you try to emphasize when promoting multicultural living?

I think it is important to foster an understanding of Latin culture, especially among children who have intercultural parents, one of whom is from a Latin country. I believe that knowing two cultures will be a valuable asset for these children as they promote cultural exchange in the future. This can apply to adults as well, but I think unless we are aware of cultural differences, it is easy for people to misjudge or cause a misunderstanding with other people.

Can we ask you to give a brief message to our readers?

Approximately 100 years ago, my home country of Peru received immigrants from Japan. Peru offered the Japanese a place to get together and prepared an environment for education and other needs; and its citizens lived with the people of Japan in harmony. Today, many aspects of Japanese culture have taken root in Peru. I experienced this multicultural environment firsthand, so I know that cultural exchange is very important. I hope that the Latin culture will now take



▲ Center director Johnny Alvarado (right) and his assistant Ms. Takeda (left)

root in Japan. If you are interested in the language, music or dance of Latin countries, by all means, please stop by and visit IMPACTO LATINO. I'm sure a wonderful experience is waiting to happen for you.

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