



# What's on in Sapporo?

VOL. 506

HOKKAIDO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2017

## March Calendar

### Hina-dolls

Parents of daughters display beautiful *hina*-dolls in ancient court costumes at home, because Mar. 3 (Fri.) is a very special day, the Dolls Festival, where they pray for their daughters' health and happiness. People eat traditional dishes like *chirashi-zushi* (sushi in a bowl) and clam soup.

### Shunbun-no-hi

Shunbun-no-hi (the Vernal Equinox) falls on Mar. 20 (Mon). This national holiday is designated to respect nature and cherish all creatures. In Buddhism, the souls of ancestors visit during Shunbun-no-hi for around seven days. This period is called *higan*. People visit their ancestors' graves to pray. They bring *botamochi* (rice balls coated with sweet bean paste).

### The Farewell Season

In Japan, the new fiscal year starts in April. March is a season of good byes for friends and colleagues.

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Hokkaido Rail Pass\*



Botamochi



Graduation Ceremony



Hina-dolls

## Trip with HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS

HOKKAIDO RAIL PASS is a special pass for non-residents who have a "Temporary Visitor" entry status, which allows them to travel by train, except Shinkansen, anywhere they want to go such as Niseko, Furano and Hakodate. Types: The consecutive days (three types) and any four days within the effective 10 days (the flexible 4-Day pass). Where to buy: JR Sapporo Sta., JR New Chitose Airport Sta., Twinkle Plazas, designated travel agencies outside Japan and etc. Reserved seating tickets: Purchase or exchange your voucher for the pass, and receive a reserved ticket at the Twinkle Plaza or Midori-no-madoguchi (free). How to board: Just show the pass to the staff at the ticket gate. Use the pass and enjoy a nostalgic train trip in the scenic nature of Hokkaido. •Info: Hokkaido Railway Company (JR Hokkaido), <<http://www2.jrhokkaido.co.jp/global/english/railpass/rail.html>>

\* Image provision: Hokkaido Railway Company

| Types                   | 3-Day   | 5-Day   | 7-Day   | Flexible 4-Day |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Adult fare              | ¥16,500 | ¥22,000 | ¥24,000 | ¥22,000        |
| Child fare (6-11 years) | ¥8,250  | ¥11,000 | ¥12,000 | ¥11,000        |

Website: <http://kokusai.wix.com/hiwasince75>



<http://facebook.com/WhatsoninSapporo/>