

[Arts Council Tokyo Traditional Culture Program] Short-term experience program for foreign visitors New lineup

A program starts that you can join to experience Japanese traditional instrument ‘koto’

～at Tokyo City i, KITTE B1F from Saturday, October 14th～

Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) domestically and internationally transmits Japanese traditional cultures that Tokyo is proud of for Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2020, and holds experience programs at sightseeing spots in Tokyo for foreigners visiting Japan with the theme “Approaching Tokyo Tradition”. This year, as a new program, a program of “Koto music” to appreciate and experience one of Japanese traditional instruments, “koto” free of charge has just started at the Tokyo City i Performance Zone, KITTE B1F since Saturday, October 14th.



“Koto music” experience at 2015 Arts Council Tokyo Traditional Culture Program “Let’s all enjoy the world of Nihon Buyo”
 (“Koto music” experience web site <http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng/program/035/>)

■ Short-term experience program for foreign visitors “Koto music” overview

“Koto music” is Japanese traditional music that uses “koto”. It became quite popular from Edo era to Meiji era, by ensembles with shamisen and shakuhachi. It is still familiar to numerous people with concerts held all over Japan. It’s also gathering attention globally in recent years, with concerts held in the United States and Brazil.

Participants listen to professional players play “koto” in the first half of the program and try basic playing of “koto” in the second half. Foreigners living in and visiting Japan could casually join the program with gentle and understandable instructions.

Date : November 10 (Fri) and December 23(Sat), 2017
 January 6 (Sat), February 10 (Sat) and March 3 (Sat), 2018
 Venue : Tokyo City i Performance Zone, KITTE B1F
 Admission : Free
 Participation : Advance application required
 ※Additional application accepted on event days when undersubscribed
 WEB : <http://tokyo-tradition.peatix.com>

Other various programs are held in Tokyo.

The latest information for programs in the future will sequentially be announced in the following official pages (Japanese and English).

(WEB) <http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng/>
 (facebook) <https://www.facebook.com/TokyoTradition>
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Experience and appreciation program for foreign visitors

Two programs of Edo string puppetry and Noh, which are combinations of experience and appreciation of traditional culture and performing art, will be implemented for foreign visitors to understand Japanese traditional culture and performing art more deeply.

■ Edo string puppetry × “Rakugo” Comic story telling

Classic rakugo “Bunshichi Mottoi” will be played with “Edo string puppetry”(Tokyo Metropolitan Government intangible cultural property/national record selection tangible folk cultural property), with which you can strongly feel the spirit of Edo people—short temper, obstinacy, bellicose, sentimental, strong sense of justice and loyalty – and the living customs in Edo old town.

We will hold an exhibition of actual “Bunshichi Mottoi” used in the play and historical record and dolls of Edo string puppetry at the lobby, and there will be an experimental program where you can manipulate the dolls after the play.

Program name :Edo string puppetry & Comic Story telling
 –What Bunshichi Mottoi Did in Edo Old Town
 Date :December 20(Wed), 2017
 Open 18:00 Play 19:00
 Venue :KFC Hall (Kokusai Fashion Center, Ryogoku)
 Admission :Adults: 2,800 yen Students:1,200 yen(now on sale)
 WEB : <https://www.artscouncil-tokyo.jp/en/events/19142/>



Edo string puppetry “Bunshichi Mottoi”

■ Noh

A play for foreigners to know the Japanese culture with existence of deities through Noh. Along with “OKINA” in the authentic style with the unique culture of Noh included in, the play of “ENMA Nyotai” will be shown, with the theme of Japanese deities. Also, there will be experimental program for religious service at the alter that the audience cannot see from the seats and back stage tours after the play.

Program name :Noh “OKINA” –Encounter with Deities
 Date :January 27(Sat), 2018
 Open and experience program start 12:30 Play 13:30
 Venue :Kita Roppeita XIV Commemorative Noh Theatre
 (Kita Noh Theatre)
 Admission :Adults 3,000 yen Students 1,500 yen (now on sale)
 WEB :<https://www.artscouncil-tokyo.jp/en/events/19128/>



Noh “ENMA”

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※All programs are subject to change without notice.

Contact for this release
and coverages

Arts Council Tokyo Traditional Culture Program public relations office
 [ANTIL Inc. Kubota, Takeda, Tanabe and Sakai]
 Tel: 03-6825-3020/ Fax: 03-6685-5266/ email: press@tokyo-tradition.jp

Short-term experience programs for foreign visitors

Arts Council Tokyo holds various experimental programs to know Japanese traditions and cultures at sightseeing spots, etc. in Tokyo. English interpreters attend all the programs and simple guidebooks (in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean) are distributed to the participants.

■ Nihon Buyo

Participants will experience Nihon Buyo with a song called “Sakura-Sakura”, which represents Japan, in yukata using Japanese fan, then will appreciate a popular program “Fuji-Musume” by professional dancers. Taking commemorative photos with the teacher at the last is popular as well.

Date :April 2017–March 2018 every Sunday
(some Sundays excluded)
Venue :Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center 6F
Admission :Free
Participation :Advance application not required
(approx. 20 participants each time, first come,
first served on 1st floor of the venue)
WEB :<http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng/program/033/>



Dancing Nihon Buyo in yukata

■ Nagauta Shamisen

Nagauta is Japanese traditional music which was born as the music for Kabuki and grew to be played with shamisen. Even beginners can experience playing “Sakura-Sakura”, which represents Japan, with shamisen with professional play and gentle explanation, and understand and be familiar with nagauta. Participants also can take commemorative photos with shamisen.

Date :April 16(Sun), 2017–March 18(Sun), 2018
Once a month on Sundays
Venue :Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center 6F
Admission :Free
Participation :Advance application not required
(approx. 25 participants each time, first come,
first served on 1st floor of the venue)
WEB :<http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng/program/034/>



Playing shamisen with instructions by professionals

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■ Engei

We provide experiences of Japanese lion dance with your head bit for fortune, Kyokugei such as “Kami-tape tate” (performance with paper and tape) and wazuma (a magic that has been performed since ancient Japan) at Haneda Airport which is busy with foreign visitors every day as the “gateway into Japan and Tokyo” from abroad.

Date : April 2017–March 2018
 ※Three times a month on Mondays
 Venue : Haneda Airport International Passenger Terminal
 5F Festival Plaza and others
 Admission : Free
 Participation : Free participation for anyone
 WEB : <http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng/program/032/>



Having the head bitten

■ Flower arrangement (Ikebana), Edo Sashimono and Kimono dressing

Experience program of Kado, Edo Sashimono (making chopsticks) and Kimono dressing will be held at Hama-rikyu Gardens. This is a valuable opportunity to know the traditional cultures in a Japanese garden that is popular as “urban oasis”.

Date : October 21(Sat) and October 22(Sun), 2017
 Venue : Hama-rikyu Gardens
 (admission fee required for gardens)
 Admission : Flower arrangement and kimono dressing (free)
 Edo Sashimono (500 yen)
 Participation : Advance application not required
 WEB : <http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng/program/036/>



Kimono Dressing experience

■ Kabuki

Kabuki is a comprehensive art that combines elements of music, dancing and acting. After explanation of history of Kabuki and actions by a Kabuki actor, participants can experience prop for Kabuki. In addition, you can experience mie (pose), lines or enjoy makeup demonstration by a Kabuki actor.

Date : November 4(Sat), November 5(Sun), 2017
 Time : No.1 /12:00–13:00 (poses and lines)
 No.2/ 17:00–18:00
 (makeup demonstration by a Kabuki actor)
 ※No. 1 and No. 2 partially include different contents.
 Venue : Kyoraku-TEI (COREDO Muromachi3 3F)
 ※November 4 (Sat) No.2 (17:00–18:00) will be held
 at the harappa Nihonbashi.

Admission : Free
 Participation : Advance application required
 ※ Application accepted on event days when undersubscribed
 WEB : <http://tokyo-tradition.peatix.com>



Kabuki experience

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