

Arts Council Tokyo Traditional Culture Program

Nearly 110,000 attendees in total! Traditional Culture Experience Programs for Foreign Visitors with authentic and high-quality Japanese experiences

Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) will hold the "Tokyo Tokyo FESTIVAL" as part of its efforts to increase interest in Tokyo leading up toward 2020.

One of the programs, held under the theme, "Approaching Tokyo Tradition," provides foreign visitors and children with the chance to easily experience and enjoy traditional Japanese culture and entertainment.

Over 1000 programs have been held through Traditional Culture Experience Programs for foreign visitors, and nearly 110,000(*) participants have taken part since the program began in 2015. The programs held in Asakusa and the Edo-Tokyo Museum have been especially popular, and are held throughout the year.

Hanayagi Kiyohito, who teaches traditional Japanese dance in Asakusa as part of the Japanese Classical Dance Association's Tokyo Office Joto Block, said "I hope that people, especially those who are experiencing Japanese dance (Nihon buyo) for the first time, are able to experience the real thing first. I also hope that they are impressed and share their experience with family and friends." One excited first-time participant noted, "I have seen Japanese dance in pictures, but it was my first time seeing it in person. I was impressed by the beautiful, detailed movements."

Traditional Culture Experience Programs will be held on most weekends until the end of March (some exclusions apply). Please join us indoors for exciting traditional Japanese experiences during the cold winter months!

*As of September 2018



The latest information for programs in the future will be updated on the following official website (in Japanese and English)

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Contact for this release and interviews

Tokyo Tradition Public Relations Office, Arts Council Tokyo (c/o ANTIL)
[ANTIL, Inc. Hishiki, Hirai and Sakai]

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■ Comments from the Instructor

Hanayagi Kiyohito, The Japanese Classical Dance Association Inc. Tokyo Office, Joto Block Chief Instructor

<What makes the program popular?>

You can wear a yukata, dance to traditional music, or watch professional performers.

Many participants in the programs were excited to try on the yukata. We dress each participant properly, and I believe being able to see the beauty of the yukata in its proper form is another reason why they are popular.

In addition, Japanese dance workshop allows participants to experience the elegant gestures that go into the performance. Seeing the participants learn the dance from the basics, and smile after they were able to perform the moves to the song, is very exciting. Participants also seemed fascinated to be able to watch professionals perform a song after the program.

<About the activities>

Being able to experience authentic Japanese culture is very important.

As the interest in Japanese culture grows, more and more tourists are visiting our country each year. I think that providing an opportunity to take part in authentic Japanese cultural experiences is extremely important. Many tourists have taken part in our programs since we began 4 years ago. Seeing everyone's smiling faces, I believe that our program has makes tourists to gain an even deeper appreciation of Japanese culture. Working as an instructor makes me to realize the importance of providing an opportunity to take part in these authentic cultural experiences.



■ Comments from Participants

Participants of all ages from countries all over the world have taken part in this program. We have received many comments from participants, including these ones listed below.

《Engei》

- "I was surprised to learn magic tricks, called *wazuma*, in traditional Japanese culture."
- "My children especially, were excited to see a professional *engei* performance. The duration was also just right."
- "Being able to learn traditional Japanese culture was an extremely valuable experience, especially for my Canadian children. It increased our love of Japanese culture."

《Japanese dance workshop》

- Subtle movements like the bow made the dance uniquely Japanese, which does not exist in dances in my culture."
- "It was my first time wearing a yukata, but it was a lot easier to wear than I expected."
- "I always believed Japanese dance was very serious, but after experiencing it, I learned it was very fun."

《Shamisen of Nagauta workshop》

- "This opportunity was useful for me to learn more about traditional Japanese music."
- "This free program was especially great for a traveler like me. I definitely hope they continue it."
- "I was able to learn about Japanese music with English translations. I hope to share my excellent experience with friends back home."



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■ Traditional Culture Experience Programs for Foreign Visitors **Engei**

Date	Every Saturdays from April 14, 2018 to March 30, 2019 Kyokugei (acrobatics) : Jan. 19 / Feb. 2 / Feb. 16 / Mar. 2 / Mar. 16, 2019 Kamikiri (papercutting) : Feb. 9 / Mar. 23, 2019 Wazuma (traditional magic) : Jan. 26 / Feb. 23 / Mar. 9 / Mar. 30, 2019
Time	12:30~13:00/14:00~14:30/16:00~16:30
Venue	Edo-Tokyo Museum 5F Permanent exhibition area 1-4-1 Yokoami, Sumida-ku, Tokyo 130-0015
Contents	Participants can experience techniques used in a variety of performances ("kyokugei" traditional acrobatics, "kamikiri" paper cutting, and "wazuma" traditional Japanese magic) which are still popular at vaudeville shows today, with demonstrations by professional people. It also includes experience of the skillful techniques used in the auspicious art of umbrella rotating, paper craft in which simple shapes are created using only paper and scissors, and magic which has been performed since the Edo period.
Participation	Advanced application not required
Admission	Free of charge ※Museum admission fee required
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Supported by	RAKUGO GEIJYUTSU association

■ Traditional Culture Experience Programs for Foreign Visitors **Japanese dance workshop**

Date	Every Sundays from April 8, 2018 to March 31, 2019 Exclusion: Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar. 3, 2019
Time	11:00~12:00/13:00~14:00/15:00~16:00
Venue	Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center 6F 2-18-9 Kaminarimon, Taito-ku, Tokyo 111-0034
Contents	Nihon buyo is a type of traditional Japanese dance that has a history of nearly 400 years. It is characterized by uniquely Japanese qualities of elegance and grace. Why don't you try on a yukata and join our dance workshop? You can wear a yukata, a casual kimono, and learn how to dance in this workshop for free. In addition, we hope you will enjoy watching a professional dancer perform "Fujimusume (Wisteria Maiden)" etc., which is the authentic and well-known Japanese dancing number.
Participation	Please access the booking URL below and make an online reservation in advance. *If there is a vacancy on the day, we will accept extra participants at the venue. http://tokyo-tradition.peatix.com
Admission	Free of charge
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Co-organized by	Taito City
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Supported by	The Japanese Classical Dance Association, Inc.

■ Traditional Culture Experience Programs for Foreign Visitors **Shamisen of Nagauta workshop**

Date	Jan. 20, Feb. 17, 2019
Time	11:30~12:30 / 13:20~14:20 / 15:10~16:10
Venue	Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center 6F 2-18-9 Kaminarimon, Taito-ku, Tokyo 111-0034
Contents	"Nagauta", which originated as kabuki music and developed as shamisen (three-string instrument) music, is a type of traditional Japanese music played on shamisen. You can try shamisen and professional nagauta players will give a powerful performance and explain nagauta in a way that makes it easy even for first-timers to understand.
Participation	Please access the booking URL below and make an online reservation in advance. *If there is a vacancy on the day, we will accept extra participants at the venue. http://tokyo-tradition.peatix.com
Admission	Free of charge
Organized by	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
Co-organized by	Taito City
Supported by and in cooperation with	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
Supported by	Nagauta Association

This program is subject to change without notice.

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