

Arts Council Tokyo Traditional Culture Program

# 100,000 attendees in total! Entering its fourth year, increasingly fulfilling “Traditional Culture Experience Programs for Foreign Visitors” to be held throughout Tokyo during the 2018 fiscal year.

Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture) implements various projects and programs aimed for people who are not familiar with traditional Japanese culture and arts, like foreigners and children, to freely enjoy authentic traditional culture and performing arts, with the theme of “Approaching Tokyo Tradition”.

The “Traditional Culture Experience Programs for Foreign Visitors” has entered its fourth year, and the total number of attendees has surpassed 100,000. With past comments such as “I was able to learn about Japanese culture.” and “It was an intriguing event.”, the ever popular programs will again be held throughout this fiscal year. Further, there will be three programs, the “Festivals”, the “Traditional Performing Arts Programs” and the “Programs for Children” joining up to make it four programs in total. The newly categorized programs will welcome top-of-the-line performers, making the viewing and experiencing of true traditional culture and arts much more fulfilling.

With Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in two years, there will be many programs held again this year, as a project to create and transmit the traditional culture of Tokyo to the world.



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

web

[www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng](http://www.tokyo-tradition.jp/eng)

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**Contact for this release and interviews**

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Traditional Culture Experience Programs for Foreign Visitors

**Always full with various nationals from around the world, “Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program for Foreign Visitors” have been held more than 110 times a year! This year it'll start from April in Asakusa and Ryougoku!**

Held at various tourists' sites throughout the city, the “Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program for Foreign Visitors” were constantly attended by full crowds last fiscal year. With programs being held over 110 times, many foreigners had opportunities to experience Tokyo's proud traditional Japanese culture. The programs have started again this year, in tourist-filled Asakusa, from April 8th. Also, the program being held at the Edo-Tokyo Museum, reopened on April 1st, has started from April 14th.

With the goal of making it easily accessible and to make the visit to Tokyo more memorable, the “Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program for Foreign Visitors” are usually free of charge, aside from some venues that may charge for admissions.



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Festivals

**“The Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony”,  
one of the largest tea ceremonies  
in Japan with about 190,000  
participants in the last 10 years!**

Being held for its eleventh time this year, about 190,000 people have attended the “Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony” in the last 10 years. Also, festivals such as the “Kagurazaka Street Stage O-edoTour 2018” in Kagurazaka, and the “Legendary Tamatebako (Treasure Box) - Tama Traditional Culture Festival 2018” in Hachioji, where many people can freely enjoy traditional culture with a festive atmosphere, will be held again as well.

Traditional Performing Arts Programs

**Advance tickets frequently sold  
out last fiscal year!  
Amazing performances planned  
for this year as well!**

To widely transmit the enchantment of Japanese traditional culture and arts, the programs implement authentic traditional performances in easy to understand formats for youths and foreigners who are unfamiliar with it. Advance tickets were frequently sold out last fiscal year. Amazing performances are planned for this year as well.

Programs for Children

**Many children experienced the real  
world of traditional Japanese  
performing arts!**

With the goal of making opportunities for children to get hands-on experiences in Japanese traditional culture and arts, the “Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program for Kids” held at schools and the “Traditional Performing Arts for Kids” which combine training for several months and a presentation of what they learned, were implemented. Many children experienced the real world of traditional performing arts.



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### Program overview : Traditional Culture Experience Programs for Foreign Visitors

Two kinds of programs for foreign visitors etc., one to casually experience Japanese traditional culture and performing arts such as at sightseeing spots in Tokyo, and the other that combines the experiential learning and play appreciation.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Traditional Culture Experience Program for Foreign Visitors &lt;Japanese Dance Workshop&gt;</b>
<b>Dates</b>	Every Sunday from April 8, 2018 to March 31, 2019 Exclusion: May 20, July 1, July 8, July 29, September 16, October 21, November 18 and December 16, 2018 Exclusions for 2019: January 20, February 17 and March 3
<b>Times</b>	11:00 ~12:00 / 13:00 ~ 14:00 / 15:00 ~16:00
<b>Venue</b>	Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Center 6F 2-18-9 Kaminarimon, Taito-ku, Tokyo 111-0034
<b>Contents</b>	This program allows participants to experience simple movements of Nihon Buyo (traditional Japanese dance) while wearing “yukata” (informal cotton kimono) and watch a professional dancer perform a dance such as a short section of “Fujimusume” (Wisteria Maiden). There will also be an opportunity to take photos with instructors at the end.
<b>Participation</b>	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. <a href="http://tokyo-tradition.peatix.com">http://tokyo-tradition.peatix.com</a>
<b>Admission</b>	Free of charge
<b>Organized by</b>	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
<b>Co-organized by</b>	Taito city
<b>Supported by and in Cooperation with</b>	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
<b>Supported by</b>	The Japanese Classical Dance Association, Inc. (Tokyo branch Joutou block)

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Traditional Culture Experience Program for Foreign Visitors&lt;Engei in Edo-Tokyo Museum&gt;</b>
<b>Dates</b>	Every Saturday from April 14, 2018 to March 30, 2019 (Excluding for December 29, 2018) Kyokugei: April 14, May 5, May 26, June 2, June 16 and June 30 Kamikiri: April 28, May 12 and June 9 Wazuma: April 21, May 19 and June 23 *The schedule after July will be announced on the official website after dates are decided.
<b>Times</b>	12:30 ~ 13:00 / 14:00 ~14:30 / 16:00 ~ 16:30
<b>Venue</b>	Edo-Tokyo Museum 5F Permanent exhibition area 1-4-1 Yokoami, Sumida-ku, Tokyo 130-0015
<b>Contents</b>	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 performers. 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.
<b>Participation</b>	Advance application not required.
<b>Admission</b>	Free of charge *museum admission fee required
<b>Organized by</b>	Arts Council Tokyo (Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture)
<b>Supported by and in Cooperation with</b>	Tokyo Metropolitan Government
<b>Supported by</b>	RAKUGO GEIJYUTSU Association

\*Other programs planned will be announced on the official website after they are decided. \*All programs are subject to change depending on schedules.

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### Program overview : Traditional Culture Experience Programs for Foreign Visitors

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience and Appreciation Program for Foreign Visitors</b>
<b>Dates</b>	To be determined
<b>Times</b>	To be determined
<b>Venue</b>	To be determined
<b>Contents</b>	We will organize programs that combine hands-on experience with opportunities to view traditional culture and performing arts, to provide foreign nationals with a deeper understanding of traditional Japanese culture and performing arts.

### Program overview: Festivals

Festivals for numerous people to casually enjoy traditional cultures, transmitting the charm of traditional cultures seeking the uniqueness and variety of Tokyo.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Legendary Tamatebako (Treasure Box) - Tama Traditional Culture Festival 2018</b>
<b>Dates</b>	Saturday, September 22 and Sunday, September 23
<b>Venue</b>	Hachioji area
<b>Contents</b>	This festival makes the most of the cultural resources of Hachioji and other Tama region, providing everyone — novices and connoisseurs alike — with accessible opportunities to enjoy traditional cultures and performing arts. The diverse program of events will include interactive experiences on the street and outdoor performances.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Tokyo Grand Tea Ceremony 2018</b>
<b>Venue / Dates</b>	Edo-Tokyo Open Air Architectural Museum - Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14 Hama-rikyu Gardens - Saturday, October 20 and Sunday, October 21
<b>Contents</b>	In one of Tokyo's most notable gardens and an open-air museum, we will hold large-scale tea gatherings that bring together a number of tea schools to provide guests from both Japan and overseas with an introduction to tea culture and the Edo-Tokyo culture that nurtured it. As well as conventional indoor tea ceremony settings, this event features outdoor <i>nodate</i> settings, in which guests can enjoy a bowl of tea under the autumn sky, plus tea ceremony workshops for beginners, indoor tea ceremonies and outdoor <i>nodate</i> sessions conducted in English, making the culture of tea more accessible and enjoyable for foreign visitors and other unfamiliar with the Way of Tea.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Kagurazaka Street Stage O-edoTour 2018 (Japanese Traditional Culture Festival)</b>
<b>Dates</b>	Saturday, November 10 and Sunday, November 11
<b>Venue</b>	Kagurazaka area
<b>Contents</b>	We will hold a variety of sophisticated and stylish traditional performing arts events at Bishamonten Zenkoku-ji Temple, Akagi-jinja Shrine, Kagurazaka-dori street, and the stone-paved alleys of the Kagurazaka district, where the traditional blends with the modern. There will also be the chance to try traditional Japanese parlor games (ozashiki-asobi) with members of the local geisha community and take part in a "stamp rally" contest (in which visitors collect stamps at various locations to receive souvenirs). This two-day program offers everyone — including people from other countries and the younger generation — enjoyable and accessible encounters with Japan's traditional culture and performing arts, along with opportunities to experience the charm of this neighborhood.

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### Program overview: Traditional Performing Arts Programs

Programs with contents that implement authentic traditional performances in easy to understand formats for youths and foreigners who are unfamiliar with Japanese traditional culture and arts.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Oedo Vaudeville Show and Traditional Geisha Dances VIII</b>
<b>Venue/Dates</b>	National Theatre (Large Theatre) Monday, September 17
<b>Contents</b>	This program of traditional entertainments provides the chance to enjoy rakugo (traditional comical storytelling) and yose vaudeville performances, which flourished amid the townspeople culture of Edo, along with the traditional performing arts of the geisha world. Featuring dance and music performances by geishas from Tokyo's six geisha districts (Shinbashi, Akasaka, Asakusa, Kagurazaka, Yoshicho and Muko-jima), this traditional performing arts show conjures up the spirit of Edo in modern-day Tokyo.
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>19th Tama River Basin Folk Performance Festival</b>
<b>Venue/Dates</b>	Komae Ecorma Hall Sunday, December 9
<b>Contents</b>	Featuring performances of traditional folk entertainment by nine local groups with roots in the Tama River Basin area, this event aims to promote the revitalization of folk entertainment and the culture of the Tama River Basin area through local cultural exchange.
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Traditional performing arts program (J-CULTURE FEST Collaborative Project)</b>
<b>Venue/Dates</b>	Tokyo International Forum Wednesday, January 2 and Thursday, January 3, 2019 (Scheduled)
<b>Contents</b>	In collaboration with J-CULTURE FEST, a project that conveys the appeal of diverse Japanese cultural forms, we will offer a program of traditional performing arts that is accessible and enjoyable for all.
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Traditional Arts Promotion Performances</b>
<b>Venue/Dates</b>	To be determined
<b>Contents</b>	These accessible performances of authentic traditional arts are aimed at broadening the appeal of Japanese traditional culture and arts for those who are unfamiliar with them, such as the younger generation and foreigners.

### Program overview: Programs for Children

Experiential program at schools and program that combines coaching at Noh theater, etc. for a few month and achievement presentations, for children to learn Japanese traditional culture and performing arts.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Traditional Performing Arts for Kids</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Umewaka Noh Theatre, Hoshonoh Theatre, National Noh Theatre, etc.
<b>Dates</b>	from July to December, 2018
<b>Contents</b>	This program aims to develop the aesthetic sensibilities and minds of the next generation through the traditional performing arts that Japanese people have cherished over the centuries. Over several months, participating children will receive direct instruction from leading performers in the fields of noh theater, nihon buyo dance, sankyoku chamber music and nagauta music, culminating in a public performance showcasing what they have learned. In addition, there will be a youth program aimed specifically at junior and senior high school students.
<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Traditional Culture and Performing Arts Experience Program for Kids</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Elementary, junior high, and high schools, special needs schools, and international schools that are accredited as schools, within the metropolis of Tokyo
<b>Dates</b>	from June, 2018 to February, 2019
<b>Contents</b>	As part of school education, we will organize hands-on programs taught by young performers and practitioners that bring children into contact with Japan's traditional culture and performing arts, thereby providing them with a wider knowledge and accurate, deeper understanding of the value of Japanese culture.

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