

Edo Wonderland Nikko Edomura hosts an international exchange with the Royal Thai Dance Troupe !

A special event where Thai traditional dance and Edo culture merge to become a bridge between Thailand and Japan.



Edo Wonderland Nikko Edomura opened in Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture in 1986, with the concept of regional revitalization and the dissemination of Japan's traditional culture. In 2003, it declared the "Edo Wonderland Declaration" and has been reproducing authentic Edo culture not only for Japanese visitors but also for tourists from overseas to share values. Since 2007, it has actively engaged in inbound sales and the promotion of Japanese culture abroad. Edo Wonderland focuses on conveying the charm of Edo, a proud part of Japan, by emphasizing the quality of its facilities rather than just being a theme park, and operates as a cultural park.

This time, Edo Wonderland Nikko Edomura will be hosting a Japanese performance in June. The 'Royal Thai Dance Troupe' from Thailand will be visiting to engage in international exchange and receive a courtesy visit. Originally scheduled for a Japan tour in 2020, it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During their visit, members of the Royal Thai Dance Troupe are scheduled to experience Edo culture in the morning, where they will have the opportunity to change into kimonos and participate in various cultural activities. In the afternoon, a select team of 40 members, consisting of 36 dancers and musicians from the Royal Thai Dance Troupe, which is composed of Thailand's top performers, and 4 members from the Kayoko Akimoto Thaidance Troupe, who have long been dedicated to cultural exchange between Japan and Thailand, will showcase a magnificent Thai dance performance. Additionally, a collaborative event with "Oiran Dochu," a representative traditional culture of Edo Wonderland Nikko Edomura, will also be held.

Through this international exchange event, we hope to further emphasize the importance of Thailand's inbound market and are confident that it will be an excellent opportunity to enhance the relationship between the two countries.

[Event Details]

- Event Name: "International Exchange between the Royal Thai Dance Troupe and Edo Wonderland Nikko Edomura"
- Date: Saturday, June 8th, 2024
- Schedule for the Royal Thai Dance Troupe:
 - ① Morning: Experience Edo culture
 - ② 13:35: Thai dance stage at Wakamatsuya
 - ③ 14:45: Collaboration event with Oiran Dochu
- Location: Edo Wonderland Nikko Edomura, 470-2 Karakura, Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture

[Profile of the Royal Thai Dance Troupe]

The predecessor of the Royal Thai Dance Troupe was the Thai Drama and Fine Arts School, founded in 1934 by Luang Wichit Wathakan, the first director of the Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Education at the time. The following year, it became a dance troupe directly under the Department of Fine Arts, and it is also the oldest royal dance troupe in Southeast Asia. Housed in the former palace of the late king adjacent to the National Theater, the school has trained traditional Thai dancers and musicians, producing numerous talents. In addition to preserving traditional classical dances, it conducts research on mask dances, regional folk dances, and contributes to the development of Thai dance. Moreover, it is regarded as the top dance troupe in Thailand and has received high acclaim for its performances around the world. In particular, it has engaged in numerous exchanges with Japan and strives to widely introduce Thai performing arts and culture.



[Profile of the Kayoko Akimoto Thaidance Troupe]

Since its collaboration with the Royal Thai Dance Troupe in the performance of "Manora" in 1987, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Japan-Thailand diplomatic relations, the Kayoko Akimoto Thaidance Troupe has regularly performed numerous times with the Royal Thai Dance Troupe and Chulalongkorn University in various regions of Thailand and Japan. They have showcased Thai dance in front of members of the Thai royal family and the Japanese imperial family, receiving high acclaim. Kayoko Akimoto, the founder of the troupe, has been dedicated to nurturing successors as a pioneer of Thai dance in Japan. Additionally, she has been involved in stage productions and performance activities domestically and internationally. Her contributions have been recognized in Thailand, where she has received commendations from the Thai government. Troupe members regularly receive instruction from the Royal Thai Dance Troupe at the National Theater, contributing to artistic exchanges between Japan and Thailand.