

## FREE, GUIDED TOURS (THURSDAY, JUNE 7)

### TOUR A: VISITING A MASTER OF CORMORANT FISHING

*Ukai* (cormorant fishing) at the Nagara River already appeared in ancient literature of 1,300 years ago and has been organized by the Imperial Household since 1890. *Usho* (masters of cormorant fishing) are cormorant trainers with an honor to present *Ayu* (a Plecoglossidae fish) to the Emperor. Six *Usho*, all with hereditary titles, live in the houses along the Nagara riverside with their beloved cormorants. We visit an *Usho's* residence, a traditional Japanese style house that is normally closed to the public, listen to his story about his special birds and his ancient way of fishing. This tour surely makes the fascinating *Ukai* event on Thursday night more enjoyable! This tour is arranged by courtesy of Yamashita Tetsuji, the *Usho*.



- Gathering location and time: North entrance of the Convention Center; Thursday, June 7 at 13:00 h.
- Duration: about 2 hours
- Maximum number of participants: 20
- Requires Reservation at the venue's Registration Desk.

### TOUR B: BIRD WATCHING IN PADDY LANDSCAPE

(MAY BE CANCELLED IN CASE OF RAIN)

Rice growing in the paddy field has some 2,500 years of history in Japan. Many organisms ranging from bacteria to birds of prey have adapted to and become inhabitants of the paddy field ecosystem forming a cultural landscape. We will watch birds that can be seen ordinarily in paddy fields and wetlands lying behind the rivers of central Japan. If we are lucky enough, we

can find 15 to 30 bird species including the species listed below. This tour will be held in cooperation with the birder club of Gifu University; we will walk around the campus, located right in the middle of the paddy field. Field glasses will be provided and rice snacks will be served (for guests!).

*Egretta alba*, Great Egret

*Ardea cinerea*, Grey Heron

*Vanellus cinereus*

*Anas poecilorhyncha*, Spot-billed Duck

*Hypsipetes amaurotis*, Brown-eared Bulbul

*Hirundo rustica*, House Swallow

*Motacilla grandis*, Japanese Wagtail



- Gathering location and time: North entrance of the Convention Center; Thursday, June 7 at 13:00 h.

- Duration: about 4 hours (Please note that if you participate in the Cormorant Fishing event in the evening, you have little time to return to the hotels near the JR/Meitetsu Gifu Stations for a rest after this birding tour.)

- Maximum number of participants: 20

- Requires Reservation at the venue's Registration Desk.

## TOUR C: GUIDED VISIT TO THE TOWN

Gifu was legendarily given its name when Oda Nobunaga, a famous samurai leader, settled here and built his castle at the top of Mt. Kinkazan in 1567. This is generally considered to be the beginning of 300 years of samurai era of a nationwide government by centralized power of samurai leaders. Although the historical landscape of the city disappeared through rapid industrial development after World War II, restoration of old buildings and promotion of traditional handicrafts are now in progress. Our guides



will take you through the historical area showing the City of Gifu and introduce the long story of samurai governance. We may be able to visit a temple with the largest (13.7 m or 539 in. tall) Buddha statue in Japan made by clay. This may require 200 yen if you would like to see the Buddha statue inside the temple.

- Gathering location and time: North entrance of the Convention Center; Thursday, 7 June at 13:00 h.
- Duration: about 2 hours
- Maximum number of participants: 30
- Requires Reservation at the venue's Registration Desk.

## SIGHTSEEING ON YOUR OWN

In your congress bag, you will find a tourist map and a coupon brochure that you can use in various facilities like museums and the ropeway. Local university students can come with you as guides. Please ask for detail at the Registration Desk.

If you wish to climb Mt. Kinkazan (329 m or 1,080 ft, with reconstructed Gifu Castle at the top), we can give you a map at the Registration Desk. After the 2-hour workout, the view from the Castle will be a breathtaking one. Use of a ropeway (1,100 yen/return) is another choice.



## GENERAL NOTES:

- If you plan to return to your hotel near the JR/Meitetsu Gifu Stations after the tour and come back to the Convention Center for the Cormorant Fishing event in the evening, please note it takes at least an hour by bus to travel from the Convention Center to the Gifu Stations and return to the Convention Center.
- Walking shoes or equivalents are recommended for all tours, especially for birding.