

# 長良川鶴飼

## Nagara River cormorant fishing



Cormorant fishing is a fishing method in which cormorants are skillfully manipulated to catch fish in rivers. The origin of cormorant fishing in Japan is not certain, as there are theories that it was handed down from China along with rice cultivation, and others that it originated separately in Japan and China. Since haniwa terra-cotta tomb figurines have been excavated from various burial mounds in Japan that are believed to represent cormorants, it is possible that cormorant fishing was practiced at least as early as the Kofun period. In 1922, Prince Edward of Great Britain visited the Nagara River Cormorant Fishing Viewing. Many other guests from Japan and abroad have also visited the Nagara River Cormorant Fishing Viewing. Today, the Nagara River Cormorant Fishing Viewing attracts more than 100,000 visitors each year. In the 1960s, the number of visitors once exceeded 300,000. In order to pass on this irreplaceable Japanese treasure to the world and to the future, Gifu City aims to register the Nagara River cormorant fishing as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.

# Gifu City