

Welcome to OZE UKAI

National Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property
"Nagara River Cormorant Fishing Techniques"

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
"The Ayu of the Nagara River System"



Oze cormorant fishing has a history of over 1,000 years

Ukai is a traditional fishing method where the fisherman skillfully handles trained cormorants, sending them diving into the water to catch *Ayu* (sweetfish) by the light of a bonfire. A fishing method practiced in Japan for over 1,000 years, Oze cormorant fishing is famous for its highly skilled fishing masters, called Imperial Fishermen of the Imperial Household Agency. Tourists can take an elegant *kanransen* (viewing boat) and cruise down the river with the fishing boats, watching the fishing as they go. It is a chance to see the fishermen expertly handle several cormorants and to enjoy a very traditional Japanese scene.

The instant the cormorant catches a fish !

The fisherman makes a hooting sound and the cormorants catch the fish in perfect timing.

Don't miss the instant the cormorant catches the fish and swallows it whole!

Another highlight "Tsukemise demonstration" !

After disembarking from the *kanransen* (viewing boat), tourists can watch the Oze *Ukai* cormorant boats go past right in front of them. You can see the fishermen and cormorants up close.

Ubune(Fishing boat)

Sendo 船頭

Boatmen

Umiu 海鵜

Japanese cormorant



Usyo 鵜匠

Cormorant fishing master

Kagaribi 篝火

Bonfire

Tanawa 手縄

Rope