

Boat Fees

		Fee
Chartered	Large Boat20 people	¥61,000
	Recessed Seating Style Boat18 people	¥61,000
	Recessed Seating Style Boat14 people	¥47,000
	Small Boat 9 people	¥31,000
Regular - Non chartered	Adult	¥3,700
	Child (3-12 years old)	¥2,600

*The children's rate applies to elementary school and younger (children under the age of 3 are free).

■Boarding Start Times

	1st Part	2st Part
May 11 - June 15	19:00	20:00
June 16 - Aug. 15	19:20	20:20
Aug. 16 - Sept. 15	19:10	20:10
Sept. 16 - Oct. 15	18:40	19:40

*Times are subject to change according to the weather and river conditions that day.

■ Notices and Important Information

- Cormorant fishing may be cancelled if the river is high due to heavy rains or a typhoon.
- You should make a reservation ahead of time.
- Please arrive at the Seki Yusen Office at least 30 minutes before boarding time.
- You are free to bring food and beverages, but you must take your own garbage with you when you leave.
- Minimum boarding requirement: 5 people
- Credit cards are also accepted for payment.

Ukai Bentos

Why not try a bento box featuring ayu (sweetfish) as the main dish while riding the viewing boat? Please choose Western food or Japanese food of a bento box. (Passengers who order a bento will receive a complementary bottle of green tea.)

Type	Price
For Adults	¥2,600～
For Children	¥1,800～

*Reserve your bento at the Seki Yusen Office at least three days in advance.

Where to Apply

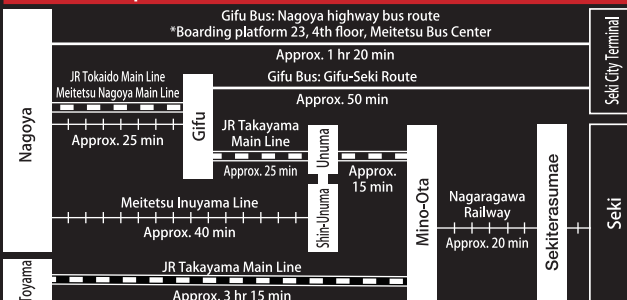
■ Boat reservations and bento reservations
Seki Yusen Co., Ltd. ☎0575-22-2506
 (Ukai viewing boat office) Reserve online: <http://www.ozeukai.net>

■Lodging and meal reservations
Seki Kanko Hotel ☎0120-884-101

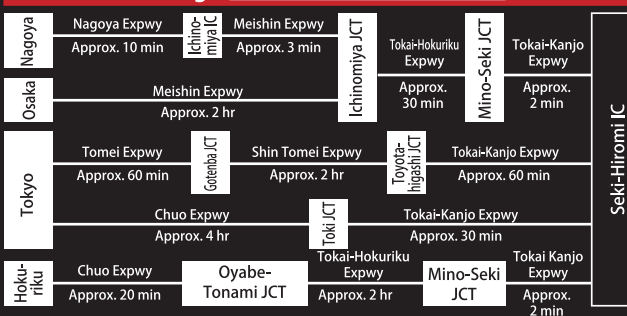
■Reservations for full course meals with natural ayu
Ushonoie Iwasa ☎0575-22-1862
Unoie Adachi ☎0575-22-0799
(lodging also available)



Public Transportation Approx. 15 min by taxi from Seki City Terminal and Seki Station



Driving Approx. 5 min from the interchange



Contact Information: Tourism Section Industry Seki City

3-1 Wakakusa-dori, Seki City, Gifu Prefecture 501-3894

Tel: 0575-22-3131 Fax: 0575-23-7741
Web: <http://www.sekikanko.jp/>



Seki City, Gifu Prefecture

Cormorant Fishing in the Okunagara River Prefectural Nature Park

May 11 ▶ October 15



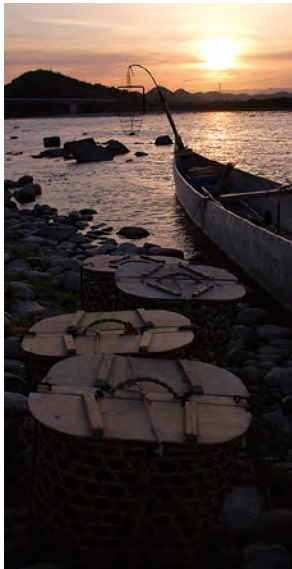
Nationally Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property
Nagara River Cormorant Fishing Techniques
Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
The Ayu of the Nagara River System

How to Enjoy Oze **Ukai** (Cormorant Fishing)

Nationally Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property
Nagara River Cormorant Fishing Techniques
Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
The Ayu of the Nagara River System



Open season | **May 11 - Oct. 15**



History



Oze Ukai: Over a Thousand Years of History

The history of cormorant fishing goes way back: this method of fishing appears to have already been in use around the eighth century, since the name *Ukai* (meaning "cormorant fishing") already appears in a family register from that period preserved at Shoso-in. Cormorant fishing has been protected through the ages by the Imperial Court and those in power at the time. The term *usho* (meaning "cormorant fishing master") is thought to originate with Oda Nobunaga, and the Tokugawa clan granted them the right to have surnames and carry weapons. In 1890, cormorant fishing was put under the authority of the Imperial Household Agency, and the *usho* of Oze have continued to work for the Imperial Court as cormorant fishing masters under the Imperial Household Agency's Board of Ceremonies up to the present day as they keep this traditional method of fishing alive.

The Performance

As the boat drifts, you hear the pleasant sound of the limpid river amidst the tranquility. Only the glow of the bonfire provides illumination as cormorants, spurred on by the *usho* calling out "Ho! Ho!", dive into the water one by one to catch fish. The highlight of Oze cormorant fishing is the *Karikudari*, which lets sightseers view the cormorants up close while getting a good view of the *usho* as they skillfully handle the ropes used to control the cormorants. After the covered viewing boats are brought to shore, passengers get to watch the *ubune* (cormorant fishing boats) perform the *Tsukemise* as they pass by.

Viewing Procedure

- 1 Please arrive at the Seki Yusen Office at least 30 minutes before boarding time.
- 2 When boarding time arrives, you will be shown to your designated viewing boat.
- 3 Your boat will move to an upstream mooring spot and wait a while.
The time spent until the start of cormorant fishing (about 40 minutes) will be used for sightseeing and to hear an *usho* explain cormorant fishing.
Go ahead and eat if you would like to.
This is where hotel and Ushonoie guests board.
- 4 *Karikudari* cormorant fishing begins.
The *ubune* and viewing boats proceed down the river together.

*If *Karikudari* is impossible due to river conditions, the viewing boats will stay by the shore and the *ubune* will perform the *Tsukemise* maneuver as they pass by.

