

KENSHU TAIKO RESIDENCY

in Nagano, Japan

www.tokara.net/residency

Tel/Fax: (81)265-59-8768

Thank you for applying to the Kenshu Taiko Residency in Nagano, Japan. This document outlines some of the details of the Residency. **Please read carefully.** If you have any questions after reading this, please contact us.

SCHEDULE

The dates for the Winter Residency are January 16 - February 13, 2024. During this time, participants will have specialised training with Tokara members (mainly Principal member Yukari Ichise) and be able to train once a week with students of Art Lee's taiko classes, as well as have automatic registration in any intensive courses if they are happening at the time.

Training dates and times can vary greatly and depend upon the schedules of the teachers and participants. However, basic schedule of training is three to four days a week from 10:00-15:00.

There may also be possibilities for joining in Japanese language lessons and trips to see other taiko groups. We try to be as accurate yet flexible as possible to allow for a challenging but relaxed experience. Also circumstances may arise where the schedule will need to be changed. In such a situation, we must ask for your understanding. We will do our best to inform you as quickly as possible if such a case occurs.

TAIKO VISITS

As participants during the Residency, you may be able to receive tickets to see Tokara's 20th Anniversary Concert in Iida. There is also a possibility for an optional visit to Asano Taiko, the world's premiere taiko drum manufacturer.

****Please note that details of taiko visits may change at any time****

ACCOMMODATION

Please note that Accommodation for the Kenshu Taiko Residency is **not included**. While there are numerous possibilities for accommodation in the area, we highly recommend the following:

In Iida City:

1. **Yamairo Guest House** - <https://yamairo-gh.com>
Shared room and space. Close to Yawata Train Station.
2. **Silk Hotel** - <https://www.silkhotel.co.jp/hotel/en/index.html>
Single Rooms. In the heart of downtown.

In Achi Village:

3. **Misaka Ryokan** - <https://www.avis.ne.jp/~misaka/english.html>
Shared rooms and space. In the Hirugami Onsen Resort.
4. **Minna no ie Guest House** - <https://minna-no-ie.net/en/>
Shared or private rooms with kitchen access.

If you are planning to book accommodation at Misaka Ryokan, we are able to help with your **first** booking only. Other accommodation can be booked in English online or telephone.

***Please note that if you wish to change dates, cancel, accommodation venues, etc., you will need to contact them directly to do so. You will also need to pay directly upon arrival at the accommodation.

COURSE FEE

The course fee, which includes all classes taught during the Kenshu Taiko Residency, as well as any other classes and workshops during the month is:

185,000 in Japanese Yen per person (+ *International Transfer Fees*)

There are limited number of spaces for the Residency which fill up very quickly. Therefore we ask that you please pay course fee in full within one month of application acceptance in order to be guaranteed a place in the Kenshu Taiko Residency.

If your registration application information is received, you will receive an invoice to the email which you have registered. This invoice can be paid via International Bank Wire Transfer.

Payment via Bank Transfer is 190,500yen (*includes International Wire and Japan Bank Transfer Fees*)

Bank transfer fees charged by the sending bank are the responsibility of the participant.

If you wish to send payment by International Bank Transfer, please contact us to let us know. We will send International Bank Transfer details to the email address stated in your application form.

You will be notified by email immediately after course fee has been received.

If cancellation is necessary, full course fee minus 25,000yen can be refunded anytime.

WEATHER

June is a picture-perfect time of year in Nagano Prefecture. The crispness of spring lingers with the excitement of the dawning summer. Nagano Prefecture is internationally known for its outdoor sports possibilities. While Nagano has always been popular in Japan for skiing, snowboarding and mountain hiking, the prefecture became internationally world famous when the Winter Olympics were hosted here in 1998.

Average temperatures in June are usually between 18 - 25 degrees Celsius during the day, with slightly chilly nights. Therefore, participants should bring some warm clothing to protect against the chilly nights. Besides that, don't forget a camera, as the spring in Nagano Prefecture is extremely beautiful.

TRANSPORTATION

Unless traveling to other parts of Japan before or after the Residency, to get to Iida, participants may wish to arrive at the nearest major airport which is Chubu International Airport (also called Centrair, close to Nagoya). After arrival, take the bus or train to Nagoya Meitetsu Station – about a 45 minute ride. After this, you can walk to the 4th floor

Nagoya Meitetsu Station Bus Center. Then take the Highway Bus to JR Iida Station Bus Stop - 2 hours.

It is highly recommended to plan for a small car rental during your time here, particularly if your accommodation is in Achi Village. The easiest is to rent from car rental centers at the airport, unless you are familiar with other places around Iida. There is public transportation in Iida via train and bus. However, the number of buses and trains are not as convenient as in larger cities. If your accommodation is in Iida, however, you will not have much need for a rental vehicle.

For those wishing to travel to other areas of Japan before and after the Kenshu Taiko Residency, the Japan Rail Pass is recommended. The Japan Rail Pass is only available for purchase outside of Japan.

We thank you very much for applying to the Kenshu Taiko Residency. It promises to be great fun and an immensely joyous experience. We very much look forward to your arrival. See you soon.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free at anytime to contact us:

Kenshu Taiko Residency

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URL: www.tokara.net/residency

Possible Questions:

1. I've sent my payment, but I haven't heard anything yet...

If sent by bank transfer, please note that confirmation from the bank usually takes between 7 to 10 days. Often we receive the wire transfer in 3 days, but we don't know who it comes from until the confirmation comes from the bank. Therefore, we must wait until we receive bank confirmation about name, date of transfer and exact amount, then we can notify you immediately.

In the case of Paypal payment, Paypal will immediately send you an online receipt for your payment. If you need a receipt, please let us know while you are in Japan.